

# Myanmar Humanitarian Fund



# OCHA



Students at one of the Temporary Learning Spaces funded by the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund in Baw Du Pha 2 Camp in Rural Sittwe, Rakhine State. Credit: OCHA Myanmar

December 2016

## Key Figures

Since 2007



### US\$24

million mobilized



### 77

partner projects funded



### 860,000

people reached

## Advantages of the Fund

- Supportive of national partners
- Flexible
- Efficient
- Low transaction costs
- Transparent
- Locally managed
- Multiplies the impact of individual donor contributions
- Consistent with the outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit
- Supports coordinated response

## WHAT IS THE MYANMAR HUMANITARIAN FUND?

The Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF) is an OCHA-managed country-based pooled fund led by the Humanitarian Coordinator to provide emergency response to urgent needs of people affected by natural disasters or conflict. Since 2017, the MHF has mobilized US\$24 million for 77 projects, providing assistance to more than 860,000 vulnerable people since 2007, including a last allocation to cover food assistance gaps in no-Government controlled areas in Kachin State. The Fund, which is continuing to grow in size, received US\$8.4 million in 2016 from five donors: Australia, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The MHF provides a vital funding source for partners and efforts are being made to increase the number of donors and the overall size of the Fund.

## WHAT DOES THE FUND DO?

When a crisis hits, OCHA supports the Humanitarian Coordinator to rapidly distribute funds. MHF projects can respond to new emergencies or fill gaps in humanitarian response. The Fund aims to strategically allocate the limited available resources to reach a wider number of beneficiaries, develop the capacity of local organizations and enhance the resilience of targeted communities. All humanitarian sectors are eligible. Projects must be aligned with sector priorities outlined in the Humanitarian Response Plan. The Fund complements allocations at the global level through the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). The Fund prioritizes support to national NGOs including a Rapid Response Mechanism to ensure that stocks are immediately available when they are needed for emergency action.

## WHY DOES THE FUND MAKE GOOD SENSE FOR DONORS AND AFFECTED PEOPLE?

The MHF provides an efficient and direct way for donors to strengthen partnerships with national and international NGOs, community and faith-based organizations, and UN agencies. By pooling funds at the country level, it is possible to coordinate modest funding allocations, multiplying their impact on the priority sectors identified under the Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan. The allocation process for MHF funds is streamlined and flexible, allowing donor funds to be rapidly mobilized to assist affected people. With reduced administration, the MHF enjoys low transaction costs (below 10 per cent) meaning donor funds reach more people, more efficiently. By supporting the MHF, donors are guaranteed strong accountability for and monitoring of their investment. With several allocations per year, MHF donors receive high visibility for their contribution at the national level with support from OCHA's communications team and recipient partners.

## MEETING COMMITMENTS FROM THE WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

Supporting the MHF is a practical way for donors to realize the commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit. In particular, giving to the MHF allows donors to deliver on their pledge in Istanbul to localize humanitarian response and funding. The MHF targets 50 per cent of its funds for allocation to local NGOs. This exceeds the 25 per cent targets set as part of ‘The Grand Bargain’ in Istanbul. The argument for supporting local humanitarian action in Myanmar is a strong one. In Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States, local organizations are already central to providing vital humanitarian relief to those in need. When a natural disaster strikes or conflict breaks out in Myanmar, it is always affected people, local authorities and NGOs who are the first to respond. Providing donor funds to eligible local partners through the MHF is a practical way for the international community to enhance their invaluable role.

### Leaving no one behind

- Closes funding gaps for needs in fast-onset emergencies and those outlined in the Humanitarian Response Plan
- Is impartial and allocates funds to meet the needs of people affected by conflict or disaster



### Investing smarter

- Pools un-earmarked funds multiplying the impact of donor contributions
- Mobilizes humanitarian response quickly and efficiently on behalf of people in need

### Localized response

- Localizes decision-making on funding allocations
- Prioritizes national NGOs to receive support (50% funding target)

## WHAT KIND OF PROJECTS DOES THE MHF SUPPORT?

MHF projects respond to humanitarian needs across all humanitarian sectors: Education, Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI), Food Security, Health, Nutrition, Protection and WASH. These projects have increased access to safe and clean water, initiated emergency sanitation in IDP camps, provided emergency health response and basic health assistance, funded distribution of medicine, ensured the continuation of emergency educational programmes, supported anti-trafficking activities, provided mine risk education, delivered food supplies, increased food production and improved livelihood opportunities. The MHF recognizes the centrality of protection and uses the IASC Gender Marker to select projects for funding. The Fund also supports cash-based programming as a preferred method of distributing assistance to people in need.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE MHF FUNDING?

All UN agencies as well as local and international NGOs are eligible to receive MHF funding after registration and approval. To be eligible, NGOs must additionally fulfill due diligence requirements, demonstrate operational capacity, and have experience managing donor-funded projects of similar size. All MHF projects must comply with reporting, monitoring, evaluation and audit requirements.

## HOW ARE FUNDS DISTRIBUTED?

For urgent emergency response projects, the MHF can open a Reserve Allocation. For all other projects, the MHF launches Standard Allocations during the year depending on availability of funds. The minimum size of projects under the MHF is US\$100,000. MHF funds must primarily be used for delivery of humanitarian assistance. Projects funded by the MHF have a maximum duration up to nine months, with the possibility of a no-cost extension of up to three months.

## MORE INFORMATION

For more information about supporting the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund please contact the OCHA Humanitarian Financing Unit by email at [MHF-Myanmar@un.org](mailto:MHF-Myanmar@un.org) or visit: <http://www.unocha.org/myanmar/humanitarian-financing/Myanmar-humanitarian-fund-mhf>