# HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OVERVIEW

UNITED NATIONS AND PARTNERS

HUMANITARIAN COUNTRY TEAM

# MYANMAR

DEC 2018



## HUMANITARIAN

# NEEDS & KEY FIGURES

Over 244,000 displaced people remain in camps or camp-like situations in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Kayin states. Children make up at least 50 per cent of this population, while women and children together make up about 77 per cent. This includes approximately 97,000 people in Kachin, 8,800 in Shan and 10,300 in Kayin who remain displaced as a result of the armed conflict. It also includes about 128,000 people in Rakhine, the vast majority of whom are stateless, who were displaced as a result of the violence in 2012. In addition, there are particularly vulnerable people who continue to require special attention and/or support as a result of different factors including, inter alia, armed conflict, statelessness, movement restrictions, malnutrition and severe psychological distress. To address these needs, different types of support may be needed from a range of actors involved in humanitarian, development, human rights and peace-building activities. Humanitarian action remains a vital component of a much broader support that is needed to address short, medium and long-term needs and human rights of vulnerable communities.

#### HUMANITARIAN NEEDS



# Protection of civilians and durable solutions for displaced people

In Kachin and Shan, ongoing armed conflict continues to result in displacement and family separation. There continue to be reports of violations of international humanitarian laws and international human rights laws including - but not limited to arbitrary killings and arrests, detention, child abduction and forced recruitment, child trafficking and exploitation, gender-based violence and grave human rights violations, particularly against women, children and the most marginalized and vulnerable groups. Humanitarian access remains restricted, particularly to people in areas beyond Government control, hampering the delivery of assistance and protection services to people in need. This is compounded by the restrictions on freedom of movement of the affected population, particularly those in areas beyond Government control. In Rakhine, Muslim people - most of whom are stateless Rohingya Muslims - continue to be affected by discriminatory policies and practices, including movement restrictions, denial of rights, intimidation, harassment, extortion/abuse and hostility from the local population in some areas. Protracted displacement, segregation and lack of access to livelihoods opportunities and quality services continue to put affected people at high risk of gender-based violence, human trafficking, family separation and physical insecurity.



#### Access of vulnerable, crisisaffected people to assistance, services and livelihoods

Over 244,000 people remain displaced as a result of the armed conflict that resumed in Kachin and Shan in 2011 and as a result of violence, inter-communal tensions and continued segregation of communities in some parts of Rakhine since 2012. The majority of the IDPs remain dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs. For some, this is a direct result of the continued restrictions on their freedom of movement (due to blocked access to citizenship) while for others, it relates largely to limited livelihoods opportunities which is a key contributing factor to psychosocial distress and harmful coping strategies, for both children and families. In most camps, displaced people continue to live in over-crowded conditions in shelters that were meant to be temporary and that go through regular cycles of repairs. In Kachin, limited access to livelihoods especially for food-insecure people in non-government controlled areas forces some people to cross the border into China to seek temporary job opportunities. Some of these people do not have official travel documents, putting them at further risk. Women, men, girls and boys face risks of being illegally trafficked. In Rakhine, service provision remains unequal, largely as a result of discriminatory policies including movement restrictions applicable to Rohingya people. This puts many people at risk, particularly women and girls, elderly and disabled people, as well as those in need of urgent life-saving medical attention and those needing access to sexual and reproductive health services.



#### Strengthening the resilience of communities and national capacities to prepare for and respond to natural disasters and other emergencies

Myanmar is one of the countries at highest risk of natural disasters in South-East Asia. It is also a country where many people are affected by conflict and instability. There is a continued need for an integrated approach to strengthen the resilience of communities, to enhance national capacity to monitor, prepare for and respond to natural disasters and other emergencies, and to support the Government in meeting urgent humanitarian needs of people affected by natural disasters and other emergencies. The World Humanitarian Summit reaffirmed the need to reinforce national and local leadership; to ensure local actors (including women's groups and children/ youth representatives) are consulted on decisions affecting them and are supported both technically and financially; to ensure that women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons and other vulnerable groups benefit from tailored support; to work with the private sector and to use modern technology. Institutional capacity strengthening is fundamental to enabling national and local actors to scale up and maintain quality standards, and move towards more sustainable responses.

TOTAL POPULATION

### 

NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN AFFECTED AREAS

**BY STATUS** 



### **IMPACT OF THE**

CRISIS

Myanmar's democratically-elected government took office at the end of March 2016 with a popular mandate, generating unprecedented optimism. However, two years on, the government faces enormous challenges, particularly with regards to the peace process and Rakhine State. In Rakhine, the situation remains tense following the armed attacks and subsequent military operations and violence in 2017 that led to the exodus of over 700,000 people - mostly Muslims who self-identify as Rohingya<sup>1</sup> - to Bangladesh. The Rohingya population that remains in Rakhine continues to face discriminatory policies and practices, including segregation, severe movement restrictions and denial of rights. In some areas, fear, distrust and hostility continues between communities, which particularly affects women and children. Incidents of intimidation, harassment, extortion and abuse continue to be reported across the state. The combination of protracted displacement, statelessness, segregation, limited access to livelihoods opportunities and quality services (such as health and education) exposes people to many risks and has led to widespread psychosocial distress and a high level of dependency on humanitarian assistance. In Kachin and Shan, armed conflict has intensified since the beginning of 2018, causing new and secondary displacement and putting many civilians at risk. Meanwhile, humanitarian partners - both national and international - continue to face challenges in carrying out their activities, particularly due to access constraints. The continued presence of landmines and explosive remnants of war also continue to pose a major threat to civilians while hampering access to livelihood opportunities and sustainable solutions. Floods in some parts of Myanmar in 2018 have exacerbated existing vulnerabilities and caused additional relief needs in several states.

#### Drivers and underlying factors

Humanitarian needs in Myanmar are characterized by a complex combination of vulnerability to natural disasters, food insecurity, armed conflict, inter-communal tensions, statelessness, institutionalised discrimination, protracted displacement, human trafficking and risky migration. The situation is compounded further by chronic poverty, intensified violence especially against children and women, and underlying inequalities, that exacerbate needs, vulnerabilities and marginalization of affected people in many parts of the country.

The Government of Myanmar has made notable commitments and progress towards gender equality and empowerment of women and girls including through its National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013-2022 with a dedicated focus on "women in emergences". However, due to restrictive socio-cultural norms and practices, gender disparities persist across the country, leaving women and girls in subordinate positions in households, communities, workplaces and society, undermining their overall capacities, potential and rights. Gender discrimination against women and girls across all areas of life and prevent their equitable access to relief services, information, resources, justice, decision making, education, work and overall opportunities to participate in public life beyond the domestic sphere.

Myanmar is ranked 85 out of 187 on the Gender Inequality Index, with only half of its women in the workforce, compared to 85 per cent of men. Women are also impacted by discriminatory formal and customary practices that inhibit their rights to land tenure, property ownership and inheritance as well as the overall justice system and legal services. Women's networks, civil society organizations and gender equality advocates, including in conflict affected states, have identified the lack of capacities and opportunities for women to engage in planning, implementation and decision-making for humanitarian action, recovery and peace building, as a key gap for these processes to be effective, accountable and evidence-based.

The challenges faced by women and girls are particularly 1. The term Rohingya Muslims is used in this document in recognition of the right of people to self-identify. Since there are both Rohingya and non-Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine, in some cases the more general term Muslims is used. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar objects to the use of the term Rohingya.

pronounced in remote and conflict-affected areas, where they are exposed to protection risks and human rights violations including gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, early and forced marriage, trafficking as well as gendered barriers to accessing relief, services, information, income generating activities, community participation and decision making at all levels. Levels of maternal mortality are particularly high in remote and conflict-affected areas. Marginalization is further compounded for women and girls who are stateless, internally displaced, from ethnic/religious minority groups or who have disabilities. Others who often face challenges are pregnant and breastfeeding women, adolescent girls, young women, female heads of households, older women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex persons.

Humanitarian action in the country has provided opportunities to support the Government in transforming gender relations through the leadership and empowerment of women and girls, which is key to response effectiveness and communities' longerterm resilience and social cohesion<sup>2</sup>. In the nexus between humanitarian response and development efforts, government representatives, including health service providers and officials of the Myanmar Police Force, are working together with United Nations agencies to address areas of reform in their response to and mainstreaming of gender-based violence.

Child trafficking is a great concern especially for girls, who are reported to be sold as child-brides, including crossborder with China. Grave human rights violations especially against women and children, also remain a concern in Kachin, northern Shan and Rakhine. The highest number of documented incidents in 2017 related to recruitment and use of children, followed by killing and maiming by landmines. These accounted for over 35 per cent of the reported incidents, followed by abduction, attacks on schools and hospitals, and sexual violence.

