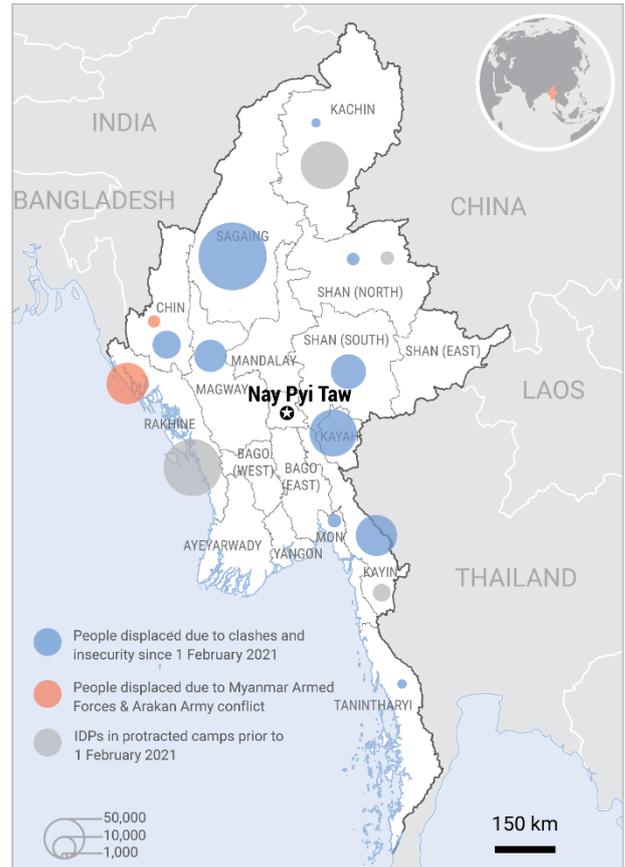


This regular update, covering humanitarian developments from 1 February to 15 March, is produced by OCHA Myanmar in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group and UNHCR. The next humanitarian update will be issued in April 2022.

HIGHLIGHTS & KEY MESSAGES

- Civilians continue to bear the brunt of the conflict, which has further escalated in northwest and southeast Myanmar.
- As of 14 March 2022, there were an estimated 889,900 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) across Myanmar including 519,500 people newly displaced since the military takeover and 370,400 IDPs in protracted displacement from previous crises. Overall displacement figures fluctuated during the month in light of recent small-scale and often short-lived returns.
- Humanitarian actors continue providing critical life-saving assistance to displaced people and host communities wherever they can, including through local partners amid serious access challenges. Increasing challenges are being reported by clusters around transportation of supplies into conflict areas.
- An inter-agency mission in Kachin and northern Shan has identified significant response gaps and escalating needs due to protracted displacement from continuing armed confrontations between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) and among different EAOs.
- Preparedness efforts and COVID-19 preventative supplies provided by humanitarian partners have contributed to management of the fourth wave in February. After a surge in February, new cases have slowed in early March.
- Additional funding for the [2022 Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\)](#) which requests US\$826 million to reach 6.2 million people in need of life-saving support is critical. Almost a quarter of the way into the year, a number of clusters are reporting major resource gaps with no funding yet received by some sectors in 2022.



KEY FIGURES*

889.9K

Internally displaced persons across Myanmar

519.5K

People currently displaced across Myanmar by clashes and insecurity since February 2021

370K

People remain internally displaced in Rakhine, Kachin, Chin and Shan due to conflict before February 2021

5.6K

Estimated civilian properties, including houses, churches, monasteries and schools burnt or destroyed since February 2021.¹

*Displacement figures fluctuate during any given month. These figures represent the number of people currently displaced. Cumulative numbers for returns and displacement are not always available.

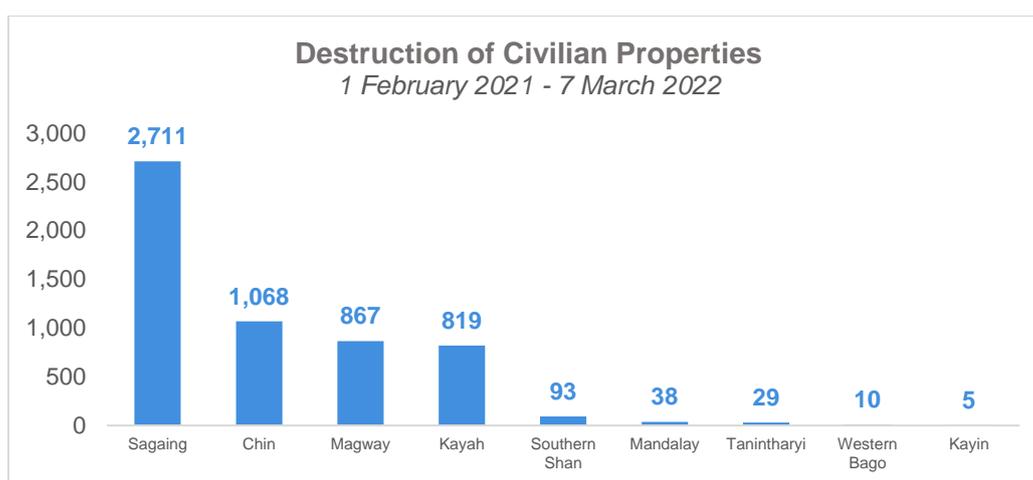
¹ OCHA's data on Sagaing/Magway/Chin (up to 28 Feb 2022), Karenni Human Rights Group (KHRG) on Kayah (up to 28 Feb 2022), Data for Myanmar in remaining States (up to 7 March 2022)

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The security and humanitarian situations remained tense across Myanmar during the reporting period. Armed clashes between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs), and People's Defense Forces (PDFs) have continued unabated in multiple states and regions, with heavy weapons, including airstrikes and artillery fire in various locations, resulting in casualties among the civilian population, destruction of properties and further displacement.

Civilians have been injured and killed by shelling, gunfire, landmines, explosive remnants of war (ERW), and unexploded ordnance (UXO). Since the military takeover, at least 1,600 people, including over 100 children, have been killed, and thousands injured or maimed according to OHCHR.² Landmines and other ERW and UXO are an increasing concern as growing numbers of displaced people move through conflict areas. In 2021, 88 civilians, including 19 women and 19 children, were killed and another 196 people, including 33 women and 55 children, were injured from landmines and ERW, according to UNICEF.³ Shan State recorded the highest (38 per cent) of the total casualties, followed by Rakhine (17 per cent) and Kachin (18 per cent) states. Children represented 27 per cent of casualties from landmine and ERW incidents countrywide. In the past year, many families have been forced to flee their homes and villages, often more than once, for safety with a surge in displacement in January, February and early March 2022.

