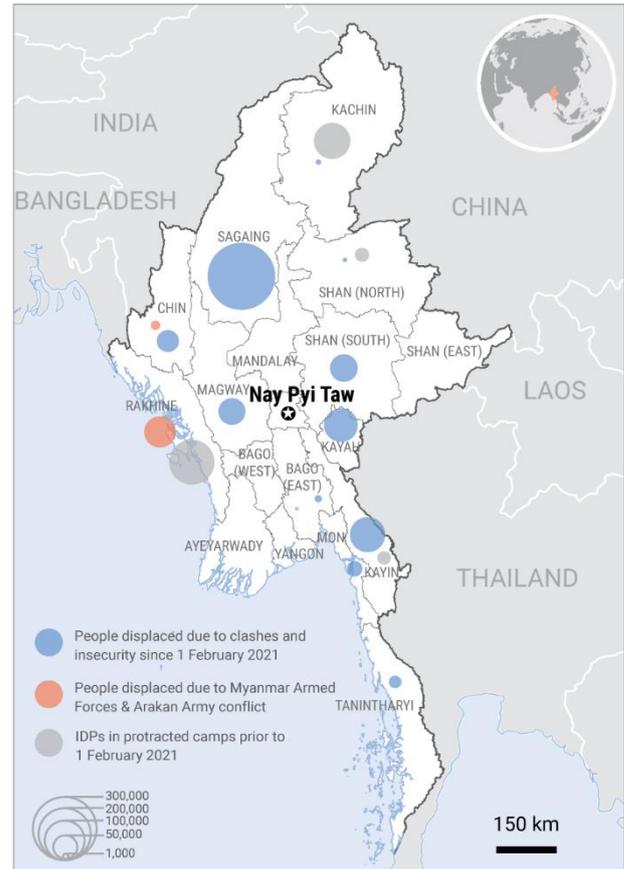


This regular update, covering humanitarian developments up to 26 May, is produced by OCHA Myanmar in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group and UN agencies. The next humanitarian update will be issued in June 2022.

### HIGHLIGHTS & KEY MESSAGES

- For the first time, the number of displaced men, women and children in Myanmar has exceeded one million. This includes almost 700,000 people displaced by the conflict and insecurity since the military takeover in February last year.
- The monsoon season is now in full swing with strong storms and heavy rain hitting Rakhine, Kachin, southern Shan, and Kayin since April, causing damage to shelters and further compounding existing vulnerabilities. Humanitarian responses and preparedness efforts are underway in high-risk areas.
- Humanitarians continue providing critical life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable people despite access challenges and limited funding. During the first quarter of 2022, 2.6 million people were reached with humanitarian assistance (41 per cent of the 2022 HRP target).
- Inflation in commodity prices, including food, fuel, shelter materials and NFIs, has become a major concern to partners in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable people.
- The Nutrition Cluster is facing possible pipeline breaks for both preventative and therapeutic nutrition supplies due to under-funding and taxation issues. Resolution of taxation issues for humanitarian supplies is an urgent priority.
- Funding for agriculture support to vulnerable farmers is a priority for food security partners with fears that this lack of investment in livelihoods assistance could lead to food unavailability and unaffordability in rural areas.
- Funding has been secured for 270 out of the 550 IDP camp longhouses that need immediate reconstruction in Rakhine. However, there remains a \$2.4 million funding gap to repair the remaining 281 longhouses as the monsoon season arrives.
- The funding situation for 2022 is now dire with the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) only 10 per cent funded, 5 months into the year, leaving a gap of US\$740m (FTS). All clusters are seriously underfunded, threatening their ability to respond to the growing needs and gaps in response.



### KEY FIGURES\*

# 1M

People internally displaced across Myanmar

# 694K

People currently displaced by clashes and insecurity since February 2021

# 346K

People internally displaced mainly in Rakhine, Kachin, Chin, and Shan due to conflict prior to February 2021

# 12K

Civilian properties estimated burnt or destroyed since February 2021.<sup>1</sup>

\*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.

<sup>1</sup> OCHA's data on Sagaing/Magway/Chin (up to 9 May 2022), Progressive Karenni People Force on Kayah (up to 31 April 2022), Data for Myanmar in remaining states (up to 31 April 2022)

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

During the reporting period, various parts of Myanmar have witnessed an escalation in fighting, further entrenching the already fragile humanitarian situation. The impact on civilians is worsening daily with frequent indiscriminate attacks and incidents involving explosive hazards, including landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERWs). According to UN figures, the number of IDPs people since the 2021 military takeover s now exceeds 694,300, bringing the overall number of displaced people across the country to more than one million.<sup>2</sup> Thousands of IDPs who have already fled their homes are being forced to move for a second or third time. An estimated 40,200 people have crossed the borders into neighbouring countries since the takeover.<sup>3</sup> More than 12,700 civilian properties, including houses, churches, monasteries, and schools are estimated to have been destroyed during hostilities, although figures are difficult to verify.<sup>4</sup> This will make IDP returns more difficult even if the situation improves. Consequently, complex needs are surfacing, requiring immediate humanitarian responses to save lives and protect those affected, supporting them to live in dignified conditions.

In addition to this constant risk and fear they are enduring daily, thousands of people across the country are living in distress due to the increasing price of essential commodities, including food and fuel, partly due to the conflict in Ukraine which has impacted global supplies. The price of diesel soared by 20 per cent from February to March 2022, and by another seven per cent from March to April 2022.<sup>5</sup> On average, as of mid-April 2022, fuel prices are nearly two and a half times higher than February 2021.<sup>6</sup> This inflation has affected people's purchasing power and is starting to impact on the work of several clusters, particularly food security and shelter, who depend on commodities to implement their humanitarian programming. Some clusters are facing issues with their suppliers who are no longer honoring contracts because of the price increases.

On top of the continued fighting, strong storms and heavy rain have already hit coastal areas of the country, mainly low-lying areas in Rakhine, Kayin, Kachin and Shan states, since April this year, causing varying degrees of damage to civilian structures, including houses and shelters. This has further compounded pre-existing vulnerabilities of the affected people, particularly IDPs in protracted displacement sites. Humanitarian actors, including local partners, have immediately reached affected families, where possible repairing the damage and providing tarpaulins and emergency NFIs, but the needs far exceed existing resources, capacities and access. Preparedness efforts by both humanitarian actors and the de facto authorities have been underway since the first quarter of 2022 (see details in article below). More funding is critically needed to ensure efficient responses in the event of a wide-scale natural disaster.

