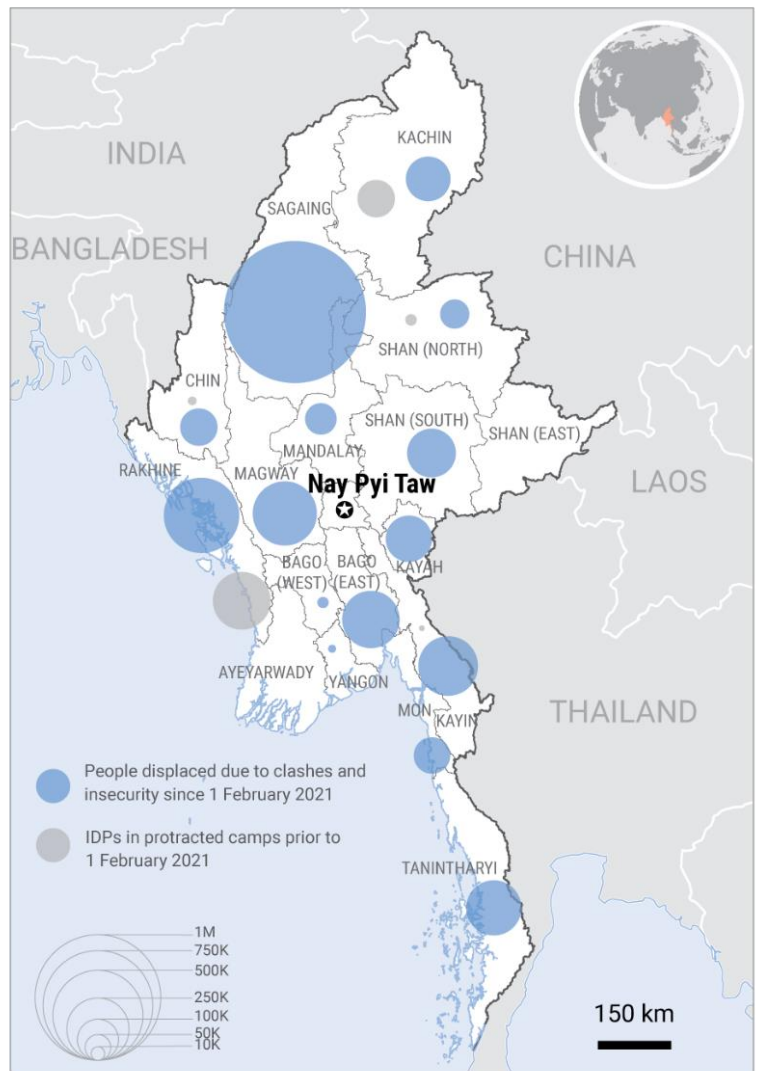


*This independent update, covering humanitarian developments up to 10 October, is produced by OCHA Myanmar under its global mandate, in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group and UN agencies. Response figures are based on self-reporting by organizations to clusters. The next humanitarian update will be issued in November 2024.*

### HIGHLIGHTS & KEY MESSAGES

- Civilians in Myanmar face increasing danger amid expanding conflict and deadly flooding, with more than 3 million people estimated to be displaced across the country.
- Since 9 September, torrential monsoon rains and the remnants of Typhoon Yagi affected an estimated 1 million people, including many who have already been displaced by the conflict, submerging 70 out of the country's 330 townships.
- The recent widespread flooding caused significant damage especially in the Northwest, Southeast, and Rakhine State, inundating vast amounts of crops, farmland, and livestock, resulting in substantial livelihood losses for vulnerable communities.
- Conflict persists in the Northwest, Northeast, Southeast, and Rakhine State, resulting in new displacement, civilian casualties and rising protection concerns.
- Humanitarians responding to people affected by floods and conflict face multiple challenges including damaged roads and bridges, restrictions imposed by parties to the conflict, violence and severe underfunding.
- To strengthen the flood response, the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) has allocated US\$4 million and donors have committed more than \$3 million in additional contributions.
- Ten months into the year, the [2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan \(HNRP\)](#) remains critically underfunded, with only 28.5 per cent of required funding received, according to the [Financial Tracking Service](#). More resources are urgently needed to enable humanitarian partners to respond at-scale to expanding needs.



### KEY FIGURES

**18.6M**

People in need

**5.3M**

People targeted

**2.1M**

People reached during the first half of 2024

**28.5% FUNDED**

The 2024 HNRP has received \$283.5M against the \$994M appeal.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

### Response efforts scale up as severe flooding affects more than 1 million people

Since 9 September, severe flooding caused by heavy monsoon rains and remnants of Typhoon Yagi has impacted 70 of the country's 330 townships across Bago, Kayah, Kayin, Magway, Mandalay, Mon, Nay Pyi Taw, Rakhine, Sagaing, eastern and southern Shan, and Tanintharyi regions/states. Observations from partners indicate that the hardest hit areas include Mandalay, eastern Bago, Kayin, Mon, southern Shan and to a lesser extent Nay Pyi Taw. More than 360 fatalities have been reported, with many more injured. It is estimated that more than 1 million people have been affected by the flooding, including those already impacted by conflict. The floods have caused widespread devastation, submerging thousands of acres of crops, farmlands, and livestock, leading to substantial losses in the livelihoods of already vulnerable communities. Communities and volunteers have been working on cleanup efforts where floodwaters have receded, but persistent rains and swelling riverine conditions continue to threaten some areas with recurrent flooding and potential river overflows. During the first week of October, recurrent flooding impacted a few townships in Mandalay Region and eastern and southern Shan.



