

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Inter-communal tensions and movement restrictions in Rakhine leave many with minimal access to livelihoods and basic services.
- New complaints mechanism for IDPs in camps in Rakhine
- Recent study shows major gaps in post-primary education for IDPs in Rakhine.
- Many civilians in need of humanitarian assistance following armed clashes in Kachin in November.
- Humanitarian appeals for Myanmar were 72% funded at the end of 2013.

## KEY FIGURES

# of IDPs in Kachin, Rakhine, Meikhtila and the Southeast	646,800
# of Stateless people	808,000

Source: UNHCR, OCHA, TBC, CCCM

## FUNDING

### Rakhine Response Plan

**\$109.3 million**  
requested (US\$)

**81.4%** funded

### Kachin Response Plan

**\$50.9 million**  
requested (US\$)

**52.7%** funded



Myitkyina, Kachin, April 2013. Credit: DRC/K. Roelle

## In this issue

- Inter-communal tensions in Rakhine P.1
- Feedback mechanisms in IDP camps P.2
- Education gaps for youth P.3
- Newly displaced people in Kachin P.4
- Myanmar humanitarian funding | 2013 P.6

## Inter-communal tensions continue in Rakhine

Inter-communal tensions and movement restrictions continued to isolate many communities in Rakhine State, leaving them with minimal access to livelihoods and basic services. The situation was particularly bad in Myebon Township, southeast of the State capital Sittwe, in December. Following months of rising tensions, residents of the Taung Paw Muslim IDP camp formally requested to be relocated.

In an effort to better understand the underlying dynamics fuelling tensions between communities, representatives from international organisations met with the Myebon Township Administrator and conducted focus group discussions with both ethnic Rakhine and Muslim IDPs. It was clear from these discussions that divisions following the inter-communal violence in 2012 still run deep and that these tensions are fuelling the community resistance to the work of the UN and International NGOs (INGOs). In some parts of Rakhine there is evidence of an increase in small-scale trading between Muslim IDPs and Rakhine communities, but in general there remains a serious problem of lack of access of Muslim IDPs to livelihood opportunities and essential services.

International organisations in Rakhine State are increasing their outreach work with local community leaders and civil society groups to promote dialogue and improve the understanding of the humanitarian response and development projects across the State. This is part of a broader effort to address the complex underlying root causes of poverty, inequality, and poor access to basic services and jobs. Many people will continue to depend heavily on assistance from the Government and the international community unless these issues are more systematically addressed.



A child in Set Yoe Kva IDP camp, Rakhine. Credit: OCHA

### An increasingly difficult operating environment for humanitarian staff

In the second half of 2013, community resistance against international organisations working in Rakhine State increased. The rising anti-aid worker sentiment has created a difficult operating environment and in some areas it is affecting the ability of international actors to provide assistance to Rakhine and Muslim IDPs and vulnerable communities. In some cases, humanitarian assistance has had to be temporarily suspended.

*Rising anti-aid worker sentiment is making Rakhine State an increasingly difficult operating environment for humanitarian staff*

According to recent monitoring, there has been a rise in incidents affecting humanitarian operations across Rakhine State, with local community resistance proving the biggest barrier to effective programme implementation. The situation is particularly difficult in Sittwe, Kyauktaw and Myebon, with incidents also occurring in Minbya, Mrauk-U and Maungdaw. Incidents include harassment and intimidation of aid workers, and blocking of access to camps by members of the community or security officials.

Local Rakhine communities have explained that the negative view of the role and work of the UN and INGOs is primarily based on a perception that aid is unevenly distributed, with greater assistance being provided to Muslim IDPs and communities. Meanwhile, humanitarian staff have continued to explain to local communities that they are providing assistance to the most vulnerable from all communities, purely based on evaluated needs, in accordance with humanitarian principles.