Across the country, humanitarian actors, including the UN, INGOs, and local partners, continue responding to both pre-existing and emerging needs wherever possible, providing critical life-saving assistance in spite of the constrained operational environment and limited funding. As of the end of the first quarter of 2022, 2.6 million people had been reached with humanitarian assistance. This represents 41 per cent of the people targeted (6.2 million) in the 2022 HRP<sup>7</sup> demonstrating the humanitarian community's capacity to scale-up logistically when access and funding are available. The funding situation for 2022 is now dire with the Humanitarian Response Plan only 10 per cent funded, 5 months into the year, leaving a gap of US\$740m (FTS). The consequences will be grave if this level of underfunding continues in the remainder of 2022. Humanitarian partners will be forced to cut back on their support at a time when this assistance is needed the most, particularly as the monsoon season is just getting underway.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS BY CLUSTER

CLUSTER	PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	PEOPLE REACHED
 EDUCATION	5.4M	1.4M	3% 37K
 FOOD SECURITY	13.2M	4.1M	54% 2.2M
 HEALTH	2.5M	1.4M	25% 361K
 NUTRITION	2.0M	1.0M	8% 83K
 PROTECTION	9.4M	2.0M	17% 346K
 Child Protection	4.8M	1.5M	12% 181K
 Gender Based Violence	5.8M	1.1M	6% 67K
 Mine Action	1.8M	0.4M	6% 24K
 SHELTER/NFI/CCCM	1.7M	0.6M	30% 184K
 WASH	5.5M	2.1M	21% 441K

<sup>2</sup> UN figures, as of 23 May 2022

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> OCHA's data on Sagaing/Magway/Chin (up to 9 May 2022), Progressive Karenni People Force on Kayah (up to 31 April 2022), Data for Myanmar in remaining states (up to 31 April 2022)

<sup>5</sup> WFP Market Price Update, March 2022

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan- Quarter One Dashboard (Jan-Mar 2022)

Following concerted advocacy efforts, humanitarian partners have managed to reach areas that were not fully accessible to them in southeast of Myanmar. In late April, UNHCR was the first UN agency to be granted access to Kayah State. It has distributed core relief items such as mats, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, jerry cans, shelter materials, including tarpaulins and CGI sheets, personal protective equipment (PPEs) and sanitary kits to some 29,000 individuals from about 6,900 households, including IDPs and returnees. UNHCR will continue providing humanitarian assistance in Kayah State and aims to distribute core relief items to an additional 24,000 individuals from 6,000 households throughout June. WFP also had access to Loikaw town and its vicinity in Kayah State and has started distributing relief food assistance to up to 80,000 IDPs as well as fortified nutritious food for pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 years of age to help offset the risks of malnutrition among them. OCHA was also able to lead an inter-agency mission to various IDP sites in southern Shan where people are staying after fleeing fighting in Kayah. It is hoped that these modest openings could be a step towards broader access in hard-to-reach areas across the southeast.

### Entrenched vulnerabilities due to escalation in fighting

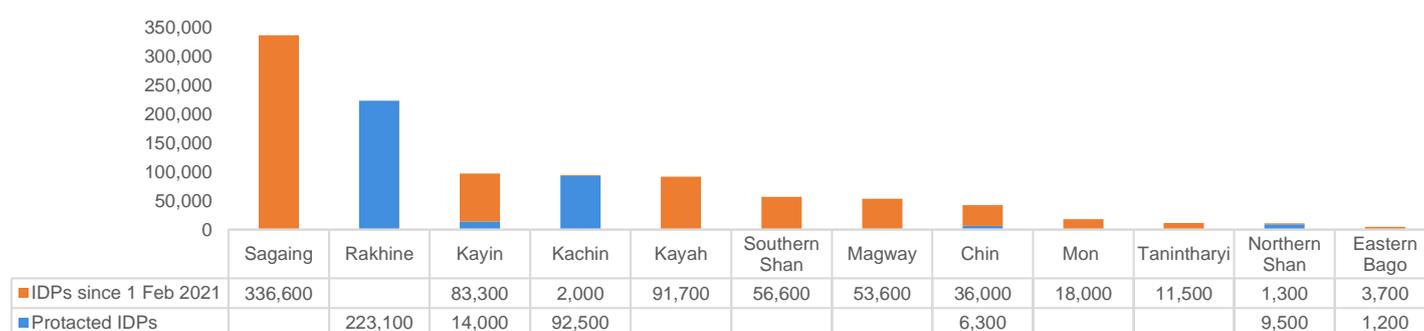
The security and humanitarian situations remain alarming across Myanmar as armed clashes between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) and various local People's Defence Forces (PDF) have escalated in multiple states and regions since the start of the year. There have been extensive reports of heavy use of artillery fire and airstrikes in civilian areas, as well as arson attacks, particularly in the country's northwest and southeast, resulting in casualties, displacement and destruction of civilian property.

In northwest Myanmar, armed clashes have intensified between the MAF and PDFs and the Chinland Defence Forces (CDF) across Chin, Magway and Sagaing throughout April and May. Fighting was reported in Falam, Hakha, Kanpetlet, Mindat and Matupi townships in Chin State; in Myaing, Gangaw and Pauk townships in Magway Region; and in Ayadaw, Budalin, Chaung-U, Kale, Khin-U, Myinmu, Pinlebu, Shwebo, Tabayin, Tamu, Wuntho and Yinmarbin townships in Sagaing Region. Three civilians were reportedly killed during clashes in Myaing township. A total of 9,341 people were displaced in Tabayin township during April alone, and according to partners and local sources, an additional 13,627 people have been displaced in Ayadaw, Budalin, Kale, Myaung, Shwebo and Taze townships between late April and early May. In parallel, 2,253 people have been displaced in Myaing, Pauk and Yesagyio townships in Magway Region since early April. There were no reports of new displacement in Chin State since early April. However, about 5,000 additional people have sought refuge in the bordering villages of Mizoram and Manipur states in India between 25 April and 9 May, according to field reports, taking the total to 39,700 since the crisis began.

Amid the ongoing fighting in the northwest, destruction of civilian properties continued unabated. Since February 2021, at least 11,497 houses and other civilian properties, including churches and monasteries, are estimated to have been destroyed based on field reports although these figures are yet to be verified. This includes 1,103 in Chin, 8,137 in Sagaing and 2,257 in Magway. Furthermore, mobile data services in most townships in Chin, Magway, and Sagaing remain shut down and restrictions on the transport of rice, medicine and fuel supplies into the conflict areas of northwest are still in place. Reports suggest there remains a dire need for health services, food, and relief items and shelter in these areas, while access remains extremely restricted.

In the southeast, armed clashes between the MAF and the combined forces of the Karenni Army (KA), Karenni Nationalities Defence Forces (KNDF) and PDFs in Bawlake, Demoso, Hpruso and Loikaw townships in Kayah State have also intensified since mid-April, particularly in Demoso township, where airstrikes were launched. Similarly, armed clashes between the MAF and the joint forces of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and PDFs have escalated since early April in Hpapun, Hpapun, Kawkareik, Kyainseiky and Myawaddy townships in Kayin State, according to local partners. On 13 April, a

Internally Displaced People in Myanmar



\*UN figures as of 23 May 2022

■ Protected IDPs ■ IDPs since 1 Feb 2021

woman was reportedly killed and another three civilians injured while travelling in a bus that was hit by gunfire during armed clashes at a checkpoint in Kawkareik township. On the same day, four civilians, including two children, in Hpapun township were reportedly seriously injured due to artillery shelling. On 25 April, multiple sources reported a large explosion at a checkpoint on the Thai-Myanmar border in Myawaddy township, but no civilian casualties recorded. Additionally, 4,750 people were consequently displaced in Kyainseikgyi and 500 people in Myawaddy. In Tanintharyi Region, there has been fighting between the MAF and local PDFs in Palaw township resulting in the displacement of 1,000 people who fled to safer areas or into the jungle. Clashes have also intensified in Bilin, Kyaikhto, Thaton and Ye townships and in eastern Bago, particularly in Nyaunglebin, since 23 April, forcing the displacement of approximately 8,460 people in Bilin and 2,000 people in Nyaunglebin townships. However, the situation remains dynamic and in parallel more than 1,000 IDPs also returned to Bilin township in early May.

