

*This report is produced by OCHA on behalf of the Humanitarian Coordinator. It covers the period from 6 to 19 July. The next report will be issued depending on availability of information.*

## I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- The Government indicates that over 70,000 people are currently displaced.
- An inter-agency multi-sectoral rapid needs assessment was conducted in 114 locations in four townships (102 in Sittwe, 4 in Rathedaung, 7 in Maungdaw, 1 in Pauktaw), covering 104,719 IDPs. Major needs are identified in food, shelter, NFI, WASH and health.

## II. Situation Overview

Although tensions continue to be high, the number of security incidents across Rakhine State is reportedly decreasing. Additional military and Myanmar Police Force personnel have been deployed in affected locations. The state of emergency and curfew from 6 pm to 6 am continue in six townships of the state. In the capital of the state, Sittwe, Government offices, banks, markets, several basic education schools and technical university reopened since early July.

Some organizations continue to issue statements against communities and against UN/NGOs, fueling tensions and hampering assessments and delivery of relief support to the victim of the violence in the State. In Maungdaw and Sittwe, T-shirts and stickers against UN/INGOs have appeared in several locations. The Government is taking steps to resolve the situation.



An IDP camp in Sittwe Township, Rakhine State.

On 11 July, UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres, visited Myanmar and met with the President and other senior Government officials. Mr. Guterres expressed the willingness of UNHCR and the humanitarian community in general to work with the Government to provide humanitarian assistance *'to the victims of the incident, namely to those that were displaced by the incident, of both communities, the Rakhine community and the Moslem community without any discrimination and in the spirit of attending to the needs of the people, whoever they are, and wherever they are'*. He stressed his hope that *'our efforts might also give a humble contribution to hopefully what will be a true reconciliation between communities'* and *'after these events, it will be slowly possible, to establish in (...) Rakhine State a situation where the rule of law will prevail in a human-rights minded way and the communities will be able to respect each other and look positively into the future'*.

On 8 July, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Thura Shwe Mann visited Rakhine to provide relief aid to IDPs in Maungdaw, Rathedaung and Sittwe townships. On 11 July, the Myanmar Human Rights Commission issued a statement, highlighting the need for strengthening of rule of law, effective legal action against the perpetrators of the violence and building mutual trust among communities to restore normalcy to the situation.

From 16 to 18 July, a high level Government delegation led by the Minister for Border Affairs with the participation of representatives from UN and NGOs visited Rakhine to assess the situation and discuss the way forward. The Minister indicated that a longer-term solution to the problem needs to be found, in respect of the rule of law. This includes a comprehensive town planning exercise that will take into consideration the situation of all those that have land property certificates, and that have been displaced, as well as the requirements for those who are in need of other forms of aid and support.

## III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Population movement continues to occur. As of 17 July, the Rakhine State Government estimated that the incidents resulted in the displacement of over 70,000 people who are accommodated in approximately 60

camps in two townships (Sittwe, Maungdaw). At the peak of the violence, it was estimated that over 100,000 people would have been affected by the violence.

The Government is setting up several IDPs camps to accommodate the displaced until a longer-term solution is found, highlighting the need for construction of additional shelters and roads to IDP camps and to Maungdaw. Available information indicates that local authorities are facilitating the relocation to Sittwe camps of additional 4,000 IDPs currently in Pauktaw.

The Government indicated that the township plan for Sittwe needs to be revisited to take into consideration the requirements to properly accommodate those living in the area, including their livelihood and housing requirement, in accordance with the rule of law. During a field visit to some sites in Sittwe, IDPs indicated their willingness to go back to their areas of origin once the situation is conducive to do so, but also to be relocated to newly established camps till this was possible, as long as livelihood opportunities are also provided.

The Government continues to provide assistance to IDPs, including food, shelter, NFIs and medical supplies. Humanitarian partners are doubling their efforts to provide much needed humanitarian assistance to all the victims of the violence, irrespective of their religion, political or ethnic affiliation and in line with the humanitarian principles of neutrality and impartiality.

Following an agreement with the Government, an inter-agency multi-sectoral rapid needs assessment was conducted in 114 locations in four townships (102 in Sittwe, 4 in Rathedaung, 7 in Maungdaw, 1 in Pauktaw), covering 104,720 IDPs. Discussions with authorities to access remaining IDPs locations, where some community leaders expressed reluctance for the international community to assess needs and provide assistance to IDPs, is ongoing.

