



# Myanmar CO Humanitarian Situation Report 4

Issued on 20 August 2015



## Highlights

- Most rivers are now below danger levels, but access to affected populations remains challenging as many roads and bridges have been damaged or are still covered in mud and debris.
- In some areas people are beginning to return to their villages to rebuild their homes, but major humanitarian and recovery needs persist due to unsafe water supplies, damaged schools and health centres, and protection risks for children.
- UNICEF's flood appeal has increased to US\$23.3 million, to correspond with the increased number of children affected. Funds will be used to support response and early recovery over the coming six months. This brings UNICEF's total 2015 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for Myanmar to US\$46.6 million.

**Over 549,000** children affected out of **over 1.6 million** total people affected.

(Government, Relief and Resettlement Department, 19 August 2015)

**This includes all known affected populations from July and August, as of 19 August.**

**UNICEF Flood Appeal  
US\$ 23.3 million\***

\*Funding needs are likely to increase as new assessment data comes in.

## Situation Overview

Flooding in central Myanmar began on 16 July, and was exacerbated by the landfall of Cyclone Komen in neighbouring Bangladesh on 30 July. Swollen rivers inundated low-lying areas throughout the country and caused landslides in hilly regions, especially in Chin State. The four most affected states and regions – Chin, Rakhine, Magway and Sagaing – have been declared by the Government as natural disaster zones. New assessments continue to provide more information on the number of affected persons, with over 1.6 million people directly affected and at least 117 deaths directly attributed to the floods since mid-July. Though most rivers are now below dangerous levels, the regular monsoon season continues to bring rain to Myanmar until mid-October, and will continue to impact the population's vulnerability, especially in hard-hit areas. As waters recede, the full scope of damage is becoming apparent, and thousands of families from heavily destroyed townships will have to remain in evacuation centres for

### Estimated Affected Population

*(Estimates calculated based on figures from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief & Resettlement, 19 August 2015)*

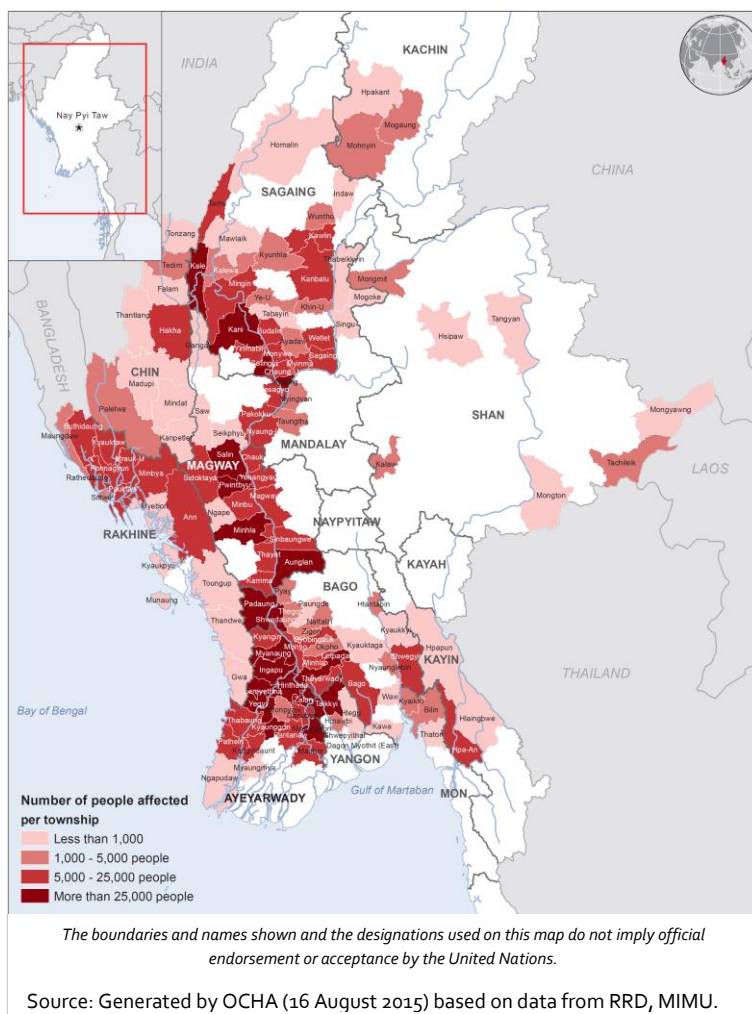
Start of humanitarian response: 31 July 2015 with the Government's announcement of natural disaster zones

	Total	Male	Female
Total Affected Population	1,610,461	776,081	834,380
Children Affected (Under 18)	549,489	264,799	284,690
Children Under Five	143,170	68,994	74,176
School-Aged Children	406,319	195,805	210,514
Pregnant Women	30,599		
Lactating Women	28,988		

an indefinite period of time. Myanmar has already been responding to conflict and communal violence in Rakhine and Kachin State, which has cut around 540,000 people off from basic services, including around 250,000 displaced persons. The floods have further impacted the vulnerability of some of these populations.