In Kachin State, intermittent clashes between the MAF and the joint forces of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and local PDFs were reported in Shwegu and Tanai townships while military tension heightened in Hpakant township and Laiza town in Waingmaw township. On 4 May, two civilians in Maw Pone village of Hpakant township were reportedly killed due to mortar shelling. Landmine incidents and explosions were also reported in Bhamo, Hpakant and Myitkyina townships. In Shan State, sporadic armed clashes between the MAF and EAOs were also reported in several townships of northern Shan, particularly in Kutkai, Muse and Namtu townships, throughout April and May. According to initial reports by partners and the de facto Department of Disaster Management (DDM), 23 people have been killed and another 41 people injured in 65 incidents during clashes and other hostilities the state Shan since the beginning of 2022. In southern Shan, sources indicated that more than 500 residents in Ywagnan township have fled into the forest seeking safety amid MAF reinforcement in the area since 22 April. Along with this ongoing displacement across Kachin and Shan states, there have been some reports of modest IDP returns to their places of origins in April. Approximately 1,800 IDPs in Shan and about 1,000 IDPs in Kachin have returned to their places of origin since early April 2022.

### Monsoon arrives: Response and preparedness efforts underway



*Wind and rain damage to shelters in Myo Nay Khan Ma site, Kyauktaw township, Rakhine, April 2022. Source: UNHCR*

Since the beginning of April, strong winds and heavy rains have hit various townships across northern Shan, Kachin, Kayin and Rakhine causing varying degrees of damage to various civilian structures.

In northern Shan, humanitarian partners reported that approximately 53 houses were destroyed in 15 villages in Hseni, Hsipaw, Lashio, Muse and Namhkan townships. In response, humanitarian actors provided multi-sectoral assistance, including cash assistance and distributed family kits consisting of relief items, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, and dignity kits to the affected families. In Kachin State, strong winds and heavy rains hit several villages in three townships. As a result, a

school and houses in Ohne San Sai village in Ohne San Sai township were damaged; about 20 houses and shops in Zee Phyu Khone village in Mohnyin township were damaged; and another 10 houses in Machangbaw township, Puta-O district were damaged. Local partners assisted the affected families. In Myawaddy township, Kayin State, local media and partners reported that IDPs sheltering in Thay Baw Boe village at the eastern side of Dawna Mountain along the Thaungyin River were heavily impacted by the rains that began on 20 May and quickly turned into flooding. More than 1,500 IDPs were reportedly relocated to a safer location due to the river overflowing.

In Rakhine, strong winds hit Mrauk-U, Minbya, Pauktaw, Myebon, Kyauktaw, Ponnagyun and Rathedaung townships, causing damage to some of the sites for people displaced by the Arakan Army (AA) - MAF conflict in Kyauktaw and Mrauk-U townships. According to the Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster, 485 shelters in more than 20 sites in Mrauk-U and 864 shelters in nearly all 18 sites in the Kyauktaw AA-MAF displacement sites were damaged. Some houses that were made of non-durable materials or were poor condition were also destroyed. In response, UNHCR distributed tarpaulins and other shelter items to the affected people and has been coordinating with partners to provide additional assistance to those who lost their shelter altogether.

Rakhine is one of the most disaster-prone parts of Myanmar, with thousands of people affected by flooding every year and the risk of cyclones at either end of the monsoon season. Low-lying parts of the coastline are also at risk of storm surge

and tsunami. The townships considered most disaster-prone in Rakhine include Kyaukphyu, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw, Ramree, and Rathedaung townships, as they are low lying, chronically flooding areas.<sup>8</sup> While humanitarian actors have worked with relevant counterparts to build preparedness for natural disasters in at-risk communities in Rakhine, many areas remain vulnerable due to their topography, geographical isolation and limited access to services, and movement restrictions, as well as limited individual and community coping capacity to prepare for and respond to natural disasters.



### **Expanding Myanmar's Multi-Hazard Early Warning System**

Since 2014, OCHA has been supporting humanitarian organizations in Myanmar to develop and regularly update the inter-agency Emergency Response Preparedness Plan. To respond efficiently to a range of potential hazards, the humanitarian community in Myanmar has also established the Emergency Response Preparedness Working Group (ERPWG) to enhance coordination and communication around natural disaster issues in Myanmar. The ERPWG is prioritizing improvements in early warning dissemination, including climate information, from the national to community level. In March 2022, the ERPWG mapped the existing usage of early warning and climate information to identify challenges, information and capacity needs and is currently working with UNDP to develop a communications protocol for disaster alert information-sharing at the national and sub-national levels. The Working Group is also collaborating with disaster risk reduction colleague. Regular dialogue sessions are jointly organized by the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG) and ERPWG, in collaboration with the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES).

### **Ramping Up a Rapid Response**

After a sudden onset emergency hits, a rapid assessment of needs is the first step. OCHA, through the newly established Needs Monitoring and Analysis Working Group (NMAWG), is engaging with different partners, including UN agencies, INGOs, and national NGOs, as well as the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), to better align the various rapid assessment tools being use (the multi-sectoral needs analysis (MSNA), the multi-cluster/sector initial rapid assessment (MIRA), rapid needs assessments (RNAs), and MRCS rapid tools) to help better identify needs and tailor an effective and efficient response in a more coordinated manner. The Working Group strives to secure consensus on a common approach that uses a harmonized needs assessment too across the board in order to produce quality, evidence-based and comparable humanitarian needs findings and analysis after an emergency to inform coordinated responses.



*Roof Renovation, Kyauktaw township, Rakhine. Source: UNHCR*

<sup>8</sup> MIMU, July 2017.

**Readiness: Minimum preparedness actions**

In preparation for the 2022 Monsoon, all clusters reviewed their Minimum Preparedness Actions to ensure the coordination, logistics, supply chain, surge and partnership building blocks were in place for a rapid response. MPAs look at coordination structures, operational and logistics capacities, and rapid assessments for a response.

For this preparedness exercise, clusters used a planning scenario of 50,000 people being affected by a natural disaster to which they needed to respond. Clusters reviewed their minimum preparedness actions against the most likely resulting needs, mapping their capacity to respond and identifying gaps in coverage and supplies. The exercise helped spotlight preparedness gaps.

Given the increased likelihood of and impact from a natural disaster in Rakhine, efforts are underway at the sub-national level through the ICGG to have a better overview of existing cluster stockpiles, including identification of gaps, so that clusters have the capacity to respond to an emergency affecting up to 10,000 people. The humanitarian Rakhine Contingency Plan for 2022 is still being updated; OCHA, in coordination with Maungdaw Inter-Agency Group, held RNA trainings and refresher sessions for three days in May. This will be followed by a submission of a list of RNA-trained staff to the de facto authorities for pre-approval of their travel to ensure immediate access to respond to affected populations during an emergency. The Rakhine Contingency Response Plan aims to complement the Rakhine State de facto authorities' efforts to outline anticipated emergency needs of affected communities and identify required preparedness/responses by sector. The de facto authorities in Rakhine have also been working on a disaster preparedness plan with inputs from the relevant technical departments since March 2022. Respective Township Health Departments have procured ten disaster/emergency kits for each township (1 kit can cover up to 100 people) containing medicine and other health supplies that can be quickly deployed with health staff in an emergency.

