

This report is produced by OCHA on behalf of the Humanitarian Coordinator in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA Myanmar Country Office. It covers the period from 28 to 15 June. The next report will be issued depending on availability of information.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Instability in Rakhine State that started since 28 May has resulted in displacement of over 36,000 people who are now located in 43 camps/locations, loss of lives and damages to houses and communal buildings. This is an initial estimate which will need to be revised as more information becomes available and assessments are carried out.
- The violence prompted the Government to impose curfew in six locations and declare the state of emergency on 10 June across the State.
- At the invitation of the Minister for Border Affairs, a UN delegation led by Special Advisor of the UN Secretary-General and the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Myanmar visited IDPs locations in Maungdaw.
- The Government called for humanitarian partners to support the Government's efforts to respond to the crisis. The UN and its humanitarian partners confirmed their readiness to provide humanitarian assistance to all the affected people across Rakhine.

II. Situation Overview

Instability in Rakhine started on 28 May when two subsequent incidents were recorded: the rape and murder of an ethnic Rakhine woman on 28 May in Ramree, south of the State capital Sittwe and the killing of 10 people by unidentified mob on 3 June in Taungupp. On 6 June the Government set up a commission of inquiry, led by Deputy Minister of Home Affairs and senior police and judicial and administrative officials from Rakhine State to investigate the incidents. However, further violence was reported during the weekend on 8-10 June in Sittwe, Maungdaw, Buthidaung, Thandwe, Kyaukphyu and Ramree townships.

The Government imposed curfews in all the affected locations and later on 10 June, His Excellency the President, in a televised announcement, declared the State of Emergency as unless the situation is put under control, it 'could deteriorate further and could be extended beyond Rakhine State' and it could 'damage stability, democratization process and national development of our country in transition period'. His Excellency further highlighted that the Government would act in accordance to the rule of law and appealed to all leaders to cooperate in the efforts to re-establish peace and stability. As a result of the violence, the UN and its partners have decided to temporarily relocate, on a voluntary basis, some of the international and national staff and their families. The relocation was successfully concluded on 12 June. Additional security forces were deployed to the area to control the situation. Sporadic incidents have been reported up to 14 June.

Across Rakhine State, as of 15 June, the Government estimates that the violence resulted in the displacement of 36,700 people (see map), loss of lives and livelihoods and widespread damages to property, including the burning of over 1,600 houses. Some 43 temporary relief camps/locations in six townships have been established. The Government indicated that this is an initial estimate which will need to be revised as more information becomes available. There are also reports indicating that a number of people in their homes in Maungdaw would be in need of food and other humanitarian assistance.

A United Nations team led by Mr. Vijay Nambiar, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General and Mr. Ashok Nigam, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (UN RC/HC), visited Maungdaw, in Rakhine

State on 13-14 June, at the invitation of the Minister for Border Affairs. The mission accompanied the Minister on his visit to some the camps of the internally displaced people (IDPs) in three monasteries and one police compound in Maungdaw and visited one of the villages that had been burnt and another village next to a village that had been partly burnt. The team of UN officials also had an opportunity to review the situation with the objective of being able to immediately respond to the request from the Government for urgent humanitarian assistance for the affected people.

The Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General expressed concern and sympathy to the victims of recent violence, called for calm and assured the support of the UN to all those affected. . He also added that the UN and its partners will do their utmost, in collaboration with the Government, to alleviate their suffering. The RC/HC highlighted the fact that the UN have been present in the area for many years and that the UN assistance is provided based on needs. The UN and its partners stand ready to support all those in need, irrespective of their ethnicity or religion, and in the full respect of the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality and neutrality.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

In response to a request by the Government to the United Nations to provide assistance to IDPs in Rakhine, the UN RC/HC has informed the Government of the readiness of the UN and partners to assist the Government of the Union of Myanmar in providing humanitarian support all the people affected, in line with procedures which require UN and partners' staff to assess needs and be present during the delivery of assistance, and requesting the Government for support to ensure safety and security of staff during operations. During the UN visit to the area, the Government reported that food, shelter and medical attention are critical life-saving needs which need urgent attention.

Since the beginning of the violence, the Government has been providing assistance to IDPs, including food, shelter, NFIs and medical supplies. The Myanmar Football Association presented a cheque to the Government for relief efforts in the State on 13 June. WFP distributed more than 400 bags of rice since 12 June. UNHCR provided some household family kits to IDPs in Buthidaung. Some 2,000 UNFPA dignity kits are being dispatched to the area. Myanmar Red Cross Society will dispatch some 40 volunteers at the request of the Government to assist with the humanitarian operation. Partners are compiling list of stocks that can be made available for the response, which will be carried out simultaneously to assessment of needs. A WFP team scheduled to travel to Sittwe on 15 June postponed the mission for one day as adverse weather conditions resulted in flight cancellation. Additional inter-agency rapid response teams are on stand-by awaiting the green light of the Government to proceed to the affected areas.

IV. Coordination

On 15 June, the Relief and Resettlement Department called UN, NGOs and donors for a briefing on the situation in Rakhine in Yangon.

OCHA and UNHCR are coordinating UN and NGOs efforts.

VI. Contact

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Reported IDP figures, Status: 15 June 2012, Source: RRD Rakhine State  OCHA

