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Myanmar

Humanitarian Situation Report #2



Reporting Period: 1-28 February 2019

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- Fighting continues to displace people in Rakhine and Shan States causing displacement of 3,700 people bringing the total displacement in the first two months of the year to approximately 7,500 people.
- Kachin State has not experienced armed conflict and resulting displacement since September 2018 resulting in the lowest level of fighting since 2016.
- UNICEF is restarting soap distributions in northern Rakhine State for approximately 100,000 people per month in coordination with food distributions by the World Food Programme. Over 37,400 metric tons has been transferred to the Rakhine office for these activities.
- On February 26, UNICEF signed an agreement with the Government of Japan which provides over US\$7 million in support for UNICEF's humanitarian activities in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States.

15 March 2019

460,788

of children in need of humanitarian assistance (HNO 2019)

Kachin:	71,150
Kayin:	4,475
Rakhine:	364,767
Shan:	20,396

941,351

of people in need (HNO 2019)

UNICEF Appeal 2019
US\$ 59 million

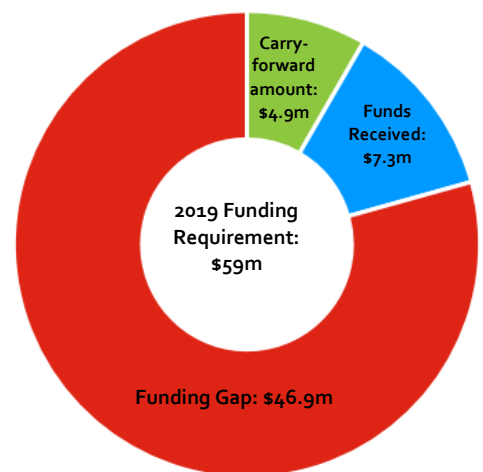
UNICEF's Response with Partners

	UNICEF		Cluster/Sector	
	UNICEF Target*	Total Results**	Cluster/Sector Target	Total Results
Nutrition: # of children 6 to 59 months admitted for SAM therapeutic care	10,401	583	3,155	583
Health: # children/women with access to health care	90,000	2,865		
WASH: # of people benefitting from safe drinking water	573,384	21,040	371,584	Available quarterly
Child Protection: # people with access to MHPSS	287,160	28,077	191,519	Available quarterly
Education: # of children (3-10) accessing pre- primary or primary learning opportunities	105,409	18,191	83,392	Available quarterly

* UNICEF targets are higher than cluster targets in some areas due to change in UNICEF methodology after HRP was completed.

**Total Results for UNICEF clusters and sectors are cumulative.

Funding Status 2019



Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

February proved to be a turbulent month in northern Shan and Rakhine States with both locations tracking additional displacements. In Rakhine, fighting between the Arakan Army and Tatmadaw continued with fighting in five of the 17 townships. Fighting also continued in northern Shan state between armed ethnic organizations leading to the displacement in February of 3,700 people bringing the total displacement in the first two months of the year to approximately 7,500 people. In contrast, Kachin State has not experienced armed conflict since September 2018 resulting in the lowest level of fighting since 2016.

In Kachin, the unilateral ceasefire declared by the Myanmar Military (Tatmadaw) in December 2018 continues to hold. It is unclear if, when the ceasefire ends in April, fighting will restart. The Tatmadaw and Kachin State Government are encouraging people to leave IDP camps and return home or to other resettlement sites. Though similar encouragement has been given in the past, the lack of information among IDPs has created an environment of fear and anxiety in many locations. Though IDPs continue to state their desire to return to their place of origin, safety and security issues remain among the principal concerns.

In northern Shan, of the 7,500 people displaced, most have been able to return home. However more than 1,100 remain in camps or camp-like settings—due principally to fighting in Hsipaw and Kyaukme townships—most newly displaced are sheltering in monasteries and are receiving assistance from the local community, private donors and civil society organizations. Assistance has also been provided by some international organizations as well as the Government of Myanmar. IDPs noted the need for additional sanitation, bathing and washing facilities, sleeping mats and interagency partners expressed concern about the length of displacement given the volatility in these areas. Fighting and displacement continued in late February causing injuries to civilians and children.