**Repairs in Rakhine**

In Rakhine State, Shelter partners have been reconstructing damaged and structurally unsound IDP shelters in Rohingya camps to reduce people's exposure and ensure their safety. Dilapidated and unsafe structures are being replaced with longhouses built with more durable materials that can better withstand the effects of natural hazards. Since 2021, 688 longhouses have been reconstructed, supporting more dignified living conditions for 30,272 IDPs.

In May, shelter partners secured funding to rebuild a further 270 longhouses sheltering more than 13,00 IDPs in Say Tha Mar Gyi and Ohn Taw Gyi North camps in Rakhine State by the end of the year. **However, another 281 shelters housing more than 12,300 IDPs are in urgent need of reconstruction. A funding gap of \$2.4 million remains for this work.** Limited access and a lack of additional land to accommodate the growing camp population are also major impediments.

While reconstruction work aims to protect IDPs from the impacts of harsh monsoon and cyclone seasons and improve their overall living conditions, the humanitarian community in Myanmar continues to advocate for and support the pursuit of more durable solutions for IDPs in Rakhine. Many IDPs have now been living in these camps for almost a decade and need safe and options for return to their places of origin or voluntary relocation to areas of their preference with housing and available livelihoods opportunities.

Similar RNA trainings took place in other parts of the country throughout the first quarter. These preparedness efforts aim to set up a solid basis for a quick and efficient response in the event of any emergency. Complementary funding for such responses is urgently needed.

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

### Education in Emergencies

#### Needs

- More than four million children—half of the school-aged children in Myanmar—have not accessed education for two full academic years. This situation places children at much higher risk of negative coping mechanisms such as child labor, trafficking, and early marriage.
- In preparation for the new academic year in June, children have been participating in catch-up learning during the summer holidays; however, these programs have not reached enough children as education spaces providing catch-up learning are generally unavailable. There is a gap in remote locations and in areas newly affected by the crisis. For the new academic year, there is a need to expand the education services currently being provided, including distribution of resources for both students and educators across all states and regions.
- In preparation for the next academic year, there is a need for greater engagement with communities across the country to learn from parents what education support is needed for their children.
- More volunteer educators are needed in Sagaing, Chin, and Kachin due to increasing numbers of displaced children in these areas and growing enrollment in temporary and community learning spaces. However, many partners either do not have funding or the existing sources of funding are not sufficiently flexible to support this.

#### Response

- During the first quarter of 2022, cluster partners reached more than 28,500 children (2 per cent of the total target) with education services and support. Half of them were girls and more than 5,000 were children who are internally displaced. This is far short of the HRP 2022 target, however, this number is likely under-reported by tens of thousands as some local partners have not yet reported on activities in newer and more difficult to access locations, such as Kayah State and Sagaing and Magway regions.
- Since the beginning of 2022, 1,100 teachers and 7,200 parents/caregivers (6 per cent of HRP target) were provided with assistance to support children's continued access to education.
- In Chin State, although access is very difficult, more than 6,400 children received supplementary learning materials or early childhood education.
- The Education Cluster is currently assisting partners to carry out harmonized consultations with communities to understand from parents about their children's education needs in preparation for the next academic year.

#### 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, only 1 per cent of the required amount has been received (FTS), leaving substantial gaps.
- There is a significant funding gap for education in the 2012 Rohingya IDP camps in Rakhine. Several partners in Chin, Kayah, and Sagaing can scale up education activities there, but they need access to funding that is sufficiently flexible and tailored to smaller organizations
- Access remains a top challenge in many locations and local organizations are being increasingly relied upon to deliver assistance in these areas. Insecurity and checkpoints have severely restricted many organizations from delivering educational materials and providing in-person support. This is also impacting on monitoring of education activities, with knock-on effects for accountability to affected populations.
- In particular, there is insufficient coverage by education partners in many parts of Sagaing and Magway regions, which will impede the provision of education activities in these areas and support for those who do have access in these areas is critical.
- The situation has meant that many educators have not been able to get trainings during the summer holidays - a time of the year that is usually used to enhance their professional skills and learning knowledge. This will have an ongoing detrimental impact on the quality of education for some of the most crisis-affected areas.

### Food Security

#### Needs

- The prices of fuel and food items, such as oil, continue to increase, partly due to the conflict in Ukraine which has impacted global supply, placing increased pressure on vulnerable families. The price of fuel continued to increase in March and April, with diesel prices soaring by 20 per cent from February to March 2022, and by another seven

per cent from March to April 2022.<sup>9</sup>In Myanmar, not only is diesel used to power diesel engines, including farming equipment, but it is often used to power generators used in many homes and businesses as a back-up during frequent electricity cuts. On average, as of mid-April 2022, fuel prices are nearly two and a half times higher than February 2021 fuel prices (a 142 per cent increase).<sup>10</sup>

- The cost of the WFP food basket increased by 14 per cent from January to April 2022. In March, the price of palm oil increased by 23 per cent over one month, before stabilizing again in April. However, the anticipated impact of the late April ban on palm oil exports from Indonesia has not yet been felt. It is feared that the price increases will encourage people to resort even more to crisis and emergency coping strategies, with a high risk of depletion of their productive assets. Food consumption and dietary diversity will likely also be affected by unaffordable food prices.
- The increase in transportation costs may discourage farmers and wholesalers from bringing their harvests to local markets as fuel for trucks, and the goods travelling in, them become unaffordable.
- While the sowing season has started, only 38,600 people (10,600 households) have received agricultural support from Food Security partners in 2022; this is very low compared to the 76,396 people reached in the first quarter of 2021. In unstable contexts, food assistance is often prioritized for funding because it appears relatively easier to implement. However, the reliance on agriculture for incomes across Myanmar makes assistance for vulnerable farmers critical to preventing growing food insecurity.

### Response

- During the first quarter of 2022, partners reached more than 2.2 million people with food, cash, or agriculture assistance across the country, representing 54 per cent of the overall Cluster target for the year (2022 HRP). This includes 53,028 people (<1 per cent of the target) with agriculture and livelihoods assistance and 2,164,821 people (63 per cent of the target) with food assistance (note there is overlap between these figures). In terms of geographical scope, partners reached:
  - 18,000 out of the 296,000 targeted people in Sagaing, Magway and Chin
  - 142,000 out of the 161,000 targeted people in Kayah and Kayin states
  - 1.6M out of the targeted 2.4M people in Yangon

### Gaps & Constraints

- Funding is still 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) with the highest need in conflict-affected rural areas.
- While food assistance is comparatively better funded, there remains continued need for this emergency assistance and complementary agriculture and livelihoods support. In the first quarter of 2022, the Food Security Cluster reached only 33,000 people with agriculture support because of limited funding. This lack of investment in livelihood support is worrying as it could lead to food unavailability or unaffordability in rural areas where most Myanmar people live and heavily rely on agriculture to survive. The Cluster encourages donors to integrate strong agriculture support in their annual programming, at least during the main agriculture season (May to October).
- Donors are encouraged to support the costs and time required to expand food security activities into areas recently affected by the conflict. Access to Sagaing, Magway, Chin, Kayah and Kayin remains a challenge due to insecurity and clashes, which makes it slower and more expensive to provide food security assistance to vulnerable groups in need of humanitarian assistance there.
- To date, only \$8.6 million out of the required \$286 million, or 3 per cent of overall requirements has been received (FTS), leaving substantial gaps.
- Inflation is impacting the people of Myanmar as well as humanitarian actors. Inflation may lead to unpredictable activity costs, which may significantly impact the price per beneficiary for assistance, consequently reducing the number of people targeted per project.



