



This report is produced by OCHA on behalf of the Humanitarian Coordinator. It covers the period from 16 August to 4 September.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- The Rakhine State Government estimates that over 70,000 IDPs are accommodated in 50 camps and temporary locations in Sittwe, Kyauktaw and Maungdaw Townships as of 31 August.
- Following an inter-agency assessment to villages in Kyauktaw affected by inter-communal violence in early August, assistance in the form of food, NFIs and health care has been provided to over 3,800 people.

II. Situation Overview

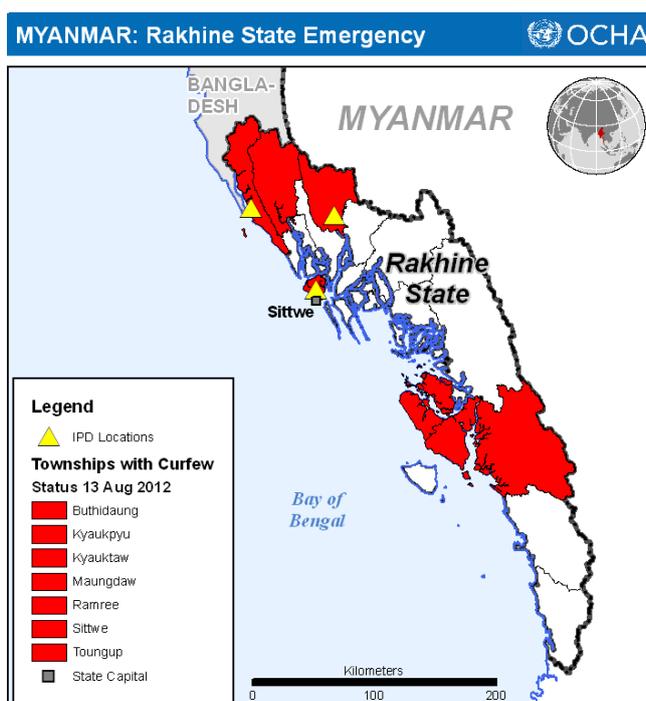
The Rakhine State Government estimates that over 70,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are accommodated in 50 camps and temporary locations in Sittwe, Kyauktaw and Maungdaw Townships as of 31 August. The number of IDP camps in Sittwe is continuously reducing, as the Government is consolidating the IDP locations into 15 main relocation camps in Sittwe.

Population movements continue to be reported. Over 4,000 people who had arrived at Thet Kel Pyin camp from Than Daw Li village in order to gain access to aid, are now reportedly gradually moving back to their village. Some 30 families have arrived in the village at the end of August.

Although the security situation has overall been calm over recent weeks, inter-communal tension remains very high. On 11 August, the Government reviewed the security situation across the state and changed the curfew hours from 6pm until 6am to 7pm until 5am in seven townships, including in Kyauktaw due to recent violence. The Government released nine out of 14 UN/INGO staff that had been held in detention following the recent unrest in Rakhine State.

On 17 August, the Government formed a 27-member investigation commission, which comprises former Government officials, religious leaders, representatives from political parties and entrepreneurs, to identify the causes of the recent violence as well as to give recommendations. The commission is also tasked to submit proposals for ending the conflict as well as to make suggestions for peaceful coexistence between communities. On 21 August, the Minister of Border Affairs held a meeting in Nay Pyi Taw with the members of the newly-established investigation commission during which the Minister gave an update on the situation in Rakhine and urged the commission to conduct assessments in the affected locations and make recommendations for a solution.

Safety and security of humanitarian workers continue to be concern, as several provocative statements had been made in the past against UN and NGOs, fuelling tensions and hampering assessments and delivery of relief support to the victims of the violence. The Government and the humanitarian community under the leadership of the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) have taken measures to address those issues including through joint visits to both affected communities, dialogue with community leaders and dissemination of information about the cooperation between the Government and humanitarian partners through various channels.



Humanitarian partners remain concerned that access is still limited to some affected areas and townships outside of Sittwe. Challenges also remain regarding the resumption of regular activities which were in place before June 2012 and which have been disrupted.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

The Government continues to provide assistance to IDPs, including food, shelter, NFIs and medical supplies, among others. At the request of the Government, humanitarian agencies support the response while operating in full respect of the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. Additional UN/NGO staff are being redeployed, and relief supplies are being dispatched.

Following the approval from the Government, a team composed of UNHCR, WFP, MSF, UNDSS and UNOCHA on 19 August conducted a rapid needs assessment in four locations in Kyauktaw Township where 592 houses were burnt and over 3,500 people were displaced due to the violence in early August. The assessment highlighted urgent needs in particular in terms of food, shelter, and health in all assessed locations. The Government indicated that 300 bags of rice and 233 tents were sent as part of the initial response. UNHCR provided non-food-items (NFIs), to the affected villages in Kyauktaw, while WFP distributed 50 metric tons (MT) of food commodities to cover 3,890 people.



