

MYANMAR: Floods and Cyclone Response

Multi-cluster/sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) report (as of 03 Sep 2015)



Situation Overview

Heavy rains have caused floods and landslides in several parts of Myanmar since June 2015. On 30 July, Cyclone Komen made landfall in Bangladesh, bringing strong winds and additional heavy rains to the country, which resulted in widespread flooding across 12 of the country's 14 states and regions (Ayeyarwady, Bago, Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Magway, Mandalay, Mon, Rakhine, Sagaing, Shan Yangon). On 31 July, the President declared Chin and Rakhine states, and Magway and Sagaing regions as natural disaster zones.

As of 31 August, the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC) reports that over 1,616,000 people have been severely affected by floods and landslides in July and August. At least 117 people are confirmed to have been killed due to floods and landslides since June. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, more than 1.4 million acres of farmlands have been inundated, with more than 972,000 acres destroyed.

In collaboration with the Government, Multi-sectoral Initial Rapid Assessments (MIRA) have been conducted in 280 locations of 34 townships in Ayeyarwady, Bago, Chin, Magway, Rakhine and Sagaing, covering close to 200,000 people (12.3 per cent of the affected people). The preliminary findings indicate that of these, more than 128,000 people have been or remain displaced in these locations. The assessed people reported food, drinking water and seed stocks for cultivation as their priority needs. The detailed analysis of assessment data by cluster/sector is being carried out to inform needs analysis and response planning.

288
locations in

34

townships were covered
in the MIRA

Priority Needs as reported by assessed people



Food



Drinking Water



Seeds

Multi-agency Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA)

The Multi-Cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) is designed to identify strategic humanitarian priorities during the first weeks after an emergency. Based on its findings, humanitarian actors should develop a joint strategic plan, mobilize resources, and monitor the situation and response. However, the MIRA does not provide detailed information and present comprehensive overview of the impact of a disaster to design localized response projects. Given its rapid nature and the often highly dynamic situation within which MIRA is used, a caution must be used in analyzing and interpreting results from a MIRA. Results are preliminary and will be improved during the response phase as additional information becomes available. The use of MIRA in Myanmar, its methodology, procedures and assessment forms were agreed amongst humanitarian partners as part of the country-wide Emergency Response and Preparedness Plan, which is updated annually.

Methodology

Identification of assessment areas was based on disaster areas declared by Government (Chin, Sagaing, Magway and Rakhine). Two additional regions, Ayeyarwady and Bago, where populations in evacuation sites were dramatically rising, at the time of assessment were also proposed to be covered. In addition, Government-issued data showed higher impact in some townships which were then prioritized for assessments. The MIRA used a sampling model. In most cases, inter-agency assessment teams were comprised of staff based in the field and dedicated team leaders appointed for each region/state. Despite preliminary identification of townships to be assessed based on government figures and other sources, the team leaders were requested to maintain flexibility and agree on a final assessment plan based on discussions with local authorities and other organizations in concerned affected areas. However, in Magway Region, in addition to the inter-agency MIRA, three NGOs assessed affected townships using MIRA, representing one third of the overall assessment coverage areas.

The assessments in Rakhine and Chin have undergone a slightly different process. In Rakhine, organizations

spontaneously launched non- MIRA assessments immediately following Cyclone Komen. However, it was possible to extract some data on houses damaged which were included in the MIRA database. The MIRA in Rakhine was carried out in seven townships (Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk U, Pauktaw, Rathedaung, Sittwe), but none in the northern part of the State. Nevertheless, agencies operating in Buthidaung and Maungdaw undertook their own assessments. In the case of Chin, local government requested to assess all townships except for Thanglang.

Limitations

- Areas covered by this assessment are those with physical access. Areas not covered may well have worse conditions than those reported here.
- As in any assessment, some MIRA forms were incomplete or with invalid responses. Data in these cases was not included.
- The MIRA tool itself is inclusive of gender. However because of the way in which the assessment was undertaken (largely by men and focus groups mostly comprise of male interviewees) the outcomes represent those provided to and reflected by men.
- Only few of the enumerators were female. This should be kept in mind when interpreting the results of the assessment as interviewees may not have been comfortable disclosing information relating specifically to issues confronted by women.
- Because of the way the MIRA is structured it is impossible to identify female participation in focused group discussions if those interviewed were female.
- In Chin State, villages were assessed in all townships except for Thanglang. This results in a higher sampling rate than other state/regions.
- In Magway townships, particularly Sidoktaya and Pwintbyu, in addition to the inter-agency MIRA, three NGOs assessed affected townships using MIRA, representing one third of the overall assessment coverage.
- Assessments in the northern Rakhine State townships of Maungdaw and Buthidaung were conducted using a tool other than MIRA. Only some parts of these assessments were compatible with MIRA. Additional assessments were conducted in the northern townships of Maungdaw and Buthidaung but those results are under review and will be issued separately.