Across Myanmar, as of 14 March 2022, 889,900 people remain displaced. This includes 519,500 people displaced by conflict and insecurity since 1 February. The majority of IDPs are women and girls. The fighting has also caused unprecedented destruction of civilian properties, including houses, across the country. As of 7 March 2022, more than 5,640 houses, churches, monasteries, schools, and markets had been either burnt down or destroyed across Myanmar, mainly in Chin and Kayah states and Sagaing and Magway regions.⁴



Source: OCHA data, Karenni Human Rights Group, Data for Myanmar

Prices for basic commodities have significantly increased compared to December 2021, building off an already high-level post-takeover, largely due to increased fuel costs, deteriorating exchange rates, transport and import restrictions, and supply disruptions caused by insecurity, adding an additional burden on families. Between February 2021 and February 2022, the prices of basic food items increased by nearly 30 per cent across Myanmar.⁵ Nearly half the population (46 per cent) is estimated to be living in poverty in 2022 according to UNDP.⁶ COVID-19 continues to add additional suffering and complexity with a fourth wave still impacting the country, although case numbers have started to subside in early March. Women are carrying an unequal economic burden from both the pandemic and the political situation as households struggle to make ends meet. Reports from the World Bank and International Labour Organization (ILO) show that the socio-economic impact of the crisis has disproportionately affected women and girls. According to the ILO, 580,000 women were estimated to have lost their employment within the first six months of 2021.

To address this unprecedented situation, humanitarian actors in Myanmar have prepared a [Humanitarian Response Plan for 2022](#), requesting US\$826 million to reach 6.2 million people in need of life-saving humanitarian support. Fifty-

² OHCHR, Myanmar UN report and press release, 15 March 2022

³ UNICEF, Landmines/ERW Incidents Information, 2021

⁴ OCHA's data on Sagaing/Magway/Chin (up to 28 Feb 2022), Karenni Human Rights Group (KHRG) on Kayah (up to 28 Feb 2022), [Data for Myanmar](#) in remaining states (up to 7 March 2022)

⁵ WFP Myanmar February 2022 Market Price Update. Price trends based on basic food basket

⁶ UNDP, [Impact of the twin crises on human welfare in Myanmar](#), November 2021.

two (52) per cent of the people targeted are women. The Plan remains desperately underfunded (see cluster section for sectoral breakdowns of funding gaps).

Annually, 8 March marks International Women's Day and is a global opportunity to celebrate women achievements, raise awareness on women's equality, and lobby for accelerated gender parity. This year's theme was "gender equal today for a sustainable tomorrow". The United Nations in Myanmar issued a statement on this day reiterating "its commitment to put women and girls at the centre of its development and humanitarian response to the ongoing crises in the country, to ensure that their needs are met, and to support their role and agency in shaping a future path for their country."⁷ To achieve this, humanitarian actors need the urgent financial support of donor member states to save the lives and future of millions of women and girls in Myanmar.

Intensifying clashes across Myanmar result in more destruction and displacement

Ongoing fighting between the MAF and the combined forces of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and a PDF in **Putta-O township in Kachin State** has escalated since the beginning of February 2022 including the use of heavy weapons. Clashes took place in numerous villages in Putta-O⁸ and several houses were reportedly destroyed. Hundreds of people from Tsum Pi Yang, Long Sha Yang and In Si Yang villages have fled their homes and are still sheltering in the forest, while some villagers managed to reach the towns of Putta-O or Myitkyina. According to local partners, approximately 6,000 people from Putta-O township have been displaced into the forest and to urban areas of Putta-O and Myitkyina township since the beginning of February 2022. As of mid-March, many IDPs have returned to their places of origins in Putta-O, except approximately 1,450 people who remained displaced within Putta-O town and in Myitkyina, and around 620 IDPs, who are reportedly still hiding in the forest, according to recent field information. As of 9 February, the local PDFs in Putta-O township had restricted the movement of people and vehicles along the road between Myitkyina and Putta-O towns during the evenings. Between 22 and 28 February, the KIA and local PDFs blocked the road between Putta-O and Myitkyina for all vehicles for security reasons, but as of 2 March, they allowed commercial vehicles, including fuel tankers, to travel along this road between 0600 and 1700. According to media reports, the local PDFs have recently instructed the public to buy and store more necessities such as rice, oil, and salt in preparation for frequent road closures between Putta-O and Myitkyina.

According to local partners, the road closures have caused various challenges among residents. For example, import challenges reportedly led to price hikes for basic commodities; the price of fuel in Putta-O reportedly skyrocketed in comparison to fuel prices in nearby Myitkyina. Based on initial field information, the residents have also been facing difficulties in crossing military checkpoints in the area when trying to leave to safety; some were not allowed to pass through. The road closures and military checkpoints have also hampered planned humanitarian responses in the area. A supply of essential non-food items (NFIs) to displaced people sheltering in the forest was cancelled due to the road closure. Mobile clinics that were scheduled to provide primary health services to IDPs in the area were also cancelled. According to UN figures, as of 14 March, about 3,500 people, who remain displaced across Kachin State since February 2021, are in urgent need of basic services, including food, medicine, shelter and other essential items.

The northwest part of Myanmar has also witnessed intensification of fighting between the MAF and local PDFs and Chinland Defense Forces (CDF) across Chin State, Sagaing and Magway regions during the reporting period. More than 1,170 civilian properties, including houses, were reportedly burnt down in the northwest during February 2022, bringing to 4,600 civilian properties reportedly burnt down or destroyed in Chin State, Sagaing and Magway regions since 1 February 2021.⁹ Thousands of people have also been displaced, especially in Sagaing, exacerbating humanitarian needs, notably among women, children, and vulnerable groups. A total of 272,900 people remain displaced in Sagaing, Chin, and Magway due to fighting since 1 February 2021, which is over half of all newly displaced people throughout Myanmar, as of 14 March, according to UN figures. Tensions and subsequent insecurity and displacement have limited people's ability to harvest crops. Moreover, restrictions by the de facto authorities, including on the transportation of food, medicines, and other supplies, into Chin State have remained in place since October 2021. This has had a significant impact on rural farmers, who mostly export their yams to China, and have faced a decline in income due to limited trade at the border with China because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Similarly, heavy fighting between the MAF and EAOs, and PDFs that resumed in December 2021 in Myanmar's southeast, has also continued during the reporting period, resulting in further displacement. More than 800 civilian properties have been reportedly burnt down or destroyed in Kayah and Kayin states since the military takeover.¹⁰ As

⁷ [Statement by the United Nations in Myanmar on International Women's Day, 8 March 2022](#)

⁸ Hpat Ma village, Lon Sha Yang village, Tsum Pi Yang village, Shing Gat Mountain near Tsum Pi Yang village, Inru Hka stream between Long Sha Yang and Tan Ja villages, In Si Yang village, Hkin Du Yang village, and N. Sai Yang village