In Rakhine State, fighting between the Arakan Army and the Tatmadaw continued with the use of explosive devices and shelling. In late February the fighting expanded into a sixth township, Mrauk-U, resulting in the temporary displacement of families, including women and children. Access in all six townships—Mrauk U, Kyawktaw, Ponnagyun, Rathedaung, Maungdaw and Buthidaung—remains limited to mainly urban areas for UNICEF and our partners. The clashes occurred on a near daily basis throughout February displacing over 6,000 people, primarily ethnic Rakhine, to villages, monasteries or camp-like settings. Interagency partners continue to face access restrictions in these areas and are tracking the impact of movement restrictions on both humanitarian and development programming. In addition to fighting within Rakhine State, the Arakan Army and Tatmadaw are fighting in Paletwa Township of southern Chin State. Fighting has thus far caused the displacement of approximately 500 people including ethnic Chin, Khami, Mor, and Rakhine.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

- UNICEF is leading the WASH Cluster and leads the Nutrition in Emergencies Sector, Child Protection in Emergencies sub-sector and is co-leading the Education in Emergencies Sector at both that national and sub-national levels in Rakhine and Kachin States. UNICEF, through these roles, participates in the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group in Yangon and relevant sub-national level coordination groups.
- The Inter-Cluster Coordination Group is finalizing a “Gender in Humanitarian Action” Action Plan which will be co-led by UNFPA and UN Women.
- The newly set-up coordination mechanism in Shan State met for the second time in February and finalized its Terms of Reference for coordination. The Child Protection Network meetings are following a more localized approach to allow local actors to participate and contribute to the humanitarian response in Shan State.
- The WASH Cluster prepared for the Global WASH Cluster Quality Assurance and Accountability Project (QAAP) visit and workshops to be held in March. This project will define, develop and field-test a quality assurance system focused on Rakhine that can hopefully be replicated to other countries.

Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF addresses the humanitarian needs of crisis-affected and displaced people in Rakhine, Kachin, Kayin and Shan states. As a cluster/sector lead agency, UNICEF works with the Government, national and international nongovernmental organizations and civil society partners to provide critical life-saving and life-sustaining services in nutrition, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), child protection and education. UNICEF's activities target populations identified in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), including internally displaced people in camps, stateless populations and other crisis-affected populations. UNICEF continues to advocate for unfettered and consistent humanitarian access to ensure that services can be provided to those in need, in line with their basic human rights. Working at the interagency level, UNICEF will conduct natural disaster response planning and related activities throughout the country. UNICEF has developed a more specific Rakhine Response Plan for 2019 which focuses on expanding humanitarian activities in the State and identifying additional opportunities to address underdevelopment through development activities.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

In February, UNICEF nutrition activities continued to focus on identification and treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in Rakhine State. With UNICEF support, 583 children with SAM were admitted for treatment. UNICEF has partnered with Myanmar Health Assistant Association (MHAA) to provide nutrition services including screening and SAM in communities. Due to continued clashes of the Tatmadaw and AA and restrictions, implementation of services is limited in northern areas of the State. UNICEF's partner Action Contre La Faim (ACF) continues to run two Out-Patient Therapeutic (OTP) centres that provide comprehensive nutrition services; while several ACF OTPs remain



closed due to restrictions and security. In the central part of Rakhine State, MHAA, ACF and Save the Children continue to run 53 OTP nutrition centres across 16 camps and 58 villages children under five were screened and 313 children with SAM were admitted for treatment this month. In addition, UNICEF and implementing partners reached nearly 1,780 pregnant and breastfeeding women (PLW) with infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling.

In Kachin and northern Shan States, in partnership with Health Poverty Action (HPA), UNICEF supported nutrition services for children from hard-to-reach and conflict-affected areas. In Kachin State, 360 PLWs were reached with counselling and 105 PLWs received micronutrient supplementation in February while in northern Shan State, 52 PLWs were reached with IYCF counselling, 34 PLWs received micronutrient supplementation and (x) children under five received the four-month dose of multiple micronutrient supplementation.

UNICEF continues to coordinate partners through the Nutrition in Emergencies (NiE) Working Group. As the sector lead, UNICEF supported the government on the development of a Nutrition Action Plan in Rakhine State for 2019 to 2020, in coordination with ACF and other key nutrition actors. The Action Plan also contributes to the implementation of the Rakhine Advisory Commission (RAC). Roll out of IYCF and integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) continue to be supported by UNICEF and nutrition actors. The NiE sector is also working with government and global partners to support standardization and harmonization of the nutrition activities and reporting tools which will help to address the lack of standardised systems and tools which were identified as a barrier by (x) to achieving better results for women and children.

