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for every child

## Humanitarian Action for Children

Ze Naw, her husband and their son sit outside their family shelter at Maina Camp for internally displaced persons in Kachin State, where UNICEF has provided psychosocial support for affected children.

# Myanmar

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 1 million people, including an estimated 450,000 children, are affected by Myanmar's decade-long conflict and are increasingly vulnerable to gender-based violence, exploitation, abuse, detention and trafficking.<sup>1</sup>
- Community transmission of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is increasing in Myanmar. COVID-19 requires a nationwide response focusing on critical urban and vulnerable populations, such as those in overcrowded camps for internally displaced persons.
- UNICEF will work through its field offices and national and sub-national partnerships to support the growing needs of conflict-affected children, adolescents, pregnant women and lactating women in Rakhine, Chin, Kachin, Shan and Kayin States, as well as those impacted by COVID-19 nationwide.
- UNICEF requires US\$61.7 million to support critical water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), nutrition, health, education, social protection and child protection needs and improve hygiene behaviours to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

### KEY PLANNED TARGETS



**176,197**

children receiving multiple micronutrient powders



**423,500**

people reached with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies and services



**135,000**

children/caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support

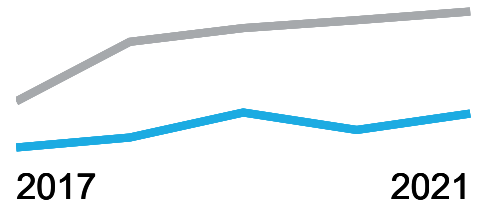


**500,000**

households benefiting from new/additional social transfers

IN NEED

**1 million people**<sup>2</sup> **455,000 children**<sup>3</sup>



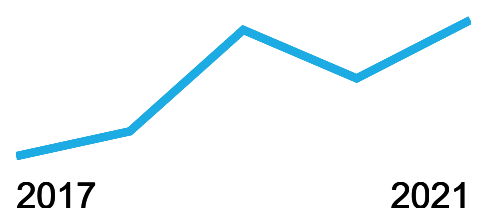
TO BE REACHED

**424,000 people**<sup>4</sup> **224,000 children**<sup>5</sup>



FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

**US\$ 61.7 million**



Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Nearly 1 million people, including 336,000 internally displaced persons and 350,000 children, are affected by Myanmar's decade-long conflict.<sup>6</sup> Children and women are increasingly vulnerable to gender-based violence, family separation, exploitation, abuse, detention, arrest, recruitment and trafficking. Those affected also lack access to basic services such as health, nutrition and education.

In 2020, fighting between the Myanmar Armed Forces and the Arakan Army displaced over 81,000 people in Rakhine<sup>7</sup> and 7,200 people in Chin.<sup>8</sup> In addition to the newly displaced, 130,000 people have been displaced since 2012 and are experiencing deteriorating conditions in overcrowded camps. There are continuing reports of violations of international humanitarian and human rights laws, including damage to public and private infrastructure, indiscriminate shelling and death and injury due to landmines. Access constraints due to bureaucratic impediments, deteriorating security conditions and COVID-19 are severely restricting the movement of people – both to those providing services/support and those in need. Humanitarian needs are particularly significant in Rakhine State, where nearly 600,000 stateless Rohingya persons – including 100,000 internally displaced persons – reside. Indicators – such as on child development, immunization, nutrition, access to water and sanitation, and access to education and learning opportunities – are poor.

In conflict-affected areas of Myanmar, nearly 951,000 people will need protection, 913,000 will need WASH support, 278,000 will need education and 818,000 will need health and nutrition support due to conflict and displacement.<sup>9</sup> The conflict is entering its tenth year, and the coping capacities of both displaced people and host communities are waning. In 2020, the Government adopted a new strategy for resettling internally displaced persons and closing camps; however opportunities for durable solutions remain limited due to landmine and unexploded ordnance contamination, underdevelopment and human rights challenges.

