



Reporting Period: 1 to 31 December 2019

Myanmar

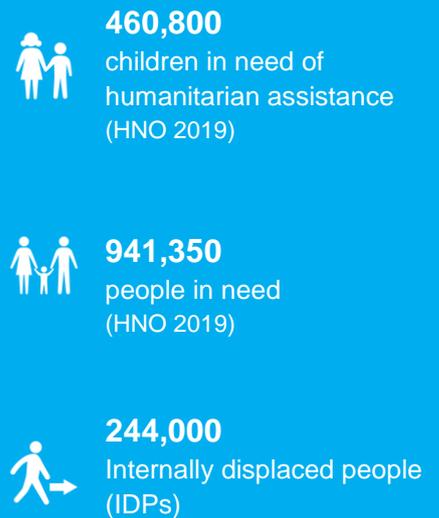
Humanitarian Situation Report No. 12



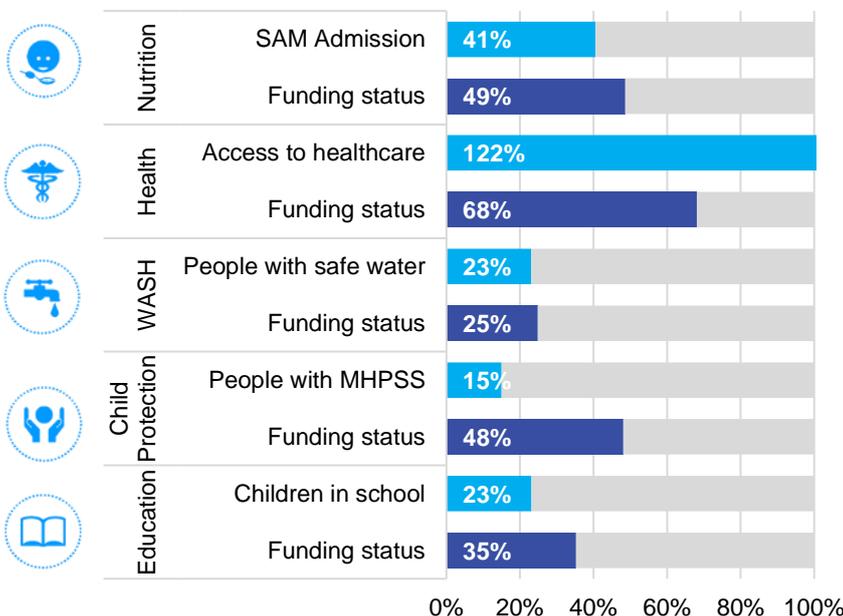
Highlights

- In 2019, UNICEF reached over 460,000 children and their families with critical supplies including support for 4,213 children with severe acute malnutrition, measles vaccination for 12,222 children between 9 and 18 months, safe water for over 132,300 people, learning opportunities to 45,167 children, and 107,215 people received information on staying safe from unexploded ordinance.
- Over 221 people, including 52 children, were killed or injured by landmines or explosive remnants of war in 2019. While this is down from 2018 when 276 people were killed or injured, there is a marked increase in Rakhine State, which now accounts for over one quarter of all incidents up from 0 in 2018.
- UNICEF's humanitarian activities continue in 2020 targeting Rakhine, Chin, Kachin, Shan and Kayin states where conflict-affected populations remain in need, including 361,000 children (source: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview).