## Health

### Needs

- 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; and (4) continuity of treatment for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension.

<sup>9</sup> WFP Market Price Update, March 2022

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

- The limited availability of staff, health facilities including mobile clinics, technical capacity and many supplies is contributing to the worsening of maternal and child health outcomes, as well as poor emergency care including for pregnant women. This will inevitably result in increased untreated illness, increased infant, child and maternal mortality and increased avoidable deaths overall. Without life-saving support from humanitarian organizations, lives which could have been saved with basic health services will be lost.
- Routine immunization is currently only at 30 per cent nationwide. This gap translates into around 25,000 likely avoidable deaths – not least among infants and children – largely caused by contracting preventable diseases like measles, hepatitis, or human papillomavirus. Communicable and vaccine-preventable diseases put whole communities at risk, including for COVID-19, TB, hepatitis, malaria and HIV, leaving the country and the region at risk and undermining gains made over the last decade in tackling these threats. The upcoming monsoon season will increase the spread of communicable diseases and there is a need for urgent action.

### Response

- During the first quarter of 2022, health partners reached more than 361,000 out of the 1.4 million people targeted (25 per cent) for health assistance. This involved the provision of primary health care services, including COVID-19 activities, to almost 83,000 IDPs (15 per cent of HRP target) and more than 278,000 non-displaced vulnerable people (31 per cent of HRP target). Specifically:
  - In Kachin, 38,592 (16 per cent HRP target) people received primary health care services in Bhamo, Chipwi, In Jang Yang, Mansi, Momauk, Myitkyina, Shwegu, Sumprabum, Waingmaw, Hpakant and Tanai townships.
  - In Rakhine, 74,190 people (45,451 IDPs; 28,739 non-IDPs) received primary health care services in Sittwe, Pauktaw, Kyauktaw, Mrauk U, Myebon, Minbya, Ponnakyun and Rathedaung. This is 12 per cent of the HRP target.
  - In northern Shan, 8,120 people received primary health care services.
  - In Chin, Magway and Sagaing 16,323 people received primary health care services.
  - In southeast Myanmar, 223,891 people received primary health care services.
- During April, additional primary health care responses were delivered to 7,200 people in northern Shan, 7,000 people in the southeast, 12,800 people in Rakhine, 5,000 people in Kachin and 5,000 people in Chin, Magway and Sagaing.

### Gaps & Constraints

- Additional resources are urgently needed to provide health services to people in need to stop avoidable deaths and illness.
- Access remains a significant challenge, particularly in all conflict-affected areas, prompting heavy reliance on local partners. Expansion of humanitarian access is 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 of Myanmar, transportation of commodities and medicines remains a challenge due to road blockages, presence of checkpoints and insecurity. Advocacy around safe passage of health supplies is required. Attempts to tax life-saving medical supplies are also an issue. The Health Cluster will continue to share these access challenges and their implications for national level advocacy.
- In Kachin, northern Shan and Rakhine states, partners are receiving requests for sensitive project information.

## Nutrition

### Needs

- There are major unmet needs for life-saving SAM treatment. During the first quarter of 2022, only 2 per cent of the 39,477 children aged 6-59 months old who were targeted in the HRP have received treatment, mainly in Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan.
- Continued advocacy with the de facto authorities is needed to release 8,480 cartons of ready to use supplementary food (RUTF) that is being held in bonded warehouses pending the payment of taxes. Wider advocacy is needed around tax exemptions certificates for humanitarian supplies to reduce the risk of a potential pipeline break later this year which would have serious implications for children's health, development, and survival.

### Response

- During the first quarter of 2022, close to 83,000 people (1 per cent) of the 1 million people targeted have received nutrition services and treatment across the country, with most of the assistance so far provided in Rakhine State.
- A total of 978 children under the age of 5 years received SAM treatment (2 per cent of HRP target) and 2,739 children received treatment for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM - 2 per cent of HRP target), while 82,739 people were reached with preventative programmes (8 per cent of HRP target) during the first quarter of 2022.

- To strengthen preventative and infant and young child counselling (IYCF) services, the Nutrition Cluster published two statements advocating around non-violation of the WHO Code for Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes to support optimal breastfeeding practices.
- Three regional cluster coordination platforms in Rakhine, Kachin and the southeast initiated emergency preparedness and response plans in readiness for the monsoon season. The plans will see pre-positioning of supplies as part of efforts to strengthen preparedness.

### Gaps & Constraints

- The Nutrition sector remains grossly underfunded. To date, less than 2 per cent of the \$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, has been received (FTS).
- Supplies of therapeutic nutrition and micronutrients are expected to run out in September without increased funding support and resolution of taxation issues. Currently there is a US\$5.8 million funding gap. If financial support is not received urgently, around 7,500 children could die from malnutrition in Myanmar this year, out of nearly 40,000 who are severely affected. The situation facing more than 120,000 children who receive preventative rations could also deteriorate to SAM which is far more expensive and difficult to treat. There is also an increasing risk of death from preventable causes among children - a malnourished child has a four to nine times greater likelihood of dying from preventable causes compared to a healthy child.
- Geographical coverage of the nutrition program is very concentrated. Partners are now present in ten states, but do not have full coverage at township level. Further expansion should focus on Ayeyarwady, Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Rakhine, Sagaing, Shan, Tanintharyi, and Yangon. However, there are gaps in sub-national cluster coordination in five out of the six sub-national cluster coordination platforms.
- If support is not able to be provided, a total of 32,000 pregnant and lactating women targeted for assistance face the risk of birth and other complications, while their unborn and newly born children may face malnutrition. Malnutrition at birth or for children below five years has severe impacts on their educational achievement, mental and psychological development.

## Protection

### Needs

- Legal assistance for victim and their families on cases involving arbitrary detention and extra-judicial killings, needs to be strengthened; however, the judicial system is not working properly and access to police stations and courts is limited.
- There is a need for protection capacity building among members of the Southeast Protection Working Group to improve protection needs monitoring, identify key protection risks and develop a targeted protection response. Referral pathways need to be strengthened among partners, along with better identification of and case management for the most vulnerable cases.
- There is a need to expand the legal aid program and enhance coordination among protection partners in Rakhine to identify and refer cases for documentation and support.
- There is a need for capacity building and regular coaching for camp-based workers in Rakhine who support in delivering awareness raising sessions and community mobilization.
- In northern Shan, there is small scale displacement of people fearing forced recruitment. Scaled-up advocacy efforts are needed to push for an end to forced recruitment by armed groups.
- In southern Shan, protection, safety and security needs are linked to the compromised shelter and WASH conditions in IDP sites. Health care services are also a significant need, especially in remote IDP sites.

### Gender Based Violence (GBV)

- In Kayin State, IDPs sharing accommodation with host communities in nine IDP sites in Thandaunggyi township are concerned about their safety; women and girls feel insecure due to the lack of electricity at night; the sites are in close proximity to the military camps; there is a lack of access to health services, which makes it difficult for pregnant women to safely deliver their babies; and there is a lack of access to adequate medicines, medical supplies and purified drinking water (Safety Audit, March 2022).
- In Kachin, partners reported that in 13 camps in Waingmaw township in Kachin, shelter floors are broken, and toilets are without locks; paths to the toilets lack lighting; inadequate water is forcing women and girls to use the river as a water source; one camp is close to a military post and the soldiers' presence is causing anxiety; and drug use occurs especially among young people and is likely linked to the lack of schooling (GBV Safety Audit, March 2022).