Growing transmission of COVID-19 is also hindering access to services across the country. Physical distancing and lockdown requirements are disrupting service delivery and utilization and slowing economic activity, which has resulted in loss of household income. Given that nearly one third of children in Myanmar (5 million children) are living below the poverty line, and another third live just above it, this is of serious concern.<sup>10</sup> The closure of all schools for the majority of the 2020/21 school year could have lasting and detrimental impacts on the future of the country's children.

Myanmar is also extremely vulnerable to natural hazards, including cyclones, floods and earthquakes, which could have a devastating impact on vulnerable communities.

## SECTOR NEEDS



### Nutrition

**181,000** people need nutrition assistance<sup>11</sup>



### Health

**818,000** people need health assistance<sup>12</sup>



### Water, sanitation and hygiene

**501,000** people lack access to safe water<sup>13</sup>



### Education

**278,000** children need education support<sup>14</sup>

## STORY FROM THE FIELD



In April 2018, Lahtaw Seng Hkawn was sleeping with her three children inside their home in Injangyang when they heard gunfire. "We had to run immediately, there was no time to take anything but just the clothes on us," she says.

Since that outbreak of violence they have spent most of their time living in camps for internally displaced persons in Kachin State.

UNICEF and partners have supported the camp with water purification and other services benefiting 1,200 internally displaced persons.

**[Read more about this story here](#)**

Ethnic Kachin Mai Ra, 9, watches as her mother Lahtaw Seng Hkawn, 38, makes COVID-19 face masks at their UNICEF-supported camp for the internally displaced.

## HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

In 2021, UNICEF will continue to meet the needs of internally displaced and conflict-affected populations in Myanmar and mitigate the impacts of conflict and inequity. The response will include the provision of critical supplies, technical assistance, risk communication and community engagement, and accountability to affected populations, in line with the Grand Bargain commitments.<sup>15</sup> UNICEF will also identify and implement durable solutions that foster linkages between its humanitarian action and development programmes.

UNICEF will continue to provide assistance in Rakhine, Chin, Kachin, Shan and Kayah states—including to address gender- and disability-specific needs—in line with the priorities identified in the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan. Specifically, in Rakhine, UNICEF's strategy focuses on reaching children and caregivers in both conflict-affected communities and camps for internally displaced persons; following key humanitarian principles, including 'do no harm' and conflict sensitivity, accountability to affected populations and humanitarian-development linkages. The interventions are aligned with the recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission. This will be done in partnership with national and sub-national authorities, national and international non-governmental organizations, civil society groups and other response actors.

In conflict-affected areas, UNICEF will focus on preventing and treating severe acute malnutrition (SAM); providing nutrition support for pregnant and lactating women; supporting access to health services; addressing gender-based violence; monitoring and reporting on six grave violations of children's rights; ensuring access to safe water and sanitation; improving knowledge and prevention of COVID-19; and fostering safe in-person or remote learning opportunities for children aged 3 to 17 years. Cross-sector programming will focus on early childhood care and development and adolescent-focused education and protection activities. UNICEF will advocate for unfettered access to all in need, and address vulnerability throughout the country through risk-informed responses and programming.

To address COVID-19 needs nationwide, UNICEF will continue to work with sister United Nations agencies to develop a rapid response mechanism designed to support affected communities. In 2021, risk communication and community engagement activities will focus on breastfeeding, handwashing, hygiene and physical distancing, in coordination with WASH, nutrition and health teams. All UNICEF programmes have been modified to ensure the safety of staff and beneficiaries. UNICEF will also support home-based learning initiatives and continue psychosocial services for front-line workers and children.

UNICEF has five field offices, two sub-offices, and offices in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw. UNICEF leads the nutrition-in-emergencies sector and the WASH cluster; co-leads the education-in-emergencies sector; is the lead agency for the child protection area of responsibility; and participates in the health cluster and gender-based violence working group. UNICEF emergency staff in Myanmar also work on emergency preparedness and planning. UNICEF will continue to leverage its strategic position and long-standing experience in Myanmar to reach children, adolescents and caretakers with life-saving interventions.

