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Myanmar

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2

Reporting Period: 26 March to 28 April 2021

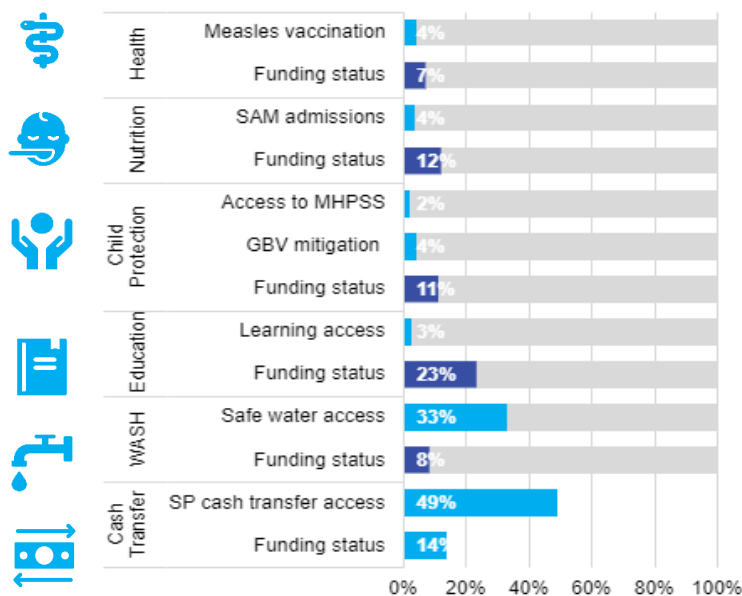
Highlights

- Artillery shelling and indiscriminate airstrikes by armed forces in Kayin State caused more than 20,000 civilians to flee and hide in forest areas along the Myanmar-Thailand border.
- New displacements are reported in Kachin State, northern Shan State and Bago region. On a single day, 9 April, 82 civilians were killed in Bago region, and tens of thousands of people were displaced.
- Provision of health, education and other critical services continue to be disrupted in many parts of the country. Protests and a civil disobedience movement (CDM) against the military takeover continue.
- Since the events of 1 February, a significant decline in the number of reported COVID-19 cases and deaths has been observed. COVID-19 vaccination is currently being managed by the de facto authorities without any clear prioritization by age or associated risk factors. Even before, nearly one million people in five states, including 336,000 IDPs, needed humanitarian assistance.
- There are additional needs for areas falling outside of Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) areas, especially in the Yangon, Mandalay and Bago regions.

Situation in Numbers

-  **455,000** children in need of humanitarian assistance (UNICEF Jan 2021)
-  **1,000,000** people in need (OCHA Dec 2020)
-  **244,864 +** newly displaced IDPs due to the crisis (IOM April 2021)
-  **745** people killed (As of 23 April 2021)

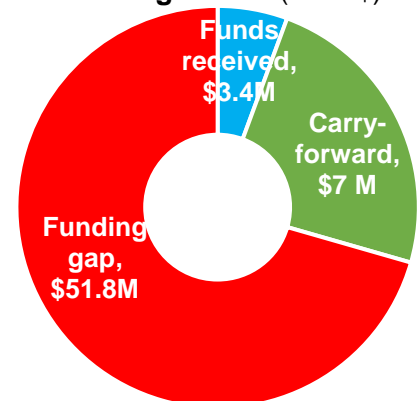
UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



*Health and Nutrition data have been amended

UNICEF Myanmar Appeal 2021

Funding Status (in US\$)



Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF is currently appealing for US \$61.7 million to support 424,000 people, including 224,000 children, to access essential basic services in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), nutrition, health, education, child protection and social protection and improved hygiene practices to prevent COVID-19 infection. However, these reflect pre-February needs. Given the increasingly deteriorating situation across the country with loss of access to basic services due to the protests and CDM, and agencies turning to costly alternatives in programme implementation outside national systems, we expect these needs to increase. The Government of Japan extended its generous support to Southeast and Southwest Asian and Pacific Island countries for improving cold chain and supporting vaccination. As one of the recipient countries, UNICEF Myanmar has received an invaluable contribution. As well as for the Education program for strengthening educational system through the provision of electronic devices, to support children's learning continuity during school disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Since 1 February 2021, the civil disobedience movement (CDM) and various forms of anti-takeover demonstrations continue nationwide despite violent crackdowns by the Myanmar military. Severe disruptions are affecting various services, including within the health care sector, banking sector, and transportation sector. Raids of civilian properties, as well as arbitrary arrests, taking place during both the day and the night, have been reported across the country.