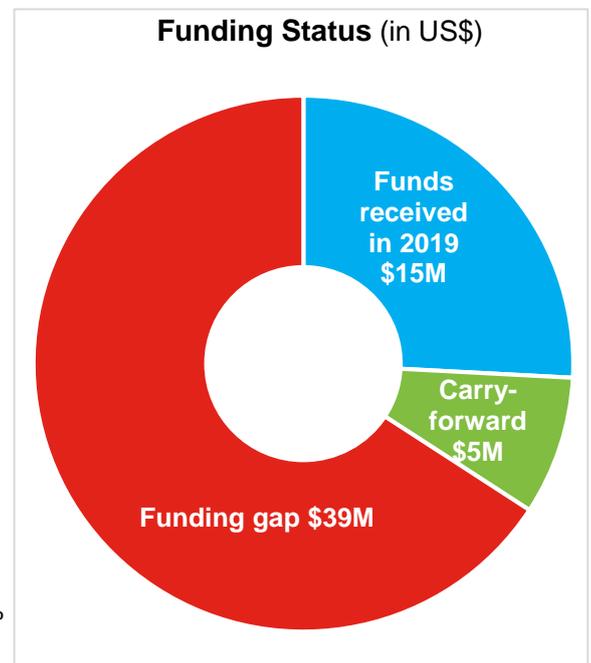
Situation in Numbers



UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



UNICEF Appeal 2019 US\$ 59 million



* Due to change in planning from the development of the 2019 HAC, MCO is not including C4D as a separate indicator/activity and this has been removed.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF Myanmar's 2019 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal requested US\$59M for life-saving and life-sustaining services for children and their caregivers. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private donors for the contributions received including the Governments of Japan and Denmark, the United States Agency for International Development, the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations Directorate, the Czech Committee for UNICEF, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund. To meet immediate response, UNICEF received an internal loan of US\$2.4M from the UNICEF Emergency Programme. The Myanmar Country Office ended the year with a funding gap of 66% for planned humanitarian response activities and no additional humanitarian funding was received after September. This lack of funding was one of the factors inhibiting UNICEF's work to meet the needs of children in crisis throughout the country.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Myanmar has several areas of active conflict with sporadic violence in additional areas. Fighting in Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan States primarily, with smaller clashes in Chin, Kayin and Mon States have resulted in nearly 275,000 IDPs in need of assistance in 2020. There is a trend of increasing displacement from a low of 218,000 in 2017 to 274,000 in 2019 with increases every year due to ongoing fighting involving the Myanmar military and 14 ethnic armed groups



(out of 22 known EAOs) across five states in Myanmar.

In 2019 Kachin State experienced relative calm compared to previous years, resulting from alternating unilateral ceasefires declared by the Myanmar military and the ethnic armed groups. And while this resulted in no significant displacement during the year, there was also no meaningful return of the 97,000 people displaced since 2011, of whom 70% are women and

children. IDPS continue to live in 139 camp and camp-like settings scattered across 13 townships, of which approximately 40 percent are in areas not under the control of the government. Though initial plans identified over 5,400 IDPs who wanted to return, fewer than 700 IDPs left the camps. Major inhibiting factors for return, relocation or resettlement include concerns over safety and security, lack of livelihoods, absence of basic social services including schools, and land mine contamination. In addition to displacements, Kachin experienced above average monsoon rains which displaced 22,805 people to 79 evacuation sites across six townships including 1,022 IDPs. It also resulted in the temporary closure of 40 schools. Overall access remained a challenge throughout the year despite the ceasefire; over 44,000 IDPs, the majority living in non-government-controlled areas, were not effectively reached by humanitarian agencies due to government bureaucratic impediments.

In northern Shan State, despite the unilateral ceasefire by the Myanmar military tension with ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) increased during the year and fighting either between different EAOs or between EAOs and the military was relatively constant throughout the year. EAOs caused significant infrastructure damage and disruption through attacks on bridges or near rail or air transport hubs. Fighting also reached urban areas of three townships this year, resulting in an increased number of civilian casualties. Though a series of peace talks were held between EAOs, no significant progress was reported. OCHA reports that over 20,000 people were displaced in 2019 due to fighting/conflict. This is mostly temporary with IDPs returning home after fighting subsides, however 9,000 IDPs remain in over 30 camps/camp-like settlements where they have been since 2011. Children make up at least 38 per cent of this population.

In late December 2018, new conflict emerged between the Myanmar Army and the Arakan Army (AA) in northern and central parts of Rakhine State, resulting in the displacement of approximately 50,000 people, the majority of whom are ethnic Rakhine. Conflicts occurred consistently since January 2019 and there was, in late 2019, a reported increase in the use of helicopter gunships and fighter jets. Landmines and IEDs are increasingly used as well—a threat that did not exist in Rakhine prior to August 2017—and which now accounts for nearly one quarter of all incidents in the country. Access restrictions imposed by the Government since January 2019 remain in place in eight townships except for urban/semi-urban areas. This has meant that an estimated 100,000 people in-need who were previously directly or indirectly benefiting from humanitarian and development assistance in rural areas are now receiving very limited support.