Progress against the 2020 programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports:

<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/myanmar/situation-reports>

## 2021 PROGRAMME TARGETS



### Nutrition

- **15,530** children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment<sup>16</sup>
- **176,197** children aged 6 to 59 months receiving multiple micronutrient powders



### Health

- **17,000** children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against measles
- **137,000** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities



### Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **303,500** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
- **700,000** people reached with handwashing behaviour change programmes
- **423,500** people reached with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies (including hygiene items) and services<sup>17</sup>



### Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA<sup>18</sup>

- **135,000** children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- **33,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions
- **42,800** people with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse



### Education<sup>19</sup>

- **32,300** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **21,800** children receiving individual learning materials



### Social protection and cash transfers

- **500,000** households benefiting from new or additional social transfers from governments with UNICEF technical assistance<sup>20</sup>



### C4D, community engagement and AAP<sup>21</sup>

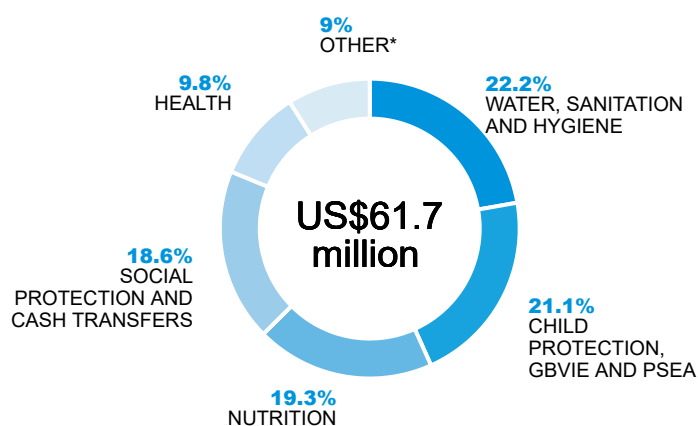
- **52,000** people who shared their concerns and asked questions/clarifications to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms

## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2021

UNICEF requires US\$61.7 million to continue to meet the needs of children, adolescents and caregivers in Myanmar. UNICEF's appeal aligns with the sectoral needs in six conflict-affected states (Rakhine, Chin, Kachin, Shan and Kayin), where life-saving and life-sustaining support is urgently required, in line with the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan. The appeal also includes funding for new mechanisms to improve accountability to affected populations as part of the Inter Cluster Coordination Group, through a small team co-led by UNICEF.

This funding will also enable UNICEF's nationwide response to COVID-19, which will focus on risk communication and community engagement, as part of overall WASH and health programming and support for populations in need in non-Humanitarian Response Plan areas such as Yangon, which has been heavily impacted by COVID-19. COVID-19 accounts for 27 per cent of the total request and includes both COVID-19-safe programming and stand-alone hygiene and education activities.

Without adequate and timely funding, UNICEF and its partners will be unable to address the critical needs of highly vulnerable conflict-affected children and families in Myanmar. Lack of funding will also impair UNICEF's efforts to combat the spread and impact of COVID-19 nationwide.



Sector	2021 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	11,908,936
Health	6,062,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	13,725,000
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	13,000,000 <sup>24</sup>
Education	3,163,015 <sup>23</sup>
Social protection and cash transfers	11,500,000 <sup>22</sup>
Rapid Response Mechanism	1,000,000
Cluster coordination	1,375,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>61,733,951</b>

\*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Education (5.1%), Cluster coordination (2.2%), Rapid Response Mechanism (1.6%).