- An assessment among 3 site leaders and 90 women and girls found that IDPs who have resettled in 8 sites in Mansi and Momauk need improved access to basic social services, especially GBV, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and mental health/psychosocial support (MHPSS) (Field mission, March 2022).

### **Mine Action**

- Landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) continue to pose threats to the life and safety of civilians in Myanmar. UNICEF recorded 54 incidents with 100 casualties during the first quarter of 2022. According to ACLED<sup>11</sup> data, more than 3,000 explosive incidents were recorded since the military takeover, including bombs, missiles, or mortars that either failed to detonate or launch. This poses a future risk to communities who may encounter unexploded ordnance (UXO).
- There is a need to clear several villages in Kyauktaw and Ann townships from explosive ordnance (EO). Based on field assessments in six villages in Kyauktaw township and three villages in Ann township, there is evidence of EO contamination in two villages in Kyauktaw and three villages in Ann. Several landmine incidents were reported in these areas in 2021. In addition, based on assessments in villages of origin in Rakhine, most residents of highly contaminated villages have not received any Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE).
- EORE will need to be scaled up significantly in the next quarter and across sectors in order to reach the planned figure of more than 1.8 million people (HRP target). Increased contamination in new areas such as Kayah, Magway and Sagaing requires humanitarians to provide EORE in those areas.
- There is a need to train aid workers on how to keep themselves safe when operating in communities that may have UXO contamination and how to advise beneficiaries on safety measures.
- In northern Shan, the IDPs who returned to their villages of origin in Namtu, Hsipaw and Kyakme townships have requested support in the removal of landmines as they cannot access their livelihoods.

### **Child Protection**

- Nationwide, there is a need for Child Protection actors to work with local communities to identify existing community structures that can be utilized for creating safe spaces for children.
- Running mobile child friendly spaces, with mainstreamed MHPSS support will become more difficult with the arrival of the rainy season, especially in new displacement sites and camps. Rakhine State and the southeast are particularly vulnerable to flooding.
- Amid unprecedented stress and difficulties, many children lack access to MHPSS, with potentially serious consequences for their long-term mental health and wellbeing.

### **Response**

- During the first quarter of 2022, protection partners provided protection assistance and targeted lifesaving services to more than 78,000 IDPs (14 per cent of HRP target) and 243,000 vulnerable, non-displaced, stateless and returned, resettled, or locally integrated people (16 per cent of HRP target).
- The Protection Working Group in Kachin is drafting a guidance note on emergency displacement assessments and response.
- The Protection Cluster, in collaboration with AAP WG, is developing a strategy and messaging on returns for IDPs affected by the AA-MAF conflict.
- Among agencies monitoring camps that have been declared 'closed', the Cluster has launched a pilot exercise to adapt qualitative data collection tools, pre-mission training and planning meetings among relevant agencies. This exercise aims to measure progress on freedom of movement and access to basic services and to identify lessons learned from the data collection and analysis process.

### **Gender Based Violence (GBV)**

- GBV partners reached almost 76,000 people in the first quarter of 2022, which is 7 per cent of the 2022 HRP target. In addition, more than 16,000 dignity kits were distributed by GBV partners between January and April, 27 per cent of the 2022 HRP target.
- One GBV partner in southern Shan began helpline services via phone and social media (Facebook and Viber). The helpline is expected to expand entry points for safehouse accommodation. Another partner in southern Shan started providing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and GBV health services to key populations in six locations.
- In southern Shan, 6,430 dignity kits and 590 clean delivery kits were distributed in Nyaung Shwe, Pekon, Pindaya, Pinlaung, Hopong, Kalaw, Taunggyi, Lawkasawk, Mongkaing, Mawkaing and Hsihseng townships through partners between January and April 2022.
- In Kayah, 1,650 dignity kits and 161 clean delivery kits have been distributed through partners to IDPs in Loikaw, Hpruso, and Demoso townships since January 2022.

<sup>11</sup> The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data (ACLED) Project

- In Kachin, 1,445 dignity kits have been distributed to displaced women and girls since January 2022.
- In Mon and Kayin, 2,200 dignity kits and 560 clean delivery kits have been distributed to IDPs through CSO partners in Kawkaik, Hlingbwe, Thandaungyi and Mawlamyine townships since January 2022.
- In Rakhine State, 1,231 dignity kits, 130 headscarves and 55 clean delivery kits have been distributed this year. In Chin, 2,275 delivery kits, 80 clean delivery kits, and 3,000 sanitary pads have been distributed to IDP camps in Paletwa and Samee townships since January 2022.

### Child protection

- Since the beginning of 2022, the Child Protection sector has provided targeted and specialized case management services to more than 600 children. Given that the most prevalent violation that case management actors are responding to is that of children in conflict with the law, the CP AoR is focusing on improving coordination among legal service providers and case management services.
- During the first quarter of 2022, a total of 1,188 people received awareness sessions on the prevention of family separation and case management. A total of 53,332 people (18,388 girls, 17,870 boys, 12,634 women; 4,440 men) received critical child protection services, including access to MHPSS, GBV risk mitigation, prevention, and response interventions, as well as EORE through 28 partners in the first quarter.
- In response to previous reports of a rise in drug use among children and youth in camps and host communities in Rakhine State, the CP AoR and other sub-clusters are working on an assessment to identify the type and level of support needed.
- With both the wet season and ongoing displacement across the country, the CP AoR has recently conducted a review of its emergency response plans, including working with partners to assess its pre-positioned stock levels across the country.

### Mine Action

- During the first quarter of 2022, MA actors reached approximately 110,000 people with EORE safety messages in affected areas, which is 35 per cent of the MA target for the year.
- The Leprosy Mission Myanmar opened a mobile workshop in Taungoo in Bago Region on 9 April to provide orthotic and prosthetic services as part of ongoing rehabilitation support to landmine and EO victims and other persons with disabilities.
- The MA AoR continues to coordinate at national and sub-national levels with meetings being held on a monthly basis. A Task Team was established in April by members of the MA AoR, to develop EORE Training of Trainer (ToT) Guidelines.
- MA AoR members are working on an Action Plan for the sector within the Myanmar Strategic Plan, to be finalized in May and used for fundraising and advocacy efforts.
- The MA AoR is working with the Protection Cluster's Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) colleagues to support efforts to strengthen community capacities for EORE, including establishing volunteer networks and strengthening community risk management efforts.

### Gaps & Constraints

- Denials and restrictions of humanitarian access remain a key challenge, impeding needs assessments and assistance, and requiring a heavy reliance on national partners to fill gaps wherever possible. Concerted efforts are required to ensure predictable, unfettered and timely humanitarian access to deliver assistance and meet the needs of all affected people. Specific access, security and logistics constraints include:
  - Humanitarian access to IDPs is still limited in Kachin due to the presence of the Kachin armed groups along major roads leading into and out of Myitkyina and Bhamo townships.
  - Movement restrictions and prolonged wait times at checkpoints in Kyauktaw township in Rakhine are limiting access and shortening the time spent on site.
  - Challenges in accessing certain IDP locations in Pekon and Pinlaung townships in southern Shan. Emergency response materials have been confiscated by security forces, and partners' security has been compromised.
  - In southeast Myanmar, humanitarian partners cannot reach IDPs who fled into the jungle to assess their situation and assist them.
  - In northern Shan, although there are fewer movement restrictions, access can be blocked any time due to the unpredictable conflict situation between numerous different armed actors in the area.
  - Transportation of food supplies to Mone Koe area in northern Shan is intensely restricted by the SAC until now.
  - While there are pre-positioned stocks held by CP partners in different parts of the country ahead of the wet season, an ongoing issue is the ability to access hard-to reach communities, especially in the northwest.