The Government still blocks internet usage in four townships with sporadic suspension of texting and phone communication as well. As also noted in the 2020 HNO, prospects for sustainable, voluntary and dignified return of Rohingya IDPs and refugees to their places of origin or choice are likely to remain limited in 2020.

Fighting between the Myanmar military and AA also led to the displacement of over 1,000 people in three camps in Paletwa Township in southern Chin State in 2019. Landmines, fighting and the remoteness/accessibility are the biggest concerns for this population who are currently assisted primarily by the government and local groups.

In south-eastern Myanmar, approximately 10,300 people remain displaced as a result of small-scale fighting in 2016 and 2018 in Kayin State. On 27 November, the Myanmar military and Border Guard Forces attacked and occupied a New Mon State Party/Mon National Liberation Army base in Palanjapan village. Around 700 people fled into Thailand, though all have since returned. Approximately 97,000 refugees remain in neighbouring Thailand, in addition to 131,000 people displaced for decades as a result of fighting between the Myanmar military and Kareni EAOs. The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), signed in October 2015, includes key non-state actors in the southeast, however the process has recently stalled. The reasons are complex but include lack of trust between Myanmar Government and EAOs, increased armed clashes, changes in leadership of EAOs, and continued lack of agreement over fundamentals such as the one Union army and extent of federalism/separation from Union.

Women and girls are at risk of various forms of gender-based violence, including acts perpetrated by armed actors, human trafficking, and domestic violence rooted in gender inequality, poverty, and stress within the household. Men and boys are also vulnerable to arbitrary arrest, detention and forced recruitment and forced labour. A report from the Asia Pacific Centre in November 2019 analysed 14 risk factors critical to creating an environment conducive to “atrocious crimes” and stated that little has been done to address the underlying cause of conflict and that risks remain high or have increased since late 2017. Critical factors include armed conflict, political instability, social instability and communal tensions, human rights violations and impunity for those who commit them, lack of access to fair law enforcement or judicial processes, lack of civilian control of armed forces, and continued intent to diminish or destroy ethnic, racial or religious groups.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

UNICEF and partners reached 81 percent of the nutrition Humanitarian Response Plan target, or 4,213 children (2,586 girls), with screening and treatment for severe acute malnutrition. In addition, 54 percent and 71 percent of the targets for multiple micronutrient supplementation for children and pregnant and breastfeeding women (PLW) respectively were met which means that over 30,000 children and nearly 6,000 PLWs received support between January and December. With UNICEF nutrition partners, roll out of community Infant and Young Child Feeding (cIYCF) counselling and Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) activities continued in Kachin and Rakhine in 2019. More than 1,000 basic health staff participated in the trainings and as a result provided services to children and pregnant and breastfeeding women in vulnerable communities. Apart from technical and financial support, UNICEF provided life-saving supplies, including 2,860 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF) in 2019 which, in addition to supplies distributed in late 2018, provided sufficient quantities for SAM treatment.

UNICEF worked with the three partners: Myanmar Health Assistant Association, Save the Children and Action Contre La Faim as a part of nutrition humanitarian response to support prevention and treatment services in 21 camps and 212 villages under 65 village tracts in the nine conflicted affected areas in Rakhine townships. Advocacy efforts by UNICEF and partners with the Government on the need for increased geographical coverage of nutrition services in areas of northern Rakhine resulted in authorization of an additional location for outpatient therapeutic treatment in Maungdaw township through the support of UNICEF partner, ACF; it is expected to be operational by February 2020. Despite limited coverage of treatment of SAM services, the



quality of existing services has been maintained as a result of intensive technical support and capacity building of field staff, particularly in their OTPs, by UNICEF partners.

Health

December 2019 marked a significant improvement in coverage of health care services for children and women in all humanitarian settings of Kachin, Shan and Rakhine. In Shan for example, 826 percent of the monthly target of 1,687 people was reached, meaning that nearly 14,000 people accessed basic health services including 8,756 women and girls. Similarly, UNICEF reached 531 percent of the monthly target for vaccination against measles. Overall, during 2019, 128,213 children and women accessed basic health services, 122 percent of the annual target. Approximately 81% children aged 9 to 18 months living in humanitarian settings were vaccinated against measles and rubella. The major challenge for health actors in 2019 was the security situation including denial of access by the government, as well as the inability to access areas of active fighting.