Humanitarian Profile - Source 31 August 2015 MOSWRR Situation Report n. 4

	Ayeyar- wady	Bago (West)	Chin	Magway	Rakhine	Sagaing	Total
Total Population	6,175,123	4,863,455	478,690	3,912,711	3,188,963	5,320,299	23,939,241
Displaced Population	505,292	177,315	21,618	308,046	96,165	399,526	1,507,962
% of Displaced Population	8%	4%	5%	8%	3%	8%	6%
Damaged Houses	109,252	66,785	3,873	64,687	125,151	83,490	453,238
Damaged Health facilities	98	25	7	11	69	13	223
Damaged schools	125	1	64	30	360	21	601

General Assessment Data

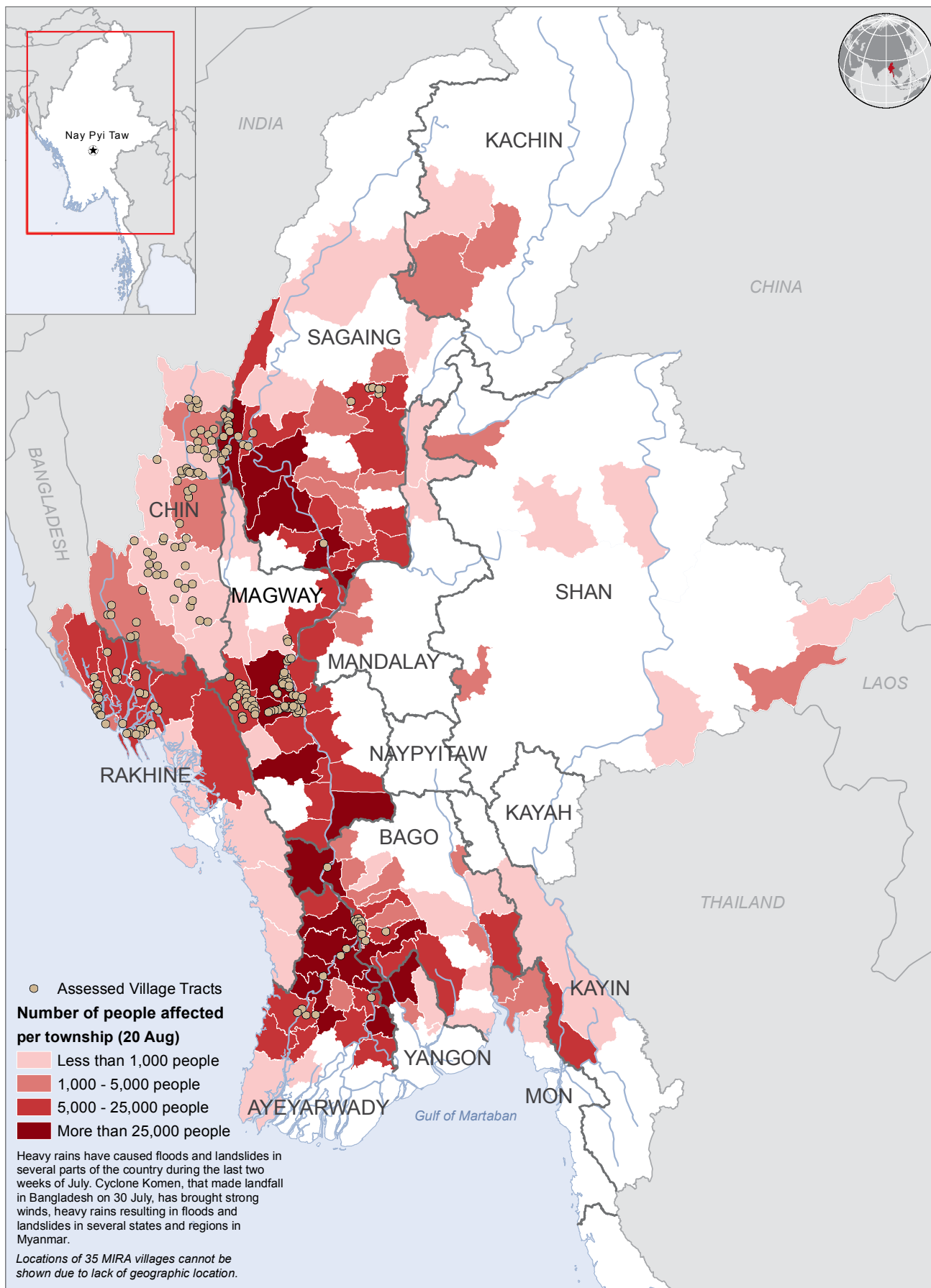
	Ayeyar- wady	Bago (West)	Chin	Magway	Rakhine	Sagaing	Total
Number of locations assessed	17	22	85	106	45	35	310
Number of locations assessed who reported affected people	17	22	85	89	30	34	277
Total number of displaced people (MIRA)	16,075	9,957	10,525	44,946	12,297	34,648	128,448
Total number of displaced people who returned (MIRA)	12		5,408	900	915	1,478	8,713
Total number of people affected non displaced (MIRA)	8,395	4,724	3,437	6,348	12,802	2,556	38,262
Total number of people in host community (MIRA)	408	5,334	1,635	2,383	11,896	1,615	23,271
Total affected population covered by MIRA	24,890	20,015	21,005	54,577	37,910	40,297	198,694
Number of people affected according to Government	500,974	177,315	20,449	308,046	111,568	399,567	1,517,919
Total number of people in the state (census)	6,175,123	4,863,455	478,690	3,912,711	3,188,963	5,320,299	23,939,241