At least 53 children (46 boys and 7 girls) have been killed since the military takeover. At least 28 attacks against hospitals and health personnel and seven attacks against schools and school personnel have been reported, along with 122 incidents of military use of education facilities (82) and hospitals (40).

Armed clashes between the Myanmar Military and different Ethnic Armed Groups intensified in Kachin, northern Shan, and Kayin States. Artillery shelling and indiscriminate airstrikes by armed forces in Kayin State caused more than 20,000 civilians to flee and hide in forest areas along the Myanmar-Thailand border. People from various locations across the country continue to seek safety in the southeast corridor of Myanmar. In Rakhine, the security situation remains tense, with movement of troops observed in some locations. The Myanmar Military imposed a 10pm curfew in at least ten internally displaced person (IDP) camps in Sittwe, and a 9pm curfew in two others (Source: UNHCR)

The National Vaccine Deployment Plan (NVDP) for the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine to all adults over 18 years of age was developed prior to the military takeover. Front line health workers received first vaccine doses in January 2021. However, following the coup, the vaccine is being made available in several locations across the country to those who wish to take the vaccine, but without proper registration and or prioritization by age or associated risk factors. The vaccination is currently being managed by the de facto authorities without any involvement of partners to support registration, communication, or monitoring.

Even before 1 February 2021, nearly one million people in five states, including 336,000 IDPs, were in need of humanitarian assistance. Fighting between the Myanmar Armed Forces and Arakan Army in 2020 had displaced 81,245 people to 185 informal settlements in Rakhine and 236 in Chin, adding to the needs of 130,000 people already displaced since 2012 and in deteriorating and overcrowded camps. UNICEF's appeal aligns with the sectoral needs of the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan in five states: Rakhine, Chin, Kachin, Shan and Kayin.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health

Widespread participation of health workers in Myanmar in the civil disobedience movement has resulted in an almost total shutdown of Myanmar's health and immunization system since the military takeover. WHO has reported 120 attacks against the health system (including medical facilities, health personnel and supplies) since 1 February. These attacks represent 75 per cent of all such attacks reported world-wide from 1 February till date.

UNICEF MNCH partners continue to deliver essential MNCH services at community level and through mobile clinics. Essential maternal, new born and child health (MNCH) services have been disrupted and plans are already underway

for MNCH, immunization and nutrition activities to be implemented by NGOs and ethnic health organizations (EHO), in order to deliver life-saving health and nutrition services in the most underserved areas of the country.

In Hlaing Tharyar, one of the townships of Yangon currently under martial law, primary health services including telemedicine services and capacity building for general practitioners were initiated in mid-April. These activities will be delivered together with community health promotion and referral services and integrated with nutrition services through a partnership with the NGO Terre des Hommes. In Shan, Kachin and Shan states, MNCH activities are ongoing. In Kayin, UNICEF is providing first aid support for trauma cases in partnership with Karuna Mission Social Solidarity (KMSS).

Although the childhood routine immunization programme has been almost completely disrupted, some immunization activities are ongoing in limited areas in Rakhine, delivered through EHOs. While the expanded programme on immunization (EPI) staff are participating in the CDM and vaccine stocks remain inaccessible under the control of the de facto authorities, UNICEF has been successful in procuring BCG, MR, OPV, JE, Td vaccines to reach 80,000 children and 80,000 women in 37 townships and is in the process of establishing partnerships to reinforce immunization activities in 37 townships, working closely with NGOs and EHOs. Since these townships have historically been hard to reach and have reported low coverage for routine immunization, UNICEF is seriously concerned that they may see outbreaks of measles, diphtheria and polio, adding urgency to the response. Continuation of immunization activities in these areas is critical to prevent the spread of disease and increased mortality.

Nutrition

The UNICEF-supported nutrition programme has treated 318 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM), reached 1,468 caregivers with infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling, and reached 2409 pregnant women with multiple micronutrient supplementation. It indicates an increasing trend of children with SAM admission and IYCF counselling in compare to previous months. A partnership agreement has been signed with World Vision International and Save the Children International for expansion of the emergency nutrition response in Dagon Seikkan Township of Yangon, and Rakhine state. A grant negotiation process is ongoing with key partners with the aim of rolling out integrated health and nutrition services to vulnerable populations in these areas. UNICEF intends to amend an existing grant with the NGO Community Partner International with the aim of expanding coverage of services in Kayin, Kachin, and northern Shan.

UNICEF, in collaboration with the global nutrition cluster and nutrition partners, organised a three-day long workshop to develop an emergency response and preparedness plan for Myanmar, considering the ongoing conflicts, civil unrest, cyclone, floods and COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, from 4-9 April 2021, UNICEF conducted a 'Training of Trainers' workshop on IYCF to partner Make Swe Myanmar, seeking to enhance their capacity for integration of IYCF counselling into early childcare and child development programming in Rakhine, Shan, Kachin and Yangon. In total, 27 staff members (15 female) received training.