Health

Despite escalating conflicts in some part of Rakhine and Shan, UNICEF continued to deliver services through partners. From recent visits to Hoppan and Laukkai townships in northern Shan, it was evident from a discussion with community members and our partner that there was lack of trust and acceptance by community members to receive health services from government health staff due to a number of factors including a misunderstanding regarding a school dental health service, lack of engagement with community leaders, lack of translation into the local language, and a statement by an armed ethnic organization to not trust government health staff. This lack of trust further constrained the Government's ability to recruit community health workers and auxiliary midwife volunteers in Laukkai Township. Additional constraints that prevent access to services by community members includes the continued fighting and insecurity as well as the difficult terrain of the region. UNICEF, in partnerships with Health Poverty Action (HPA), aims to cover this gap to ensure community acceptance of maternal, neonatal and child health, immunization, and emergency referral services. HPA mobilised and further developed the capacity of basic health staff, staff of ethnic health organizations and community volunteers in both Kachin and Shan States. The report from the Wa and Monglar regions confirmed that HPA facilitated training of an additional 27 basic health staff. The training covered maternal health, newborn-child health care and common childhood illness management, infant and young child feeding and nutritional assessment. As a result of this partnership in Northern Shan, an additional 242 children 9-18 months were immunized against measles during February.

In partnership with the Myanmar Health Assistant Association (MHAA), UNICEF continued to support mobile health services in six townships of central Rakhine and three townships in the northern part of Rakhine—Buthidaung, Maungdaw and Rathedaung—to provide basic maternal and child health services. During a field visit by UNICEF staff to Mrauk-U, Kyauktaw and Minbya programme locations, UNICEF noted that MHAA will require



additional technical support and advocacy to improve coordination and make necessary linkages with the Township Health Department (THD). This is especially critical to ensure that all outreach activities supported by MHAA and the THD integrate immunization, maternal and neonatal child health and nutrition services with expanded coverage to the most deprived communities. MHAA is currently recruiting volunteers from host communities in these townships, though pre-deployment and necessary training—with support of township authorities—will need to be expedited. However, due to fighting between the AA and Tatmadaw and subsequent restrictions on travel by the government, MHAA's services to villages in Kyauktaw township were suspended. With continuous discussions and advocacy with township medical officer (TMO), MHAA has now been granted access to 10 out of 15 targeted villages in Kyauktaw, along with nutrition interventions to start in March 2019.

UNICEF's support to Kachin, Shan and Rakhine continued to improve access to quality and equitable services to communities affected by conflict and deliver emergency humanitarian services whilst strengthening health systems especially capacity improvement of health, non-governmental organizations and ethnic health organization staff. In February, a total of 2,344 affected people—including 1,247 children of under-five years—received basic health care services through either outreach or fixed clinic activities.

WASH

In Kachin State, UNICEF continues to support 7,400 IDPs in camps and a further 41 camps in conflict-affected camps and villages. UNICEF is finalizing a partner agreement with our local partner Kachin Baptist Convention to provide support to an additional 19,400 IDPs in eight conflict-affected townships and is finalizing agreements with additional partners to provide support to cover WASH gaps for 4,017 children in temporary learning centres across the 17 IDP camps. Through the Karuna Mission Social Solidarity, UNICEF is reaching more than 600 children in early childhood development centres of non-government-controlled areas. In northern Shan State a new partnership has been finalized with the local NGO Metta Development Foundation to reach 14,782 people in a new of conflict-affected townships to cover gaps identified

by the WASH Cluster. UNICEF also provided sets of latrines pans and pipes, tarpaulin sheets and hygiene kits through our Lashio field office, the Department of Disaster Management, and a local civil society organization to support newly displaced families in Kyaukme and Namtu townships.

In Rakhine, UNICEF provided regular integrated WASH services for IDPs in three camps in Rakhine State with total population nearly 10,011 people. In addition, UNICEF and partners 5,325 Hygiene Kits for rural IDP camps. UNICEF is finalizing arrangements to support more than 32,000 additional people with hygiene supplies in Sittwe IDP camps through partners. In northern Rakhine State, a new partnership with Community Family Services International is being finalized which will allow UNICEF to support activities in 50 villages across Maungdaw and Buthidaung Townships reaching an estimated 32,000 people. UNICEF also restarted provision of soap to the World Food Programme—through the transfer of over 37,400 metric tons of soap—who will distribute soap in conjunction with emergency food distributions to an estimated 100,000 people per month.