*Photo: Flooded primary school buildings in Mon State in September. Credit: Partner.*

One month after the onset of the severe flooding, affected populations have indicated that they are in critical need of support. Reconstruction and renovation are now essential to provide safe housing for families whose homes were washed away or damaged. Support in income sources and livelihood restoration is vital for those whose small businesses, farmlands and livestock have been disrupted and destroyed. Access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene services must be restored to prevent disease outbreaks. Food assistance is critical for many vulnerable populations. Health services should be made available to address immediate health risks, and schools need repairs to ensure children are able to continue their education. Damaged roads, bridges and other crucial infrastructure, including electrical and communications networks, need to be restored.

The humanitarian response is rapidly moving forward, although significant gaps and growing needs remain. Amid severe underfunding of the response, there has been active fundraising to mobilize additional resources to quickly scale-up flood response efforts. The Emergency Relief Coordinator a.i. has approved a CERF allocation of \$4 million to strengthen emergency relief efforts and donors have committed more than \$3 million in additional contributions.

Food, drinking water, shelter, and WASH support remain critical for flood-affected populations, and emergency assistance has been increasingly reaching more areas. The distribution of food assistance reached more than 115,000 people in the Southeast, nearly 35,000 people in Mandalay Region, and 4,000 people in Rakhine State. A distribution plan is underway to provide food assistance to approximately 73,000 people in Bago, Kayin, Mon and southern Shan regions/states in the upcoming weeks. More than 80,600 people in the Northwest (including Nay Pyi Taw) and the Southeast, received essential WASH assistance and approximately 17,000 people in Rakhine State have benefited from water system rehabilitation and dewatering services. Emergency relief assistance, including shelter and non-food items, were provided to more than 60,000 people in various states and regions, including Bago, Kayin, Magway, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, southern Shan and Tanintharyi. Approximately 3,000 students in the Northwest received bags and learning materials and about 150 pregnant women received clean delivery kits. Child protection services were provided to 5,000 children and their caregivers. Along with gender-based violence awareness raising, dignity kits were delivered to more than 1,400 women and girls in flood-affected areas.

Humanitarians continue to face operational challenges. These include insecurity, multiple checkpoints and restricted access in conflict-affected areas, as well as overall physical barriers such as damaged roads and bridges, inadequate humanitarian presence especially in rural areas and unstable telecommunications, which hinders real-time information gathering and effective aid distribution. While preliminary needs have been identified by the affected population and observations by partners, the humanitarian actors wish to undertake a multi-sector needs assessment to ensure that needs are prioritized, gaps addressed and the most vulnerable are reached. Additionally, aid agencies still require more supplies to be moved from Yangon to the impacted locations, additional funds and expanded access to distribute assistance on a larger scale.

### **Intensifying conflict and new displacement in the Northwest and Southeast**

In the Northwest, conflict between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and various armed groups continues in Chin State, Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing regions. An estimated 1.7 million people are currently displaced across the Northwest, which is nearly half of the total internal displacement countrywide. During the first week of September, shelling and military operations led to the displacement of more than 31,000 people in two townships in Sagaing Region and one township in Magway Region. In Mandalay Region, intense fighting involving airstrikes, mortar shelling, and drone attacks has taken place in Madaya, Mogoke, Ngazun and Thabeikkyin townships. The security situation in Mandalay City remains fragile, with intermittent rocket attacks and reported civilian casualties. Aerial bombardment has increased across the Northwest, particularly in Mandalay Region, resulting in significant civilian casualties. In Chin State, there have been shortages of food, particularly among conflict-affected populations, as transportation of all commodities have been restricted into Chin State since late August. The Northwest, particularly Mandalay Region, experienced flooding in both July and September, with the latter being more severe and causing greater damage.

Southeastern Myanmar is facing persistent conflict and severe monsoon flooding. Kayin State remains one of the most conflict-affected areas, with ongoing clashes in several townships. Bago and Tanintharyi regions have also seen sporadic armed clashes. Since 18 August, more than 5,000 people from at least 10 villages in Kyainseikgyi Township in Kayin State have been displaced due to intense fighting. In Bago Region, fighting has taken place in Kyauktaga, Okpho, Letpadan, Phyu and Yedashe townships. On 27 August, nearly 380 houses in Okpho and Letpadan townships were burnt down, affecting more than 3,500 people from several villages who were forced to flee their homes. Nearly 960,500 people are estimated to be displaced by the conflict across the Southeast.

