HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN 2023

OVERVIEW

The humanitarian crisis in Myanmar deteriorated significantly throughout the first half of 2023. Escalating clashes and attacks have had dire consequences for millions of civilians who are enduring widespread insecurity and aerial bombardment, mass displacement, and limited access to critical services, including health. In May, the situation was further exacerbated by extremely severe cyclone Mocha, the worst natural disaster in Myanmar in over a decade. The cyclone devastated communities across Rakhine, the Northwest and Kachin with thousands of homes, productive assets, vast swaths of farmland, and critical infrastructure such as hospitals and schools destroyed or severely damaged. Cyclone Mocha rolled back some limited gains of recent years especially around agriculture and livelihoods, and added an additional 500,000 people to the humanitarian target for 2023 (now 5 million people). The first half of 2023 also saw surging inflation nationwide that further disrupted livelihood activities and depleted coping capacity, leaving more people than ever needing humanitarian assistance.

Between January and June 2023 alone, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) climbed to nearly 1.9 million (as of end of June) up from just over 1.5 million in late December 2022, increasing needs and further stretching already lean humanitarian resources. The spike in displacement aligns with a surge in conflict during the first half of the year, with the Northwest and Southeast being most affected. Humanitarian operations and personnel were also targeted or heavily affected by conflict, bureaucratic impediments and restrictions. Between January and June, humanitarian organizations reported about 630 access incidents across the country (60 per cent of which occurred in Q2), impeding the delivery of vital assistance and services to affected people, particularly in Rakhine, the Northwest and Southeast regions.

Despite multiple challenges in the operating context and severe underfunding, humanitarian partners have continued to rapidly scale up in response to the deepening needs, reaching at least 1.8 million people during the first half of 2023. This represents 36 per cent of the 5 million people targeted for assistance through the combined 2023 HRP and Cyclone Mocha Flash Appeal. However, this assistance is not as deep, sustained, or multi-sectoral as planned due to access blockages and this is a major impediment to addressing needs. The Food Security Cluster accounts for the highest percentage of people reached (68 per cent across IDPs and the ‘other crisis-affected people’). However, only 26 per cent of the ‘returnees, resettled, and other crisis-affected people’ are receiving assistance, particularly in Rakhine, the Northwest and Southeast regions.

The coverage of the response reflects the prioritization of the most vulnerable groups, particularly IDPs and ‘non-displaced stateless people’, with partners collectively reaching 42 per cent of the targets for these population groups. The protection risks and needs are identified, monitored, mitigated, and met for 2.1 million people, while the centrality of protection is upheld across the humanitarian response including through promotion of respect for human rights, international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles.

PROTECTION RISKS AND NEEDS

Protection risks and needs are identified, monitored, mitigated, and met for 2.1 million people, while the centrality of protection is upheld across the humanitarian response including through promotion of respect for human rights, international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles. Suffering, morbidity, and mortality is prevented or reduced among 3.1 million displaced, returned, stateless and other crisis-affected people experiencing or at risk of food insecurity, malnutrition, and health threats. At least 2 million displaced, returned, stateless and other crisis-affected people have safe, tailored, timely and dignified access to the essential services and support to ensure their survival and prevent deterioration of their humanitarian needs.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS BY CLUSTER

- **EDUCATION**: 3.8 million people in need, 34% reached (500,000 people, 52% women, 5% children, 5% adults, 9% elderly), 93% funded.
- **FOOD SECURITY**: 15.2 million people in need, 46% reached (1.1 million people, 51% women, 17% children, 32% adults, 15% elderly), 57% funded.
- **HEALTH**: 10 million people in need, 23% reached (558,000 people, 68% women, 35% children, 57% adults, 8% elderly), 67% funded.
- **NUTRITION**: 2.2 million people in need, 43% reached (252,000 people, 61% women, 35% children, 77% adults, 23% elderly), 77% funded.
- **PROTECTION**: 11.5 million people in need, 44% reached (929,000 people, 51% women, 35% children, 57% adults, 8% elderly), 57% funded.
- **SHELTER/NFI/CCCM**: 3 million people in need, 44% reached (543,000 people, 52% women, 35% children, 55% adults, 10% elderly), 55% funded.
- **WASH**: 5.2 million people in need, 39% reached (637,000 people, 52% women, 37% children, 55% adults, 8% elderly), 55% funded.
- **COORDINATION AND COMMON SERVICES**: 9 million people in need, 52% reached (471,000 people), 52% funded.
- **CLUSTER NOT SPECIFIED**: 1.8 million people in need, 36% reached (624,000 people), 36% funded.

**NOTE**: (1) Based on FTS records as of 30 June 2023. For more information, please visit www.unocha.org | https://reliefweb.int/country/mmr | https://www.facebook.com/OCHAMyanmar

Photo: UNICEF
Between January and June 2023 alone, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) coping capacity, leaving more people than ever needing humanitarian assistance. Surging inflation nationwide that further disrupted livelihood activities and depleted especially around agriculture and livelihoods, and added an additional 500,000 people to or severely damaged. Cyclone Mocha rolled back some limited gains of recent years swathes of farmland, and critical infrastructure such as hospitals and schools destroyed disaster in Myanmar in over a decade. The cyclone devastated communities across situation was further exacerbated by extremely severe cyclone Mocha, the worst natural displacement, and limited access to critical services, including health. In May, the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar deteriorated significantly throughout the first half of 2023. Escalating clashes and attacks have had dire consequences for millions of people, particularly local organizations who are reporting, has now jumped to 208 (up from 156 in Q1). Despite this improvement, some response efforts are still likely to be missed in these calculations.

The coverage of the response reflects the prioritization of the most vulnerable groups, particularly IDPs and non-displaced stateless people, with partners collectively reaching 42 per cent of the targets for these population groups. The reach for the 'other crisis-affected people' and returned, resettled, and locally integrated IDPs is much lower at 33 per cent and 10 per cent respectively. Despite the multiple constraints and impediments, partners have prioritized and marginally scaled up responses across some of the areas of highest needs in Rakhine, the Southeast (Kayah, Kayin), and the Northwest (Chin, Magway, Sagaing), and northern Shan during the first half of the year.

The 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) remains drastically underfunded, with only 20 per cent of the requirements received by the end of June, according to FTS (22 per cent funded as of August). This dire funding situation is despite the deepening needs, the surge in displacement, cyclone Mocha impacts, and soaring inflation that have further stretched the grossly insufficient resources across clusters. Heading into the second half of the year, partners will be forced to further reduce coverage and packages of assistance if immediate and sufficient funding is not received, leaving large numbers of vulnerable households without the critical services and support they need to survive.

The proportion of the reported mid-year result (about 1.2 million) followed by the Protection (more than 929,000) and WASH Clusters (around 637,000). These figures are based on self-reporting by partners and the number of operational partners, particularly local organizations who are reporting, has now jumped to 208 (up from 156 in Q1). Despite this improvement, some response efforts are still likely to be missed in these calculations.

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