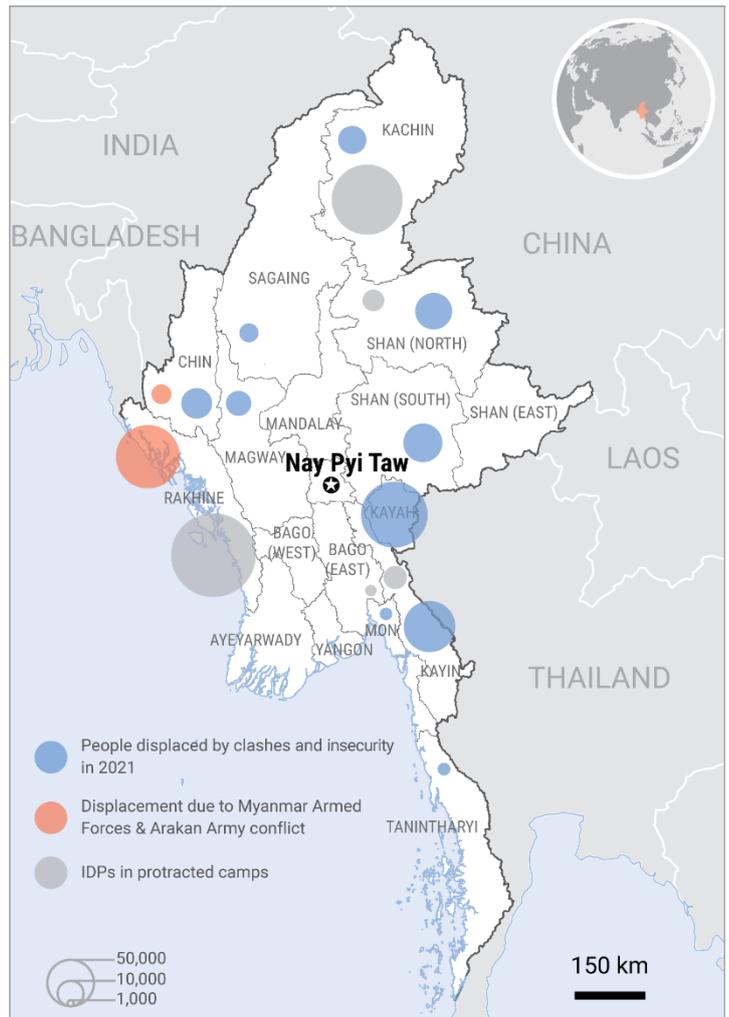


This regular update, covering humanitarian developments from 1 to 30 October, is produced by OCHA Myanmar in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group and UNHCR. The next update will be issued at the end of November 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Fighting in the northwest between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and the Chinland Defence Force in Chin State and local People's Defence Forces (PDFs) in Magway and Sagaing regions has recently escalated, displacing approximately 37,000 people since May and resulting in property damage, likely rights violations and casualties.
- The conflict across the northern and southern parts of Shan State continued unabated with clashes between the MAF and ethnic armed organisations (EAOs), as well as between these EAOs. Several townships saw new displacement and returns, as well as civilian casualties in October. About 18,300 IDPs are currently hosted in 9 townships.
- The security situation in Myanmar's southeast remains fragile, with an increase of 23,500 displaced people during October.
- As of 1 November, an estimated 223,300 people remained internally displaced across Myanmar due to clashes and insecurity since 1 February.
- Access to vulnerable people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance and protection services remains severely restricted due to escalating armed clashes, overall insecurity, bureaucratic blockages and COVID-19 related restrictions.
- As of 1 November, about half of the US\$385.7 million requested under the [Humanitarian Response Plan](#) and under the [Interim Emergency Response Plan](#) has been received, according to OCHA's FTS.