WASH Cluster

The WASH cluster has continued to support displacement in northern Shan, Kachin, and Rakhine States through coordination activities as the national and sub-national levels. At the national level, the WASH Cluster mapped the Kachin resettlement and relocation plans—using information from both the government and local partners—and presented to donors and to the inter-cluster coordination group in February to get buy in and multi-sector coordinated engagement with government.

In Kachin and Shan States, discussions on the targeting of hygiene kits strategy continue with the local partner. At National level, coordination with the cash working group is in place to maximize efforts towards targeting of hygiene kit support. Partners continued to construct and repair WASH infrastructure including through cash distribution in Man Kan Yi Hku area. In response to the new displacements in Shan State, the WASH cluster conducted joint visits and responded to needs in collaboration with the DDM, local and international partners.

In Rakhine, the WASH Cluster hosted a strategy workshop with the government to update the three-year strategy including updating the transition strategy in view of the recent government-led camp closures. The WASH Cluster in Rakhine has also organized joint visits to support the smooth handover between to NGOs to ensure no gaps in service during this period.

Education

UNICEF continued to provide education support services to more than 15,000 displaced children in central Rakhine State and over 4,900 conflict-affected children in Kachin State through international and national NGO partners. UNICEF supported 246 new IDP students in northern Shan who were enrolled at government schools. UNICEF is engaged in partnership discussions with potential partners to expand education services to children in northern Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan in order to reach the 2019 HAC targets which are significantly larger than 2018. The absence of EiE partners in northern Rakhine, security concerns and access limitations remain the biggest challenges to supporting children affected by conflict in that area. In northern Shan the intermittent nature of displacements, with some being as short as two weeks before returning to their original villages, makes it difficult to clearly define those who need support.

School construction work in nine schools in Kyauktaw (5), Minbya (2), Maungdaw (1), Buthidaung (1) is ongoing. Work is starting in additional schools in Sittwe (3), Myebon (1), Mrauk (2), Kyaukpyu (2), Maungdaw (2), Buthidaung (1), Rathedaung (1). Local school construction contractors in Maungdaw, Buthidaung, and Kyauktaw are reporting labour shortage experienced possibly due to insecurity.

Education in Emergencies Sector

As the Education in Emergencies (EiE) sector co-lead, UNICEF engaged with the Ministry of Education (MoE), together with Save the Children, to co-facilitate the first quarterly EiE-MoE co-chaired meeting in 2019. The meeting offered an opportunity for partners to offer their support to the MoE in working with Government schools that enrol displaced children. This is particularly relevant in Kachin and northern Shan States where schools require assistance to strengthen their absorption capacity for children who have fled conflict. A one-day workshop with partners in Kachin State took

place on 28th February focusing on strengthening Quality and Sustainability of EiE Programming. The EiE sector continues to engage with interagency partners on how best to ensure a principled and human-rights based approach to EiE support, particularly in Rakhine State. The EiE sector is finalizing a guidance document for sector members that focuses on using EiE activities to promote social cohesion and working with the MoE to expand their role in provided education to IDPs.

Child Protection

Until the end of February 2019, UNICEF assisted 36,990 children (17,429 boys and 19,561 girls) and 12,618 adults (5,607 male and 7,011 female) affected by emergencies through psychosocial support, case management, adolescent life skills programme and mine risk education (MRE). Approximately 26,334 children received psychosocial support, including access to child friendly spaces; 298 children, who are survivors of abuse or violence received case management services in humanitarian setting; 1,724 adolescent girls and boys were reached with life skills programming that built key protective skills and resilience.

In February, UNICEF provided training on the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism training, in collaboration with the NGO Equality Myanmar, for 18 staff from 11 community-based organizations based in Kachin state and MRM refresher training, in collaboration with World Vision, for 21 previously trained participants from 11 community-based organizations in Kachin state.

Mine Risk Education (MRE) sessions continued in contaminated areas including Shan and Kachin. During the first two months of 2019, 23 casualties (7 people killed including 1 child) have been reported from 19 incidents of landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

In Rakhine, one partnership has been extended to guarantee continued response in Northern Rakhine. In Central Rakhine, a newly formed partnership with Save the Children in January enabled UNICEF to reach more children with services, particularly with psychosocial support.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

UNICEF worked with the Communicating with Communities (CwC) group in Rakhine and identified key areas for strengthening CwC work. This will improve both accountability and engagement with affected populations. While the focus of Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) for UNICEF's new activities is on camp settings, meetings have been held with religious leaders from the Buddhist, Christian and Hindu faiths to explore how they can support reaching non-camp communities, especially in areas where UNICEF does not have consistent access. Meetings with Muslim leaders in northern Rakhine State are planned for the month of March. The far-reaching religious networks can be accessed by UNICEF to provide life-saving information to affected communities, find out about needs, and create linkages with services. Funding is currently being sought to set up two-way communication opportunities in camps across Rakhine State and monitor needs, grievances and accountabilities in a more systematic and coordinated way.