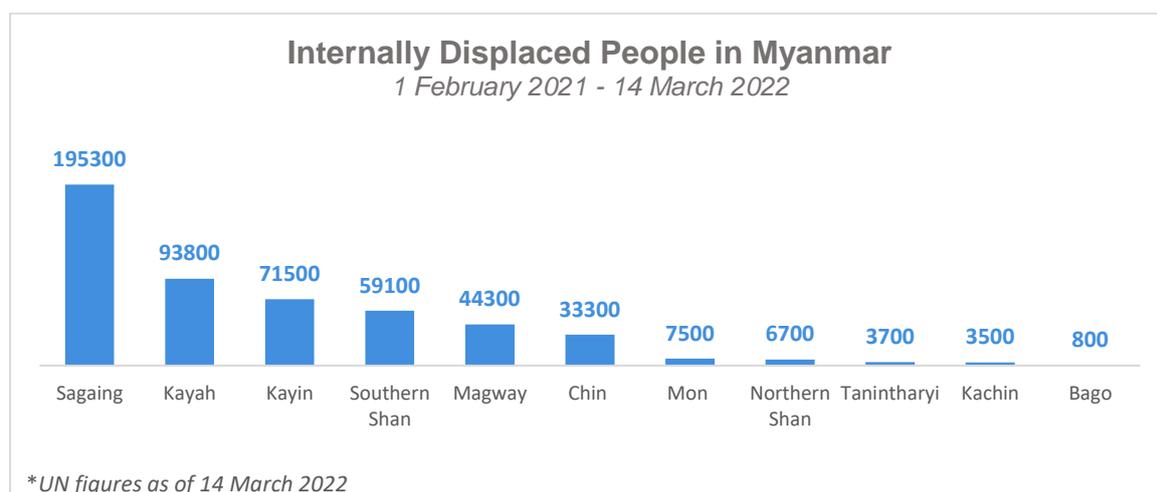
⁹ OCHA's data on Sagaing/Magway/Chin

¹⁰ Karenni Human Rights Group (KHRG) on Kayah (up to 28 Feb 2022), [Data for Myanmar](#) on Kayin (up to 4 February 2022)

of 14 March 2022, 228,800 people remain displaced across the southeast due to events since February 2021. In Kayin state, sporadic clashes were reported in Kawkareik and Hpapun townships, with armed clashes between the MAF and the combined Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and PDF forces escalating significantly in Myawaddy township since 14 February. Heavy MAF's artillery and airstrikes were launched into areas under the KNLA's control. In Kayah state, armed clashes intensified in Hpruso, Loikaw, Demoso, and Moe Bye (Pekon) townships between the MAF and the combined Karrenni resistance groups (the Karenni Army, the Karrenni Nationalities Defence Force and local PDF) throughout February and have continued into early March. Electricity, water, internet, and mobile telecommunication services have been disrupted in multiple locations across Demoso, Hpruso and Loikaw townships over recent months.

Displacement and return dynamics

Movement of IDPs is being influenced by conflict dynamics, safety and security, as well as the availability of services and assistance. Many IDPs have been forced to flee their places of origin for safety more than once, briefly returning during lulls in hostilities, with some being displaced again when fighting resumes. According to local partners, new IDPs have been moving back and forth to their places of origin to collect food and essential belongings, to look after their assets and sources of livelihood, or to assess the level of safety for possible family returns. Accordingly, the total number of IDPs across Myanmar has continued to fluctuate during the reporting period. The total number of people currently displaced across the country decreased from 502,600 on 28 February 2022 to 495,300 on 7 March 2022 within a week. During February alone, an estimated 27,142 people newly displaced since the military takeover have returned to their places of origin. This includes 16,665 people in the southeast, particularly in Kayin and Kayah states, 6,000 people in Magway region, 2,474 people in northern and southern Shan, 800 people in Thantlang township of Chin State and 1,023 people in Kachin State.



Most people who have been displaced since the February 2021 military takeover are currently concentrated within the northwest and southeast of Myanmar. As of 14 March, the northwest part of Myanmar was hosting the highest number of IDPs with 272,900 people in total: 195,300 in Sagaing, 44,300 in Magway region and 33,300 in Chin State. Southeast Myanmar hosts the second largest IDP population with 228,800 in total: 93,800 in Kayah; 51,500 in southern Shan; 71,500 in Kayin; 7,500 in Mon; 3,700 in Tanintharyi; and 800 in eastern Bago. Many of these IDPs were forced out of their villages and have been staying within their townships, but many others have had to move into neighbouring states or regions seeking safety and available food and basic services. The humanitarian community holds particular concern for groups of IDPs who have been sheltering in forests, unable to return to their villages or move on to safer areas due to ongoing armed clashes, roadblocks and military checkpoints. These groups have almost no access to services and limited available food and hygiene options.

During recent months, humanitarian partners have conducted several visits across various states and regions primarily to provide immediate life-saving assistance and protection services to newly displaced people, including food, water, warm cloths, blankets, mosquito nets, hygiene kits, and COVID-19 preventive items, among others. These field missions have also enabled partners to identify other urgent humanitarian and protection needs and concerns among the newly displaced people, with the aim of tailoring the most appropriate responses to men, women, boys, and girls, as well as other vulnerable groups. Humanitarian partners have also visited IDPs in protracted camps and relocation sites, as well as returnee areas in Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan. In almost all visited areas, IDPs and returnees reported needs for food, medicines, shelter, and livelihood support. Many of the IDPs are living in makeshift shelters or with host communities. Among the concerns raised by the returnees were landmine contamination and livelihood opportunities in their areas of origin.

Humanitarian organisations, in collaboration with their local partners, have continued to provide life-saving assistance to people in need wherever possible, but access to people in need in conflict areas remains heavily restricted. In Chin and Kayah states, for instance, transportation of agricultural inputs has been delayed or cancelled since May 2021 by the MAF. In Kachin, armed clashes and roadblocks have hindered mobile clinic operations, delaying transportation of medical supplies from Myitkyina to Puta-O. Unhindered humanitarian passage is critically needed.

Fleeing for safety multiple times: 90-year-old Daw Hta Hta Shwe (name changed) is a native of Hpruso Township in Myanmar’s Kayah State. When fighting erupted near her village in May 2021, she was forced to flee together with her 101-year-old husband and other family members into a nearby forest. Unable to return to their village for three months, the family had to contend with difficult conditions at the height of the rainy season. Daw Hta Hta Shwe’s husband subsequently succumbed to the cold and passed away while sheltering in the forest with her.

When clashes finally subsided a few weeks later, Daw Hta Hta Shwe returned to her village, only to be displaced again a few months later when fighting reignited in October 2021. This time, she sought safety at her daughter’s home in the Kayah State capital, Loikaw. When clashes intensified and the town became too unsafe for her to remain, Daw Hta Hta Shwe fled again together with several of her children to neighbouring Shan State.