KEY FIGURES*

223K

people currently displaced across Myanmar by clashes and insecurity since February 2021

165K

people currently displaced in south-eastern Myanmar by insecurity and clashes since February 2021

37K

people currently displaced in Chin State, Magway and Sagaing regions by clashes and insecurity since May 2021

18K

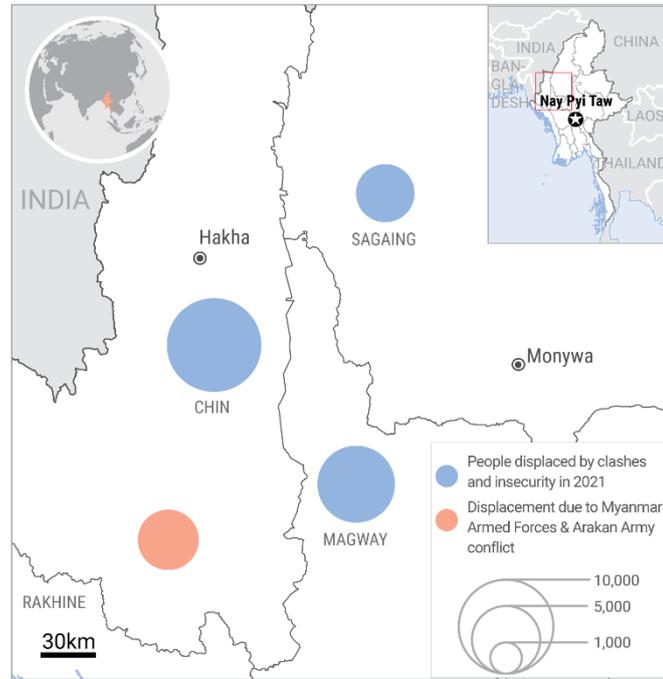
people currently displaced in southern and northern Shan by clashes and insecurity since early 2021

*Displacement figures fluctuate during any given month. These figures represent the number of people currently displaced. Cumulative numbers for returns and displacement are not always available.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

NEW DISPLACEMENT IN CHIN, POPULATION MOVEMENT IN SAGAING AND MAGWAY

The security situation in Chin State, as well as in neighbouring Magway and Sagaing regions, continues to deteriorate. Reinforcements of MAF troops and armed clashes between the MAF and local PDFs were reported in a number of townships, resulting in further civilian displacement and increased humanitarian needs. In Chin State, armed clashes were reported in Falam, Mindat and Thantlang townships. Falam saw the most intense fighting between 12 and 25



October. About 3,000 people from several villages in Falam Township sought refuge in the jungle or in safer locations away from the hostilities, while some 4,000 people had returned by mid-October. There are reports that more than 30 houses and 1 church in three villages – Rialti, Taal and Thlanrawn – were destroyed or burnt down, while more than 100 houses were looted, and a number of farm animals were killed in Ramthlo Village in Falam Township during the hostilities. More than 160 houses, two churches and an NGO office were burnt down in Thantlang Town on 29 October, by which time most residents had already fled in late September.

As of 25 October, about 18,340 people remain displaced in five townships in Chin State. This is in addition to some 7,600 people displaced in Paletwa Township since December 2019 by an earlier conflict between the MAF and the Arakan Army (AA). Most IDPs across Chin State, including in Kanpetlet, Mindat, and Thantlang townships, are facing food shortages due to limited agricultural activity and disrupted supply chains, while humanitarian access remains extremely limited.

In Sagaing Region, armed clashes were reported in various townships, particularly in Ayardaw, Kawlin, Kale, Khin-U, Mingin, Pale and Myaung between 12 and 24 October. Some 150 families from Na Nwin Kaing Village in Myaung Township were temporarily displaced into a nearby forest and villages between 23-24 October. An additional 4,000 people from five villages in Mingin Township were forced to temporarily flee their homes to the forest on 26 October. As of 25 October, about 7,000 people remain in the displacement sites in Kale, Kani, Khin-U and Mingin townships and are unable to return home due to insecurity.