UNICEF humanitarian nutrition partners reached total 654 children under age 5 and 3,877 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) with preventive nutrition services such as multiple micronutrient supplementation and IYCF counselling in Rakhine in March. In terms of treatment services, 318 children aged 6-59 months with severe acute malnutrition were treated. UNICEF, as the sector lead agency, facilitated and organized a nutrition Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) coordination meeting on 22nd April to discuss and finalize emergency response and preparedness (ERP) plan Myanmar considering three high-risks hazards namely civil unrest, flood/landslide and COVID 19 pandemic. A total of 19 participants from nine agencies attended the SAG meeting. In order to improve availability of essential nutrition services in Yangon, UNICEF has expanded its partnership with World Vision International and distributed 273 packages of Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tapes, 114 Cartons of Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) and 19 packages of Amoxicillin for rapid nutrition screening and treatment of acute malnutrition. A total of 11,021 packs of multiple micronutrient supplements were delivered, for treatment of children under age 5 pregnant and lactating women.

Child Protection

Excessive force by security forces directed at unarmed protestors continues has resulted in the killing or injury of many children and adolescents. Children and young people have been arbitrarily detained without access to legal counsel or forced to flee their homes and communities. In addition to the loss of life, the daily exposure to scenes of horrific violence will have long-lasting impacts on the mental and emotional well-being of children and young people. Reports that a growing number of children and young people are seeking to join ethnic armed groups for their protection continue to

be received and are expected to increase. UNICEF, in its capacity as CTFMR co-chair, is communicating with key EAOs to prevent child recruitment and other grave violations in their areas of operation. UNICEF is supporting access to justice for children by partnering with legal aid providers and lawyers from the Volunteer Lawyers Network in Yangon, Mandalay, northern Shan, Rakhine, Kayin, Kachin and Ayeyarwady. More than 70 local lawyers have been mobilised to assist children and young people at risk of arbitrary arrest and detention. Approximately 100 children and 200 young people received legal aid services supported by UNICEF's legal aid partners to date since 1 February.

UNICEF also continued its support for nationwide mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS) helplines and various remote PSS services in multiple ethnic languages. MHPSS services continued to support children, caregivers, frontline workers, survivors of violence and emotional distress, and people with severe mental disorders, who are then referred to expert mental health practitioners for individual counselling and therapy sessions. In response to the current crisis, UNICEF's partner organization, Metanoia deployed an emergency response team to provide psychological first aid to people affected by violence. Psychosocial modules are being designed for children and youth to carry out peer group interventions, where they can share their concerns and help each other to find their own remedy to release stress and anxiety they are experiencing.

Education

UNICEF and partners have supported learning continuity for 24,465 children in areas of Myanmar experiencing protracted conflict. Children in these areas have historically been deprived of education opportunities. An additional 2,000 school-aged children in northern Rakhine, who had been out of school prior to the takeover and COVID, continue to receive remedial education in order to provide them with a better chance of being reintegrated into formal education.

Seeking to expand coverage to reach more children, UNICEF is accelerating discussions with existing EiE partner organisations, not only to increase the number of beneficiaries reached in existing locations but also to expand geographical coverage. UNICEF is also reaching out to other NGOs to provide education to children during the ongoing crisis. UNICEF continues to co-lead the EiE initiative, and is working to develop a standardised approach to consulting with communities to better understand their expectations for their children's education in the current circumstances, and making relevant education materials available to meet children's interim learning needs and ensure continuity of learning. UNICEF continues to actively participate in discussions within the education sector, together with key donors and development partners. Critical issues of focus include continuing to support home-based learning, use of global funds for education, reopening of schools and education centres, and sector assessment.

WASH

Humanitarian WASH needs are rising across Myanmar since the military takeover on 1 February 2021. Disruption of services such as the banking sector and supply chains are affecting delivery of WASH services, especially in protracted humanitarian situations and among the urban poor, who are losing the ability to purchase purified drinking water. WASH activities in camps and IDP sites continue but have been negatively impacted by disruption to banking services, resulting in a reduction in some basic activities due to cash flow issues and an inability to pay day labourers. Several locations are also experiencing water scarcity due to the prolonged dry season. Thousands of people remain displaced by fighting and require WASH services. If the situation persists or deteriorates, the number of people in need of WASH services will likely drastically increase among displaced populations and vulnerable populations in urban areas who cannot afford to buy safe drinking water.