## Humanitarian Needs

In many areas people are beginning to return to their villages, but access to basic services remains limited, especially in the most affected areas. The Government reports that 242 health facilities have been damaged or destroyed, including hospitals, health stations and health centres, making the immediate restoration of health infrastructure and access to reproductive health services essential. 1.5 million acres of farmland was inundated by the flood water, causing damage to over 900,000 acres of crops, which will have an impact on both access to food and the livelihoods of agricultural workers. Food scarcity combined with damaged health infrastructure and contaminated water sources will likely deteriorate the nutritional status of children under age five, which was already poor before the disaster. Access to clean water and sanitation continues to be a major concern as water sources have been contaminated by flood waters, and sanitation facilities destroyed. Around 250,000 school-aged children have had their education disrupted as a result of the flooding, with nearly 500 learning centres and schools damaged, including furniture and essential school supplies. The psychosocial impact on children is high, as social and financial support systems for families and communities have been disrupted. Psychosocial support is required to mitigate negative coping mechanisms, including early marriage, child labour, and risks of exploitation, abuse and gender-based violence.



## Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The Government of Myanmar has taken a leadership role in the response, providing food, building materials, temporary shelters, health care and essential relief items. The Government declared four states and regions as natural disaster zones on 31 July, and requested support for international humanitarian assistance on 4 August. At the request of the Government, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is finalising a multi-sectorial rapid needs assessment on immediate relief and early recovery needs in the worst affected areas, conducted jointly by Government, UN agencies and international and national NGOs. Localised assessments have been conducted in many of the hardest hit areas, with detailed needs analyses forthcoming. UNICEF has deployed over 25 staff to join teams across the country, and is leading the assessments in Chin State. Cluster leads are consolidating inter-agency flood response plans. Whilst supporting the Government through the sectors/clusters already in place in the country, and in coordination with all partners, UNICEF is ensuring

that children and their families remain at the centre of relief and recovery efforts to safeguard the survival, protection and well-being of all affected children.

## Humanitarian Strategy

Government leadership is evident in leading the flood response, including in facilitating evacuation measures, conducting search and rescue missions, opening relief camps and evacuation centres, providing essential relief supplies, facilitating transportation of relief goods, and clearing and repairing roads and bridges. The Government activated its Emergency Operations Centre on 31 July to strengthen coordination and response among the Government, UN agencies, local and international NGOs, and community service organisations. While humanitarian relief efforts are still required, flood waters are receding and the current focus of the Government and UNICEF is to coordinate response through accurate assessments in all affected regions to support the development of robust recovery plans, led by the Government's Recovery Coordination Committee.

## UNICEF's response to date...

UNICEF has provided immediate relief to the affected areas through Government and humanitarian partners, and through our field offices across the country. UNICEF assistance to flood-affected and displaced populations commenced in late July when flooding first affected populations in Sagaing Region. As the situation rapidly unfolded, spreading across 12 of Myanmar's 14 states and regions, UNICEF expanded support to reach populations across the country. Flood levels are slowly receding across the country, but thousands still remain displaced. UNICEF is supporting needs assessments and the provision of relief goods, ensuring that the specific needs and vulnerabilities of children and women are addressed.

## Health



UNICEF and partners continue to work and support the government in restoring health services disrupted by the flooding and landslides. Currently routine immunisation is suspended in most areas as a result of the destruction of cold-chain equipment to store vaccines. In order to facilitate the re-establishment of immunisation activities, UNICEF has already provided a freezer and refrigerator to the township hospital in Pwint Phyu, Sagaing Region, one of the most affected townships. In areas where immunisation is continuing, UNICEF has deployed staff to monitor the situation and support the immunisation of all children. UNICEF has also provided logistical support to deliver medical supplies for 7,000 people in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships in Rakhine State.

## Nutrition



The nutritional status of children was already poor in many of the affected areas before the floods, especially in Rakhine State where high levels of severe and moderate acute malnutrition (SAM and MAM) have been documented. UNICEF is continuing its response to ensure the continuation of therapeutic feeding programmes and rehabilitation of damaged nutrition facilities. In addition to supplies provided to partners through existing programmes in flood-affected areas, UNICEF is providing supplies to cover 50,000 children under age five with multi-micronutrients for two months (100,000 packs of 30 sachets), 27,000 pregnant and lactating women with multi-micronutrients for six months (5,000 bottles of 1,000 tablets), and 185 children with SAM (226 cartons of RUTF). Supplies are provided to State/Region Nutrition Teams in order to support life-saving nutrition interventions through Government health staff. In conjunction with the WFP-led Food Security Sector, UNICEF has deployed staff to monitor the nutrition situation of children throughout the affected areas. The UNICEF-led Nutrition Sector has sent messages to local communities through radio to encourage exclusive breastfeeding as the safest and most nutritious way of feeding young children.