While there have been no major clashes in October in Magway Region, landmines have been reported in several locations. The road between Pakokkhu to Mindat was temporarily closed when a bridge near Kyauktu Town was damaged by heavy rain on 18 October. As of 25 October, about 12,320 people remain displaced in Gangaw, Pauk and Saw townships. Humanitarian partners are working to scale up coordination to assess needs and provide increased support to displaced people in Chin, Sagaing and Magway. However, no travel authorisation has been granted to the UN or INGOs for Sagaing and Magway regions, nor in other townships in Chin, except to urban Mindat, since May.

FURTHER DISPLACEMENT AND CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN SHAN STATE

Armed conflict between the MAF and EAOs, as well as between EAOs continued unabated across northern and southern areas of Shan State in October, causing further civilian displacement and casualties in a number of townships. Since the beginning of October, there have been frequent clashes reported between the MAF and the allied forces of the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army and the Kachin Independence Army in Hseni, Lashio, Muse and Namhkan townships. Sporadic clashes were also reported between the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army and the Shan State Progress Party/Shan State Army in Hsipaw, Kunhing, Kyaukme and Mongkaing townships.

Population movement remains fluid in Shan State. However, the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) continued to increase in October because of armed clashes, hostilities and insecurity, while there were also IDP returns in several townships. In Mongkaing Township in southern Shan State, close to 860 people were newly displaced between 11 and 18 October, while more than 1,500 people who had been displaced since 16 September were able to return home. In northern Shan State, about 650 people from Monkoe Town have been newly displaced into a paddy field in Muse Township and some 120 people from a village in Hseni Township have been displaced into a primary school in Nam Tun Village in Lashio Township since mid-October. Displacement and returns were also documented

in Hsipaw, Kunhing and Kyaukme townships. Since early 2021, about 44,600 people have been displaced by conflict and insecurity across 17 townships across Shan State. Of those, about 18,300 people remain displaced in 9 townships – Hsipaw, Kyaukme, Lashio and Muse townships in the north and Kunhing, Kyethi, Laikha, Mongkaing and Mongpan townships in the south.

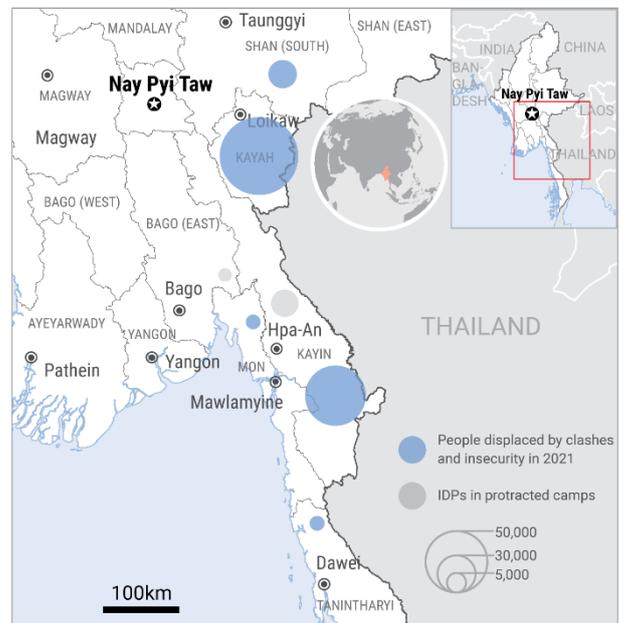
Meanwhile, there has also been an increase in civilian casualties in Shan State due to hostilities – nine people were killed and seven injured in October, according to local partners and sources. Six civilians from one family, including two children aged two and three, were killed in an explosion in Monkoe Town in Muse Township on 12 October, while an eight-year-old boy was killed, and an eight-month-old child and a woman sustained injuries from a mortar shell in Namhkan Township on 11 October. In Mongkaing Township, four civilians from one family sustained injuries due to artillery shelling on 4 October. In separate incidents in Muse and Namhkan townships, two civilians were killed in landmine explosions and one civilian sustained injuries from mortar shelling in early October. In a separate incident, according to various sources, one civilian was killed and five others, including two children aged under five, were injured by artillery fire in Moe Bye Town in Pekon Township, southern Shan State, on 24 October. Humanitarian responders are working to deliver critical assistance and protection services amid access challenges and a fragile security situation.