- Organizations have reported blockages in transporting EORE IEC materials. Lack of EOD and clearance permissions and capacity means that even as contaminated land is identified there is no follow-up action to render these areas safe.
  - In the border areas in the southeast, pregnant women and people with serious medical conditions cannot receive timely medical support due to roadblocks and movement restrictions.
  - Access to the safehouses in Sittwe township for women living in other areas is challenging due to insecurity and the inability to afford transportation costs.
  - GBV partners suspended interventions in some locations in Mrauk-U and Kyauktaw townships in April due to tension among armed groups.
  - IDPs are on the move with secondary and tertiary displacements, which make it difficult to monitor, assess, and provide assistance in a timely manner. Moreover, there is limited information on special needs and disaggregated data on the current IDP population. Data on the response to people with a disability is also particularly weak across all clusters.
  - Some protection incidents are unreported due to a fear of retaliation or due to concerns that the problems won't be solved through reporting. This discourages persons of concern from reporting and, at the same time, encourages perpetrators to continue practicing violence with impunity.
- Protection responses, including Child Protection, GBV, MHPSS, Mine Risk Education, and community outreach activities are conducted at a modest scale relative to the level of need due to access constraints and limited humanitarian funding. To date, only 4.6 per cent of the required amount has been received (**FTS**) Funding gaps are causing the following specific gaps:
    - Major gaps in the delivery of MA activities continue to be experienced across the country. INGOs and NGOs lack human resources and capacity to meet the EORE and Victim Assistance needs of the population and other activities such as supporting tools and training due to insufficient funding (less than 4 per cent funded according to (FTS).
    - There is a lack of emergency funding mechanisms for protection actors to rapidly respond to new displacements. Increased emergency funding mechanism is particularly needed in the northwest, where more than half of the total new IDPs (since February 2021) reside, and where the displacement situation is constantly and rapidly evolving.

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

### Needs

- Emergency shelter items (tarpaulins and ropes), core relief items (kitchen sets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, jerry cans, buckets, dignity kits, clothing, and solar lanterns) and cash assistance continue to be a key need in the southeast. Specifically, in Mon State, emergency shelter and NFIs are needed for 3,000 IDPs from Lay Kay village tract who have been sheltering in the jungle in Bilin township in Mon State since 23 April due to the escalation of armed clashes.
- In Rakhine State, the following urgent needs were identified:
  - A total of 281 longhouses sheltering 12,300 IDPs remain in urgent need of reconstruction. Funding has already been secured for 270 out of the 550 longhouses in total that need immediate reconstruction. There is currently a \$2.4 million funding gap to repair the remaining 281 longhouses ahead of the monsoon season.
  - In AA-MAF displacement sites, more than 7,300 displaced households need shelter and NFI assistance.

### Response

- During the first quarter of 2022, more than 183,000 people or 30 per cent of the 600,000 people targeted for assistance in 2022 were provided with Shelter/NFI and CCCM services across the country.
- In Kayin State, 80 women-headed households in Myaing Gyi Ngu IDP resettlement area in Hlaingbwe township received shelter materials in early April. These households are among resettled returnees who had originally been displaced by conflict before February 2021 (UNHCR needs assessment, March 2022).
- In Kayah State, UNHCR distributed 7,000 NFI kits to displaced people and returnees in Loikaw township in April after obtaining a TA. Currently, there are 24,000 IDPs in this township, who have been inaccessible to humanitarian actors due to armed clashes and lack of TA.
- In Mon State, partners are working to mobilize assistance to the IDPs in Bilin township more quickly. The shelter cluster is currently identifying local responders, including those currently outside the humanitarian coordination structure, that may have access or resources for emergency shelter/NFI response in this area.
- With recently secured funding, shelter partners are currently working on a construction plan for 270 longhouses in Say Tha Mar Gyi and Ohn Taw Gyi North camps in Rakhine State that are in urgent need of reconstruction heading into the monsoon season. These longhouses shelter 13,000 IDPs. This is a large-scale project, which will include

a holistic monitoring plan that involves close coordination and dedicated functions of CCCM, Shelter, Protection and GBV actors operating in the two camps.

- To date in 2022, partners supported 2,640 households with solar lights and 1,023 households with NFIs in Baw Du Pha 1 IDP camp in Sittwe township. In addition, a total of 5,100 IDPs in 87 AA-MAF displacement sites in Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon and Sittwe townships have received NFI assistance, while more than 670 displaced households comprised of about 3,400 people have been reached with emergency shelter assistance.
- Shelter partners are looking into ways to assess the shelter conditions of recently displaced people in Kayin, southern Shan and Tanintharyi amid security and access challenges:
  - In Kayin State, 500 people from Taung Ka Lay village tract in Kyainseikgyi township have been displaced to nearby locations since 21 April.
  - In southern Shan, 533 people from Loikaw town in Kayah State have been displaced to Hsiseng, Pinlaung and Nyaung Shwe townships since mid-April 2022 due to armed clashes.
  - In Tanintharyi Region, 2,000 people from Thein Daw Ywar Ma village in Tanintharyi township and 3,000 people from at least 10 villages in Thayetchaung township have been displaced since early April. Many of these people have taken shelter in the jungle or plantation fields without adequate shelter or access to basic services.

### Gaps & Constraints

- The Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster is predominantly a commodity-based cluster. Inflation has become a major concern to the cluster partners in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable. Construction and material prices have increased by more than 50 per cent, while the cost of transport has more than doubled. The cluster is experiencing supply and logistical challenges, as many vendors and suppliers are not honoring existing supply agreements. Various shelter and non-food items are exported outside of Myanmar because vendors can get higher prices than they can be sold for locally, causing a significant supply shortage domestically.
- In April, the cluster consolidated an overview of all shelter/NFI stockpiles in the country, which highlighted that in the worst-case scenario of a cyclone due to limited funding and access restrictions, partners would only be able to cover 12 per cent of the most urgent needs.
- Humanitarian access and safety, and security, including for humanitarian workers, continue to be a serious impediment to response in the southeast. Recent displacement in Mon State highlighted the need for a more predictable and systematic inter-cluster response to mass displacement. In Mon State, the coordination of an emergency response under the southeast Shelter/NFI/CCCM cluster is being hampered by a lack of coverage among partners.
- In Kayah State, access and movement restrictions for materials and people, including humanitarian workers, remain a challenge. TAs have not been issued and transportation of food and other core relief items into Kayah has been heavily restricted since the escalation of conflict in May 2021.
- In Kayin State, access to IDP sites in Myawaddy district remains limited from within Myanmar due to ongoing fighting, lack of TAs, MAF reinforcements and roadblocks. The transport of emergency supplies continues to be challenging and the safety and security of aid workers remains a concern in this area.
- In Rakhine State, housing land property (HLP) issues within camp areas or boundaries for service providers, implementers and camp management agencies remain unresolved. Advocacy at the state level is ongoing but more advocacy with the de facto authorities at national level is required to define the camp boundaries. Partners are required to obtain a written letter of land use clearance from the village administrator or authorities for any construction and renovation activities for temporary longhouses/shelters and other humanitarian infrastructure in camps, which is resulting in delays in planned responses.
- Shelter assistance, which is already secured, cannot be delivered to more than 7,300 displaced households living in the AA-MAF displacement sites due to access and supply chain constraints.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