## WASH



Since the onset of the flooding, UNICEF has provided hygiene kits benefitting approximately 70,000 people in Magway and Sagaing regions, with newly deployed supplies arriving this week in Rakhine State. 80 emergency latrines, serving 4,000 people have been built in Chin State using locally available materials. UNICEF has also distributed bleaching powder to clean water sources in Sagaing, Kachin, Rakhine and Magway, benefitting around 210,000 people. In Rakhine State, where many water sources have been contaminated by salt water, UNICEF is supporting the delivery of clean water in Ponnagyun Township for nearly 5,500 people. The UNICEF-led WASH Cluster has also produced technical guidelines on pond cleaning which are being shared with partners and Government counterparts. Clean water and sanitation needs remain high across all affected areas, though damaged logistical infrastructure has prevented UNICEF from accessing all the affected populations.

## Education



UNICEF is working closely with State Education Departments (SED) to continue to assess the level of damage made to learning facilities and identify priority needs of affected children. In Rakhine, UNICEF is supporting the SED to distribute 4,400 essential learning supplies, 38 recreation kits, and 60 teacher kits to the most affected students and teachers. The reparation of more than 70 damaged temporary learning spaces in IDP camps, host communities, and surrounding communities in Sittwe and Pauktaw has already begun. In Falam and Kanpetlet, Chin State, 112 UNICEF-supported early childhood development centres reopened and are now functional. In Magway and Sagaing, UNICEF is liaising with SEDs and Township Education Offices to identify the gaps and coordinate the provision of exercise books, stationery, school and recreational kits, and other essential school supplies. More supplies and resources are being gathered to support the cleaning and rehabilitation of severely damaged learning facilities throughout all affected areas.

## Child Protection



UNICEF supported the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) in deploying Protection surge teams to initiate nine sub-national Protection Coordination Hubs across Chin, Magway, Sagaing and Rakhine States. In partnership with UNICEF, DSW will increase the provision of psycho-social support, identify local partners, and manage statutory cases of protection violations. In three of the most affected townships (Magway, Kale and Hakha), UNICEF is providing urgently-needed psycho-social support in partnership with local youth organisations to affected boys and girls through mobile teams and temporary Child-Friendly Spaces. In Hakha Township which was isolated for the beginning of the flood response, UNICEF and Save the Children have deployed a joint Child Protection surge team which started the screening of 8 evacuation centres to identify separated children and other children at risk. In Rakhine State, UNICEF has provided supplies to restore pre-existing Child-Friendly Spaces for conflict-affected children who have been damaged and a total of 9,746 children (4,498 girls and 5,248 boys) have resumed participation in psycho-social support activities.

## Communication for Development (C4D)

Information, education and communication materials on how to avoid health risks posed by unsafe water and sanitation facilities and debris and how to provide psycho-social support continue to be distributed across the country, with radio messages reaching 8 million people nationwide, including 4.4 million in affected areas. In addition to Myanmar language, these are being broadcast in five languages: Kachin, Mindat Chin, Hakha Chin, Kayin and Rakhine.

## Funding\*

Funding requirements for a period of 6 months				
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds received (not incl. pledges)	Funding gap	
			\$	%
Health	6,687,000	478,515	6,208,485	93%
Nutrition	1,473,000	0	1,473,000	100%
WASH	10,000,000	2,746,587	7,253,413	73%
Education	1,920,000	308,407	1,611,593	84%
Child Protection	1,100,000	286,493	813,507	74%
Programme Support	2,120,000	0	2,120,000	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,300,000</b>	<b>3,820,002</b>	<b>19,479,998</b>	<b>84%</b>

\*Funding requirements are subject to change as the situation is evolving and more comprehensive assessments of the needs of affected populations become available. CERF has provided US\$478,515 for Health, US\$2,304,994 for WASH, and US\$286,493 for Child Protection. Government of Japan has provided US\$441,593 for WASH and US\$208,407 for Education. Japan National Committee has provided US\$100,000 for Education. US\$223,852 is being used for WASH response but reallocated from Regular Resources.

## Next SitRep: 27 August 2015

UNICEF Myanmar Media Centre: [http://www.unicef.org/myanmar/media\\_24458.html](http://www.unicef.org/myanmar/media_24458.html)

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