SURGE IN CIVILIAN DISPLACEMENT IN THE SOUTHEAST

The security situation in south-eastern Myanmar remains fragile, with an overall increase in the number of people displaced compared to previous months due to continued armed clashes reported between the MAF and EAOs and/or local PDFs. Throughout October, daily clashes have been reported in Demoso, Hpruso and Hpasawng townships in Kayah and Hpa-an, Hpapun, Kawkareik and Kyainseikiyi townships in Kayin states and Kyaukkyi Township in eastern Bago Region, while intermittent clashes continued in several townships in Mon and southern Shan states and Tanintharyi Region. A number of explosions and landmine incidents were also reported in multiple locations across the southeast.

Due to clashes, hostilities and insecurity, some 1,600 people fled their homes to 7 locations in Hpruso and Bawlake townships in Kayah State. More than 2,000 people from 7 villages were displaced to Kawkareik Town and other villages in Kawkareik Township of Kayin State and close to 2,100 people were displaced in Thayetchaung and Palaw townships in Tanintharyi Region. Furthermore, some 1,000 people were forced to flee their homes in Moe Bye Town of southern Shan State between 1 and 25 October. Verification of the exact number of displaced people and those returning to their homes remains challenging amid fluid population movements, a fragile security situation and heavily restricted humanitarian access.

Movement restrictions continue to be imposed in many locations, with residents required to hold permission letters from village or ward administrators to move around. There has also been a marked increase in the number of checkpoints and patrols, particularly in Hpa-An Town in Kayin State. As of 1 November, UNHCR estimates that 165,600 people remained internally displaced across south-eastern Myanmar; this includes 85,900 people in Kayah, 18,400 people in southern Shan State, 51,500 people in Kayin, 3,000 people in Mon states and 6,800 people in Tanintharyi Region.



VOLATILE SECURITY SITUATION AND CIVILIAN DISPLACEMENT IN KACHIN

The security situation in Kachin State remains volatile, with armed clashes between the MAF and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) reported in several townships, including in Hpakant, Mohnyin and Momauk in October. About 450 people from Hkun Tsai Yang Village were temporarily displaced to Lawa Village in Hpakant Township due to clashes in the area in the last week of September before returning to their places of origin by mid-October as the security situation improved. In a separate incident, two civilians, including one child, from Wara Zup Village in Hpakant Township were injured by artillery fire between the MAF and the KIA on 1 October. More than 15,500 people have been newly displaced across Kachin due to the resurgence of armed clashes since mid-March following a two-and-a-half-year lull in major conflict and an absence of new displacement. Kachin State, where about 97,000 IDPs are hosted in protracted camps established in 2011, had not seen any major armed clashes since mid-2018. Of the newly

displaced population, about 4,000 people remained displaced in Bhamo, Momauk, Myitkyina and Waingmaw townships as of 28 October.

YANGON SEES FRESH DISPLACEMENT

Humanitarian organisations have serious concerns about the situation facing an estimated 1,600 households (approx. 7,700 people), who have reportedly been evicted from a settlement along the Yangon-Pathein road in Hlaingtharya Township, Yangon Region since 28 October. Most people had been squatting in empty hostels previously occupied by factory workers in the industrial township and those evicted are now in need of cash and food support.

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

Despite the complex and volatile humanitarian situation in Myanmar – with escalating armed clashes particularly in Kachin, Chin and Kayah states as well as Sagaing and Magway regions – the humanitarian community continues to face challenges in accessing vulnerable people in need of critical humanitarian assistance and protection services.