Verifiable data is not available on the number of children still associated with armed actors. The United Nations and the Government of Myanmar signed a Joint Action Plan in June 2012 to end and prevent the use and recruitment of children by the Myanmar Military (Tatmadaw). Following the signature of the Joint Action Plan, the pace of release and reintegration of children has accelerated significantly. From June 2012 to August 2018, over 900 children and youths were released by the Tatmadaw under the framework of the Joint Action Plan, with the support of the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting. At least 683 of these children and youths have received support for their reintegration. An additional 88 children and young people, recruited while they were underage, were released outside of the Joint Action Plan framework since its signature. Release and reintegration of children associated with non-state armed groups has progressed at a slower pace and in a non-systematic manner. Increased efforts and resources are required to ensure that affected children can be released and reintegrated with the necessary support. The Government of Myanmar has shown interest in receiving training on the six grave violations, which will be an essential step towards preventing grave violations against children in armed conflicts. The efforts of the Government and its progress towards ending and preventing recruitment and use of children should also be acknowledged.

Myanmar has the lowest life expectancy and the secondhighest rate of infant and child mortality among the ASEAN countries. According to the Myanmar Living Condition Survey (2017), one in 25 children die before their first birthday. In addition, 29 per cent of children under five are moderately stunted and 8 per cent are severely stunted.

Persons with disabilities are also disproportionately affected in humanitarian emergencies, and face multiple barriers in accessing protection services and humanitarian assistance.



#### TIMELINE OF RECENT EVENTS



They are particularly exposed to protection risks, particularly gender-based violence, including early marriage, exploitation and abuse, as well as trafficking. They often lack confidence and receive limited support to engage in decision-making processes that affect them in humanitarian emergencies. According to the 2014 Census, the nation's disability rate is 4.6 per cent, representing a total of 2.3 million people, and the prevalence of disability increased with age and is more common among women, rural populations and the poorest older people. Both boys and girls with disabilities are less



#### **Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar**

In September 2018, an Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar established by the Human Rights Council issued a report providing its detailed findings and recommendations. The report describes serious violations of human rights law as well as international humanitarian law in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine states. This includes the systematic targeting of civilians, including women and children, threatening their safety and dignity, and driving acute humanitarian need as a result of protracted or repeated displacement. The report concludes that many violations amount to the gravest crimes under international law.

The report details instances of "forced displacement, confiscation and destruction of property, and denial of humanitarian assistance". The report also notes that the lack of humanitarian access has led to "dire conditions" in some displacement camps in Kachin and Shan, "contributing to trafficking and raising other protection concerns". The report notes that Muslim people living in central Ra-khine face oppressive movement restrictions which limit their access to livelihoods, food and basic services including healthcare. In northern Rakhine, the report notes that similarly humanitarian access constraints have had "a serious adverse impact on the population, who are left without critical and lifesaving assistance, including access to food and health services."

The Myanmar Government objected to the formation of the Fact-Finding Mission and has expressed its serious concerns over the report.

likely to attend school than children without disabilities. Labour force participation is lower for males and females with disabilities (22.9 per cent) when compared to the populations without disabilities (67.6 per cent).

Some assessments carried out in Rakhine indicate that 64 per cent of persons living with a disability feel abandoned by their community and that their life is harder compared to others. In Kachin, recent situational analysis showed that 81 per cent of persons with a disability do not have any source of income in areas targeted by the assessment. While all displaced people in general are suffering from lack of livelihoods opportunities, displaced people with disabilities are further marginalized. The lack of access to medical services and difficulties in paying for health and physical rehabilitation services are the main factors contributing to long term impairments among the IDP population.

#### **Rakhine State**

Rakhine is one of the least developed areas of Myanmar and has a diverse ethnic and religious population. Rakhine Buddhists make up the largest group. Muslims<sup>3</sup> constitute the second largest group, the majority being stateless Rohingya, while a smaller number are Kaman. Other ethnic minorities include Chin, Daingnet, Khami, Maramagyi, Mro, Thet and Hindus. The United Nations and its humanitarian and development partners have been working in Rakhine for many years, addressing not only the specific needs of the stateless Rohingya population, but focusing also on addressing the needs of all communities. In August 2017, the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, established by the Myanmar Government and led by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, issued its final report, providing detailed recommendations aimed at achieving "a peaceful, fair and prosperous future for the people of Rakhine". Although it was written prior to the events of 25 August 2017, the report's observations and recommendations - which were welcomed by the Government of Myanmar - remain pertinent. The report emphasizes that Rakhine represents not only a development crisis and a security crisis affecting all communities, but also a human rights crisis. The report states the following: "While all communities have suffered from violence and abuse, protracted statelessness and profound discrimination have made the Muslim community particularly vulnerable to human rights violations... The community faces a number of restrictions which affect basic rights and many aspects of their daily lives".

Entrenched gender inequality and socio-cultural norms in all communities magnifies the impact of discrimination especially on women and girls, exacerbating their specific needs, creating barriers to their equitable access to information, services (including life-saving health services such as sexual and reproductive health interventions), aid, education, livelihoods, community engagement and overall decision making and leadership, and rendering them at greater risk of violence and hardship. Women and girls are at risk of gender-based violence, including trafficking, transactional sex, sexual exploitation and abuse, child marriage and forced marriage, while men and boys are more at risk of arrest, detention and forced labour.

There are an estimated 596,000 stateless Rohingya who

3. The term Rohingya Muslims is used in this document in recognition of the right of people to self-identify. Since there are both Rohingya and non-Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine, in some cases the more general term Muslims is used. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar objects to the use of the term Rohingya.

remain in Rakhine State following the armed attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and the subsequent security operations led by the Myanmar Military that resulted in the exodus of refugees - mostly stateless Rohingya - to Bangladesh in 2016-18 (over 90,000 between October 2016 and August 2017, and over 700,000 more since August 2017). The violence in 2016 and 2017 also led to the temporary internal displacement of about 25,000 Rakhine Buddhists and people from ethnic minority groups, but all of these people subsequently returned or were resettled by the Government. Approximately 128,000 Muslims (of whom about 126,000 are stateless Rohingya) remain in camps or camp-like settings in central Rakhine, as a result of the violence in 2012. Children make up at least 53 per cent of this population, while women and children together make up about 78 per cent. The remaining estimated 470,000 non-displaced stateless Rohingya are spread across ten townships.

In addition to the stateless Rohingya, there are an estimated 117,000 people who continue to have humanitarian needs as a result of the violence in 2012, 2016 and 2017, and in view of the continued conflict, inter-communal tensions and insecurity. This includes vulnerable people in the ethnic Rakhine community and amongst ethnic minority groups, who are in need of humanitarian support as a result of food insecurity, inadequate access to healthcare and other factors. This humanitarian support is complemented by development assistance targeting all communities.

The humanitarian situation in the three northern townships (Maungdaw, Buthidaung and Rathedaung) remain dire. Of particular concern is the scale and complexity of the needs in the Maungdaw area, largely as a result of the dramatic escalation in violence following the October 2016 and August 2017 attacks and subsequent security operations. While the pace of departures has significantly slowed in 2018, continued departures from the northern townships into Bangladesh indicate an ongoing protection and human rights crisis with over 13,000 people crossing the border between January and August 2018. New refugees arriving in Bangladesh cited concerns for their own security and the pressure exerted on them to apply for the Identity Card for National Verification as main reasons for departing. Restrictions linked to citizenship status and documentation continue to severely affect freedom of movement and impact access to basic services and livelihoods for people, along with challenging local dynamics including inter-communal tensions and profound mistrust.

In northern Rakhine, the Red Cross Movement and some UN staff have been granted access, along with staff from some other organizations such as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Centre (AHA-Centre). However, severe access restrictions since 25 August 2017 have prevented most humanitarian agencies from conducting independent assessments and have challenged the provision of critical life-saving assistance and protection services to affected communities.

In June 2018, UNHCR and UNDP signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Myanmar to support the Government's efforts in creating conditions for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation of refugees from Bangladesh and strengthening resilience and livelihoods for all communities living in Rakhine State. Currently, the UN does not consider conducive conditions in the northern part of Rakhine State are in place for the voluntary and sustainable return of refugees in safety and dignity. Significant efforts must be made to work towards improving the conditions of all communities in Rakhine State, and on fostering peaceful co-existence as well as addressing root causes by implementing the recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission as endorsed by the Government, including those related to freedom of movement and a clear, voluntary and equal pathway to citizenship for all eligible individuals. Considering the scale of the protection crisis in Rakhine State and until there is concrete progress to address root causes - including freedom of movement, pathway to citizenship and inter-communal relations sustainable, voluntary and dignified return of refugees to their places of origin or choice will remain elusive in 2019.