Initial Results

The full MIRA database is available from OCHA Myanmar as well as on-line at: <http://themimu.info/emergencies/floods-2015>. The full results are too broad to present in total here. Instead, key results from humanitarian sectors/clusters are provided to give an overview of the situation. When the full data set is employed together with additional information such as government data, other assessments, satellite imagery, etc, users can gain a broader understanding of the impact of floods and Cyclone Komen. In the next period, humanitarian partners will be utilizing MIRA data as well as information from other sources as the basis for more detailed technical assessments and programme implementation.

Sector/ Cluster	Indicator	Ayeyar- wady	Bago (West)	Chin	Magway	Rakhine	Sagaing	Total
CWC	Preferred way of receiving news: Mobile Phone Calls	33%	0%	55%	45%	14%	37%	39%
Education	% of assessed site where schools were not functional or partially functional	0%	57%	33%	2%	31%	34%	23%
	% of assessed site where schools were destroyed or partially damaged	0%	43%	56%	1%	39%	46%	31%
Food Security	Food stock for less than one week	49%	88%	19%	55%	15%	33%	39%
	Food stock for one to two weeks	23%	8%	41%	20%	17%	26%	22%
	Food stock for two to four weeks	6%	0%	15%	19%	41%	12%	19%
	Food stock for more than one month	23%	4%	25%	7%	27%	29%	20%
	% reporting partial or total crop loss	83%	50%	88%	67%	69%	80%	75%
	% of answers "No access to market"	75%	93%	42%	60%	78%	54%	59%
	% of assessed villages where people can no longer fish or find casual work	58%	86%	63%	43%	16%	60%	49%
	% of assessed villages where the nearest market is not functioning	17%	0%	46%	22%	10%	14%	25%
Health	% of locations identifying at least one health concern	17%	29%	75%	59%	22%	49%	53%
	% of locations reporting not enough medical supplies	8%	0%	42%	49%	47%	34%	41%
	% of assessed locations reporting partially or totally destroyed health facilities	17%	0%	45%	23%	12%	9%	25%
	% of assessed locations where health care is not provided on-site	6%	6%	55%	33%	58%	40%	40%
Nutrition	% of locations with identified nutrition problems feeding children under 2	17%	7%	13%	18%	22%	6%	15%
Protection	Women: Violence in the home	33%	0%	29%	0%	0%	9%	11%
	Women: Unable to access services and resources	0%	7%	38%	1%	0%	11%	13%
	Children: Increased risk at health facilities	0%	0%	29%	1%	2%	0%	9%
	Children: Increased risk while moving in the area	0%	0%	30%	2%	8%	0%	11%
	Number of locations where people with disabilities and older people are facing neglect	0	0	1	12	1	1	15
Shelter/NFIs	% of houses damaged in locations where houses damages were reported	50%	36%	21%	2%	41%	20%	20%
	% of house destroyed in locations where houses damages were reported	33%	21%	11%	2%	37%	3%	13%
	% destroyed / Collapsed houses (Government of Myanmar)	2%	0%	69%	-	58%	2%	22%
WASH	% of assessed locations with drinking water not available	33%	14%	46%	39%	22%	29%	36%
	% of assessed locations with cooking water not available	25%	36%	24%	29%	12%	14%	23%
	% of assessed locations without working or destroyed water infrastructure	42%	14%	14%	30%	16%	34%	23%
	Only few people have access to latrines	0%	14%	25%	0%	39%	34%	19%
	No one has access to latrines	25%	14%	37%	38%	18%	14%	30%