The family arrived in Taunggyi in January 2022 and are currently being hosted by a friend who is providing food and shelter. UNHCR is supplementing community-led assistance by providing emergency relief items including blankets, mats, buckets and kitchen sets to new Arrivals like Daw Hta Hta Shwe and her family. “For me, the blankets are most useful as we couldn’t take many items with us when we fled”.

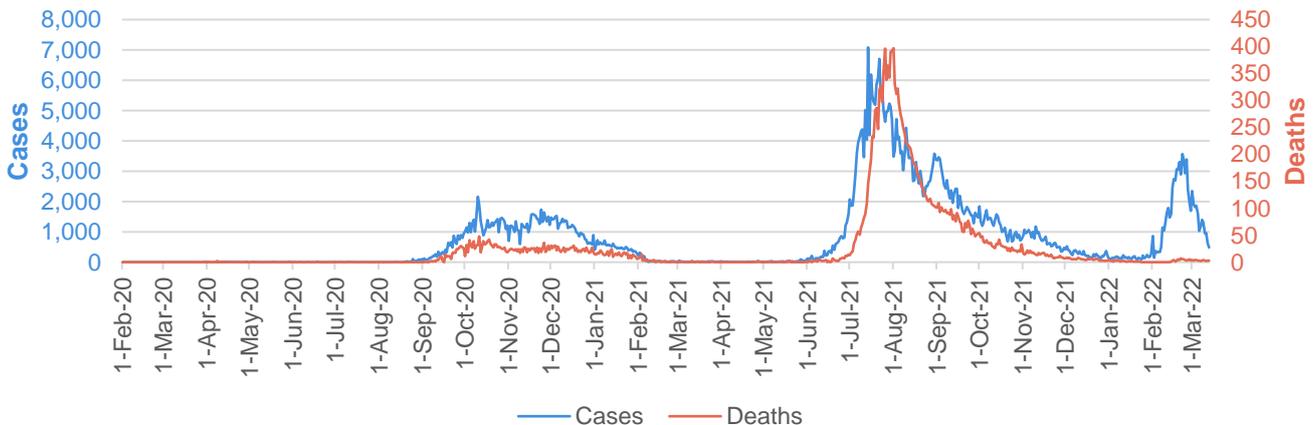
Though now in a safe place, Daw Hta Hta Shwe constantly worries about her home and the family members who stayed behind. “I cannot sleep well at night. The tragedy lingers in my mind, and I feel sorry for not being able to live in my own home,” she explained. “I always think about returning but worry I will be unable to because of my old age.”

***Case study contributed by UNHCR.**

Myanmar enters a new COVID-19 wave

In February 2022, Myanmar has witnessed a sharp increase in active COVID-19 cases and deaths in the fourth wave of the virus since the pandemic arrived in March 2020.

Daily reported COVID-19 cases and deaths
(1 February 2020 - 13 March 2022)

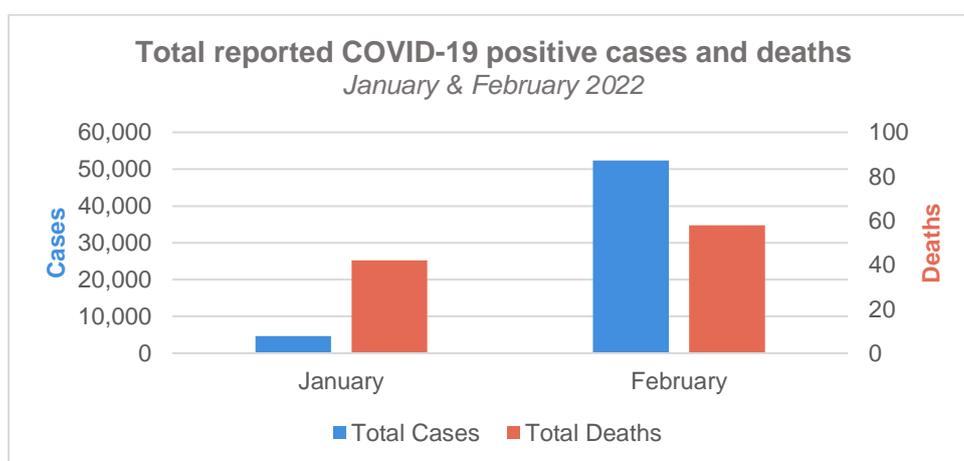


Source: Ministry of Health

During February alone, the de facto Ministry of Health confirmed there was a 1,014 per cent increase in cases, with 52,359 people testing positive, and a 38 per cent increase in fatalities (58 deaths), when compared to January 2022 (4,698 cases; 42 deaths) (see graph). Countrywide, the test positivity rate reached 6.82 per cent in February 2022.

Yangon recorded the highest number of confirmed cases and death (15,971 cases, 33 deaths), followed by Ayeyarwady (5,236 cases), Nay Pyi Taw (4,606 cases, 1 death), Mandalay (3,591 cases, 2 deaths) and Kachin (3,491 cases, 1 death).¹¹ There are initial signs that case numbers have started to fall in early March.

Preparedness efforts by humanitarian partners to contain the fourth wave of COVID-19 have been ongoing. These include surveillance, case management, infection prevention and control, and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) work. COVID-inclusive essential health service provision continues in conflict-affected areas, along with the distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and oxygen concentrator machines. Regarding RCCE, Health Cluster members have continued to distribute key messages on COVID-19 in hard-to-reach areas and IDP sites with support from local CSO and NGOs, including printed communication materials. Vaccine fact series have been translated into Myanmar and 16 local ethnic languages, including information about the more contagious Omicron variant. WHO is printing 15,000 posters each on Omicron, handwashing, and vaccine information along with 300,000 pamphlets. Partners are also disseminating COVID-19 related public health messages online, including through Facebook pages (i.e., WHO Myanmar, IOM's "Miss Migration") and the Viber network. Online messages target the emerging needs related to Omicron as well as home-base care information.



Source: Ministry of Health

To reduce the risk of transmission of the virus in February 2022, the de facto authorities extended quarantine requirements to 10 days for new arrivals in-country. The Ministry of Transport and Communication extended the restriction on international commercial passenger flights into Myanmar until 31 March 2022 in order to control the further spread of COVID-19. In Rakhine, according to local media, the COVID-19 Prevention and Emergency Response Committee reported that there was an average of 30 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 each day since mid-February. In response, the Ministry of Health in Rakhine issued a new order under the current COVID-19 measures, effective from 15 February 2022, requiring all air passengers, whether they are fully vaccinated or not, to be tested for COVID-19 no more than 48 hours before their flight departure. In northern Shan, the increasing number of COVID-19 cases resulted in the resumption of restrictions and preventive measures, including lockdown arrangements, reestablishment of COVID-19 checkpoints, and tight checks on vaccination certificates for visitors. In Manton township, visitors are requested to show COVID-19 vaccination certificates, and in some parts of the township, visitors are instructed to undertake COVID-19 tests. According to WFP and local partners, Pangsang (Pangkam) town in Wa Self-Administered Division (Wa SAD) went into lockdown starting from 1 March for five days to mitigate against growing case numbers in the town.