In central Rakhine, Muslims (both Rohingya and Kaman) are increasingly isolated. They have been segregated since 2012 and continue to face severe restrictions on their freedom of movement, limiting their access to livelihoods and essential services, including formal education and healthcare. This has exposed them to a wide range of protection risks and it has left them heavily dependent on humanitarian assistance. Lack of sufficient land in IDP camps, including sites located below sealevel, is a major challenge, hampering efforts to improve the living condition of IDPs. This results in overcrowding, poor environmental health conditions and has a disproportionate impact on women and children. Protracted displacement combined with the exposure to hash weather conditions results in a constant need for shelter repairs. While IDPs continue to face overcrowding, significant efforts have been made in 2017-18 to repair or reconstruct all IDP shelters in camps in central Rakhine, and further efforts are being made to mitigate protection risks and to improve weather resilience. Despite these efforts, inadequate privacy continues to create additional stress and risks for families and communities. It also exacerbates existing gender inequalities and has led to an increase in the incidence and severity of various forms of gender-based violence towards women and children, including intimate partner violence. The over-crowding also increases the risk of exposure to communicable diseases.

Although there has long been a pattern of protection incidents (particularly those involving gender-based violence) being under-reported, from January to June 2018, a total of 117 protection incidents affecting over 3,100 victims were reported in central Rakhine. This represents twice the number of incidents recorded during the same period the year before, with the total number of victims seven times higher. The incidents include physical assaults, abduction, arbitrary arrests and other serious human rights violations. The most frequently reported violation affecting the largest number of displaced people continues to be extortion. In some cases, protection incidents, especially those related to extortion and gender-based violence, have involved Camp Management Committees members and leaders. The United Nations and its humanitarian partners continue to advocate for the reform of the Camp Management Committees.

Protracted displacement, segregation, inter-communal tensions and widespread protection violations have a deep impact on the safety and psychosocial well-being of children and their caregivers. Children are reported to be at increased risk of being separated from their families, trafficked, forcibly married and recruited, exploited, sexually abused, neglected and severely mistreated by their families. In addition, there are reports of girls and women, especially belonging to the Muslim population, being sold as brides. The protracted exposure to these threats, coupled with the lack of a supportive family and community network, has a detrimental effect on the development of children and are likely to lead to the development of severe forms of psychosocial distress.

The limited access to education also remains a great concern. A combination of movement restrictions, limited number of schools, teachers' absenteeism and the protracted displacement crisis prevents many Muslim children from fully participating in the formal education system. The temporary learning spaces

supported by humanitarian partners are under-resourced, lacking adequate materials and gualified teachers. Postprimary education - including middle school, high school, and university - is extremely limited for Muslim students. Options to attend these types of schools are all but non-existent for those living outside of Sittwe Township. For Muslims living in camp areas in Sittwe, some Government-run middle schools and one high school are available; however, these schools are severely under resourced and over-crowded. Restrictions make it extremely difficult for Muslim students to enrol in universities. The Ministry of Education is setting up distance education programmes to overcome some restriction of movement barriers, nevertheless the efficacy and outreach of these programmes will need to be evaluated. A lack of female educators at all levels limits the educational opportunities for Muslim girls, creating a self-perpetuating cycle of gender disparity.

School drop-out and limited secondary education opportunities, along with the ongoing movement restrictions, has contributed to increased dysfunctional coping mechanisms among children and especially adolescents. Risky migration practices and the lack of documentation are contributing factors to family separation, child abuse, child trafficking, child labour exploitation and arbitrary arrest and detention of children.

In its final report released in August 2017, among the total 88 recommendations, the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State called upon the Government, with support from international partners, to ensure dignified living conditions in IDP camps pending the realization of sustainable solutions



for the displaced. In an effort to support the Government, humanitarian partners started implementing a series of interventions aiming at improving living conditions in the camps and reducing protection risks. These efforts have been combined with advocacy for durable solutions to displacement.

Meanwhile, the Government has taken measures to close some of the IDP camps in Rakhine and has been consulting the United Nations on its efforts to develop a national strategy for closure of camps. While the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State recommended the closure of IDP camps, it insisted that this should be in line with international standards and that "the aim should be to facilitate returns to places of origin as a matter of priority, or otherwise respect the choices of the displaced". While the international community welcomes the development of a national strategy for the closure of camps and the consultations held with the UN to ensure the strategy is in line with international protection standards, the relocation processes to date across central Rakhine raise many concerns, the greatest of which is the risk of permanent segregation of the stateless Rohingya community. For example, in Myebon, IDPs were not given the option of returning to their places of origin and were instead relocated by the Government to a site adjacent to their existing camp and with no additional measures being taken to remove restrictions on freedom of movement. Indeed, unless the fundamental issue of freedom of movement is addressed, whatever improvements are made to the living conditions of displaced people - such as shelter upgrades - will not offer sustainable nor dignified solutions. Also, as underlined in the Commission's final report, IDPs' agreement to relocation to a new site should not be interpreted as a renunciation of their right to return to their place of origin once conditions are conducive.

The United Nations and its partners continue to advocate for all people in Rakhine State to have unimpeded, sustained and timely access to healthcare, education, water/sanitation services, and livelihoods, irrespective of ethnicity, religion, citizenship status as well as gender, age, disability and other factors. Restrictions on freedom of movement and other restrictive policies and practices affecting the Rohingya community in central Rakhine mean that they are not able to travel freely to the nearest township hospital, even during medical emergencies, a situation which has led to increased risk of preventable morbidities and mortalities. This has a particularly severe impact on women seeking obstetric care, 15 per cent of whom need emergency services. The Rakhine Advisory Commission recommended the expansion of primary health care services through an increased number of mobile health clinics. Humanitarian organizations have been assisting the Ministry of Health and Sports to provide mobile clinics and other alternative solutions, but these are difficult to sustain and there are still gaps in healthcare services.

#### **Kachin State**

In Kachin State, as a result of the intensification of armed conflict in 2011 and ongoing hostilities since then, over 97,000

people remain displaced across 140 camps or camp-like settings. Children make up about 46 per cent of this population, while women and children together make up about 75 per cent. About 40 per cent of the displaced people are located in areas outside of the effective control of Government.

In the first half of 2018, the conflict escalated across Kachin State both in terms of intensity and frequency with the use of heavy weapons, aerial bombardment and artillery in several areas. These clashes resulted in an additional displacement of more than 14,000 people across Chipwi, Hpakant, Injangyang, Mogaung, Momauk, Sumprabum, Tanai and Waingmaw townships, as well as the Laiza area. In some areas, fighting has occurred in or in close proximity to civilian areas, including villages and IDP camps. Lack of respect by parties to the conflict for the provisions of International Humanitarian Law on the protection of civilians remains a serious concern, and among those most vulnerable to violations are women, elderly people, children and people with disabilities.

Civilians have been killed or injured in the fighting and shelling of villages. In addition, there are frequent reports of human rights violations and abuses, including arbitrary arrest and intimidation of those fleeing violence, forced recruitment (including of children), gender-based violence and restrictions on freedom of movement, including denial of safe passage. These risks also negatively impact the ability of displaced people to achieve self-reliance by hindering livelihoods activities.

Among the risks to physical safety, landmines are a critical concern. UNICEF and the Mine Risk Working Group documented 185 mine-related casualties in the period from January to July 2018. Landmine incidents increased by 40 per cent and landmine casualties by 17 per cent over the same period in 2017. Due to access constraints, many casualties were unrecorded in conflict areas. Kachin has one of the highest rates of landmine incidents reported in the country and indeed the world, with civilians, including children, frequently killed or maimed due to explosions. In 2017, Kachin State represented 44 per cent of total incidents and 43 per cent of total casualties reported in Myanmar.

Grave child rights violations remain key concerns in conflict-affected areas, where incidents of recruitment and use of children by armed actors and killing and maiming of children have been documented. Violence and abuse against children are also widespread, in addition to exploitation of child labour and child trafficking, the latter affecting mainly girls. Malnourishment, sexual violence and neglect are also reported to be significant risks for boys and girls living in the State. Moreover, negative effects of recent and protracted displacement (e.g. loss of belongings, distressing experiences and challenging living conditions) are observed on children and caregivers' psychosocial well-being. Prolonged and temporary family separation has also been reported as a key concern jeopardizing the safety of children.

Kachin State also has the highest rate of children dropping out of school in the country; with 83 per cent of drop-outs occurring before grade five and almost 50 per cent before the last primary school grade. Children living in rural areas are 100 times more likely to drop-out of school compared to children living in urban areas. Poverty, child labour exploitation, and displacement due to conflict are among the contributing factors. Drop-out rates of displaced children aged 10-16 years are also considerably higher than most of the other States in Myanmar, including due to language barriers and unavailability of schools.

The protracted nature of conflict and displacement is aggravating pre-existing vulnerabilities of persons with specific needs among the displaced, especially women, children, elderly people and persons with disabilities. Their situation is further compounded by extremely limited access to assistance and protection services as a result of decreasing humanitarian access and funding shortfalls. The result of this is a heightened vulnerability to risky migration practices leading to human trafficking, separation of children from primary caregivers who must migrate for work, early/forced marriage and other negative coping mechanisms manifesting in increased drug abuse and violence as well as in high rates of HIV transmission.

