



Reporting Period: January to June 2020

Myanmar

Humanitarian Situation Report

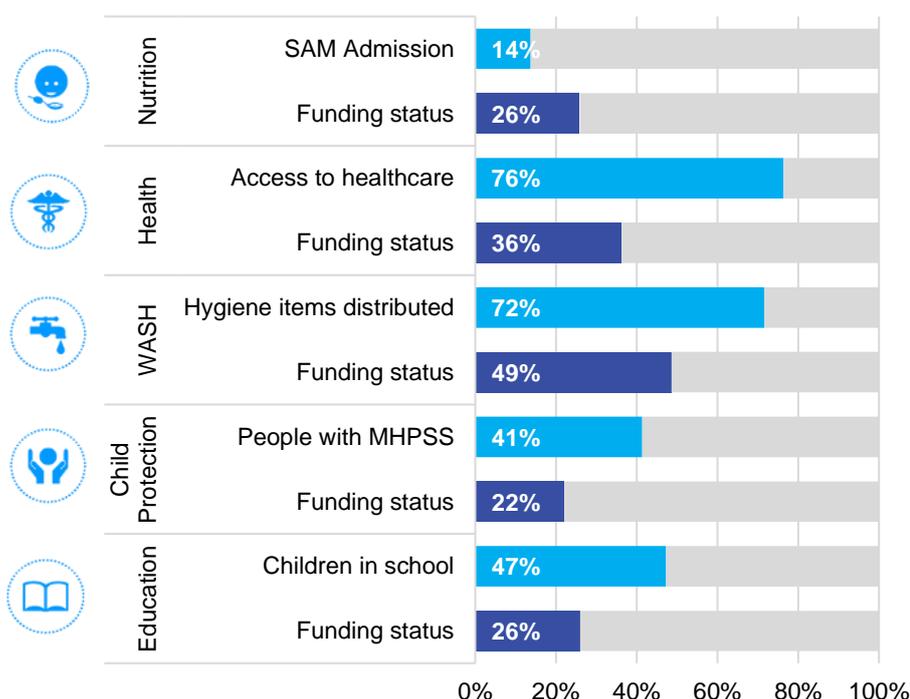
No. 4 2020



Highlights

- The number of casualties countrywide due to explosive ordnance has increased from last year. The most notable increase is in Rakhine State which accounts for nearly 53% of casualties.
- To improve hygiene practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19, UNICEF supported the installation of 6,365 handwashing stations reaching nearly 1.7 million people across the country.
- UNICEF supported the registration and attendance of 268 'volunteer teachers' working in IDP camps at the Ministry of Education's new curriculum training. Teachers who work in humanitarian areas were unable to register without UNICEF support as they do not have national registration cards.
- UNICEF-led clusters prioritized ensuring safe continuation of programmes while mitigating COVID-19 transmission risks between agencies and beneficiaries.

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status

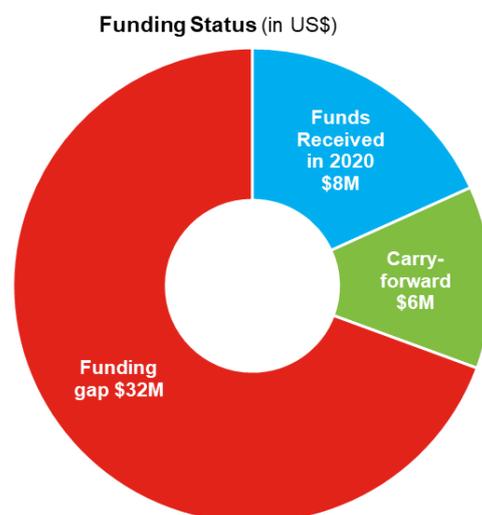


Situation in Numbers



UNICEF Appeal 2020

US\$ 46 million (non-COVID)



Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF appeals for US\$46.04 million to sustain provision of critical and life-saving services for children and their caregivers in Myanmar plus an additional \$31.1 million for COVID-19 response activities. As of June 30, UNICEF/Myanmar had not received any additional non-COVID humanitarian funds since March 2020, however over \$8.4 million in COVID-19 funding generously donated by the United States Agency for International Development, the Government of Japan, the Central Emergency Response Fund and Myanmar Humanitarian Fund managed by OCHA, the UK Department for International Development, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Asian Development Bank, Global Partnership for Education, Government of China, German Federal Foreign Office, and the UK National Committee. UNICEF/Myanmar would like to extend a special thanks to those who provided unearmarked contributions which allows UNICEF to allocate funds to the areas of greatest need. This includes support from DFAT, UK National Committee, and the German Foreign Office. Details of UNICEF's budget requirements for both COVID and non-COVID humanitarian activities can be found in Annex B below and include significant needs for all of UNICEF/Myanmar's ongoing emergency programmes.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