WASH

Support for WASH services to IDPs in long-term camps—those established in 2011/2012—is generally stable and as a result UNICEF ramped up efforts in 2019 support to those newly displaced by fighting between the Myanmar military and Arakan Army as well as short-term displacements in Rakhine and northern Shan States respectively. UNICEF provided hygiene items for WASH partners in central Rakhine State and through direct distribution to populations in northern Rakhine State reaching nearly 390,000 people. Distributions were completed to ensure that the affected population had regular access to critical hygiene supplies including soap and sanitary pads. In Kachin and northern Shan States, UNICEF is working with Health Poverty Action (HPA) and Karuna Mission Social Solidarity (KMSS) to increase support for water and sanitation facilities in hard to reach areas, as well as in schools and temporary learning spaces; nearly 12,200 children in education facilities benefited from this activity. HPA's village health workers, using focus group discussion in Kachin State, provided hygiene promotion messages specifically on prevention of diarrhea to over 6,800 people. UNICEF also responded to new displacements in northern Shan State by supporting local partner Metta Development Foundation to distribute hygiene kits.

Education

UNICEF continued to provide support to more than 15,000 displaced children in temporary learning classrooms, host villages and schools in affected areas of central Rakhine State. UNICEF also supported children affected by the conflict between the Myanmar military and the Arakan Army, and children living in northern townships through the distribution of essential learning packages and school kits. Training in psychosocial support, learning and well-being of children in emergencies and explosive ordinance risk education (EORE) was provided to 600 teachers (267 female), who will have the potential of reaching more than 60,000 children in seven conflict-affected townships in Rakhine State. The majority of displaced students, at both formal and non-formal primary education participated in government final examinations from March to early April and 95 percent of children passed. However, there are limited post-primary facilities for displaced Rohingya children which limits the ability to continue their education. The absence of partners for education in northern Rakhine, security concerns and access limitations remain the biggest challenges to supporting children affected by conflict throughout the state.



In Kachin and northern Shan States, UNICEF expanded access to populations in need through new partners with Kachin Baptist Convention and Metta Development Foundation, as well as through an existing partnership with KMSS. To support government schools accommodating new IDPs in northern Shan State, UNICEF provided teaching and learning materials to support primary and post-primary IDP students in Namhkan township.

Child Protection

In 2019, UNICEF and partners provided child protection services including mental health and psychosocial support, case management, adolescent training, and EORE covering 85 IDP camps and affected communities in Kachin, Shan, Kayin and Rakhine States. UNICEF continued to invest in strengthening community-based CP mechanisms including child protection groups and adolescent support groups which proved to be extremely effective in maintain services even when access is limited for UNICEF or partner staff. Guided by data collected in Kachin and Rakhine States, UNICEF reprogrammed adolescent-targeted life skills programming to focus more on violence prevention. To improve accountability to children impacted by conflict, UNICEF has expanded the network of monitors to over 300 people in 48 townships resulting in increased reporting on verified grave violation on children in armed conflict through the monitoring and reporting mechanism. In Rakhine, reported incidents of killing and maiming increased. Rakhine State now has the second highest number of casualties (injuries or deaths) due to landmines and explosive remnants of war casualties. To expand the reach of UNICEF's child protection programmes in 2020, UNICEF has signed agreements with a number of local NGOs covering northern Shan and south-eastern Myanmar.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

In December, WASH and Health colleagues worked on created data “dashboards” as part of the national joint acute watery diarrhoea plan. Additionally, the WASH cluster and Protection Sector and working with Humanity and Inclusion to ensure appropriate and inclusive programme response activities. The Nutrition in Emergencies sector working group continues to work on the integration of emergency nutrition concepts into the Myanmar Technical Nutrition Network and the Multi-Sector National Plan of Action for Nutrition (MS-NPAN). A joint gender-based violence and child protection “readiness assessment” is being planned by UNFPA and UNICEF for early 2020 which will promote a shared approach to information management systems for these issues. Both agencies are also working with actors from GBV and child protection to draft integrated case management standard procedures which will be adopted in 2020 which includes lessons learned from the pilot “Child and Adolescent Survivors of Sexual Abuse in Emergencies Initiative” which took place in Kachin.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Human Interest Stories and External Media