With the ongoing conflict and lack of tangible progress on a reinstated ceasefire or the peace process, there has been little progress in finding durable solutions for the majority of the displaced people, most of whom have now been living in camps for seven years. There is a lack of consistent support to enable them to transition out of displacement and the lack of livelihood opportunities is one of the main challenges; women face particular challenges in accessing livelihoods. The loss of land and property in areas of origin, due to alleged appropriation of land by both internal and external actors, as well as burning of homes and the failure of the existing legal and judicial mechanisms to adequately protect the rights of those forcibly displaced from their lands, also pose serious challenges to the attainment of durable solutions to displacement.

Against the backdrop of worsening security, humanitarian partners—national and international—have been facing increasing challenges in accessing affected people in Kachin State. The United Nations has not been permitted by the Government to travel to areas beyond Government control since June 2016, inhibiting delivery of assistance, needs assessment and capacity building of local partners. While some international actors and local humanitarian organizations continue to operate, their activities are increasingly constrained. Access to areas within government control has also dramatically declined with most permissions for international staff only granted to the main towns, effectively cutting-off access to many displaced people who reside outside the main town centres.

While local partners remain at the centre of humanitarian response in Kachin and have been able to deliver assistance to some remote areas inaccessible to international staff, sustained support is still needed to complement and enhance local efforts, given the growing humanitarian needs resulting from protracted displacement and renewed conflict. Humanitarian access constraints continue to undermine the quantity, quality and sustainability of assistance and services provided to displaced people, further exhausting their coping mechanisms after seven years of displacement.

#### Shan State

In northern Shan State, over 8,800 people remain displaced across 32 camps or camp-like settings. Children make up at least 48 per cent of this population, while women and children together make up about 77 per cent. Since the beginning of 2018, there has been increased fighting in northern Shan state, which has resulted in civilian casualties and additional displacement in several conflict-affected townships. Most of the displacement was caused either by conflict between ethnic armed groups and the Myanmar army/militias, or as a result of fighting between different ethnic armed groups, illustrating the complexity of the situation. Temporary displacement followed by return to areas of origin once fighting subsides continues to be a key characteristic of displacement in northern Shan state, which presents challenges in humanitarian planning, response, and monitoring of the protection risks faced by returnees.

In February and March 2018, about 5,000 civilians were temporarily displaced as a result of fighting. This includes fighting between the Military and Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) in Hseni, Kutkai and Namtu townships and clashes between the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA) and TNLA in Kyaukme, Namhsan and Namtu townships. In July 2018, about 3,000 people were temporarily displaced in Mongkaing and Namtu townships following fighting between the RCSS/SSA and TNLA, and another 2,000 people were temporarily displaced due to fighting between and among different armed groups in August and September 2018.

There are many protection concerns in northern Shan State related to the protracted nature of the conflict and continued and often multiple displacement. The most commonly reported protection threats include gender-based violence, forced recruitment, recruitment and use of children by armed forces, forced labour and portering, extremely limited access to humanitarian and other essential services (such as health and education), lack of documentation, appropriation of land or occupation of places of origin by parties to the conflict, and human trafficking particularly of women and children across the border to China. Informal reports indicate that child survivors of sexual violence are often forced to marry their perpetrator to protect the family against social shame. If the perpetrator is a member of an armed group, families are paid not to disclose the incident. Children are also reported to be at risk of unsafe migration and arbitrary detention.

Landmine and unexploded ordinance contamination remains of great concern. Shan has one of the highest rates of landmine incidents reported in the country. In 2017, Shan State accounted for 37.8 per cent of total incidents and 43.2 per cent of total casualties reported in Myanmar. Out of 76 casualties in 2018 which represents 41 per cent of countrywide casualties, 23 were children and eight of them died. Psychosocial distress and a feeling of hopelessness are also reported to be a major concern for children and families. Children affected by trafficking, exploitation and violence are likely to develop severe forms of distress if their needs for protection and psychosocial support are not met in a timely manner. Dysfunctional coping mechanisms among children, such as consumption of drugs, were also found to be common. In addition, children are often emotionally affected due to the lack of parental care or mistreatment experienced in their family, at school and in boarding houses.

A Child Protection baseline survey recently conducted among displaced people living in camps showed that physical and emotional abuse are common, followed by neglect, sexual violence and harassment, and child marriage. Situations of highest risks for children are reported to be during firewood collection, at the boarding houses, in schools and at home. Unsafe facilities, such as WASH facilities, also contribute to increasing the risk of sexual assaults and violence against children. Outcomes from the survey indicate that children below 14 years are the most affected by violence and abuse.

As in Kachin, 2018 saw a further deterioration in access for humanitarian organizations in Shan State, leaving some locations which were previously accessible now off-limits. Access challenges have resulted in a reduction in the quantity and quality of humanitarian support to displaced people and other vulnerable communities. Such difficulties have resulted in the under-reporting of violations of International Humanitarian Law and human rights violations and abuses by parties to the conflict, hindering a comprehensive analysis of the threats faced by civilians affected by conflict. Furthermore, displaced people have found it difficult to restore their livelihoods and reduce their dependency on aid in an environment of continued militarization and with extensive landmine contamination. With reduced livelihood opportunities for displaced people, there is a risk of more people resorting to negative coping mechanisms, such as drug and alcohol abuse, which are leading risk factors for gender-based violence and trafficking in the region with disproportionate impacts on women and girls. The ongoing conflict and related displacement also continue to strain the coping capacities of host communities.

#### **Chin State**

Situated in the remote mountain ranges of the western part of the country, Chin State is the poorest in Myanmar. It has limited roads, electricity, employment opportunities, health and education facilities and some people face food insecurity. Living conditions are challenging, but the conflict that had led to the flight of tens of thousands of Chin people to Malaysia, India and elsewhere ended with the signing of a ceasefire agreement between the Chin National Army and the Chin State Government in January 2012. Since November 2017, there have been some small-scale localized clashes between the Myanmar Military and the Arakan Army in Paletwa, Chin State, resulting in the displacement of hundreds of people within Chin State and also into neighbouring India. The IDPs have not yet been able to return home, with concerns over their safety and due to the threat of landmines. IDPs are receiving assistance from the Government and local organizations.

#### South-eastern Myanmar

South-eastern Myanmar has been affected by decades of armed conflict and multiple waves of displacement both inside the country and across the border into Thailand. Currently some 120,000 persons are estimated to be in situation of protracted displacement throughout the south-east and close to 100,000 refugees remain in nine temporary shelters in Thailand along the Myanmar border. Myanmar's political and economic transition which began in 2010 was further bolstered by the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement in October 2015. While this agreement does not include all non-state actors, it does include key non-state actors in the south-east, including the Karen National Union (KNU), Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) and Karen National Liberation Army - Peace Council (KPC), which are present in areas of refugee and IDP return. In February 2018, the New Mon State Party (NMSP) also signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. Groups that have not signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, such as the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP), have bilateral ceasefire agreements which remain in effect.

Although the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement and ongoing political dialogue through the '21st Century Panglong Peace Conference' process are positive steps towards peace and reconciliation and have led to significant decline in violent conflict and increased stability in many parts, many areas of south-eastern Myanmar are not under direct government control and the presence of the military and other armed groups continues to have an impact on peace and development.

South-eastern Myanmar presents a unique context in Myanmar to further the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. This is based on an expectation that the socio-political and economic situation in the area may improve and further progress will be made in facilitating the return and reintegration of those displaced by conflict. There is also an expectation of further peace-building across different ethnic groups.

While the overall situation is not yet conducive to the promotion of large-scale returns, spontaneous returns have been ongoing for several years in south-eastern Myanmar, and the option of facilitated return has been available since 2016 for verified refugees in Thailand. So far, two facilitated return exercises of refugees have taken place facilitated by the Royal Thai Government and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, with the support of UNHCR and partners. This involved 71 individuals in October 2016 and 93 individuals in May 2018. Currently a few hundred refugees have signed up to return to Myanmar through the facilitated process and are awaiting clearance to repatriate. UNHCR expects returns to continue at a slow but steady pace.

While efforts to achieve a nationwide peace are continuing,

there remains a risk of further conflict and instability. Sporadic clashes occurred in Kayin State in 2016 and 2018, preventing any large-scale return of IDP or refugees to their homes and displacing some 6,000 persons in Myain Ngi Ngu, 2,300 persons in Lel Mu Paw and approximately 2,000 IDPs in Ei Thu Tha, Hpapun. These displaced people are being supported by local authorities, community members and UN/NGOs.

The needs of the population in south-eastern Myanmar are closely interlinked with peace and state-building agendas and include civil documentation, landmine risks, land ownership, equal access to public services and livelihoods. Gender-based violence remains a major protection concern, with high levels of drug use being a key risk factor for violence against women and girls in the region. Women continue to have limited opportunities to contribute to the ongoing peace-building and recovery process to ensure their specific needs are met and voices heard. Moving forward, support is needed for a strategy that includes facilitating the return and reintegration of refugees and IDPs as well as to address the social needs and development aspirations of all citizens in the area.