### Who to contact for further information:

**June Kunugi**  
Representative, Myanmar  
T +95 12305960  
yangon@unicef.org

**Manuel Fontaine**  
Director, Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)  
T +1 212 326 7163  
mfontaine@unicef.org

**Carla Haddad Mardini**  
Director, Public Partnership Division (PPD)  
T +1 212 326 7160  
chaddadmardini@unicef.org

## ENDNOTES

1. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Myanmar: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft), OCHA, 2020.
2. This figure includes 1,035,072 as identified in the provision 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and includes an additional 200,000 in non-Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) areas that UNICEF has identified as in need of additional support due to COVID-19. Some UNICEF COVID-19 activities will reach millions of children, however the figure of 200,000 represents an estimate of those that will receive more tailored and intensive support including in the areas of WASH, nutrition and child protection.
3. This figure includes the figure from the HNO for conflict-affected areas as well as the estimated number of children to be reached in the areas that UNICEF is targeted for COVID-19 response (using the same percentage of children as in the HNO).
4. This figure includes people to be reached in conflict-affected areas identified in the HNO/HRP and 200,000 people to be reached with UNICEF COVID-19 support in areas not covered in the HRP. This figure does not include the millions of people who will be reached by UNICEF's nationwide COVID-19 work, including risk communication and community engagement and back-to-school programmes, which will reach over 8 million children and parents countrywide. It also does not include the households UNICEF aims to reach by supporting the Government's social protection cash transfers. To avoid double counting, this was calculated using the highest coverage programme target for men, women, boys and girls to be reached with critical WASH supplies and services. Fifty per cent will be women/girls. For some indicators (e.g. programmes targeting pregnant and lactating women), women represent 100 per cent of the targeted population. Based on the 2014 census, approximately 7 per cent of the population in Myanmar is disabled.
5. This figure does not include the millions of people who will be reached by UNICEF's nationwide COVID-19 work, including risk communication and community engagement and back-to-school programmes that will reach over 8 million children and parents countrywide. This figure was calculated using 176,197 children aged 6 to 59 months to be reached with micronutrient powders; and 48,100 learners aged 5 to 18 years to be reached with formal or non-formal education. This latter group includes students to be reached with learning materials, including 6,500 adolescents. UNICEF estimates that 50 per cent of the total will be girls. Based on the 2014 census, approximately 7 per cent of the population in Myanmar is disabled. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
6. 'Myanmar: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
7. State Government of Rakhine figures as of 7 September 2020.
8. 'Myanmar: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
9. Ibid.
10. United Nations Children's Fund, Myanmar Socio Economic Assessment, 2020.
11. 'Myanmar: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. The Grand Bargain is a unique agreement between some of the largest donors and humanitarian organizations, who have committed to getting more means into the hands of people in need and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action.
16. This figure includes areas included in 'Myanmar: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview', as well as an additional 5,857 people in Yangon to be reached with COVID-19-related nutrition support.
17. This figure includes areas included in 'Myanmar: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview', as well as an additional 200,000 people to be reached with COVID-19-related WASH support outside of these areas.
18. Due to space constraints, the following acronyms appear in the appeal: GBViE (gender-based violence in emergencies); PSEA (prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse); C4D (communication for development); and AAP (accountability to affected populations).
19. The figures presented here are for conflict-affected areas where children and teachers receive significant support. However, UNICEF will also target over 8 million children nationwide through COVID-19 safe school activities and risk communication and community engagement.
20. In this intervention, UNICEF is targeting households with pregnant and lactating women and/or women with children under 2 years with new or additional social transfers from governments with UNICEF technical assistance. Given the one-time transfer modality for an intervention that will benefit some 2.5 million people (assuming an average of five people per household) this figure is not included in the total number of people to be reached, which covers routine and consistent humanitarian action activities, to align with the number of people targeted in the HRP.
21. This is the target for new accountability to affected population activities. All COVID-19-related risk communication and community engagement activities are integrated into health and WASH programme targets.
22. This includes US\$10 million in cash payments to pregnant women and women with young children; 500,000 women will each receive a payment of US\$20.
23. The education funding requirement has decreased compared with 2020 due to enhanced collaboration with the Government and education-in-emergencies partners that will bring down implementation costs.
24. This includes US\$1.7 million for gender-based violence in emergencies interventions and US\$1.2 million for prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse interventions.