Senior officials from the Union Government have on numerous occasions explained to local communities that humanitarian organizations in Rakhine State are there at the invitation of the Government and that harassment will not be tolerated. However, the growing number of incidents directly or indirectly targeting aid workers indicates that more action is needed by all parties to address the issue and build trust. More systematic dialogue between the Government and the affected communities is also needed, as well as full application of the rule of law to address instances of hate speech, intimidation and violence.

## Improving feedback mechanisms in IDP camps

A mechanism to handle complaints from IDPs is being set up for camps in Sittwe that are covered by the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster. The 'Consolidated Complaint Response Mechanism (CCRM)' will enable approximately 100,000 people in camps in rural Sittwe to lodge complaints and concerns with aid agencies, and for the issues raised to be recorded, tracked and responded to.



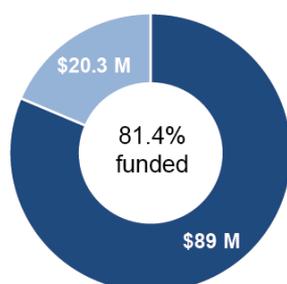
The new mechanism was reviewed and approved by the CCCM Cluster and Protection Working Group in Sittwe in December 2013, with a planned roll out in the coming weeks. Camp residents will be able to share their concerns in a number of ways, including by approaching CCCM staff directly in camps; by visiting the camp management office during set hours weekly; via a locked complaint box in camps; and by phoning UNHCR's hotline, which is open to take calls 24 hours a day.

The system to track and record complaints aims to ensure issues are appropriately responded to and provides a means for people in camps to more systematically raise their concerns. The service dovetails with the 'Protection Referral Pathways', an inter-agency referrals process which handles sensitive information, including cases of gender-based violence. Where appropriate, the feedback mechanism provides full confidentiality and anonymity, and cases involving protection issues will be referred to trained protection focal points.

The implementation of the CCRM, reflects humanitarian partners' commitment to improving accountability to beneficiaries. Organizations involved will strive towards making the mechanism accessible, equitable, legitimate and transparent. At a time when the situation is growing more protracted and increasingly difficult for many of those housed in camps, due to continued restrictions on movements, lack of livelihood opportunities and no clear plan for their future. Providing a platform for feedback could help provide 'early warning' on concerns and emerging tensions by giving a means for those affected to voice the concerns.

**\$109.3M**

requested for Rakhine Response Plan  
(Jul12-Dec 13)



## Major gaps in education for the youth

Education, or lack of it, can be an underlying source of conflict, but it can also play an important role in the process of reconciliation. Education in emergencies can help re-create a sense of normalcy and offer a protective environment in the midst of crisis. Programmes should be designed to follow a 'Do No Harm' approach and wherever possible they should lay the foundations for the longer-term process of building peace.

In November, Save the Children published a report outlining recommendations for the sector based on the education needs and perceptions of Rakhine and Muslim IDPs and host communities in Sittwe and Pauk Taw. Key findings confirmed the high value placed on education by both communities and the wish by Muslim IDPs to see education services expanded, particularly for vulnerable post-primary and youth age group for whom there is currently huge under-provision (only 7 per cent coverage).



Thea Chaung camp, Rakhine, Nov 2012. Credit: OCHA

*There is a major need for education and training opportunities for the post-primary and youth age group in Muslim IDP camps – only 7 per cent coverage.*

In the absence of greater Government education provision, the report recommends that the international community continue its support for emergency primary education in Muslim IDP camps but limit it in terms of content (focusing only on Myanmar language and mathematics). The report concludes that it is neither feasible nor timely to support the emergence of a parallel formal (i.e. full curriculum) educational system. Instead international organizations will advocate for and support the Government in taking the lead in the provision of education for Muslim IDPs.

The report also recommends that international organizations focus their limited resources and expertise on the 'softer' aspects which have the potential to add most value to the process of laying the foundations for building peace, or at least for peaceful co-existence. This includes teacher (re)training in both communities, literacy programmes, piloting early childhood care and development (ECCD) services, youth education, incorporating life-skills and media literacy, and supporting education-linked forums which encourage community engagement.