### Needs

- Nationwide, some 73 per cent of the population targeted by the WASH Cluster lack enough water, 68 per cent lack sanitation services, and 78 per cent lack hygiene items. Immediate effects are already visible with a rise in acute watery diarrhea, although a concerted effort by WASH cluster members has managed to keep cases down. Considering the upcoming monsoon season, however, this number is likely to increase further.
- In Kachin State, more than 96,800 IDPs in 131 protracted camps in 14 townships need WASH assistance. Partners report about 43 per cent of people have a water gap, 30 per cent have a sanitation gap and 31 per cent have a hygiene gap (4W information management, 1st Quarter 2022).
- In Sagaing Region, local partners reported that 55 displaced households comprised of 342 people who have been displaced from Mansi and Moe Tar Gyi villages in Katha township since mid-February 2022 need WASH assistance and services.

- In Shan State, water treatment and storage facilities, emergency sanitation facilities, basic hygiene items and hygiene promotion are critically needed for approximately 14,400 IDPs in 12 townships in the state's north and south who have been displaced because of insecurity and armed clashes since February 2021. Those include people who fled their home of fear of forced recruitment in March and April 2022.
- In northern Shan, partners reported that among about 13,540 IDPs from 33 protracted camps and relocation sites in northern Shan about 29 per cent of people have a water gap, 15 per cent have a sanitation gap and 49 per cent have a hygiene gap (4W information management, 1st Quarter 2022).
- In Rakhine State, several villages and displacement sites, especially in Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun and Sittwe townships, are in need of water for drinking and domestic use as most water ponds dried up in April. The WASH cluster has received many requests for water distribution through local partners and the local de facto authorities. According to the WASH 3Ws gap analysis in March, 44 per cent of people in AA-MAF affected displacement sites have a gap in water distribution, 44 per cent have a gap in sanitation services, and 21 per cent have a gap in hygiene service and promotion.
- In Chin State, across the 270 displacement sites there is a 58 per cent gap in water, 61 per cent gap in sanitation services and 73 per cent gap in hygiene services/promotion (WASH 3Ws Analysis-March 2022).
- In Sagaing Region, nearly 171,100 IDPs need urgent WASH assistance. In Magway Region, about 42,000 IDPs need WASH assistance, particularly in Saw township (WASH 3Ws Analysis-March 2022).

## Response

- During the first quarter of 2022, a total of 441,000 people (21 per cent), out of the targeted 2.1 million people received WASH services across the country.
- In Kachin State, a partner provided hygiene kits to 362 households comprised of 1,219 IDPs from 4 villages in Puta-O township in April. These included 234 households from Tsum Pi Yang, 48 households from In Si Yang, 68 households from Hkin Du Yang, and 12 households from Ntsai Yang.
- In Sagaing Region, partners provided 50 hygiene kits, 50 plastic containers, 250 soap bars, 55 dignity kits and 59 non-food-item kits to 55 displaced families in Katha township in April. A local partner assessed the quality of existing water sources in Katha township.
- In Shan State, partners provided hygiene items and water containers to 142 people who were displaced by armed clashes in Namtu township in northern Shan in April. Partners also provided 20 NFI kits and 3 hygiene kits to families severely affected by strong winds in April, which caused varying degrees of damage to 157 houses from 21 villages in 6 townships.
- During the first quarter of 2022, ICRC provided emergency WASH assistance in 52 displacement sites in Hsihseng, Laihka, Nyaungshwe, Pindaya, Pinlaung and Taunggyi townships in southern Shan: 175 water filters, 24 latrine kits, 14 potties, 23 commode chairs, 785 soap bars and 20 sanitation kits reaching all of the 7,670 IDPs, who have been displaced from Kayah State since early January 2022 when clashes erupted in Loikaw.
- In Rakhine State, a partner has been providing water boating to 2 IDP camps in Pauktaw township, with 1.5 million litres of water provided in Kyein Ni Pyin and 400,000 litres in Ah Nauk Ye camp since 14 April.
- In April, cluster partners provided WASH assistance to 97 of 121 displacement sites in Ann, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun and Sittwe townships in Rakhine State, reaching 43,310 out of 47,502 IDPs. The distribution included 68 water filters, 8,940 purification sachets, 140 jerrycans, 6,366 hygiene kits, 2,887 bars of soap, 11,013 disposable sanitary pads, and 1,706 reusable sanitary pads, as well as 261 hygiene promotion sessions.
- In Chin State, partners covered 136 out of 270 displacement sites in Hakha, Matupi, Mindat, Paletwa and Thantlang townships reaching about 22,020 out of 43,998 IDPs during April. WASH assistance included distribution of 1,515 hygiene kits, 1,312 water purification sachets, 1,011 sanitary pads, 10 water bladders, 558 bars of soap and 45 hygiene promotion sessions.
- In Magway Region, partners covered 12 out of 44 displacement sites, reaching 2,038 out of 42,494 IDPs during April. In addition, partners distributed 69 jerrycans in Saw township.
- In Sagaing Region, partners distributed water buckets, tarpaulins, nylon ropes, hygiene kits, bars of soap, water floc (chemical agents) and disinfectant powder for water treatment to 6,000 displaced families in Kale and Tamu townships during April.
- In Kayin State, more than 300 of about 1,100 households in Myaing Gyi Ngu IDP camp in Hlaingbwe township received WASH items, including hygiene kits, water purification sachets, water buckets and COVID-19 prevention posters. About 400 of 439 households in Ohn Taw IDP camp in Kamarmaung town in Hpapun township received tarpaulins and water purification sachets.
- In Mon State, about 30 families who were displaced in April from their villages in Bilin township received water purification tablets, water containers and hygiene kits.
- In the southeast, UNICEF is preparing five more humanitarian partnerships with CSOs to provide humanitarian assistance to 85,000 out of the 120,000 people who were identified as being in critical need of humanitarian support.

## Gaps & Constraints

- The most critical gaps for the WASH Cluster are the lack of monthly consumable items, the replenishment of contingency stocks for any unforeseen emergencies, and the challenge of providing continuity of water services to affected people in protracted camp settings and IDP sites to avoid further degradation of their situation and a downward spiral into poor health and adoptions of negative coping mechanisms.
- WASH interventions for 2022 are severely underfunded. To date, only \$5.6 million has been received of the \$135 million required 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). Shortages of contingency stocks to respond during the monsoon season will be one of the biggest challenges. The WASH cluster has updated its response plan and contingency stock list in preparation, but this will require careful management.
- Humanitarian access remains challenging in Monekoe sub-township of Muse township in northern Shan and border areas between southern Shan and Kayah State due to persistent travel and transport restrictions.
- Operational staff have challenges in obtaining TAs and WASH responses are being delivered only through camp-based staff as a result. In the northwest, humanitarian partners, including local responders, continued to face challenges in distributing humanitarian supplies due to the security situation, restrictions and arrests and limited market accessibility for hygiene items with increased prices.
- In the southeast, no specific funding has been allocated for contingency planning for urgent humanitarian responses to IDPs who are in need of essential WASH items.

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