#### **Natural Disasters**

Myanmar is one of the most disaster-prone countries in Asia. It ranks third out of 187 countries in the Global Climate Risk Index. It also ranks 12th out of 191 countries in the Index of Risk Management (INFORM), and fourth highest in terms of exposure to natural hazards. The country is prone to a range of natural hazards including cyclones, storms, floods, landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, drought and forest fires. Historical data shows that medium to large-scale natural disasters occur every few years. Since 2002, more than 13 million people have been affected by natural disasters, including three Category 4 cyclones, several major earthquakes, and severe flooding. Monsoon seasonal floods triggered by heavy rains in 2018 affected several states and regions in Myanmar. Since June 2018, about 268,000 people have been displaced by flooding and at least 57 people have died, according to the Government's Department of Disaster Management. While the vast majority of those displaced have been able to return home, several thousand remain displaced in evacuation sites across Bago, Kayin, Mon, Tanitharyi and Magway as of September 2018. The Government continues to lead the response, in cooperation with state/regional authorities and with the support of national and international humanitarian organizations.

The frequent exposure of an already vulnerable population to natural disasters - floods, landslides, droughts and earthquakes - underlines the critical importance of building resilience. This includes investing more in disaster risk reduction and strengthening capacities of local and national organizations (government and non-government) to reduce risk, plan for and manage disaster response. Women, girls, the elderly and persons with disabilities experience increased vulnerability to the effects of natural disasters as a consequence of existing systems of inequality and discrimination, and are, therefore, often disproportionately impacted by disasters including experiencing gender-based violence. Disaggregated data from past disasters have shown particular high rates of female mortality from disasters (e.g. female mortality accounted for 61 per cent from Cyclone Nargis in 2008). The elderly are also at heightened risk. Accordingly, any disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response activities must prioritize the equitable participation of all groups, particularly young people, and adopt a genderresponsive and inclusive approach.



## **BREAKDOWN OF**

# PEOPLE IN NEED

There are about 715,000 people who remain in need of humanitarian assistance in Rakhine and about 226,000 people with ongoing humanitarian needs in Kachin, northern Shan and Kayin.

	INTERNALLY	IDP RETURN-	NON DISPLACED	OTHER VULNERABLE		BY SEX		BY AGE	-
SECTOR	DISPLACED PERSONS	EES/RESET- TLED/ LOCALLY INTEGRATED	STATELESS PEOPLE IN RAKHINE	CRISIS AFFECTED PEOPLE	TOTAL	% FEMALE	% CHILDREN	% ADULTS	% ELDERLY
KACHIN									
Education	40,000	100	-	13,000	53,100	49	98	2	-
Food Security	97,227	475	-	35,111	132,813	51	44	49	7
Health	97,227	475	-	70,221	167,923	55	30	65	5
Nutrition	13,126	64	-	9,480	22,670	52	70	30	-
Protection	97,227	475	-	70,221	167,923	51	42	52	6
Shelter/NFIs/CCCM	97,227	475	-	14,000	111,702	52	45	48	7
WASH	97,227	475	-	44,473	142,175	51	42	51	7
SHAN						· ·			
Education	3,800	2,800	-	5,100	11,700	49	97	3	-
Food Security	8,815	12,000	-	13,654	34,469	52	44	49	7
Health	8,815	12,000	-	27,308	48,123	55	30	65	5
Nutrition	1,252	1,704	-	3,878	6,833	53	72	28	-
Protection	8,815	12,000	-	27,308	48,123	52	42	51	7
Shelter/NFIs/CCCM	8,815	-	-	18,000	26,815	52	42	51	7
WASH	8,815	12,000	-	27,308	48,123	52	42	51	7
RAKHINE									
Education	63,600	-	123,200	23,200	210,000	49	98	2	-
Food Security	128,141	-	401,000	116,864	646,005	51	51	45	4
Health	128,141	-	470,000	116,864	715,005	55	30	65	5
Nutrition	26,910	-	98,700	24,541	150,151	51	67	33	-
Protection	128,141	-	470,000	116,863	715,004	51	51	45	4
Shelter/NFIs/CCCM	128,141	-	-	-	128,141	51	53	43	4
WASH	128,141	-	470,000	116,864	715,005	51	51	45	4
KAYIN									
Education	3,400	-	-	-	3,400	49	98	2	-
Food Security	10,300	-	-	-	10,300	51	43	49	8
Health	10,300	-	-	_	10,300	55	30	65	5
Nutrition	1,617	-	-	-	1,617	51	75	25	-
Protection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shelter/NFIs/CCCM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WASH	10,300	-	-	-	10,300	51	43	49	8

PEOPLE IN NEED

# people in need by township



**PEOPLE IN** 

NEED



470,000 non-displaced stateless people and 117,000 other vulnerable crisis-affected people. In Kachin, Shan and Kayin, there are over 226,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance. This includes over 116,000 IDPs, 12,400 IDP returnees/resettled/locally integrated people and 97,500 other vulnerable crisis-affected people. The humanitarian needs of people in South-eastern Myanmar are beyond the scope of this Humanitarian Needs Overview.

PEOPLE IN NEED	INTERNALLY	NON-I	DISPLACED PERSOI	NS	
TOWNSHIP	DISPLACED PERSONS <sup>1</sup>	IDP returnees/ resettled/ locally integrated <sup>2</sup>	Non-displaced stateless people in Rakhine <sup>3</sup>	Other vulnerable crisis-affected people⁴	TOTAL
			Rakiine	people	
KACHIN					
ВНАМО	8,100	•	-	4,281	12,381
CHIPWI	2,904	•	-	1,512	4,416
HPAKANT	3,949	•	÷	5,981	9,930
INJANGYANG	-	375	-	650	1,025
MANSI	13,408	-	-	3,999	17,407
MOGAUNG	1,478	100	-	9,063	10,641
MOHNYIN	399	· .	-	4,160	4,559
MOMAUK	24,865	-	•	2,803	27,668
MYITKYINA	12,997	-	-	14,156	27,153
PUTA-O	412		-	1,490	1,902
SHWEGU	541	-	-	-	541
SUMPRABUM	1,001	-	-	900	1,901
TANAI	1,285	-	-	7,147	8,432
WAINGMAW	25,888	-		14,079	39,967
TOTAL KACHIN	97,227	475		70,221	167,923
SHAN					
MON KAING	-	-	-	500	500
HSENI	168	-	-	2,456	2,624
HSIPAW	120	-	-	4,197	4,317
Κυτκαι	4,169	-	-	6,572	10,741
KYAUKME	-	-	-	1,043	1,043
КҮЕТНІ	-	-	-	100	100
LASHIO		-	-	608	608
MANTON	541	-	-	-	541
MUSE	1,051		-	602	1,653
NAMHKAN	2,010	-	-	2,632	4,642
NAMTU	756	-	-	8,423	9,179
NAMHSAN	-	-	-	175	175
KOKANG SAZ <sup>4</sup>	-	12,000	-		12,000
TOTAL SHAN	8,815	12,000	-	27,308	48,123
RAKHINE					
KYAUKPYU	1,050	-	-	1,934	2,984
KYAUKTAW	546	-	63,000	9,980	73,526
MINBYA	-	-	32,000	5,633	37,633
MRAUK-U	-	-	27,000	2,679	29,679
MYEBON	2,690	-	-	974	3,664
PAUKTAW	22,225	-	16,000	6,796	45,021
PONNAGYUN	-	-	2,000	-	2,000
SITTWE	101,630	-	90,000	4,868	196,498
MAUNGDAW	-	-	76,000	28,000	104,000
BUTHIDAUNG	-	-	154,000	46,000	200,000
RATHEDAUNG	-	-	10,000	10,000	20,000
TOTAL RAKHINE	128,141	-	470,000	116,864	715,005
KAYIN					
HLAINGBWE	10,300	-	-	-	10,300
TOTAL KAYIN	10,300	-	-	-	10,300
TOTAL PEOPLE IN NEED	244,483	12,475	470,000	214,393	941,351

 1.IDP figures (including relocated IDPs) provided by CCCM cluster as of 31 July 2018. For Kayin, the source is UNHCR.
2. For Kachin (Injangyang and Mogaung), the source is UNHCR. For Shan (Kokang), the source is the Food Security Sector.
3. Figures for non-displaced stateless people remaining in Rakhine State are provided by the UN and partners. These are based on the best information available at the time of planning, noting limitations including lack of authorization to conduct assessments, inability to verify information independently, and other restrictions.

4. This includes 30% of the local population in conflict-affected village tracts (excluding the main urban areas) in Kachin and Shan, and the non-Muslim population in the village tracts that are mixed (excluding the main urban areas) in Rakhine. It also includes a total of over 28,000 newly displaced people in Kachin and northern Shan since Jan 2018.