Finally, the report recommends that greater education support be provided to affected and isolated Rakhine communities in response to their needs and to help reduce community resistance to humanitarian assistance being provided to other communities. It also recommends more attention to meeting the needs of host communities to mitigate the tensions that inequitable education support could fuel.

Based on these recommendations and sector consultations, education partners will aim to shift from the provision of purely needs-based emergency educational programmes in 2014, to education interventions that support the longer-term process of development and peace-building. More funding and capacity will be required to ensure children continue to access primary emergency education and to initiate activities for the vulnerable post-primary age group, as well as to expand activities to Rakhine and isolated communities.

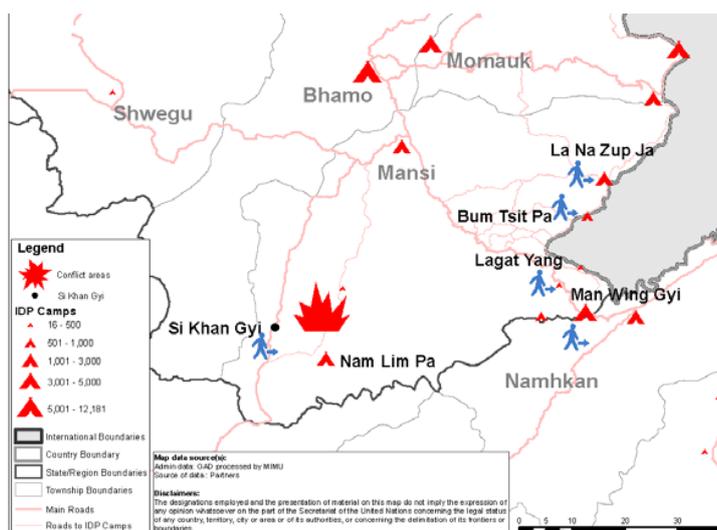
## Clashes in Kachin put civilians at risk

*Fighting raised renewed concerns about protection of civilians caught in the conflict*

Fighting that broke out in November between the Myanmar Army and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) near Nam Lim Pa, in the southern part of Mansi Township, Kachin State, continues to have humanitarian consequences. At least 4,000 people, including residents, IDPs and students from a boarding school were displaced due to the clashes. 2,336 of those displaced were children (62 per cent). They fled to locations in Man Win Gyi and Lagat Yang (Northern Shan State), as well as to existing and new camps in La Na Zup Ja and Bum Tsit Pa (on the border between Kachin State and China) – in addition to those already hosted in Maing Khaung and in Bhamo.

The fighting raised renewed concerns about the protection of civilians caught in the conflict or whose security has been threatened otherwise. Child protection issues are of increasing concern with children exposed to violence needing support and protection.

Some IDPs had to move on foot for up to three days to reach safe locations. This was particularly hard on children, the elderly and other vulnerable groups. This also initially led to family separation and cases of missing individuals. A rapid assessment of protection needs was conducted, and registration was done by local NGO Wing Pawng Ningtho (WPN), together with Save the Children (SCI) and UNICEF to support separated and unaccompanied children in Man Win Gyi and Lagat Yang, northern Shan State, and Bhamo in Kachin State. Children who arrived at IDP camps with other families, have been accommodated by those families in informal care arrangements. Initial family tracing efforts are in place, with support currently from SCI, UNICEF and local NGOs.



There are also concerns for an estimated 323 primary and middle school students from a boarding school in Nam Lim Pa, who were relocated to La Na Zup Ja when clashes broke out in November. The situation of these children will be assessed and eventual needs addressed during UN-led cross-line missions in January.

*For those who fled their homes in winter, the need for warm clothes, blankets and adequate shelter is particularly important.*

### Mines pose an additional risk to civilians

Mine incidents continue to pose an additional risk to the health and safety of civilians in some areas of Kachin and northern Shan states. At least four explosions involving civilians and serious injury were reported from October to December 2013 in Mansi Township, according to UNHCR. There are also concerns following reports of unexploded ordinances (UXOs) in the Nam Lim Pa area.