The findings indicate that the majority of the IDPs are in Sittwe and Maungdaw. Major needs are identified in food, shelter, NFI, WASH and health. The majority of the people rely on food assistance from the Government, humanitarian partners and religious organizations. Living conditions, particularly in larger temporary camps/shelters and community buildings where the population density is high, are challenging. Assistance in the WASH sector including sanitation facilities and improved access to drinking water is also required. Obvious signs of malnutrition are found in some camps, along with other reported incidents of diarrhea, dysentery, respiratory and skin infections. Among individuals with special needs, the survey identified 17 unaccompanied minors, 713 female or child-headed households, 60 chronically ill and 85 persons with disabilities.

Whilst partners are doubling efforts and use all available resources to respond to the needs of the affected people, more support is required to continue carrying out basic interventions. A sectoral response plan is being developed to take into consideration the results of an inter-agency rapid assessment as well as the response priorities indicated by the Government and affected communities. Partners estimated that IDPs will require relief assistance for a period of one year even if the situation was to normalize in the coming months, as most of the IDPs lost their possessions, their sources of livelihood, the planting season and social services would take some time to become fully functional again.

## Education

- Some schools in affected townships reopened in early July, except for Maungdaw. Access to schools remains limited. It is reported that teachers have not returned to their jobs in some schools and camps due to increased tension between the two communities. Parents are also reluctant to send their children to schools for security reasons.
- Most of the assessed locations (80%) reported that they have access to a nearby school, while some camps (10%) have a temporary learning facility on site. Most camps reported insufficient school items.
- In existing schools and temporary learning facilities, the availability of drinking water and sanitary facilities is reported to be insufficient. Very few camps reported that they had child-friendly spaces.

## Food

- The majority of the locations reportedly rely heavily on food aid, with 97% of assessed households receiving support from Government, humanitarian partners and local well-wishers. This indicates that there is a clear need to continue delivery of food assistance given the low levels of domestic stocks remaining in camps.
- A number of households are reportedly reducing meal sizes as a result of sharing food rations with the host population, especially in Sittwe, where 83% of the assessed households possess less than one week's supply of food. As the security situation

**73,637 IDPs**  
received  
**681 MT**  
of food  
from 1 to 18 July.

improves, markets and shops will continue to re-open in the affected areas. Currently, 55% of the assessed locations have access to functioning markets.

- From 1 to 18 July, WFP assisted 73,637 people with 681 MT of mixed food commodities in Sittwe, Maungdaw and Rathedaung. WFP has some 2,000 MT of food stocks in its warehouses in Rakhine for further distribution.
- In view of concerns over high malnutrition rates among the displaced population, WFP continues to distribute blended food as a nutritional complement to pregnant and lactating women as well as children under five years of age.



## Health and Nutrition

- No major disease outbreak was found during the assessment, although some cases of diarrhea (25%), respiratory tract infection (24%), skin infections (9%), trauma (9%) and dysentery (8%) were recorded.
- The findings also indicate that over 60% of the assessed locations are covered by basic health care services in camps, with 40% of IDPs receiving medical services on a daily or twice a week basis. Nevertheless, 53% of the sites visited reported to have inadequate medical supplies. Additional resources, including medicines for TB, malaria and HIV and health professionals, are also required to sustain the level of services currently provided.
- Although the number of reported malaria cases was low at the time of the assessment, the risk of diseases outbreak is considered high as the rains have started, service provision needs further improvement and 98% of IDPs reported, at the time of the assessment, to have inadequate or insufficient mosquito nets. The latter concern is being addressed through distribution of non-food items.
- WHO continues its disease surveillance activities in the affected locations, in support to Government health authorities. Diarrhea/dysentery cases have been minimized through “hand washing and nail cutting campaign” in IDP camps.
- In order to support the existing health facilities, UNICEF distributed 90 Integrated Emergency Health Kits (IEHK), 5,000 packets of oral rehydration salt and 34 drums of bleaching powder in Sittwe and Maungdaw. MRCS, ICRC and Red Cross Volunteers provided basic health care to some 1,700 IDPs and conducted health education sessions for 2,400 people. Malteser provided the township medical authorities in Maungdaw with essential drugs to support health care services to IDPs. Since last week, MSF is supporting Government health authorities with medical consultation of IDPs and has provided basic drugs and medical equipment. ART patients support is ongoing, with some 166 patients in Buthidaung and 200 in Sittwe being resupplied with essential life-saving drugs and additional 57 with prophylaxis. It is estimate that, at present, 97 patients have interrupted treatment in these two locations.
- Rapid Needs Assessment results indicate that ‘obvious malnutrition’ was also reported in over 50 per cent of the sites. A more detailed nutrition assessment carried out by partners in Sittwe camps indicates high prevalence of acute malnutrition based on MUAC and/or oedema: Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM): 23.4 % ( 20.4 - 26.7 95% C.I.); Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM): 7.5% (5.8-9.7 95% CI). Partners indicate that the situation is of special concern which require emergency intervention in view of aggravating factors such as worsening of the nutritional situation and absence of treatment for acute malnutrition; general food ration is below the protein and fat requirements; high prevalence of respiratory or diarrheal diseases in screened children and the fact that the rainy season is well under way. Findings of the assessment have been shared with the health authorities.
- UNICEF provided the State Department of Health with 300 cartoons of “Ready-to-use Therapeutic Food (RUTF)” for 6 months to 5 years old children as supplementary feeding.