Life-saving humanitarian WASH services are continuing to reach at least 100,000 of the 223,500 targeted IDPs and conflict-affected people in Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan through six active partnerships with INGO and NGOs and two contractors in Rakhine, three INGO/NGO partners in Kachin and three partners in northern Shan. UNICEF is working with its partner Solidarités International and delivering clean drinking water by boat to about 23,645 people, including 5,400 children from IDP camps and surrounding communities in Pauktaw. In Kachin UNICEF's implementing partners (KBC and KMSS) are supporting new IDPs with safe drinking water through water trucking, construction of temporary sanitation latrines and arranging provision for distribution of hygiene kits and soaps. A new partnership has been established with Community Partners International to deliver critical WASH services to over 10,000 IDPs in Kayin. For Yangon, UNICEF has established contract with a private company to distribute purified drinking water to over 25,000 vulnerable people in Hlaing Tharyar. A health, nutrition and WASH partnership has been developed with Terre Des Hommes (TDH) to deliver an integrated package of health, nutrition and WASH services for pregnant and lactating women and children with acute malnutrition.

Social Protection

Since April 19th, the enrolment of beneficiaries for the provision of emergency medical services in Hlaing Tharyar and Shwepithar has started. After enrolment, beneficiaries become immediately eligible to obtain services including i) receiving health information (health education material), ii) medical consultations with doctors on call, iii) outpatient referral and iv) cash subsidies to cover costs for hospitalization. At the end of the reporting period, a total of 191 households had been enrolled, with an additional 560 expected by the next reporting period.

These services originated from a pilot project that stems from the roll-out of a mobile-based, health micro-insurance scheme. Key challenges to the success of this project have included the lack of mobile internet connectivity, which has necessitated the development of an alternative ICT architecture centered around a call centre and a toll-free number. This service came online on 13 April 2021.

Communication for Development (C4D), Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)

Working closely with implementing partners, UNICEF has put in place an Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) framework for health, WASH, nutrition, child protection, Education, and social policy, starting with partners in Rakhine State. Building partner capacity in collecting communities' feedback is a key component of the AAP framework. Ongoing technical support and capacity building will be provided to partners by UNICEF, where there is an identified need. Working with other implementing partners, UNICEF will work to implement the AAP framework in other states and regions.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF, in collaboration with the global nutrition cluster and nutrition partners, organized a three-day workshop, running from 6th to 8th April, with the aim of developing an emergency response and preparedness plan. A total of 47 participants (27 female) from 29 partner organizations attended the meeting. Discussions were focused on risk analysis, capacity mapping, contingency planning, and preparedness.

The EiE sector, co-led in Myanmar by UNICEF and Save the Children International, with participation of international and national NGOs working on education for children affected by protracted conflicts, has reached over 29,000 children with home-based learning. The EiE sector has developed a standardized tool to facilitate community consultations, designed to generate understanding of communities' perspectives regarding preferred education modalities for their children. This data and analysis will serve as a basis, not only for EiE partner organizations, but also for the education sector partners, allowing the development of an effective response that will support children's learning continuity.

The WASH cluster is working with implementing partners to analyze gaps in services as a result of banking challenges and exploring options to address them.

UNICEF, as facilitator for the Social Protection Sub-Sector Coordination Group, is supporting the UN Country Team in urging for the continuity of the MCCT program, as well as coordinated multi-purpose child grant integrating the comparative advantages of relevant agencies to strengthen the Cash Plus component in achieving multiple and widespread positive outcomes in the areas of health, nutrition, WASH, early childhood development, disabilities, protection, psycho-social support, livelihoods and childcare.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

In line with its mandate, UNICEF Myanmar continues to speak out through multiple channels on violations of children's rights, seeking also to articulate how UNICEF is supporting children during the crisis.

Key statements have included a statement issued by UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore in reaction to the deaths of children due to violence perpetrated by the Myanmar military. Executive Director Fore appealed to security forces to immediately refrain from perpetrating child rights abuses and ensure the security and safety of children at all times.