Data above is from selected questions included in the MIRA. The information for each state is the percentage of questionnaires which met the criteria for that indicator.



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Creation date: 21 8 2015 Glide number: FL-2015-000089-MMR Sources: RRD, MIMU. Partners. Feedback: ochamyanmar@un.org, www.reliefweb.int

Assessment Coverage

	Ayeyar-wady	Bago (West)	Chin	Magway	Rakhine	Sagaing	Total
Flood affected*	1,951	726		237	2,181	280	5,375
Number of villages assessed	17	22	85	106	35	45	310
Sample size (% of affected villages)	0.87%	3.03%		44.73%	1.60%	16.07%	

* For Rakhine townships - affected villages as GAD reports for 3 townships / Other states and regions - Flood affected villages from Satellite imagery from Sentinel Asia / MIMU analysis. At the time of assessment there was not adequate satellite imagery to analyze Rakhine and Chin states. The number of affected villages is likely to be higher as villages affected by strong winds, landslides etc...and receiving Displaced people do not appear as flooded.

Humanitarian Assistance

In most locations, population reported receiving some humanitarian assistance. Government assistance together with assistance from communities themselves, civil society organizations, the private sector and national NGOs provided extensive assistance in the initial phase of response. This assistance is on-going. However, there are also non-assessed areas where physical access may have prohibited delivery of assistance.

Assessed locations who received assistance

	Ayeyar-wady	Bago (West)	Chin	Magway	Rakhine	Sagaing	Total
No			3	3	2		8
Yes	8	14	67	75	22	35	221
Total places assessed	8	14	70	78	24	35	229
% Received some kind of assistance	100%	100%	96%	96%	92%	100%	97%



Communication with Communities

Assessed communities were asked to identify the ways that they prefer to receive news. Interestingly, 'traditional' means of communication such as radio and mobile phones were the most popular.

	Ayeyar-wady	Bago (West)	Chin	Magway	Rakhine	Sagaing
Preferred Media for receiving news	Radio	Radio	Mobile phone	Radio	Radio	Mobile phone
% of respondents choosing the media above	26%	29%	14%	23%	24%	25%

Preferred way of receiving news per state	Ayeyar-wady	Bago (West)	Chin	Magway	Rakhine	Sagaing	Total
Radio	26%	29%	5%	23%	24%	8%	19%
TV	16%	25%	5%	14%	20%	20%	16%
Mobile phone call	21%	4%	14%	15%	10%	25%	15%
Mobile sms	-	29%	8%	6%	-	8%	8%
Loudspeaker	11%	13%	2%	9%	-	6%	7%
Friends	-	-	12%	9%	2%	12%	6%
Government	11%	-	2%	5%	10%	6%	6%
Community leader	-	-	12%	8%	5%	4%	5%
Posters	-	-	7%	1%	12%	-	3%
Religious leader	5%	-	4%	2%	5%	4%	3%
Aid worker	-	-	9%	1%	2%	6%	3%
Facebook	5%	-	1%	2%	2%	-	2%
Community events	-	-	8%	1%	2%	-	2%
Leaflets	-	-	8%	0%	2%	-	2%
Internet	5%	-	1%	2%	-	-	1%
Other	-	-	1%	0%	2%	-	1%
Newspaper	-	-	0%	0%	-	2%	0%
Magazines	-	-	-	1%	-	-	0%
Army / Police	-	-	-	1%	-	-	0%

Education

MIRA initial results indicate that about 53 per cent of education facilities in the assessed sites were not functional or were partly functional. Data indicates that in at least 11 locations where education facilities are reported non functional, children are still able to access education, meaning that community coping strategies and alternative solutions are used to provide education to affected children.