Civilian casualties remain a grave concern, as airstrikes, drone attacks and artillery shelling have intensified in several states and regions across the Northwest and the Southeast. Between 19 September and 1 October alone, multiple sources indicate that various forms of shelling led to the deaths of at least 38 civilians and injured 58 more in multiple townships in Chin State, Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing regions in the Northwest and eastern Bago and Kayin State in the Southeast. Numerous homes, schools, religious buildings and public assets were damaged or destroyed.

### **More than half a million people estimated to be displaced in Rakhine State**

In Rakhine State, conflict between the MAF and Arakan Army has continued since November 2023, now affecting 16 out of 17 townships across the state—all except Munaung. This resurgence has displaced an estimated 380,000 people in Rakhine and Paletwa Township in southern Chin, bringing the total current displacement in Rakhine State to likely well over 570,000 people. Civilians are facing increasing peril with intense artillery fire, airstrikes, drone attacks, and the contamination of landmines and explosive ordnances. The humanitarian community is deeply concerned about



the simmering inter-communal tensions and reports of violations of international humanitarian law by the parties to the conflict.

The situation in Sittwe, the state’s capital, remains tense, with a brief exchange of fire northwest of the town in late August. Reports of arbitrary arrests and forced evacuation continued in Sittwe. In northern Rakhine, thousands of people remain displaced in Maungdaw Township, with many reportedly fleeing across the border into Bangladesh. In southern Rakhine, more than 20,000 people are estimated to have been displaced in Gwa, Kyaukpyu, Thandwe and Toungup townships.

Urgent humanitarian assistance is required to support vulnerable displaced people in need of access to basic commodities and services. The ongoing blockage, including of supply and staff movement to areas outside Sittwe continues to pose significant challenges for humanitarian operations to reach those in need in the rest of central and northern Rakhine. Sustained access to the vulnerable population in Sittwe is also needed. Communication and electricity blackouts, banking restrictions, and risks to humanitarian staff have further disrupted efforts to deliver aid. Despite these challenges, humanitarian actors remain committed to providing lifesaving assistance through various modalities, ensuring that critical support reaches those in need amid the conflict and complex environment.

**Persistent conflict in the Northeast leaves thousands displaced and in dire need**

In northern Shan, armed clashes continue between the MAF and Ta’ang National Liberation Army in Hsipaw and Nawngkhio townships. There have been increasing airstrikes in and around Lashio Town, resulting in significant civilian casualties and destruction of buildings. In early September, more than 5,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Hsipaw Township fled to southern Shan as the clashes moved closer to the displacement sites. Also in early September, approximately 2,000 people who were displaced to the outskirts of Lashio returned to the downtown area. However, population movement in Lashio Town is fluid due to unpredictable airstrikes. An estimated 46,300 people remain displaced in 195 displacement sites in 12 townships across northern Shan.

In Kachin State, fighting between the MAF and the Kachin Independence Army has intensified in Chipwi, Hpakant and Tsawlaw townships, especially in and around Seng Tawng village in Hpakant Township since early September. There were indications of civilian casualties, people being trapped, new displacement, and the destruction of homes in the Seng Tawng village, but verification is challenging due to disrupted communications. Across Kachin, the prices of basic food items and other essential commodities have risen significantly due to the closure of the main trade route from central Myanmar to Myitkyina. Humanitarian agencies continue to grapple with communication blackouts with almost no telecommunication services across the state since 21 July. Kachin State currently shelters approximately 102,000 IDPs who have been in camps for over a decade. Additionally, an estimated 81,000 people have been newly displaced since March 2024 amid an upsurge in armed conflict. WASH support, shelter renovations, regular food assistance and other support is critically needed. Partners, faith-based organizations, and host communities continue to provide vital assistance to displaced people where possible.

**Severe underfunding hindering humanitarian response efforts**

As of 9 October, the 2024 Myanmar HNRP has received only 28.5 per cent of the required \$994 million, creating a severe funding shortfall for response efforts, according to the Financial Tracking Service. The recent widespread flooding has further exacerbated needs, requiring additional resources for humanitarian partners to deliver lifesaving assistance. Increased financial support from the international community is urgently needed as the impact of conflict grows and flood-affected people require immediate aid. Without an urgent injection of funds, humanitarian partners will have to further prioritize who receives assistance, favouring lower-cost life-saving and critical activities that do not offer the required relief, contribute to people’s well-being, offer dignified living conditions or meet global standards.

**2024 HNRP funding status as 10 October 2024 (US\$)**



**Human impact of the crisis: A struggle for survival**

Mu Paw (name changed), 43, has been displaced six times due to conflict between the MAF and various armed groups. She now struggles to meet her basic needs, saying that she has just tried to survive. Originally from Kayah State, Mu Paw has been sheltering with her family in a displacement site in southern Shan for nine months. There she receives food but lacks access to health and hygiene assistance. She says that she wants to go back home, where they have land they can farm. But persistent violence and threats to civilians, including rampant landmine contamination, prevents this return home. Before the crisis Mu Paw was happy with what she had – her husband worked in construction and

she made clothes. But she lives now with an uncertain future. Like Mu Paw, the more than 3 million IDPs in Myanmar do not know when they will be able to return home.



*Photo: Mu Paw standing in the displacement site where she has taken refuge the last nine months. Credit: OCHA.*

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