A MOTHER AND CHILD IN A DISPLACEMENT CAMP IN MAN WEIN, KACHIN STATE

(6)

# PART II: NEEDS OVERVIEWS BY SECTOR



### **EDUCATION**

#### **OVERVIEW**

An estimated 271,000 children, whose 49 per cent are girls, and 7,200 learning personnel in Kachin, Shan, Kayin and Rakhine states require immediate and sustained support to improve access to safe learning spaces that offer quality and protective learning opportunities.

#### AFFECTED POPULATION

Many conflict-affected children and adolescents in Myanmar remain displaced or face restrictions on freedom of movements and access to services. Those in need of humanitarian education services include the following: 53,100 in Kachin (51,800 students and 1,300 education personnel), 11,700 in Shan (11,400 students and 300 education personnel), 3,400 in Kayin (3,300 students and 100 education personnel) and 210,000 in Rakhine (204,500 students and 5,500 education personnel).

#### HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

In Kachin and Shan, ongoing conflict and displacement results in children missing schooling and becoming in need of additional support such as informal and accelerated learning programmes. In areas where the Ministry of Education has been integrating IDP children into Government schools, overcrowding remains an issue affecting the quality of education of both displaced and non-displaced children. In non-government controlled areas (NGCA), many schools have to depend on community/ volunteer teachers, heavily impacting the quality of learning. In both settings, there is a need to support teachers and the school management to actively contribute to a positive learning environment for children accessing education services and to mainstream positive discipline, as corporal punishment remains a widespread practice in schools. Adolescents are in particular need of learning opportunities and life-skills education as they are the most vulnerable to forced labour, recruitment into armed groups, exploitation and human trafficking.

#### NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN NEED

# 278,200

Given the limited opportunities to access post primary education, families with economic means in NGCA send their children to live with extended families or boarding houses to attend primary, post primary or higher education in Government schools. While boarding houses/schools partially overcome some of the barriers to secondary education in some areas, they also bring their own challenges. In mid-2018, only 25 per cent of the targeted adolescents, whose 52 per cent were girls, in Kachin and 60 per cent in Shan had continuous access to learning opportunities. In Rakhine, children living in camps continue to depend on temporary learning spaces supported by humanitarian partners to access primary education but the lack of qualified teachers, teaching materials and language barriers continues to inhibit the quality of the education. Restrictions on movements and the volatile security situation in affected villages, including military attacks and use of schools by armed actors, also prevent stateless non-displaced children from accessing learning opportunities provided by the Government. Despite a strengthened engagement with the Ministry of Education and partial take-over of volunteer teachers' incentives and textbooks provision, continuous support from humanitarian actors is needed to guarantee and expand access to primary education for displaced, stateless and other vulnerable children affected by the conflict. In mid-2018, only 23 per cent of the targeted adolescents in Rakhine had access to learning opportunities. While distance learning opportunities were made available to Muslim students by Sittwe University in 2017, the quality and breadth of instruction remains limited.

STATES/ REGIONS		IDPs	IDP returnees/ resettled/ locally integrated	Non-displaced stateless people in Rakhine	Other vulnerable crisis-affected people	TOTAL	% female	% children	% adult	% elderly
KACHIN		40,000	100	-	13,000	53,100	49	98	2	-
SHAN		3,800	2,800	-	5,100	11,700	49	97	3	-
Northern	Northern	-	-	63,700	16,800	80,500	49	97	3	-
RAKHINE	Central	63,600	-	59,500	6,400	129,500	49	97	3	-
	Total	63,600	-	123,200	23,200	210,000	49	98	2	-
KAYIN		3,400	-	-	-	3,400	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		110,800	2,900	123,200	41,300	278,200	49	98	3	-

## **FOOD SECURITY**

#### **OVERVIEW**

An estimated 823,600 people living in conflict-affected areas are vulnerable to food insecurity. The main humanitarian needs include economic and physical access, as well as availability of nutritious and diversified food at household and community levels.

#### AFFECTED POPULATION

Vulnerable people who continue to be found food insecure and/or in need of livelihood support are the following: 132,813 in Kachin, 34,469 in Shan, 10,300 in Kayin and 646,005 in Rakhine.

#### HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Ongoing conflicts, inter-communal tensions and recurrent climate-related shocks continue to undermine the availability of food supplies as well as physical and economic access to food.

In Kachin and Shan, conflicts undermine the capacity of vulnerable people to produce and access sufficient, diversified and nutritious food, leading to negative coping mechanisms and limited ability to meet basic needs. Vulnerable and marginalized people, including female headed households, are in need of a stable food supply to ensure availability of food in the household and in markets at all times. The vast majority of people in Myanmar rely on subsistence farming and casual labour as their main sources of livelihood, and have limited capacities to produce sufficient food throughout the year. Food gaps during the monsoon season are common, with landless households and those dependent on non-sustainable un-skilled daily or seasonal jobs facing the longest gaps in food stocks. Recurrent debts cause cycle of indebtedness among the poorest.

#### NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEED

# 823,600

In central Rakhine, continued movement restrictions undermine physical and economic access of displaced and stateless populations to food and livelihood opportunities. In the northern part of Rakhine, the remaining people incurred in heavy harvest and post-harvest crop and livestock losses. Population continue to face different forms of hardship, including lack of access to services, disruption of farming/ non-farming activities, as well as intercommunal fears and tensions. This has led to a negative effect to the livelihood of local populations, undermining their capacity to produce and access sufficient and diversified food. Restoring livelihood opportunities is key to the resilience, recovery, safety and protection of vulnerable and marginalized groups, in particular women and adolescents.

Recurrent human and natural crises (e.g. conflict, displacement, inter-communal tensions, floods, cyclones) severely affect food availability and access, adding to the existing structural limitations of the agricultural sector, including inadequate productive infrastructure, poor quality of inputs, low acceleration in modernization of agro-techniques, limited knowledge of agricultural practices and market information, and significant post-harvest losses.

Recurrent climate shocks aggravate the situation of local communities, increasing risk of displacement and losses of productive assets and livelihoods. Natural disasters impact particularly the agriculture sector, affecting crops, livestock, fishery and productive infrastructures.

STATES/ REGIONS		IDPs	IDP returnees/ resettled/ locally integrated	Non-displaced stateless people in Rakhine	Other vulnerable crisis-affected people	TOTAL	% female	% children	% adult	% elderly
KACHIN		97,227	475	-	35,111	132,813	51	44	49	7
SHAN		8,815	12,000	-	13,654	34,469	52	44	49	7
Nort	Northern	-	-	240,000	84,000	324,000	51	51	45	4
RAKHINE	Central	128,141	-	161,000	32,864	322,005	51	51	45	4
	Total	128,141	-	401,000	116,864	646,005	51	51	45	4
KAYIN		10,300	-	-	-	10,300	51	43	49	8
TOTAL		244,483	12,475	401,000	165,629	823,587	51	49	46	5

### HEALTH

#### OVERVIEW

An estimated 941,300 people in conflict affected areas of Myanmar continue to face difficulties in accessing health care services. The main humanitarian needs include: (1) ensuring access to essential health care service package; (2) improving sexual and reproductive, maternal, new-born, adolescent and child health care; (3) improving diseases surveillance system; (4) mainstreaming mental health and psychosocial support in primary health care services.

#### AFFECTED POPULATION

The affected people who face particular challenges in accessing quality health care services include the following: 167,923 conflict- affected people in Kachin, 48,123 in Shan, 10,300 in Kayin and 715,005 people in Rakhine who are displaced or affected by restrictions on freedom of movement and access to essential services, including health care. Women, elderly people and persons with disabilities face additional barriers.

#### HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

In Kachin, Shan and Kayin, the IDPs rely on humanitarian support through a limited number of health partners and their access to health services remains limited. Access constraints faced by partners lead to serious health risk for the affected population. While the government health facilities provide free health services, transportation is costly. IDPs still need to spend money for food as well as medicines and diagnostic procedures when seeking health care. In mid-2018, only 25 per cent of the target population in Kachin and 22 per cent in Shan received health care due to financial, logistical, security and social constraints as well as inadequate facilities, medical supplies and skilled staff.

#### NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEED

# 941,300

In Rakhine, there are long-standing limitations for health service provision in general, affecting all people in the state. In addition, humanitarian needs are exacerbated by ongoing restrictions on movement to reach nearest health facilities or other services for Muslim population in Rakhine. Recruitment and retention of skilled staff continues to be a major challenge. Humanitarian health interventions remain essential until all populations have equitable access to health services through strengthening capacity of government staff, health facilities and removing movement restriction on freedom of movement as recommended by the Rakhine Advisory Commission.