Education provision has been disrupted in several locations affected by the floods/landslides due to school closures, inundation/damages to buildings or complete loss of infrastructure, damages to school furniture and supplies, and loss of essential teaching learning materials.

According to MoSWRR data as of 24th Aug 2015, an estimated 707,126 children have been affected by schools closures, while the total reported number of schools in need of major repairs, rebuilding or rehabilitation is estimated to be 2,962 (WASH facilities, roofing sheets, essential furniture).

Despite these damages to infrastructure, education activities resumed in many locations either by doubling the shifts in functional schools or providing alternative/temporary learning spaces. However, strengthened and continuous support for school communities affected is critical to ensure the continuity of education and support early recovery,

Urgent needs include rehabilitation/clean-up of damaged schools, construction of Temporary Learning Spaces where there are no viable alternatives, provision of stationary, textbooks and recreational kits other essential teaching learning materials. Other priorities comprise the adequate provision of psychosocial support for students and teachers.

Food Security

The MIRA highlights that in the assessed locations, the majority of the population had limited food stocks at the time of the survey. Floods have resulted in the loss of households food stocks and the severely affected population will have to rely entirely on assistance. The MIRA also confirms other initial reports of damages on agricultural land. In the assessed locations, the MIRA results indicate that half of the farmers affected by the floods had partial crop losses while 39% had total crop losses.

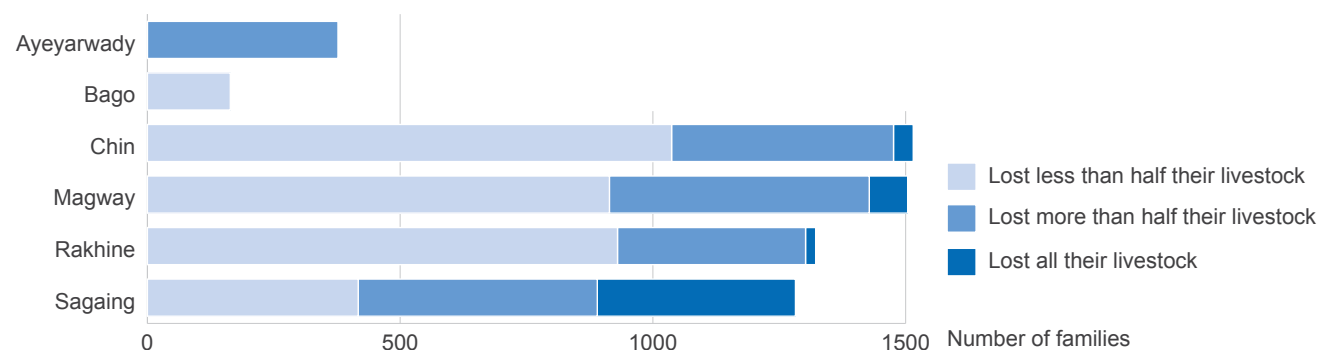
In the majority of the assessed locations, the flood affected population reported being able to access a market. However, field observations also indicate basic food prices volatility as markets have been disrupted by damages to transport infrastructures and stock losses. Availability and access to food is expected to be severely limited as prices are expected to remain high, coupled with disruption of internal trade.

Individuals in the most affected villages where household food stocks and crops have been destroyed are likely to resort to negative coping mechanisms. In these villages, farming households need rapid support to restore agriculture activities. Agriculture recovery is also essential to provide casual laborers with income opportunities. In order to have a lasting impact and help families avoid long-term dependence on food assistance, agricultural livelihoods must be restored immediately.

According to Government data:

- More than 1.4 million acres of farmland have been inundated, damaging more than 972,000 acres of standing crops, including paddy rice.
- An estimated 20,000 heads of cattle have died. This has created a serious public health risk and has deprived affected livestock owners of a key source of income and nutrition.
- More than 12,000 acres of fish ponds and 44,000 acres of shrimp ponds have been destroyed.