The preparedness actions and immediate preventive measures, coupled with the continued administration of the vaccines in various parts of the country, particularly in conflict affected areas over recent months, have supported management of the fourth wave which has now started to slow into March. 11,728 active COVID-19 cases were recorded during the first week of March, compared to 19,327 active cases recorded during the last week of February 2022. As of 26 February 2022, a total of 44.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered, according to de facto Ministry of Health. However, only 38 per cent of the population has received two doses. 43 per cent of the population has received at least one dose.

¹¹ Ministry of Health, [National COVID-19 Epidemiology Dashboard](#)

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the health system across the country has been severely overstretched with a large gap in human resources since the military takeover. In response, the Health Cluster expanded partnerships with other providers in 2021, including faith-based civil society organizations (CSOs) to scale up assistance. In 2021, 602,792 people living in conflict-affected areas and vulnerable settings received essential health services through Health Cluster partners. For 2022, the health cluster is focusing on essential health services in fragile, conflict and vulnerable areas by mainstreaming COVID-19 activities and will continue coordinating with development partners to support on COVID-19 preparedness activities related to capacity building, vaccination, diagnosis, surveillance, case management, Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and RCCE.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

Education in Emergencies

Needs:

- Across the country, emergency assistance is required to meet urgent learning needs, while longer-term support is also mobilized for those children who are facing chronic or repeated disruptions to their education due to conflict and COVID-19.
- In Chin and Kayah, at least 100 education spaces require support including teaching and learning materials, training of volunteering teachers and incentive payments. This assistance is a priority for the Cluster but has not been possible due to funding gaps. The lack of learning materials negatively affects the quality of children's education which has been disrupted for the past two years due COVID-19 and ongoing conflict.
- Learning kits recreational and educational materials are urgently needed for at least 3,000 newly displaced children in temporary displacement sites in conflict areas as well as in relocation/resettlement sites in northern Shan and Kachin (Inter-agency mission, February 2022)
- A joint effort across the humanitarian community is required to ensure safe access to affected populations, by sharing, rather than transferring risk to local and national partners.

Response:

- In Central Rakhine, temporary learning classrooms in primary schools that had been closed due to COVID-19 measures in 21 IDP camps re-opened in late 2021 and are benefiting 20,000 girls and boys who have no other opportunity to access education.
- In the northwest, Cluster partners have provided materials and/or training support to more than 530 education spaces across 360 villages in Chin (Paletwa, Hakha, Thantlang and Matupi) since the beginning of 2022. Learning activities are currently taking place across 10 villages in Magway Region and 107 villages in Sagaing Region. These education materials and learning activities have enabled children and their parents to create a more normal educational environment which will improve their learning and wellbeing. These villages are among the most conflict-affected areas of the state that have been identified by cluster members to date. These education activities will continue during the first half of 2022, but additional plans will also be prepared as further analysis becomes available.
- In the southeast, education supplies have been provided to 20,140 out of around 30,000 children in IDP sites and conflict-affected communities across in 8 townships in Kayin and Mon states (Thandaunggyi, Myawaddy, Kawkareik, Hpapun, and Hpa-an townships in Kayin and Mudon, Chaung Sone and Kyeikmayaw townships in Mon State).
- In Shan, 27,900 Essential Learning Package kits have been distributed to families in Aye Thar Yar, Hsihseng, Naungshwe and Taunggyi townships, for children who have been displaced from Kayah. It is estimated that more 30,000 children have been displaced with their families from Kayah into Shan.
- In Kachin, partners have continued providing educational services, including distribution of materials, trainings for teachers, processing volunteer teacher incentive payments, camp library/school improvement planning and local curriculum piloting despite volatile security situation.

Gaps & Constraints:

- An urgent scale-up of funding is critical for education activities with \$91 million required to reach 1.4 million children and youth through improved access to safe, quality learning opportunities in 2022 (HRP). To date, there have been no contributions for EiE which is delaying this vital support at a time of increased need.
- Overall, armed conflict, insecurity, access constraints, expired MoUs with line ministries and lack of Travel Authorizations (TAs), disrupted bank/telecommunication services and road blockages are severely impeding the implementation of education activities.

- Transport and logistics issues continue to hinder partners' activities. In the southeast, 7,000 units of learning materials for children in Mon have been stuck in Hpa-an township in Kayin and learning materials for 10,000 affected children in Hpapun township in Kayin have been stuck at the Thai border due to prolonged processes to clear the convoy at the crossing. as well as the delays in transporting materials to the targeted location due to roadblocks, checkpoints, and ongoing clashes along the planned routes of these convoys.

Food Security

Needs:

- Based on the May 2021 FAO-WFP monitoring report and the August 2021 preliminary FAO/WFP analysis (August 2021), needs in Kayah are classified as “extreme”, and Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Rakhine, Shan East/North, Ayeyarwady and South Shan as “severe”, based on the proportion of “moderately and severely” food insecure people. Sagaing was classified as under “stress” area given the lack of evidence at the time of the assessment. However, based on more recent analysis of conflict dynamics produced by the cluster and the agricultural situation on the ground, the food security status of all these states is expected to have further deteriorated amid ongoing conflict. In Rakhine, conflict is more limited, but the protracted displacement situation is an ongoing impediment to restoring people’s food security status.
- Emergency cash-for-food assistance and vocational opportunities are urgently needed in six IDPs camps and two relocation sites in Namhkan township, northern Shan and Man Wing Gyi IDP camp in Mansi township, Kachin. Needs for food assistance are also growing in temporary displacement sites in Monekoe and a relocation site in Lashio township. (Inter-agency mission, 14-19 February 2022)
- IDPs who were sheltering in the forest in Sagaing and Magway due to escalating conflict have arrived in Chin, mainly to Hakha township, where they have been staying for the past few weeks. They need critical life-saving food and nutrition assistance according to reports from local partners. The Cluster is exploring options with its partners to provide them with the necessary food assistance.
- The need for food assistance is growing in Bhamo township of Kachin, Taungoo township of Bago and Hpa-an township of Kayin due to increased displacement, according to local partners. The Cluster is exploring options to provide suitable assistance to these communities.