- UNICEF, [Brutal violence by security forces in Myanmar leaves dozens dead, including multiple children: Statement by UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore](#), 28 March 2021

Additional press releases

- UNICEF, UNESCO and Save the Children, [Occupation of schools by security forces in Myanmar is a serious violation of children's rights: Joint Statement of Save the Children, UNESCO and UNICEF](#), 19 March 2021
- UNICEF, [UNICEF condemns killings and arbitrary detentions of children by security forces during ongoing crisis in Myanmar](#), 4 March 2021
- UNICEF, [UNICEF condemns violence in Mandalay reportedly resulting in the death of a child](#), 22 February 2021
- UNICEF, [UNICEF calls for greater attention to protection of children's rights in Myanmar during time of crisis: UNICEF Myanmar Statement](#), 9 February 2021

UNICEF Myanmar has continued to communicate actively through its social media channels, and recently opened a Twitter account, which has received high levels of engagement:

Facebook posts

<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/4075114145889413>
<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/4015951578472337>
<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/4003149243085904>
<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/3998047143596114>
<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/3988797487854413>
<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/3975738712493624>
<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/3975738712493624>
<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/3936424433091719>
<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/3933278956739600>
<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/3908240169243479>
<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/3902295346504628>
<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/3892607994140030>
<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/3877380922329404>
<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/3869915863075910>

Tweets

<https://twitter.com/UnicefMyanmar/status/1384763867767709697>
<https://twitter.com/UnicefMyanmar/status/1381864735830904834>
<https://twitter.com/UnicefMyanmar/status/1384024091120656384>

Next SitRep: 28 May 2021

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Summary of Programme Results*

INDICATOR	UNICEF and IPs			Cluster Response		
	Targets	Total Results	Change Since Last Report ▲▼	Targets	Total Results	Change Since Last Report ▲▼
NUTRITION						
# children aged 6-59 months with SAM admitted for treatment	15,406	602	602	15,420	602	602
# children 6-59 months receiving multiple micronutrient powders	165,253	654	654	165,372	654	654
# pregnant women receiving micronutrient supplementation	96,442	4,901	4,901	96,511	4,901	4,901
# of pregnant or breastfeeding women receiving IYCF counselling	78,487	3109	3109	78,556	3494	3494
# of caregivers of children (0-23 months) reached with messages on breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19	95,057	0	0	95,152	0	0
HEALTH						
# children 9 to 18 months vaccinated against measles	17,000	760	760			
# affected population accessing primary health care services	137,000	13,287	13,287			
# people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services (COVID)	105,000	19,745	19,745			
WASH						
# people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	303,500	100,155	100,155	640,551	308,133	308,133
# people accessing appropriately designed and managed latrines	98,500	50,992	50,992	640,551	206,077	206,077
# people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	423,500	108,289	108,289	640,551	155,529	155,529
# children accessing appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces	235,500	0	0	47,772	20,250	20,250
# people reached with handwashing behavior-change programmes (COVID)	700,000	107,734	107,734			
CHILD PROTECTION						
# children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	135,000	15,563	15,563	157,000	19,453	19,453
# women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions	33,000	1,499	1,499	33,000	1,626	1,626
# people with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse	42,800	0	0	42,800	0	0
# of girls and boys who have experienced violence reached by health, social work or justice/law enforcement services (adapted for delivery during the pandemic) [COVID]	n/a*	149	149	n/a*	168	168
# people accessing explosive weapons-related risk education	80,500	11,407	11,407	80,500	17,515	17,515
EDUCATION						
'Learning access' UNICEF targeted children in humanitarian situations accessing formal or non-formal basic education (including pre-primary, early childhood learning)	54100	24,465	26,465			
SOCIAL POLICY						
# households benefitting from new/additional social assistance measures provided by governments to respond to COVID-19 with UNICEF support	500,000	246,000	246,000			
# shock responsive social protection programmes developed	2	1	1			
AAP (NOTE: C4D/RCCE included in sectors) **						
# people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	52,000					

*No target is set for children reach by case managers. 100% of reported cases should be responded to

** C4D: Communication for Development. RCCE: Risk communication and Community Engagement

NB: This table represent 1st Quarter achievement against UNICEF HAC

Funding Status*

Sector	Funding Requirements	Funds Available		Funding Gap	
		Funds Received in 2021	Carry-forward	\$	%
Nutrition	\$11,908,936	\$88,120	\$1,364,812	\$10,456,004	88%
Health	\$ 6,062,000	\$88,120	\$1,088,757	\$ 4,885,123	81%
WASH	\$13,725,000	\$181,278	\$2,073,918	\$11,469,804	84%
Child Protection	\$13,000,000	\$104,000	\$1,764,609	\$11,131,391	86%
Education	\$3,163,016*	\$2,954,916	\$520,445	\$ -312,345	-10%
Social Protection and Cash Transfer	\$11,500,000	-	\$29,377	\$11,470,623	100%
Rapid Response Mechanism and Cluster Coordination	\$2,375,000	\$51,403	\$239,116	\$2,084,481	88%
TOTAL	\$ 61,733,952	\$ 3,467,837	\$ 7,081,034	\$ 51,892,039	83%

* The figure will be updated in the next HAC revision.