Between 1999 and 2012, Myanmar had the third-highest number of casualties due to antipersonnel landmines globally, according to the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor report for 2013. Mine Risk Education (MRE) trainings for local NGOs and CBOs were conducted in early 2013 to provide community based MRE. However, this is a major need in many affected communities, in particular for children, to ensure the safety and security of civilians. The risk of mines, along with other concerns - including lack of livelihood opportunities and limited access to basic services - must be addressed before sustainable, dignified and voluntary returns of IDPs in Kachin can take place.

Other serious protection concerns arising from the ongoing conflict in Kachin include human trafficking, absence of psychosocial support, gender-based violence, lack of access to health care and forced recruitment. Children are particularly vulnerable to these protection concerns, and have serious needs, especially in education.

### Major humanitarian needs remain following November clashes

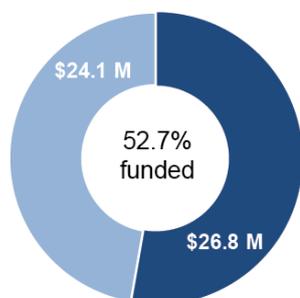
Humanitarian partners including the UN, international and national NGOs continue to respond to the needs of those affected, including food, water, latrines, hygiene kits, protection support, shelter and non food items (NFIs). Health stocks have been pre-positioned in case of a communicable disease outbreak. As those displaced were forced to flee during winter, the need for warm clothes, blankets and adequate shelter is of particular importance.

More than 60 per cent of the newly displaced are children. Assessments conducted shortly after displacement showed clear protection and educational needs. UNICEF has distributed or is planning to distribute essential learning packages, text books, school and recreational kits for a total of 740 primary school students.

A mission will take place in January to La Na Zup Ja and Bum Tsit Pa, in order to provide some additional support in terms of food, NFIs (including blankets and clothing), and fuel-efficient stoves. The over 1,300 newly-displaced in these two camps require temporary shelters, improvements in WASH and camp infrastructure and continuation of assistance across all other sectors.

## \$50.9M

requested for Kachin Response Plan  
(Mar-Dec 2013)



## 72% of funding needs met in 2013

In 2013, humanitarian partners in Myanmar appealed for \$160 million to help tens of thousands of people affected by the ongoing conflict in Kachin and northern Shan states and inter-communal violence in Rakhine State. Donors provided \$116 million (72 per cent) towards the appeals, ensuring life-saving food, shelter and WASH, and emergency health, education and protection services and) for boys, girls, women and men.

However, as the situation becomes more protracted in both Kachin and Rakhine, additional funds will be needed in 2014 to continue supporting families in IDP camps, as well as isolated and host communities. The search for durable solutions for displaced people and the strengthening of bridges between relief and longer-term development programmes will be of increasing importance in 2014.

For further information,  
please contact:

Eva Modvig  
Reports Officer  
Email: [modvig@un.org](mailto:modvig@un.org)  
Tel. (+95) 9 420 275 877

Pierre Peron  
Public Information Officer  
Email: [peronp@un.org](mailto:peronp@un.org)  
Tel. (+95) 9 250 198 997

OCHA humanitarian  
bulletins are available at  
[www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)

During 2013, the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund provided \$8 million to Myanmar (CERF). CERF awarded \$5 million through the Rapid Response Window to support the shelter, WASH, and health needs of IDPs in camps in Rakhine State at the beginning of the monsoon season. During September, CERF provided Myanmar with an additional \$3 million for Kachin to address urgent humanitarian needs in shelter/CCCM, WASH, health, livelihoods and protection. The Emergency Response Fund (ERF) awarded \$1.8 million to five projects during 2013 to local and international NGOs to support the IDPs in Kachin and Rakhine. The ERF-funded humanitarian projects supported critical WASH, education and livelihood activities in Rakhine, and education, NFI, and WASH activities in Kachin, assisting more than 117,000 people.

### Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and Emergency Response Fund (ERF) 2013