Response:

- Since January 2022, the cluster has supported 1.04M people with food, cash, or agriculture assistance across the country. This represents 25 per cent of the total Cluster target for 2022 (4.1M).
- Cluster partners are coordinating efforts to address food and livelihood needs in northern Shan and Kachin.
- Partners provided cash for food assistance to 1,420 IDPs in Hsipaw, Kyaukme and Muse townships in northern Shan.
- The Cluster strives to assist vulnerable people in Myanmar with a combination of relief assistance (food /cash), as well as with agriculture/livelihoods support.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Funding is urgently needed for planned emergency food assistance and livelihood activities in 2022 that target 4.1 million of the 13.2 million people in moderate or severe food insecurity (2022 HRP). To date, only \$6.2 million out of the required \$286 million has been received (according to [FTS](#)), leaving substantial gaps.
- Ayeyarwady and Sagaing are among the country’s most critical food production areas. However, Sagaing has been one of the regions most affected by conflict, especially in the final part of 2021. This suggests a high risk that food production may be significantly disturbed in 2022, especially if no assistance is possible to helping farmers access to agricultural inputs (seeds, tools, fertilizer). A decrease of food production in such a critical area may affect food availability and drive inflation.
- Armed conflict and insecurity particularly in Chin and Kayah have delayed FAO’s transportation of agricultural inputs to the area and data collection for targeting. The delay in the provision of the agricultural inputs may lead farmers to miss out the crucial sowing season, which would result in reduced yields and in a longer lean season, accompanied by food gaps and increased negative coping strategies.
- There is a significant gap in addressing growing food needs in Kayah due to a surge in new displacement.
- All planned food distributions in Tanintharyi Region were delayed due to access restrictions. The direct consequences are possible food gaps in this area and more people resorting to negative coping mechanisms.
- In northern Shan, limited or lack of access to functioning markets poses challenges for the existing provision of cash grants (Main findings of the inter-agency field mission on 9 March).


Health
Needs:

- Limited availability of public health services is demanding more resources from the cluster partners. The priority needs are: (1) primary health care services, including sexual and reproductive, maternal, newborn, adolescent and child health; (2) emergency health care for victims of conflict, landmine and explosive remnants of war and other injuries; (3) COVID-19 prevention and treatment; (4) continuity of treatment for HIV/AIDS, TB and non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension.
- An inter-agency mission to various locations in Kachin and northern Shan revealed growing needs for mobile clinic services and provision of medical supplies in protracted and temporary IDP sites and relocation/return sites in five townships of northern Shan and Kachin (Inter-agency mission, 14-19 February 2022). This is despite regular remote health care services already being conducted in these locations.

Response:

- In Rakhine, health partners continue to respond to increased Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) cases through strengthened surveillance, provision of treatment and timely referral of the cases as needed. A total of 2,350 cases in 7 IDP camps in Sittwe, Pauktaw, and Kyauktaw townships were identified and treated by partners in February. Partners continue to promote key health messages in the respective townships and keep health authorities informed about the cases.
- In Sagaing, partners have been providing primary health care services in Hkamti, Lahe, Lay Shi and Nanyun townships. A total of 270 volunteers were trained to manage diarrhea and pneumonia. These are isolated areas with high risk of communicable disease outbreaks due to weak local health capacities.
- In Kayin, more than 190 IDPs in Hlaingbwe township received basic health care services in February 2022.
- In northern Shan, partners provided medical care, including COVID-19 preventive items, and referral services through volunteers and mobile clinics to 200 newly IDPs in Kutkai, Lashio, Mansi and Namkham townships. And more than 1,600 teleconsultations were conducted in Kyaukme, Lashio, Mansi, Namkham and Namtu townships. In addition, a small number of health partners are running a modest routine vaccination program for children under 2 years in displacement sites in Kutkai, and Namhkan townships. Teleconsultation is an increasingly important alternative service modality in places where access is constrained.
- Partners provided MMK400,000 (US\$225) each to 15 civilians wounded by landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in January and February 2022.
- Partners continued to support COVID-19 response activities, including covering maintenance and disinfection cost for ambulances and oxygen plants, as well as distribution of preventive items.
- COVID-19 information, education and communication (IEC) materials, and vaccine-related information was contextualized into ethnic languages and disseminated to about 40,000 people in Chin and 500,000 people in Kayin and Mon states.
- In Kachin, a total of 4,000 health consultations were conducted in 9 townships in February.

Gaps & Constraints:

- To date, no funding has been reported towards the \$79 million required for provision of essential health services and mental health and psychosocial support for 1.4 million people in 2022 in the HRP, including those displaced and affected by conflict. (FTS)
- Improvements in humanitarian access are urgently needed in all conflict-affected areas. In Rakhine, cumbersome bureaucratic process, delays and denials of TAs remain major challenges.
- In the northwest and southeast, transportation of commodities and medicines has become a challenge due to road blockages, presence of checkpoints and insecurity. Advocacy around safe passage of supplies is required.
- Lack of health staff and volunteers in Rural Health Centers (RHCs) and Sub-RHCs is undermining IDP access to basic health care serviced as they mostly cannot afford the cost of services in township hospitals.
- Shortages of staff due to health workers contracting COVID-19 and disruptions to the power and communication systems remain a challenge for health partners.
- In Kachin, armed clashes hindered mobile clinic operations, delaying transportation of medical supplies from Myitkyina to Puta-O.


Nutrition
Needs:

- Nutrition needs are growing for pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and children aged under two in conflict areas in northern Shan, particularly in Kutkai, Lashio, Muse and Namhkan townships, according to partners.

PLW and children are having less diversity in their diets due to increased food costs and are receiving only minimal nutrition services, including provision of nutritional supplementation. (Inter-agency mission, 14-19 February 2022)

- There is a need to facilitate transport and provide per diems for mothers and caregivers who require specialized nutrition and medical care/support where these services are not available nearby. This has been observed in some parts of northern Shan where the absence of government-supported primary health care facilities and services is complicated by active conflict, meaning people must travel long distances to access treatment and support.