Various challenges, including growing insecurity, increased presence of checkpoints and roadblocks, COVID-19 related restrictions and limited mobility of humanitarian responders are contributing to a constrained access situation while exacerbating people's vulnerability in conflict-affected areas. In addition, Travel Authorisation (TA) and visa delays or denials, persistent banking challenges and limited availability of supplies in markets due to price upticks and import issues are severely impacting the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian organisations stand ready to further scale up the response to people in need but require increased and sustained access to people in need and streamlined bureaucratic processes to do so. For now, services are being delivered through local partners wherever possible, but a wider response is needed.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

Protection

- Nationwide, child protection partners reached 18,930 people with support in October. Over 420 children and 640 adolescents who had been arrested and detained received assistance. Meanwhile partners have observed that public health and legal services are increasingly resuming. One of the women and girls centres in Kachin secured a new hotline number, increasing access to services for survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV).
- Almost 120 children, 50 of whom are from the Rohingya community, as well as 60 adolescents were assisted with legal aid services. In addition, about 1,090 people in Rakhine, Kachin, northern Shan and Kayah benefited from outreach activities by social workers, health workers and justice/law enforcement service providers. The 5th Lawyers Community of Practice Forum was held online in October and explored ways to protect fundamental rights under the State of Emergency, as well as strategies for enhancing referral linkages with other protection actors.
- An estimated 10,800 people in Loikaw Township in Kayah received Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE). Partners provided support to two adolescent survivors of explosive ordnance in southern and eastern Shan.
- Partners provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services to more than 7,000 people across the country, including in Rakhine, Chin, Kachin, Shan, Kayin. In addition, 550 people have accessed GBV awareness-raising and MHPSS sessions in central Rakhine. In Kachin, awareness messages on how to cope with stress were disseminated while providing COVID-19 prevention items, such as masks, hand sanitisers and thermometers to vulnerable people in 27 camps.
- The provision of life-saving GBV interventions continued and a further 570 people received response interventions relating to GBV risk mitigation and prevention. Partners have been gradually resuming prevention and community engagement activities while observing COVID-19 preventive measures. In Rakhine, partners were able to deliver GBV services in an additional six IDP sites that have recently been re-classified accessible. A virtual GBV orientation session was conducted for more than 130 GBV focal points at agencies operating in different townships in Rakhine. A new temporary safe house for GBV survivors became operational in early October in Taunggyi.
- GBV partners reached out to women and girls affected by flood, displacement, conflict and COVID-19. More than 200 clean delivery kits and 3,870 dignity kits were distributed to newly displaced people in Rakhine, Kachin, northern Shan, Kayin and Kayah. Delivery of dignity kits is ongoing in Mon, southern Shan and the areas bordering

Kayah. GBV partners are piloting production of reusable sanitary pads to respond to the menstrual hygiene management needs of women and girls in Sittwe Township in Rakhine and in Loikaw Township in Kayah.