In the northern part of Rakhine, restrictions on humanitarian access itself limits the availability of health information to ascertain essential health needs of the affected population. It further hinders surveillance, prevention and response to communicable diseases. Previous essential health services have been interrupted as non-government health partners have not fully resumed their activities pending the issuance of travel authorization from the Government. In mid-2018, only 27 per cent of targeted population in Rakhine received health care provided by humanitarian actors.

STATES/ REGIONS		IDPs	IDP returnees/ resettled/ locally integrated	Non-displaced stateless people in Rakhine	Other vulnerable crisis-affected people	TOTAL	% female	% children	% adult	% elderly
KACHIN		97,227	475	-	70,221	167,923	55	30	65	5
SHAN		8,815	12,000	-	27,308	48,123	55	30	65	5
	Northern	-	-	240,000	84,000	324,000	55	30	65	5
RAKHINE	Central	128,141	-	230,000	32,864	391,005	55	30	65	5
	Total	128,141	-	470,000	116,864	715,005	55	30	65	5
KAYIN		10,300	-	-	-	10,300	55	30	65	5
TOTAL		244,483	12,475	470,000	214,393	941,351	55	30	65	5

## NUTRITION

#### **OVERVIEW**

An estimated 181,300 children and women require life-saving nutrition services. The main humanitarian needs include: (1) improved access to Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition; (2) micronutrient support; (3) protection, promotion and support of appropriate, gender responsive infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices.

#### AFFECTED POPULATION

Overall, the following numbers of children and women have nutrition needs: 22,670 in Kachin, 6,833 in Shan, 1,617 in Kayin and 150,151 in Rakhine. The Nutrition sector focuses primarily on children under five and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) who continue to be vulnerable and nutritionally insecure. Additionally, in Rakhine, the sector will focus on children between 5-9 years who are in need of treatment for acute malnutrition.

#### HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Malnutrition rates in northern townships of Rakhine (Buthidaung and Maungdaw) were already above WHO emergency thresholds (GAM>=15 per cent OR >=10-14.9 per cent with aggravating factors) and higher than anywhere else in the country before the August 2017 violence. This means that the under-five (U5) children and PLW in these townships have humanitarian nutritional needs. According to a 2015 SMART survey, the prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) in Buthidaung and Maungdaw stands at 15.1 per cent and 19.0 per cent respectively while the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) is recorded at 2.0 per cent, and 3.9 per cent respectively. In addition, a survey in the northern part of Mynbia township in 2016 estimated GAM and SAM at 18.5 per cent and 2.6 per cent respectively.

#### NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEED

# 181,300

Following the October 2016 and August 2017 attacks, market disruptions largely reduced access to food or crops. Lack of freedom of movement to reach health and nutrition services are likely to further compromise the already poor nutritional status of the population and affect IYCF practices at household level. No assessment has been possible since the August 2017 event to estimate nutritional needs resulting from the new crisis in Rakhine. As of July 2018, only 1,801 children aged 6 -59 months with severe acute malnutrition received therapeutic care in Rakhine due to lack of access by partners to provide services, especially in the northern part of Rakhine.

Chronic malnutrition is also a major concern particularly for pregnant and lactating women as well as children, with global stunting levels ranging between 27.5 per cent (IDP Sittwe urban) to 42.1 per cent (IDP Pauktaw) and 47.6 per cent (IDP Sittwe rural) in Rakhine, and 36 per cent in Kachin and Shan (above 40 per cent is considered as critical by WHO). In addition, recent flooding has further increased vulnerabilities in some areas due to wide-scale impact on farmland, destruction of crops, and more difficult access to markets. Poor health services and water sources further increase the risk of burden of disease and deterioration of nutritional status. Nutrition partners observed increased numbers of children with acute malnutrition. The main constraint remains a lack of access by partners to provide services in areas known to have the highest levels of undernutrition.

STATES/ REGIONS		IDPs	IDP returnees/ resettled/ locally integrated	Non-displaced stateless people in Rakhine	Other vulnerable crisis-affected people	TOTAL	% female	% children	% adult	% elderly
KACHIN		13,126	64	-	9,480	22,670	52	70	30	-
SHAN		1,252	1,704	-	3,878	6,833	53	72	28	-
	Northern	-	-	50,400	17,640	68,040	51	67	33	-
RAKHINE	Central	26,910	-	48,300	6,901	82,111	51	67	33	-
	Total	26,910	-	98,700	24,541	150,151	51	67	33	-
KAYIN		1,617	-	-	-	1,617	51	75	25	-
TOTAL		42,904	1,768	98,700	37,899	181,271	51	67	33	-

### PROTECTION

#### OVERVIEW

In the past 12 months, the protection environment of IDPs, stateless, and other affected communities in Myanmar has experienced dramatic setbacks. 2018 saw a serious intensification of fighting in Kachin and northern Shan leading to significant new displacement – with reports of stranded civilians unable to leave conflict-affected areas and exposed to a wide-range of protection risks. In Rakhine, concrete steps to address root causes of displacement have yet to be taken. Meanwhile, the increased segregation of IDPs and stateless Rohingya who have long been systematically discriminated against, with severe restrictions on their freedom of movement and other basic rights leave thousands of people heavily dependent on humanitarian assistance and particularly vulnerable to protection risks.

#### AFFECTED POPULATION

167,923 people in Kachin and 48,123 in northern Shan affected by armed conflict, and 715,004 people in Rakhine affected by protracted displacement, segregation, restrictions of fundamental rights, discriminatory policies and practices.

#### HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Protection of civilians remains a major concern in Kachin and northern Shan. Reports of human rights violations including shelling of civilian areas/IDP sites, arbitrary killings and arrest, intimidation when fleeing to safety, forced recruitment (including of children), gender-based violence (including child sexual abuse), psychosocial distress, and restrictions on freedom of movement are on the rise. Protracted displacement, restricted humanitarian access and limited protection by presence, are having a major impact on the displaced, especially women, children, adolescents,

#### NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEED

931,000

older persons and persons with disabilities, who remain particularly vulnerable to killing and maiming by landmines, human trafficking, exploitation and abuse, forced marriage and separation of children. The loss of land and property in areas of origin, landmine contamination and lack of access to livelihoods are also major obstacles to durable solutions while limited solutions emerging in 2018 are not always safe, dignified or voluntary.

In Rakhine, IDPs are still living in overcrowded camps and remain subject to discrimination which contributes to serious protection incidents such as physical insecurity, extortion, risky migration, gender-based violence, child labour, child marriage, and family separation. The impact of these incidents leaves the population in urgent need of psychosocial support. The Government's implementation of the Rakhine Advisory Commission recommendations without any focus on access to basic human rights remain great concerns. In the state's northern townships, while continued departure to Bangladesh indicate an ongoing protection and human rights crisis, severe access restrictions continue to prevent the delivery of protection services to affected communities. Until the fundamental issue of freedom of movement, statelessness and other discriminatory practices are addressed, there will be no sustainable or dignified solutions for stateless IDPs in Rakhine or for the Rohingya population at large.

STATES/ REGIONS		IDPs	IDP returnees/ resettled/ locally integrated	Non-displaced stateless people in Rakhine	Other vulnerable crisis-affected people	TOTAL	% female	% children	% adult	% elderly
KACHIN		97,227	475	-	70,221	167,923	51	42	52	6
SHAN		8,815	12,000	-	27,308	48,123	52	42	51	7
	Northern	-	-	240,000	84,000	324,000	51	52	44	4
RAKHINE	Central	128,141	-	230,000	32,863	391,004	51	50	46	4
	Total	128,141	-	470,000	116,863	715,004	51	51	45	4
KAYIN		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		234,183	12,475	470,000	214,392	931,050	51	49	46	5



#### CHILD PROTECTION

Children constitute at least 50 per cent of the conflict-affectedpopulation in Myanmar, up to 60 percent in Rakhine State. It is believed that at least 246,000 children and 177,000 adults and caregivers, half of them being girls and women, are in need of urgent child protection services.

Children are heavily affected by neglect, physical abuse, family separation, exploitation and risky migration practices leading to arbitrary arrest and detention. Reports indicate that girls are especially restricted in accessing services and are exposed to harassment, sexual violence and forced marriage, while boys are at higher risk of being exploited and forcibly recruited.

Emerging trends of grave violations of children's rights in Myanmar has been highlighted in the 2018 UN Secretary General's Annual report on Children and Armed Conflict which has listed the Tatmadaw for not having put in place measures for protection of children with regards to two additional violations: killing and maiming of children; and rape and other forms of sexual violence. Recruitment and use of children and killing and maiming are the first and second highest documented incidents in 2017, followed by attacks on schools and hospitals, sexual violence and abduction. The expansion of the monitoring and reporting mechanism is critical to cover all grave violations in the conflict-affected areas. It is also critical to enhance the capacity of child protection response to acute needs of child survivors.

Landmine and unexploded ordinance contamination remain great concern, especially for children. Cumulative data documented, including from the past years, reveals that Myanmar has one of the highest mine accident rate in the world.