Response:

- Partners have continued the provision of nutrition support and services for children, women, and other vulnerable groups across accessible areas since the beginning of 2022. A total of 14,254 out of 1.25 million people targeted in 2022, have received nutrition response packages. The packages range from treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM), micronutrient supplementation, targeted and blanket supplementary feeding for children 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women (PLW). To date in 2022 people were reached in Yangon (8,906), Rakhine (4,436), Kachin (903), and eastern and northern Shan (9).
 - Since the start of the year, 296 children aged 6-59 months from Rakhine and Yangon have been admitted for SAM treatment, while 800 children aged 6-59 months from Kachin, Rakhine and Yangon started MAM treatment.
 - More than 230 under-nourished PLW from Kachin, Rakhine and Yangon were reached through the targeted supplementary feeding programme, while 145 PLW were provided with support through the blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP).
 - A total of 9,011 children aged 6-59 months from Kachin, Rakhine and Yangon received micronutrient supplementation, while five children aged 6-59 months from northern and eastern Shan, who are at risk of acute malnutrition, were reached through the BSFP.
 - About 4,410 PLW from Kachin, Rakhine and Yangon received micronutrient supplementation while 2,569 PLW from Kachin, Rakhine, northern and eastern Shan, as well as Yangon received IYCF counselling.
- In northern Shan, partners have sustained the provision of integrated primary health care and nutrition services in almost all of the 38 protracted displacement sites, except the 5 sites in Mong Wee in Namkham township. In addition, partners screened a total of 790 children and referred those identified with SAM for treatment.
- With support from the Assessment and Information Management Technical Working Group (AIM TWG), three partners (World Vision, Action Against Hunger and Myanmar Health Assistant Association) are supporting screening of children of SAM and providing referral services.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Additional funding is critical with \$61 million required to provide access to life-saving nutrition treatment and services to 1 million food insecure and displaced people, including children, pregnant and breastfeeding mothers (2022 HRP). To date, no contribution has yet been reported against this requirement. Advocacy for increased financial support and mobile health teams is needed to improve nutrition services.
- Financial support and additional IM capacity are needed to strengthen the quality of data collection and analysis through targeted trainings on topics such as mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening in the absence of other robust/gold standard options like SMART surveys.
- Insecurity and persistent access constraints have hindered distribution of food items, which has been complicated by a limited number of partners who could undertake mobile services.

Protection

Needs:

- Increased support for programmes countering GBV, such as inclusion of women and girls in the community-based protection mechanism (CBPM), safehouses and GBV awareness raising sessions, are needed nationwide.
- Based on the findings of an inter-agency field mission to 11 temporary displacement sites and two relocation sites in northern Shan in February, intimate partner violence is common. In southern Shan, psychosocial support is particularly needed for IDPs, including children, in Naungtayar town.
- Needs for protection support are growing due to a surge in forced recruitment by EAOs in Mongyai, Hseni, Laukkaing and some parts of Namhsan townships in northern Shan. A total of 76 people from 32 households in Laukkaing were displaced in March due to fear of forced recruitment.

- Protection support and GBV awareness raising are urgently needed in protracted and temporary displacement sites as well as return/relocation sites in northern Shan and Kachin amid reports of landmine incidents, abduction, forced recruitment and forced labour (Inter-agency mission, February 2022).
- In Kachin, displaced children in Puta-O township need mental health and psychosocial support as well as child protection case management services, according to a joint rapid needs assessment by Child Protection actors.

Response:

- GBV partners distributed 3,700 dignity kits and 110 clean delivery kits to women and girls in displacement sites and IDP camps across 14 townships in Kachin, Rakhine, Kayah, Shan and Kayin in February 2022.
- In Chin, partners conducted a GBV service mapping in Paletwa township and continue to do this for other townships.
- In the southeast, partners continue protection monitoring, including tracking IDP movements and recording incidents mostly through community volunteers due to the lack of access.
- Information leaflets on PSEA, GBV prevention and COVID-19 prevention measures have been distributed.
- Partners have provided child protection support as well as mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to displaced people, including children across 25 IDP camps around Loikaw and Demoso townships in Kayah and southern Shan since January 2022, reaching a total of 490 children and guardians with child protection kits and MHPSS services. In addition, about 1,420 children and adults have benefited from child protection awareness raising activities.
- In Kachin, a joint rapid needs assessment on displaced families across three villages in Puta-O township was conducted by Child Protection actors in February 2022. The Child Protection response has included case management support to mine victims.
- Cash support was provided (500,000 MMK per person) to the survivors of landmines and EO accidents, and artillery shelling.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Funding is critical to scale up protection interventions in 2022. Cluster partners require \$116 million to provide 2 million people with wide-ranging critical protection services, including support for survivors of GBV, mine risk education and mental health support (2022 HRP). To date, only \$1 million has been received (FTS).
- Across the conflict areas, only limited data collection is possible due to restricted access and telecommunication issues.
- Partners are concerned that Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) efforts may be undermined by recent statements by ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) in some villages in Shan, warning people against keeping posters or leaflets about EORE. Partners are concerned over the safety and security of their staff and of potential confiscation of EORE materials at security checkpoints. Advocacy on this with EAOs is required.
- In the northwest, formal protection monitoring and other services, including Child Protection case management, has been limited due to access constraints. Currently, only local partners, who often have limited resources and limited experience, have access to rural or new displacement sites.
- In the southeast, armed clashes, roadblocks, delays and denials of TAs, as well as logistical constraints hamper provision of specialized protection services for IDPs in Kayah, Kayin, Bago (east) and Tanintharyi. The prolonged absence of education has put children at high risk of abuse, child labor, forced recruitment, trafficking, child marriage and unwanted pregnancy, according to a rapid needs assessment in February.

Shelter, Non-Food Items, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

Needs:

- As of February 2022, more than 550 longhouses in 2 townships in central Rakhine need urgent reconstruction.
- More than 7,500 people in Kachin and northern Shan need urgent shelter support.
- Renovation and construction of new shelters as well as non-food items, including kitchen sets, are urgently needed in protracted displacement sites in Kutkai, Mansi and Namhkan townships of northern Shan and Kachin (Inter-agency mission, February 2022).
- In Kachin, more than 7,000 new IDPs from Puta-O township need immediate shelter assistance. The IDPs have little access to basic items due to limited availability of construction materials and closure of roads and market.
- According to recent monitoring, in the southeast, IDPs are in urgent need of household items, including sleeping mats, mosquito nets, blankets and kitchen sets.

Response:

- In Rakhine, partners provided essential household items and cooking fuel 3,210 displaced people in Pauktaw and Sittwe townships in February 2022. CCCM partners are working in coordination with WASH and health actors to promote awareness about COVID-19 and monitor the ongoing AWD outbreak to ensure hotspots are identified and referred to the relevant agencies.
- In the southeast, partners reached approximately 2,500 IDPs mostly in accessible parts of Kayah and Kayin with basic household items. They also provided 21,000 IDPs in seven townships of Kayah, Kayin and southern Shan with in-kind items and multi-purpose cash assistance to support shelter needs, as well as providing NFIs to 3,600 IDPs in Myaing Gyi Ngu area in Hlaingbwe township in Kayin in February 2022.
- In northern Shan, partners provided shelter, hygiene and dignity kits and emergency clean delivery kits to about 4,000 IDPs in Hsipaw, Kyaukme and Muse townships.
- In Kachin, partners provided emergency shelter kits and other essential household items to about 2,200 out of the 6,000 IDPs who were displaced from Puta-O to urban areas of Myitkyina and Puta-O townships.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Increased funding for shelter, NFI and CCCM interventions is critically needed to provide 621,000 of the most vulnerable of the displaced and disaster affected families with shelter and essential household items (2022 HRP). To date, only \$633,000 out of the required \$50 million, has been received for 2022 (FTS).
- In Rakhine, land issues remain a significant burden for IDPs in camps, with many families facing threats of demolition of their shelters and other buildings by landowners and camp-level stakeholders unless they start paying rent. Humanitarian infrastructure in IDP camps is also at risk of demolition. This is a structural issue that will potentially have severe consequences for the ability to provide humanitarian services within the camps that are home to more than 100,000 IDPs. In February, the de-facto authorities released a statement detailing their intention to relocate eight displacement sites away from the historical area of Mrauk-U township. Almost 1100 households from these 8 displacement sites are at risk of forced relocation as a result, which would increase needs for additional shelter/NFI assistance. The cluster intends to continue support to these existing sites as long as people remain there and are in need and have not agreed to return.
- In the southeast, there are several challenges hampering humanitarian assistance:
 - Insecurity and lack of access due to conflict, landmines, roadblocks and checkpoints have hindered partners' ability to reach and assist the most vulnerable people.
 - Recurrent displacement undermines meaningful shelter programming in the southeast.
 - Insecurity and access constraints are also making it difficult to transport shelter materials; as a result, little in-kind shelter assistance is being provided, mostly in Demoso.
 - The provision of NFIs/shelter assistance in Lay Kay Kaw area has been delayed due to problems with transport/logistics/insecurity.
 - Delivery of relief items to IDPs is still challenging in Mon State, Bago (east) and some townships in Kayin State, especially in areas controlled by EAOs.
- In Kachin, the most significant gap is access to the newly displaced population in Puta-O township. Partners have extremely limited access to assist those who are sheltering in forests.


Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
Needs:

- In Rakhine, more than 30 per cent of the 29 displacement sites (home to 15,383 IDPs) in Kyauktaw and Myebon townships need safe water, 40 per cent need improved sanitation facilities and 60 per cent have inadequate access to hygiene items due to limited access (WASH monthly 3Ws Gap Analysis, January 2022).
- WASH interventions are needed in IDP camps in Pauktaw and Sittwe townships that have been affected by the AWD outbreak. About 1,120 cases, mostly in children under 5 were detected between 24 January and 28 February 2022.
- In Chin, Sagaing and Magway, about 60 per cent of the displacement sites hosting about 246,600 IDPs in 31 townships, need sufficient water and improved sanitation facilities, while more than 80 per cent have a gap in hygiene items (WASH monthly 3Ws Gap Analysis, January 2022).
- In the southeast, more than 105,000 IDPs, including people from Lay Kay Kaw and Myaing Gyi Ngu areas in Kayin, need humanitarian assistance, including improved access to water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities. A response is also needed for IDPs who are displaced along Moei River in Myawaddy township. In Mon and Tanintharyi, more than 1,200 newly displaced people need critical WASH supplies, according to assessments monitoring since the beginning of 2022.

- Complete renovation of latrines and water tanks, provision of proper water supply systems and menstrual hygiene kits for women and girls are needed in displacement sites and relocation/return sites in five townships of northern Shan and Kachin (Inter-agency mission, February 2022).
- In Shan, displaced families need critical WASH assistance, including water treatment and storage, emergency latrines and basic hygiene items.
- In Kachin, according to monitoring conducted in Myitkyina township in February, WASH needs are growing, including improved access to sanitation, hygiene kits, water purification sachets, and tarpaulins to provide privacy for bathing facilities.

Response:

- Since the beginning of 2022, more than 200,000 out of the 2.1 million people targeted in 2022, have been reached with WASH services.
- In central Rakhine, partners have reached about 43,200 (89 per cent) of the 48,360 IDPs in 8 townships with critical WASH supplies, including water filters, water purification tablets, jerry cans and hygiene kits.
- Partners have conducted 230 awareness sessions to improve hygienic behaviors in 37 (out of 121) displacement sites in Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw and Sittwe townships across Rakhine.
- WASH partners in Rakhine have been responding to the AWD outbreak with increased water quality testing and treatment, hygiene promotion and disinfection of sanitary facilities, in coordination with the Health and CCCM sectors. In addition, they are distributing hygiene kits with soap, water purification tablets/sachets and Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) for AWD-affected families.
- The WASH Cluster Water Scarcity Working Group started developing an online 3W matrix for water trucking, boating and pond rehabilitation activities in November 2021, in preparation for 2022 water scarcity season in Rakhine.
- In Chin, since the beginning of 2022, partners have reached 23,700 IDPs in Hakha, Mindat and Thantlang townships with water filters, hygiene kits and jerry cans. This is 39 per cent of the 2022 HRP target of 60,284 in 138 displacement sites across 3 out of 7 townships. UNICEF distributed hygiene kits and water filters to 1,500 people in Hakha township. Cash for hygiene kit assistance was provided to displaced people in Mindat township in Chin and Saw township in Sagaing. WASH partners are conducting monitoring in the temporary displacement sites in Chin to identify WASH responses and needs.
- In Shan, partners provided about 5,000 displaced people (1,073HHs) with hygiene kits and basic hygiene items, water purification filters, emergency latrines and water storage tanks during February.
- Partners provided emergency WASH support, including hygiene and dignity kits, water filter sets, water tanks, deep tube wells and/or emergency latrines to all 7,000 IDPs in 35 displacement sites across Hsipaw, Kyaukme, Lashio, Muse, Namtu and Tangyan townships in February.
- The cluster organized Water Quality Surveillance and Testing Technical training for 15 WASH actors from northern Shan and Man Si township in Kachin in February.

Gaps & Constraints:

- WASH interventions for 2022 are severely underfunded. To date, only \$2.3 million of the required \$135 million has been received to reach 2.1 million vulnerable and crisis-affected people with improved access to safe water, sustainable, durable and cost-effective sanitation facilities (2022 HRP).
- In Rakhine, rehabilitation of WASH (and other humanitarian) infrastructure has been delayed due to land ownership issues.
- The AWD outbreak will require continued targeted WASH response. Limited availability of cash and constraints around MoU extensions have hindered the delivery of assistance.
- In the northwest, access to new displacement sites remains limited. Communication with local partners has also been limited due to insecurity and telecommunications challenges.
- In the southeast, the volatile security situation as well as challenging engagement with local authorities have hampered delivery of humanitarian aid.
- In Shan, persistent travel restrictions, presence of checkpoints and limited access due to armed clashes have resulted in a delayed WASH response in new displacement sites in Monekoe town of Muse township in northern Shan and Laikha, Kunhing, Kyethi, Mongpan, and Mongkaing townships in the State's south.
- In Kachin, the closure of the Myitkyina-Putao Road between 22 and 28 February, has hindered humanitarian operations.

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