Health

- In Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan, cluster partners scaled up their efforts to address the growing needs of vulnerable and displaced people. They distributed 10,740 comprehensive hygiene kits, constructed more than 1,260 new school toilets with handwashing facilities and household latrines, improved access to drinking water and rehabilitated the community drainage system. Furthermore, they reached more than 47,530 vulnerable people with messages on COVID-19 preventive measures and 240 children under 5 years with healthy food packages.
- In Chin, partners are working to ensure life-saving assistance and health care services reach vulnerable families amid a severely restricted access situation. They were able to improve WASH facilities and provide nutritious food assistance to children under 5 years as well as COVID-19 preventive items, including 640 sets of personal protective equipment (PPE) and masks to health facilities in the state. In Rakhine, mobile clinics have started re-operating in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, Pauktaw and Sittwe townships. In Kayin, 83,340 cloth masks, 3,630 face shields, 2,170 bottles of liquid soap, 180 thermometers and loudspeakers were provided to 180 villages. In addition, they provided 50 oxygen cylinder sets, 460 sets of PPE, 50 oximeters, 90 bottles of chlorine and 80 bottles of hand sanitiser to an additional 46 villages. Information, education and communication (IEC) materials about COVID-19 prevention were delivered to 210 villages. A rapid needs assessment, which was conducted in Myaing Gyi Ngu and Hlaingbwe townships, identified that food and improved access to water and sanitation facilities as well as hygiene items as the priority needs of IDPs in relocation sites.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- Partners are trying to reach vulnerable families across Rakhine with essential WASH support. In October, close to 50,000 people in 110 displacement sites have received improved access to clean water, sanitation facilities and hygiene items. In addition, the cluster conducted Global Handwashing Day events in camps and new displacement sites as well as supporting trainings on solar powered water systems for 60 participants from partner agencies.
- In Kachin, cluster partners continued to respond to the needs of newly displaced people through scaled-up support for water and sanitation facilities in remote areas and in new displacement sites in Tanai and Waingmaw townships serving 1,500 people.
- In Chin State and Magway and Sagaing regions, WASH partners continued to respond to the needs of displaced people and those affected by conflict despite challenges related to access, insecurity and limited availability of supplies due to price rises. About 22,510 vulnerable people have received hygiene kits, tarpaulins, waste bins and toilets for the elderly, as well as COVID-related WASH support including the installation of water supply, washing stations, waste bins, soap and IEC materials. Support like this will be continued for a further 35,000 people in November. Hygiene promotion sessions in conflict-affected townships has been suspended due to active armed conflict, COVID-19 restrictions and shortages of hygiene items in the local markets.
- About 1,390 people sheltering in new displacement sites in Kyaukme Township received hygiene items and had their access to water and sanitation enhanced. Partners have installed 30 handwashing stations and distributed 900 soaps, 400 hygiene kits, 5,040 water purification materials to 14 new displacement sites. They will continue to support conflict-affected communities in northern Shan with 20 semi-permanent latrines, mobile emergency latrines, 5 wells and 20 handwashing stations.

Education in Emergencies

- Most of the 12 million school-aged children in Myanmar have not attended school since March due to the COVID-19 pandemic which forced the closure of schools and education spaces across the country. Some schools are scheduled to open on 1 November.
- Partners in the Education Cluster are increasing the reach of open learning resources to compensate for lost face-to-face learning. UNICEF has supported 14 partners to reach 18,950 children and materials are positioned at township level to reach another 40,000.
- The Education Cluster is consulting with partners on the 2022 Humanitarian Program Cycle. The cluster is also enhancing its coordination capacity, adding two staff at the national level and identifying how to move forward with dedicated coordinators at sub-national level.

Shelter/Non-Food Items/Camp Coordination and Camp Management

- Despite the resumption of shelter rehabilitation in IDP camps in northern Shan, the rising cost and unavailability of materials is impacting the scope and scale of shelter construction, resulting in the reduction of the number of units completed. In Kachin, however, the construction of emergency shelters is ongoing to relocate newly displaced people in Bhamo and Waingmaw townships.
- Cluster partners distributed household items to more than 4,600 newly displaced people in Kachin and northern Shan. The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster disseminated the COVID-19 activities and service mapping dashboard for September, while the next round of data collection for October continues. As per the finding of the mapping dashboard, most of the displaced families remain in need of COVID-19 preventive items, including face masks, soap, face shields and hand sanitiser, as well as requesting for further information regarding vaccination and preventative measures.
- The CCCM Cluster partners continue to ensure operations are ongoing despite the cash liquidity crisis. Some of the camps in Kachin received funds to cover camp management costs until October, however the majority experienced a delay.