Number of families who lost livestock



Frequency of health care provision as a % of assessed villages where health care is available

State / Region	Daily	Twice a week	Once a week	Once in 2 weeks	Once a month
Ayeyarwady	86%	14%	0%	0%	0%
Bago (West)	85%	8%	8%	0%	0%
Chin	50%	12%	6%	32%	0%
Magway	27%	13%	18%	30%	13%
Rakhine	63%	13%	13%	13%	0%
Sagaing	85%	0%	0%	10%	5%
For all states	51%	10%	10%	22%	6%

Total “yes” responses for main health concerns in the last two weeks preceding MIRA data collection

State / Region	Total Assessed villages	Malaria	Tuberculosis	Diarrhea	Skin infections	STDs	Hepatitis	Trauma	Acute Respiratory Tract Infection	Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever	Measles	HIV/AIDS	Others
Ayeyarwady	17	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	8
Bago (West)	22	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	6
Chin	85	40	4	36	19	-	8	18	18	23	-	2	7
Magway	106	20	12	36	11	1	6	17	3	31	2	2	17
Rakhine	45	2	-	2	4	-	-	3	3	2	1	-	12
Sagaing	35	6	3	10	10	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	6
For all states	310	68	19	84	44	1	14	38	24	60	3	4	42

Chin and Magway are the areas reporting higher numbers of health concerns. However, it is important to note that these two areas also reported the best provision of health care and therefore, the high number of cases reported may be due to better coverage. The high number of health concerns should not be taken as an indication of a possible disease outbreak, as it does not correspond to the actual number of cases.

When there is no health care provided at site, walking time to the closest health facility.

State / Region	Less than 15 minutes	Between 15-30 minutes	Between 30-60 minutes	More than 60 minutes	Did not answer
Ayeyarwady	0	0	1	2	14
Bago (West)	1	0	2	1	18
Chin	7	10	24	30	14
Magway	23	21	23	19	20
Rakhine	2	12	13	6	12
Sagaing	4	14	10	3	4

Approximately 20 per cent of women/caretakers assessed through MIRA report having problems feeding children below two years of age. In Rakhine State, this number is as high as 40 per cent.

The main problems impacting negatively on feeding of children below two years are reported to be: i) insufficient access/availability of food including nutritious complementary food; ii) difficulties in transportation, sometimes due to remoteness and displacement; and iii) disease among young children, e.g. diarrhea.

In terms of the priorities expressed by parents and caregivers regarding infant and young child feeding, access/availability to sufficient amounts of food was the first, followed by availability of milk or milk powder, the importance of breastfeeding and of proper hygiene.

The findings are consistent with knowledge on the pre-existing nutrition situation among children, such as high

rates of chronic malnutrition and pockets of acute malnutrition surpassing critical or serious emergency thresholds. To this end, besides providing information on the nutrition situation following recent floods and landslides, findings are likely to also reflect the pre-existing nutrition situation in affected states and regions where known nutritional vulnerabilities persist.

The MIRA results indicate that in order to prevent further deterioration in nutritional status among vulnerable groups (children under five years and pregnant and lactating women), access and availability of food is of primary importance, including for people displaced and/or living in remote areas. It is also vital to establish or restore access to basic health services and improved water and sanitation facilities. Lastly, results mirror what the Nutrition Sector is already aware of – the need to promote, protect and support appropriate infant and young child feeding practices, including the emphasis on avoiding infant formula and promoting exclusive breastfeeding and timely introduction of nutritious complementary foods.

In interpreting the MIRA results, it is important to acknowledge its limitations such as limited coverage and inaccessibility of the worst affected areas.

Protection

Significant security concerns were reported through MIRA. Out of the 280 locations, 241 (78%) reported security concerns affecting the community. Areas include Magway (Salin, Sidoktaya, Seikphyu, Pwintbyu, Yenangyaung, Chauk), Rakhine (Mrauk-U, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Pauktaw, Rathedaung, Sittwe), Chin (Tonzang, Mindat, Falam, Hakha, Tedim, Matupi, Paletwa), Sagaing (Kale, Kanbalu, Salingyi, Kawlin, Kalewa), Bago (Shwedaung, Monyo), Ayeyarwady (Thabaung, Hinthada, Lemyethna, Ingapu, Danubyu, Nyaungdon). In 34 per cent of assessed locations, people go to the police and 55 per cent report seeking community leaders' support or advice.

