



Flash Update – UNHCR Flood response

27 October 2024

BACKGROUND

Over a month after the severe flood that impacted some [70 townships in 11 States and Regions](#) in Myanmar, it is estimated that some [1.1 million people](#) have been affected by aftermath damages, including destruction of houses and properties as well as critical infrastructures including water sources, schools, roads and community facilities, in addition to loss of agricultural land and inputs, crops, and livestock. [Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Kayah, Kayin, Magway, Mandalay, Mon, and eastern and southern Shan States](#) have been the most affected by the flood, which added another layer of complexity and vulnerability to an already precarious context due to the widespread conflict. Access remains challenging in some areas with roads and bridges in need of urgent repairs to enable assistance delivery. Many families were left without shelter and access to basic services and have suffered from loss of household items, including kitchen utensils, bedding, water storage, facilities, and items for daily usage. UNHCR continues to respond to the most urgent needs, working jointly with partners and other UN Agencies, particularly in the [North-West](#) and [South-East](#) parts of the country.

SITUATION UPDATE

In [Shan State \(South\)](#), the water level of Inle Lake has reportedly decreased significantly during the past week, however the surrounding area and people living in these locations remain highly affected, particularly in Nyaunshwe, Shwenyaung and Kalaw Townships as well as five Townships in Shan State (East).

At least 20,000 people in [Kayah State](#) have been severely affected by the flood and its consequences, including in villages along the Balu creek (in Moebye region, in Shan State (South)) and several wards in Loikaw Town. In addition, thousands of acres of paddy fields in the border areas of Shan State (South) and Kayah State in Loikaw and Demoso Townships have reportedly been destroyed or damaged. In Pekon Township alone, some 12,000 people were impacted, not only by flood, but also by major landslides, and torrential runoff. Around 700 moved to three collective centres in Loikaw Town because of persistent flooding.

While the water level has receded in areas of [Kayin](#), [Mon States](#), [Bago](#) and [Tanintharyi Regions](#), the flood has caused severe damage to paddy fields which may be irreparable given the late planting season. Consequently, this could adversely impact food security of the flood affected communities.



Flood response images in Hpa An, Kayin State ©UNHCR.

In the [North-West region](#), UNHCR-led CCCM/Shelter/NFI cluster estimate that over 97 villages have been severely affected, impacting over 58,200 people. Additionally, landslides due to heavy rains in Falam, Matupi, Hakha, and Thanglang Townships (in Chin State) have affected a total of 2,575 people. In addition, according to cluster partners, over 4,830 houses and 10,000 latrines have been damaged/destroyed in the Mandalay Region.

In [Magway region](#), in Saw Township, four planned sites for IDPs to settle were severely impacted. Further to this, damage to houses, agriculture land and other infrastructure were also reported, with approximately 400 houses, 22 schools and 250 latrines destroyed/damaged.

In the [Mandalay Region](#), approximately 177,000 people from over 43,000 households were affected in 10 Townships while 1,505 houses were destroyed and 1,980 partially destroyed. This is in addition with 18 schools and 70,323 acres of agricultural fields destroyed, as well as other bridge/roads and other infrastructures.

Following an initial [Inter-Agency Rapid Need Assessments \(RNA\)](#) undertaken on the onset of the emergency, priority needs identified included [Non-Food Items](#) (including kitchen sets, mosquito nets, clothes, medicines, hygiene kits and WASH items), as well as [multi-purpose cash](#) assistance, [emergency shelter kits](#) (like tarps, ropes and corrugated iron sheets) and/or [shelter repair assistance](#), [rebuilding/repairs](#) of schools, and some [early recovery support](#) for livelihoods, such as seeds and fertilizers. While some communities have reportedly returned to their homes with the floods subsiding, early recovery and repair/rebuilding homes continue to be critically needed.

UNHCR Flood Response to date

In light of the critical needs, and with the funding received by the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF), amounting \$ 1 million, and by reprioritizing available resources, UNHCR was able to quickly respond to the emergency, mobilizing non-food items from its contingency stock and planning multi-purpose cash assistance to support the flood response in the North-West and in the South-East.

In the [North-West](#), a total of 22,500 flood-affected people (4,500 families) are being targeted for urgent support by UNHCR and partners. This includes 2,500 families targeted for multi-purpose cash assistance and 1,000 families targeted for non-food items in 24 villages in Wundwin and 16 villages in Sintgaing Townships (in [Mandalay Region](#)). The selection criteria include damaged property, destroyed farmland, and other vulnerability including elderly persons and persons with disabilities. To date, the enrollment of 12,500 people (2,500 families) is underway, with approximately 400 families already enrolled



Household enrollment for assistance distribution in Mandalay Region ©UNHCR

for assistance. In [Sagaing Region](#), over 5,000 people (1, 000 families) both conflict and flood-affected will receive non-food items in [Homalin Township](#).

In the [South-East](#), working with partners, UNHCR completed several rounds of Rapid Protection Assessments (RPAs) in Kyaikmaraw Township (in [Mon State](#)) in relation with the flood situation, as well as in [Kayin State](#). Besides, between 26 – 28 September, UNHCR was able to distribute hygiene kits to 4,950 people victims of the flood (990 families) in Kalaw Township, [Shan State \(South\)](#). A total of 19,800 people (close to 4,000 families) are being provided with much needed non-food items in [Bago Region](#), [Shan \(South\)](#) and [Kayin States](#).

Further, a multi-purpose cash assistance distribution plan has been developed in view of supporting some 11,000 flood-affected people (2,200 families) in the South-East by the end of December.



- **5,000 flood-affected people** to be assisted with non-food items in Wundwin and Sintgaing Townships (in the Mandalay Region).
- **5,000 flood-affected people** (initially affected by the flooding in July 2024 as well as by the conflict) to be assisted with non-food items in Homalin Township (in Sagaing).
- **4,950 flood-affected people** supported with hygiene kits in Kalaw Township (in Shan State (South)).
- **7,500 flood and conflict-affected people** supported with non-food items in Kawt Bein village, Kawkareik Township (in Kayin State).
- Ongoing distribution of **hygiene kits to 6,500 conflict and flood-affected people** in Taungoo Township, Bago Region.
- Ongoing distribution of **non-food items to 5,800 flood affected people** in Langkho, Mawkmai, Mong Pan, Nansang and Loilen Townships (in Shan (South)).



- **1,080 roofing sheets** distributed in Shwekanbawza, to support shelter construction for 60 IDP families in Pinlaung Township.



- **12,500 flood-affected people** targeted by multi-purpose cash assistance in Wundwin and Sintgaing Townships (in the Mandalay Region).
- 11,000 **flood-affected people** targeted by multi-purpose cash assistance in the South-East.

Coordination

UNHCR, in collaboration with other agencies, has taken the lead in mapping the needs, identifying critical gaps and coordinating the response as lead of Protection and Shelter/CCCM/NFI clusters through its members and the broader Humanitarian Community, availing and prepositioning NFI and shelter items and supporting site management and coordination.

Through coordination efforts mobilized through UNHCR CCCM/Shelter/NFI Cluster, approximately 852 people have so far been provided with lifesaving assistance including household items, kitchen supplies, hygiene kits, and water items through multi-purpose cash assistance or in-kind assistance by various cluster partners especially in Yamethin, Pyawbwe, and Tatkon Townships, in the Mandalay Region. Similarly, over 6,500 (1,645 families) from Yemethin, Sintgaing, and Kyaukse Townships (Mandalay Region) are being targeted for multi-purpose cash assistance through cluster partners.