Protection threats, dire living conditions and the lack of livelihoods severely undermine children' psychosocial and physical wellbeing and their capacity to cope with adversity. Negative coping strategies are increasingly reported among children, adolescents and caregivers.

Overall, psychosocial distress and protection violations affecting boys and girls remain high across Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan. Unless timely and tailored support is provided and guided by the evidence through systematic monitoring, children and adolescent's full development is compromised and more severe forms of distress and harmful coping strategies among children and caregivers may arise.

#### **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

Assessments indicated that gender-based violence, particularly intimate partner violence (the most common form reported), early and forced marriage and sexual violence continue to pervade the lives of women and girls in Myanmar inside and outside the home. The deep-rooted patriarchal structures underpinning Myanmar society, in conjunction with weak legal and security systems in some areas, contribute to the prevalence of GBV.

GBV in conflict-affected areas including Kachin, northern Shan, and Rakhine and displacement during acute natural disasters (such as in the South East) pose heightened protection risks specific to women and girls: displacement and conditions in IDP camps expose women and girls to multiple, often repeated traumas including intimate partner violence, sexual harassment and exploitation, sexual violence, early and forced marriage, and trafficking; and psychosocial stressors such as lack of livelihoods and poor living conditions. They also have limited access to menstrual hygiene products which may further limit movement and access to services in addition to other gendered barriers. These issues are further compounded through use of negative coping strategies such as substance misuse and a weak legal system and stigma, including community condemnation, which pressures gender-based violence victims into silence.

The fear of sexual violence is a concern raised by women and girls and contributes to increased levels of psychosocial stress and limits their movements. Restrictions on freedom of movement of women and girls also inhibit their access to services/humanitarian aid and ultimately curtail their rights.

Preventing and addressing GBV in conflict settings is an urgent priority highlighted by the UN Secretary-General's March 2018 report on conflict-related sexual violence. Concerted efforts must be made to heighten protection and prevention of violations, enhance measures of accountability, and ensure that survivors have access to multi-sectoral response support including health, psychosocial, legal and security services.

## SHELTER/NON-FOOD ITEMS/CCCM

#### OVERVIEW

Despite significant efforts in 2018 to provide crisis-affected communities with safe, dignified and appropriate, genderresponsive and inclusive living conditions across central Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan, including through new shelter design and rehabilitation programmes to address protection risks and improve privacy, the protracted displacement combined with camps' exposure to harsh weather conditions lead to perpetual cycle of temporary shelters repairs. Priority needs also include provision of emergency shelters for newly displaced in Kachin as a result of increased fighting in 2018. While CCCM remains key to ensure equitable access to assistance and protection services for IDPs, its role in central Rakhine is under strategic review in light of the Government's plan to relocate IDPs. NFI support remains critical to meet basic household needs of affected people, notably the most vulnerable and newly displaced people.

#### AFFECTED POPULATION

111,702 people in Kachin, 26,815 in northern Shan and 128,141 in Rakhine remain displaced and are in need of shelter, NFI and CCCM support.

#### HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Over 106,000 people are displaced across 172 camps/sites in Kachin and northern Shan as a result of the armed conflict that resumed in 2011. As of June 2018, 41 per cent of the displaced shelter needs are covered. While 3,360 shelter units are expected to be provided/rehabilitated in 2018, another 4,800 benefiting 24,000 people will be needed in 2019.

Additionally, over 18,000 people are in need of household items. Support to CCCM activities will also remain critical to ensure that humanitarian assistance is well-managed and

#### NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEED

266,700

coordinated, that women have access to decision-making structures, community-based protection approaches are integrated into planning and implementation and that, whenever feasible and appropriate, IDPs are assisted to return/resettle/integrate locally and are well-prepared to rebuild their lives.

In Rakhine, by the end of 2018, while partners will have reconstructed all temporary shelters since cyclone Mora (May 2017), the majority were reconstructed using the previous design and therefore, in the next cycle of rehabilitation approximately 88 per cent of temporary shelters will require upgrading. While the protection impact of the new shelter design, in use since April 2018 remains to be seen, it is hoped that this initiative along with others measures, including the installation of solar lighting in camps will contribute to improving living conditions in IDP camps. In terms of CCCM support, efforts to reform Camp Management Committees (CMCs) and to promote the self-governance of camps will require stronger advocacy, with an emphasis on promoting more inclusive and gender-equitable representation and decision-making. Whilst 10,000 families (40 per cent) will benefit from distributions of basic NFIs in 2018, needs remain very high due to the limited access to livelihoods. Needs for 2019 are estimated at 14,000 families (60 per cent).

STATES/ REGIONS		IDPs	IDP returnees/ resettled/ locally integrated	Non-displaced stateless people in Rakhine	Other vulnerable crisis-affected people	TOTAL	% female	% children	% adult	% elderly
KACHIN		97,227	475	-	14,000	111,702	52	45	48	7
SHAN		8,815	-	-	18,000	26,815	52	42	51	7
	Northern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RAKHINE	Central	128,141	-	-	-	128,141	51	53	43	4
	Total	128,141	-	-	-	128,141	51	53	43	4
KAYIN		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		234,183	475	-	32,000	266,658	52	48	46	6

## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

#### **OVERVIEW**

The main humanitarian needs include the continued and effective provision of safe water, dignified sanitation services and effective hygiene promotion. The overall aim is to ensure adequate public health conditions that contribute to health, nutrition, education and food security outcomes.

#### AFFECTED POPULATION

The affected people who continue to face particular difficulties in accessing clean water, sanitation and hygiene are the following: 142,175 people in Kachin, 48,123 in Shan, 10,300 in Kayin and 715,005 in Rakhine. Out of all affected people, 49 per-cent are children and 51 per cent are females.

#### HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Increased institutional and sector capacity, market-based approaches and a focus on resilience and inclusive responses are fundamental for the WASH response. Over six years of protracted displacement has caused renewed needs with WASH facilities requiring significant maintenance in addition to water quality monitoring and treatment, faecal sludge management and behaviour change activities. The lack of space, capacity and access undermine the delivery of WASH services. Mitigation measures are prioritized to address protection and safety of women and children, especially against sexual harassment and assaults, for example when using WASH facilities at night. Ensuring women and girls have access to menstrual hygiene material, information and appropriate means of disposal continues to be a priority. Chronic poverty and high risk of man-made and natural disasters mean intensive efforts are required to bridge the humanitarian -development divide to tackle future vulnerability as well as current needs. In all states, people are affected by flooding and water shortage is especially severe in Rakhine in the dry season.

#### NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEED

# 915,600

In Kachin and Shan, over 106,000 people remain displaced in camps or camp-like settings where water and sanitation infrastructures require operational and maintenance support, including regular community mobilization and hygiene promotion activities. In mid-2018, the number of people with equitable and safe access to sufficient quantity of drinking water was 71 per cent in Kachin and 51 per cent in Shan respectively. Similarly, only 62 per cent of the target population had access to safe and continuous sanitation facilities in Kachin and 45 per cent in Shan. In areas beyond the government control, restricted movements and access pose significant challenges for delivery of essential services and monitoring.

In Rakhine, over 128,000 are still in IDP camps or in camplike settings where water and sanitation infrastructures require maintenance support, including regular community mobilization and hygiene promotion activities. In mid-2018, 92 per cent of target people in camps had safe access to sufficient drinking water. Outside of camps, 83 per cent of people do not have access to safe water in the dry season (MLCS 2017), highlighting the challenges in delivering humanitarian aid in this context. In camps and camp-like settings, about 75 per cent of IDPs had access to safe and continuous sanitation facilities, 78 per cent received hygiene promotion and 99.7 per cent received hygiene kits. The WASH needs in northern Rakhine are largely unknown due to access restrictions prior and following 2017 crisis.

STATES/ REGIONS		IDPs	IDP returnees/ resettled/ locally integrated	Non-displaced stateless people in Rakhine	Other vulnerable crisis-affected people	TOTAL	% female	% children	% adult	% elderly
KACHIN		97,227	475	-	44,473	142,175	51	42	51	7
SHAN		8,815	12,000	-	27,308	48,123	52	42	51	7
	Northern	-	-	240,000	84,000	324,000	51	50	46	4
RAKHINE	Central	128,141	-	230,000	32,864	391,005	51	52	44	4
	Total	128,141	-	470,000	116,864	715,005	51	51	45	4
KAYIN		10,300	-	-	-	10,300	51	43	49	8
TOTAL		244,483	12,475	470,000	188,645	915,603	51	49	46	5

This document was prepared by the Myanmar Humanitarian Country Team (United Nations and Partners).

It provides the Humanitarian Country Team's shared understanding of the crisis, including the most pressing humanitarian needs and the estimated number of people who need assistance. It represents a consolidated evidence base and helps inform joint strategic response planning.

The designations employed and the presentation of material in the report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

www.unocha.org/myanmar



www.facebook.com/OCHAMyanmar