Nutrition

- In Rakhine, partners are continuing critical nutrition services for vulnerable children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) throughout the country. Close to 36,450 children aged 6-59 months and PLW were screened for malnutrition, while 1,390 children and 360 PLW with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) received appropriate treatment. Partners reached 510 children aged 6-59 months and 50 PLW through the blanket supplementary feeding program (BSFP). About 630 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were admitted to an out-patient therapeutic program. In parallel, 13,980 children and 4,550 PLW were reached with nutrition supplements to prevent micronutrient deficiency disorders. Partners provided Maternal, Infant and Young Child Feeding (MIYCF) counselling for 2,510 caregivers.
- In northern Rakhine, treatment for acute malnutrition was integrated to the existing mobile clinics in 20 villages/IDP sites. Partners provided 5 cartons of milk formula, 2 cartons of the recommended oral rehydration salts solution for severely malnourished children and 200 cartons of nutrition supplies to Sittwe General Hospital, as well as 700 packages of micronutrient powder to the Pauktaw Health Department. About 15 health and nutrition partners received nutrition guidelines and 780 sets of nutrition counselling charts to promote nutrition best practice.
- In northern Shan, partners worked to identify nutrition needs and gaps in villages and camps for displaced people. Social and behavior change communication (SBCC) materials aimed at improving maternal, infant and young child nutrition practices were distributed to the community.

Food Security

- In Rakhine and Kachin, partners completed vulnerability assessments to provide multi-purpose cash assistance to 100 people with disabilities in Maungdaw Township in November, as well as cash for food assistance to about 3,500 people in Bhamo and Myitkyina townships.
- In central Rakhine, WFP reached 279,300 displaced and other vulnerable people with three-month food rations for July, August and September. In Rakhine, partners provided conditional cash transfers and animal feed to increase livestock production. Close to 80 participants registered to take part in face mask production as a cash-for-work activity. About 22,500 of the masks they make will be distributed to vulnerable families in Maungdaw Township. In addition, trainings were conducted for more than 140 people in Maungdaw and Sittwe townships to build their entrepreneurship and business management skills. Cash-for-work activities in Sittwe and Pauktaw townships, including installation of pond fences, stairs and construction of roadside extensions have created livelihood opportunities for about 800 vulnerable families.
- In Kachin, WFP provided 45,000 displaced people with cash rations for three months from July to September. Nearly 230 farmers in Bhamo Township were provided with cash for agriculture, with each family receiving the first installment of 115,000 Myanmar kyats (US\$60). About 20 beneficiaries and 8 farmers in Momauk Township received trainings on small business management, poultry farming and post-harvest practices. Cash grants and

fertiliser was provided. Partners distributed tailoring tools to vocational training beneficiaries in Momauk and Shwegu townships.

- In Chin State and Sagaing Region, WFP continues to coordinate closely with relevant stakeholders to compile an updated beneficiary list for those who remain in Mindat Township, as well as 11,000 displaced people in Kani and Mingin townships. They completed food distributions for 9,300 vulnerable and displaced people in Chin State.
- In northern Shan, WFP completed cash distributions to 15,300 people in August and September. In addition, partners provided cash grants totaling 54,800,000 Myanmar kyats (\$29,410) to nearly 150 people to start businesses, distributed agricultural seeds to 170 beneficiaries, as well as conducted business management and life skill trainings for 580 people in four townships. A total of 490 beneficiaries in four townships, including seven landmine survivors, received cash support totaling 134,000,000 Myanmar kyats (\$72,000). Partners distributed hygiene kits to 300 people in Muse and Namkham townships.
- In the southeast, partners continue to scale up efforts to address food insecurity by providing life-saving assistance to vulnerable families. They have completed registration for 3,500 vulnerable people in Kayah to distribute cash and rice. The distribution will begin in early November. More than 3,610 displaced people in Bilin and Kyaikhto townships of Mon State received food assistance in September.
- In urban and peri-urban areas of Yangon, WFP reached 1 million vulnerable people in Dala, Dagon Seikkan and Hlaingtharya townships and planned to expand the distribution to North Okkalapa and Shwepyithar townships. In addition, partners provided food and/or cash assistance to 610 pregnant and lactating women as well as children under 5 years, 1,930 dismissed workers and 320 vulnerable families in Shwepyithar Township in September and October.

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