## Livelihood

- Findings of the inter-agency need assessment indicate that the conflict has caused substantial damage and loss to productive assets (e.g. farming tools, crop fields, livestock, fish and shrimp farms, orchards, as well as livelihoods-supportive infrastructure). Immediate support for replacing lost livelihood assets and restoring livelihoods of the displaced people are crucial.
- Findings of the assessment indicate that there is a need to immediately support families with livelihood interventions both in camps and – for those who returned - in their places of origin.



## Shelter and NFIs

- In Sittwe, the Government has so far identified 13 locations for construction of shelters to relocate IDPs who – since early June – have been accommodated in extremely overcrowded and unsafe conditions, with limited access to health, water sanitation and hygiene facilities.

- UNHCR has dispatched some 400 tents for relocation of IDPs in the affected locations and committed to the reconstruction of 222 shelters in Maungdaw for those whose houses have been burned during the violence. Similarly, CARE also indicated his willingness to provide additional 128 shelters in the northern part of Rakhine State.
- Assessment findings indicate that the majority of the displaced population is in dire need of NFI support. While close to 80,000 IDPs have no plastic sheets, about 70,000-86,000 IDPs have less than 25% of the NFIs (clothing, blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen utensils).
- In collaboration with the Relief and Resettlement Department, UNHCR distributed 4,500 NFIs to IDPs in Sittwe, Maungdaw and Buthedaung. An additional 6,000 NFIs will be distributed in coming days.
- As of 17 July, UNICEF distributed 1,152 family kits and 1,000 tarpaulin sheets in the affected locations. Some 300 family kits have been handed over to the State Government for distribution in inaccessible locations.
- Malteser distributed 10 NFI kits in Maungdaw. Some 1,550 NFI kits will be distributed in Sittwe in collaboration with the local authorities.



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- Assessment results indicate that while access to water for domestic and hygiene uses is sufficient, availability of safe drinking water is reportedly limited. The survey indicates that 31% of IDPs have access to sufficient quantities of safe drinking water. Due to lack of fire wood and knowledge, over 70 per cent of the assessed IDPs do not boil water before drinking. At least 63% of the IDPs do not have adequate water storage capacities, such as jerry cans or other types of suitable containers.
- Over 50 per cent of the assessed locations need additional latrines, with some camps having only one latrine per 100 people. Over 35 per cent of the assessed IDPs practices open defecation.
- Given the fact that the knowledge of hygiene practices is very limited in the areas prior to the displacement, the need for hygiene promotion activities and provision of hygiene kits (soap, sanitary napkins, etc) is critical.
- UNICEF, through a local partner, is constructing 1,152 units of temporary latrines in 45 camps in Sittwe. A total of 342 buckets and 2,494 soaps have been distributed in the same locations.
- MRCS has installed two water treatment units in Thechaung village in Sittwe to cover eight IDP camps.

## IV. Coordination

- In Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine State, the Government has designated focal Ministers for coordination with partners by sectors, as per the table below:

Sector	Government Lead Department	Partners Agencies*
Health, Nutrition & Water and Sanitation	Minister of Social Affairs	ACF, Malteser, SCF, UNICEF
Shelter	Minister of Forestry	DRC, SCF, Solidarites, UNHCR
NFI	RRD (TBC)	ACF, ABCD, DRC, MRCS, Malteser, SCF, Solidarites, UNHCR, UNICEF
Livelihoods, Agriculture & Early Recovery	Minister of Agriculture	CDN, DRC, Solidarites, SCF, UNDP
Food	Ministry of Planning	WFP

\*list to be integrated with additional agencies as more information becomes available

- OCHA has organized a number of inter-agency coordination meetings over the past weeks, in support of Government efforts in Yangon and Sittwe.
- Different sectors in Yangon continue to carry out sectoral coordination, based on the arrangements at the Sittwe level.

## V. Funding

- As of 16 July, the Government sources indicated that donations from the Government, private companies, different religious groups and individuals amounted to approximately US\$342,065.
- International donors contributed \$640,000 and announced that an additional \$600,000 will be mobilized to support the relief operations in Rakhine.

## VI. Contact

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