Education

- Partners reported that although most of the schools have re-opened in Sittwe (91 out of 113), Kyauktaw (184 out of 199) and Rathedaung (159 out of 167) as of 31 August, the situation in two northern townships is of concern. In Maungdaw, 62 schools have reportedly opened with the remaining 97 still closed. In Buthidaung, only 54 out of 154 schools have reopened.
- In Maungdaw, Buthidaung and Rathedaung townships, the community teachers were already trained on child friendly school and language enrichment programs. Similar support is needed in Sittwe and Kyauktaw.



Food

- Although the security situation is improving, delivery of food assistance to all affected locations continues to be needed. In August, WFP and its partners (Save the Children and CDN) reached 67,000 affected people with over 1,300 MT of mixed food commodities.
- The resumption of regular food distribution in other areas across Rakhine State is crucial in order to address concerns over the impact of the nutritional status and food security of the most vulnerable population during the current lean season.

67,000
people received
food aid in Aug.



Health and Nutrition

- WHO reported that no major disease outbreak has so far been recorded. The Myanmar Medical Association, with support from UNFPA, has provided maternal and reproductive health care services in Rathedaung and Sittwe Townships. To date, over 2,000 people have been covered by their mobile and static clinics.
- Malteser International provided 375 children with psychosocial care in eight camps in and around Sittwe. MSF has assisted 305 out of 335 patients that require Anti Retro Viral treatment.
- UNICEF and WHO will support the Myanmar Health Assistants Association (MHAA) through deployment of additional health assistants to provide medical care including mental health and psychosocial support to the affected communities.
- ACF is currently conducting a nutrition assessment in Sittwe and Maungdaw with the results expected to be available in mid-Sept. Meanwhile, UNICEF will support the State Nutrition Team including through provision of refresher trainings to the Health Assistants.

Shelter and NFIs

- According to the Government, over 360 shelter units remain needed for the IDPs in Sittwe. UNHCR has started construction of 15 barrack-style shelters at Ma Gyi Mya in Sittwe. An additional 150 barrack shelters will be constructed at Ong Taw Gyi in Sittwe in coming weeks. WFP supported the construction of 60 shelters in Sittwe in relocation sites for IDPs.
- Although the Government and humanitarian partners distributed NFIs to the affected people, an additional approximately 3,000 NFIs will be required to cover the remaining needs. UNICEF is planning to provide 1,500 NFI kits to Sittwe. Save the Children has started distribution of 3,000 hygiene kits to those who have already moved to the temporary shelters. Malteser International completed distribution of 1,500 NFIs to IDP locations in and around Sittwe. Some 500 NFIs are currently being distributed in Maungdaw.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

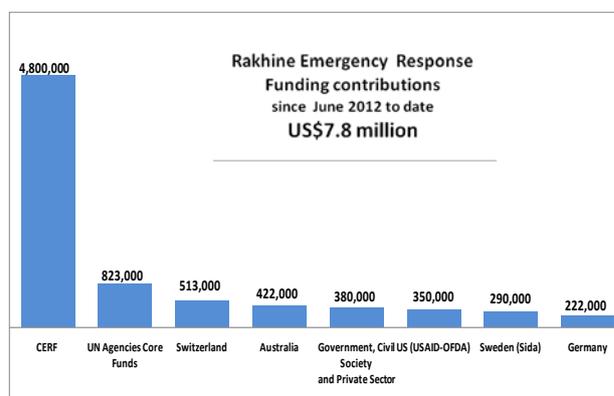
- In August, UNICEF through a local partner distributed soaps to 3,000 families and constructed 150 latrines in Sittwe.
- Malteser International completed construction of 125 latrines in Sittwe. MRCS distributed around 350,000 liters of purified water benefitting 3,000 families and provided hygiene promotion at camps together with the distribution of 4,000 soap bars.
- The Department of Rural Development provided 102 tube wells and 353 latrines in nine IDP camps in the affected areas. UNICEF in partnership with the Department of Rural Development, the Department of Health, MHAA and a local partner is planning to implement activities including provision of latrines, tube wells, water tanks and hygiene promotion.

IV. Coordination

- The Rakhine State Government organizes a weekly coordination meeting with humanitarian partners to foster coordination and a common understanding of the humanitarian situation.
- Coordination meetings, including sector meetings, continue to be held on a regular basis in Sittwe.
- OCHA has organized a number of inter-agency coordination meetings, in support of the Government efforts in Yangon and Sittwe. Different sectors in Yangon continue to carry out sectoral coordination, based on the arrangements at Sittwe level.

V. Funding

- As of 3 September, Government sources indicated that donations from the Government, private companies, religious groups and individuals amounted to approximately US\$380,000.
- As of 3 September, recorded funding contributions in support of the relief operations in Rakhine State amount to US\$7.8 million. This includes the CERF allocation of US\$ 4.8 million.



VI. Contact

Please contact: (Yangon) - Barbara Manzi, Head of Office, UN-OCHA, Email: manzi@un.org
To be added or deleted from this Sit Rep mailing list, please e-mail: ochamyanmar@un.org