Media and External Communication

Building on the momentum created from the UNICEF Executive Director's visit to Myanmar in January, UNICEF continues to feature the issues faced by children affected by conflict and UNICEF's response activities in its website and social media channels through [publications](#), and [posts](#). In February, the Myanmar office also leveraged the Executive Director's visit to Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh to highlight the need for supporting all Rohingya children, whether they are living in Rakhine State or in Cox's Bazaar. In addition, using its website and social media channels, the UNICEF/Myanmar office continues to appeal for funding of 2019 Myanmar Humanitarian Action for Children appeal.

Funding

UNICEF would like to thank the Government of Japan for their generous contribution in February to humanitarian response activities in Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan States. The full press release can be found [here](#).

Funding Requirements (as defined in Humanitarian Appeal of 28/01/2019 for a period of 12 months)					
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds available*		Funding gap	
		Funds Received Current Year	Carry-Over	\$	%
Nutrition	\$4,083,586	\$482,303	\$ 310,191	\$3,296,095	81%
Health	\$4,260,000	\$478,994	\$ 767,857	\$2,930,227	69%
WASH	\$28,117,920	\$2,207,031	\$ 1,693,892	\$24,276,834	86%
Child Protection	\$9,743,920	\$1,911,579	\$ 763,379	\$7,085,378	73%
Education	\$10,464,523	\$2,219,362	\$ 1,389,706	\$6,857,122	66%
C4D	\$244,830	\$0	\$0	\$ 2,444,830	100%
Total	\$ 59,114,779	\$7,299,270	\$4,925,024	\$ 46,890,486	79%

* Funds available includes carry-forward from the previous year, however as internal reconciliation processes are ongoing, figures are provisional and subject to change.

Next SitRep: 15 April 2019

UNICEF Myanmar: <https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/>

UNICEF Myanmar Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/>

UNICEF Myanmar Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/2019_HAC_Myanmar.pdf

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SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS

2019 SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS	UNICEF and IPs			Cluster Response		
	2019 Target	Total Results*	Change Since Last Report	2019 Target	Total Results	Change Since Last Report
# of children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted to therapeutic care	10,401	583	▲ (+302)	5,202	583	▲ (+302)
# of children aged 6 to 59 months that receive micronutrient supplementation	73,052	424	▲ (+115)			
# of PLW that receive micronutrient supplementation	18,940	139	▲ (+100)			
# of PLW that access IYCF counselling	25,482	2,190	▲ (+1325)	39,179	2,395	▲ (+1,289)
HEALTH						
# children 9 to 18 months vaccinated against measles	15,000	966	▲ (+812)			
# children/women with access to health care services	105,000	2,865	▲ (+2344)			
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROMOTION						
# of targeted people benefitting from safe drinking water	573,384	21,335	0	487,648	available quarterly	
# of targeted people benefitting from a functional excreta disposal system	573,384	22,710	0	487,648		
# of people accessing hand-washing facilities	573,384	15,151	▲(+140)	487,648		
Targeted population provided with hygiene kits or items	573,384	41,943	0	487,648		
Targeted population accessing appropriate hygiene education in schools, TLS/CFS	573,384	15,851	▲ (+435)	487,648		
CHILD PROTECTION						
# people (children/adults) with access to psychosocial support	287,160	28,077	▲ (+13351)	267,596	available quarterly	
# children accessing appropriate case management services	n/a	254	▼ (-4)			
# people with access to landlines/UXO information	111,500	12,069	▲ (+7198)	164,150		
# adolescents provided with life skills	26,500	1,724	▲ (+814)	26500		
EDUCATION						
# of targeted children (3-10 years) accessing pre- primary or primary learning opportunities.	105,409	18,191	▲ (+246)	95,062	available quarterly	
# of targeted adolescents (11-17 years) old accessing post primary education opportunities	89,793	2,332	0	37,837		
# of teachers/facilitators who have completed trainings	4,400	0	0	2,699		
COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT						
# of IDPs engaged through information dissemination, social mobilisation, and accountability mechanisms	128,141	0	0			

*Total Results for UNICEF clusters and sectors are cumulative.