UNICEF Myanmar Press Release:

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/press-releases/unicef-statement-reports-killings-and-displacements-children-fighting-escalates>

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/press-releases/unicef-statement-horrific-killing-school-boy-rakhine-state-myanmar>

Human Interest Stories:

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/dangerous-play-northern-shan-state>

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/children-engage-high-level-delegation-about-their-education>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/2764435706957270>

<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/2757866440947530>

Next SitRep: 15 February 2019

UNICEF Myanmar: <https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/>

UNICEF Myanmar Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/>

UNICEF Myanmar Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal:

https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/2019_HAC_Myanmar.pdf

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Annex A: Summary of Programme Results

Sector	Overall Needs*	UNICEF and IPs			Cluster Response (Reported Quarterly)		
		2019 Target	Total Results	Change Since Last Report ▲ ▼	2019 Target	Total Results Q3	Change Since Last Report ▲ ▼
NUTRITION							
# of children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted to therapeutic care	10,781	10,401	4,213	▲ 310	5,202	4,213	▲ 310
# of children aged 6 to 59 months that receive micronutrient supplementation		73,052	30,086	▲ 7,213			
# of PLW that receive micronutrient supplementation		18,940	9,510	▲ 915			
# of PLW that access IYCF counselling	58,692	25,482	16,570	▲ 1,445	39,179	17,271	▲ 1,470
HEALTH							
# children 9 to 18 months vaccinated against measles		15,000	12,222	▲ 3,230			
# children/women with access to health care services	931,051**	105,000	128,213	▲ 25,320			
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROMOTION							
# of targeted people benefitting from safe drinking and domestic water	915,603	573,384	132,302	-	487,648	294,398	▲ 51,249
# of targeted people benefitting from a functional excreta disposal system	915,603	573,384	75,525	▲ 630	487,648	242,225	▲ 12,510
Targeted population provided with hygiene kits or items		573,384	459,344	-	487,648	459,675	-
Targeted population accessing appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene education in schools, TLS/CFS		573,384	87,508	-	91,782	122,932	▲ 7,319
CHILD PROTECTION							
# people (children/adults) with access to psychosocial support		287,160	43,062	▲ 354	267,596	79,473	▲ 6,281
# children accessing appropriate case management services		n/a	905	▲ 187			
# people with access to landlines/UXO information [†]		111,500	40,723	▼ 344	164,150	202,138	▲ 38,798
# adolescents provided with life skills		26,500	4,270	▲ 180	26,500	9,164	▲ 1,784
EDUCATION[‡]							
# of targeted children (3-10 years) accessing pre- primary or primary learning opportunities.	146,610	105,409	39,688	-	95,062	88,809	▲ 36,134
# of targeted adolescents (11-17 years) old accessing post primary education opportunities	124,890	89,793	5,479	-	37,837	9,214	▲ 3,494
# of teachers/facilitators who have completed trainings	6,700	4,400	4,483	-	2,699	2,603	▲ 75

*Overall needs match indicators and targets stated in the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan. UNICEF tracks additional indicators which may not have an HRP target.

**The Health Cluster figure for overall needs reflects men, women, boys and girls while the 2019 UNICEF HAC indicator tracks only women and children.

†† The target for landmines/UXO was increased between the finalization of the HAC and the start of 2019 as a result of increased fighting and reported mine usage.

‡‡ There is no change in the UNICEF EIE figures because the supply phase has completed. Service delivery numbers (children in schools) remain stable.

Due to a change in planning for AAP, the target and indicator for C4D has been removed. AAP continues within each sector.

Annex B: Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Over	\$	%
Nutrition	4,083,586	1,674,199	307,786	2,101,600	51%
Health	4,260,000	2,048,687	853,139	1,358,174	32%
WASH	28,117,920	5,326,051	1,636,079	21,154,832	75%
Child Protection	9,743,920	3,933,283	750,731	5,058,180	52%
Education	10,464,523	2,291,172	1,393,012	6,780,339	65%
C4D	2,444,830	-	-	2,444,830	100%
Total	59,114,779	15,276,077	4,940,747	38,897,955	66%

As defined in Humanitarian Appeal of 28/01/2019 for a period of 12 months