Safety concerns particularly for women, boys and girls are widespread with 53 per cent reporting that there are places where these mentioned groups feel concerned for instance when collecting firewood. In approximately 4 per cent of locations, people reported an increased risk of violence and harassment of children at water collection points (Magway, Chin, Rakhine, Sagaing), 5 per cent of locations the same risk was reported at bathing facilities (Magway, Chin, Bago, Sagaing) and in 15 per cent of locations respondents report that they don't know (note that this is significantly different from answering 'nowhere' (11%)).

		Ayeyar-wady	Bago (West)	Chin	Magway	Rakhine	Sagaing	Total
Women's safety and security concerns	No safe place in the community				1			1
	Sexual violence and abuse				1	1		2
	Violence in the home	4		24			3	31
	Attack traveling outside the community			4		2	1	7
	Risk of attack when going to latrine					1	2	3
	Concern of being forced to sex to pay food shelter							0
	Concern of unable to access services and resources		1	32	2		4	39
	Other concerns			3	4			7
	Don't know			17	25	7	2	51
Situations where children are at increased risk of violence or harassment	Increased risk in camps settlements			1	1		2	4
	Increased risk at assistance distribution points				1	1	1	3
	Increased risk water collection points			2	8	2	1	13
	Increased risk at bathing facilities		1	2	9		3	15
	Increased risk at health facilities			24	1	1		26
	Increased risk at school			25		1		26
	Increased risk at home				6			6
	Increased risk while moving in the area			25	2	4		31
	Nowhere	6	6	8	7	2	5	34
	Don't know		1	20	20	4	2	47

When asked what are the most significant safety and security concerns women face, 13 per cent answered unable to access services and resources (Chin, Magway, Sagaing, Bago) and 10 per cent reported violence in the home (Chin, Ayeyarwady, Sagaing).

Additionally, data confirms that there are a significant number of vulnerable groups affected by the floods emergency. In approximately 5 per cent of locations, people report that persons with disabilities/older persons are facing neglect, marginalization or abandonment (mostly in Magway but also in Rakhine, Chin, Sagaing). This will require that in the delivery of humanitarian assistance the full participation of women, men, boys and girls is ensured and no individual is discriminated against.

Additionally, the assessment shows limited access to sanitary pads affecting women and adolescent girls with 58 per cent of locations having little or no access to them.

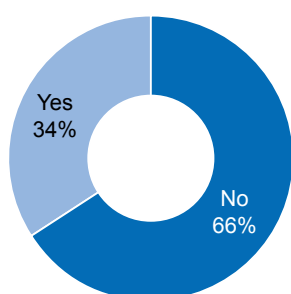
Government authorities and communities affirm that psycho-social support needs of affected populations are high, particularly in areas where families are unlikely to be able to return. Secondary effects of the natural disaster are already showing, with an increase of migration to urban hubs. The Government is concerned about potential increases in trafficking, and a rise of other forms of exploitation and abuse.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

The MIRA highlighted the high impact of the flooding on WASH infrastructure, drastically decreasing access to safe drinking water not only for the short-term but also for medium term if water supply rehabilitation and sanitation are not rapidly restored. The assessment shows higher destruction of water infrastructure in Ayeyarwady region than in other areas.

Access to water purification methods



In most cases, the population has no access to water purification methods (only 34% report having access). This means that in the aftermath of the flooding, quick and extensive distribution of water purification methods is essential to mitigate the risk of water born disease increase or outbreak.

Findings from the assessment confirm the overall WASH strategy to support the relief phase through provision of NFIs (hygiene kits and purification tablets), while rehabilitation of infrastructure is essential as an early recovery priority to ensure access to safe water and sanitation.

While Rakhine and Chin states appear more vulnerable, Ayeyarwady also needs to be highlighted, as the damage to infrastructure has been substantial.

For further information, please contact:

Chris Hyslop, Deputy Head of Office, hyslop@un.org, Tel: +95 (0) 94 253 14850

Helena Mazarro, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, mazarro@un.org, Tel: +95 (0) 1 2305683 ext. 201

For more information, please visit www.unocha.org www.reliefweb.int, www.themimu.info