In Rakhine State, fighting between Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and the Arakan Army (AA) continued with varying intensity and severity which continued to cause displacement in several townships of the country. As a result of the fighting, an estimated 77,000 persons were displaced across 155 sites in 10 townships as of 21 June. Limited access to a number of locations resulted in lack of verification of figures and urgent needs of those displaced. In addition to fighting, incidents from explosive devices continued in central and northern Rakhine State with Rathedaung, Mrauk-U, Minbya, Buthidaung, Kyauktaw are the most impacted. As a result of AA attacks on military targets and Border Guard Police, the MAF conducted targeted "clearance" or counter-terrorism operations resulting in additional displacements from several village tracts.

As of 30 June, 12 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Rakhine State (Ponnagyun, Sittwe, Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships) were identified. All cases were returning from other countries and thus far, no community transmission has been reported. Patients have been treated in township hospitals and family members and contacts were placed in facility quarantine. Although no official announcement was made, temporary lockdowns were implemented by village or townships authorities in locations of confirmed cases. The majority of quarantine or movement restrictions have been lifted; however, some ad-hoc restrictions remain.

In Kachin State, the humanitarian context is highly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic as many are concerned that returning migrants may introduce COVID-19 to the State and high concern among IDPs living in crowded camps. During the second quarter of 2020, an estimated 14,400 migrant workers returned from various locations into Kachin State. The State has registered two positive COVID-19 cases in Mohnyin and Moemauk Townships. For IDPs, the fear of COVID-19 was one of the reasons given for the movement of an estimated 19,000 IDPs out of camps with 664 IDPs (136 households) returning to their places of origin. The curfew imposed by the authorities resulted in an estimated 100 children under 18 penalized for breaking the curfew restrictions. As of June 30, Kachin recorded two COVID-19 cases.



In northern Shan State, while conflict events have lulled, mines and unexploded ordnance continue to put children and families at risk. Thus far in 2020, there have been 27 incidents killing eight people, including one child, and injuring 28 people, including six children. Additional risks to children include the significant manufacturing and use of illegal drugs; security forces conducted search and seizure operations in Kutkai and Muse townships. Northern Shan State was also impacted by closure of the Myanmar-China border for several months due to COVID-19 and some limitations on internal travel restrictions among townships or administrative zones. The Muse border crossing is a major transport hub for agricultural and commercial goods. Loss of markets for produce and reduced work opportunities for migrant workers are expected to have significant impacts for the next several months even though restrictions are now lifting. As of June 30, northern Shan State recorded three COVID-19 cases.

In Chin State, conflict between the MAF and AA expanded in southern Paletwa township with intensified fighting and use of heavy artillery. Over 100 houses were burned down in the conflict. Paletwa now hosts over 10,000 IDPs at 11 different locations and another 60,000 people in Paletwa town are suffering as food and supply transport, as well as services, are stymied. Chin State also recorded Myanmar's first COVID-19 case as a person returning from overseas to attend a wedding tested positive. Contact tracing and community quarantine were effective measures in halting significant spread. The total COVID-19 positive cases in Chin State as of June 30 was 10.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

During the reporting period, UNICEF in partnership with the Myanmar Health Assistant Association (MHAA) has increased geographical coverage for nutrition services in Rakhine State, from 159 implementing sites to 185 across nine conflict-affected townships, including 39 new IDP sites. UNICEF's partner; Action Contre La Faim (ACF) extended the provision of essential nutrition services through support to MOHS staff in coordination with township health departments. UNICEF nutrition partners MHAA and Save the Children (SCI) —following the measles outbreak in Pauktaw camps in June—



provided nutritional support to prevent a deterioration of the nutritional status of children under five. In coordination with the State Nutrition Team and township health departments, a response plan was developed, and nutrition services in the Pauktaw camps, including micronutrients supplementation and deworming, were intensified. UNICEF's partners in Rakhine State reached 9,980 children 6-59 months (girls: 5,099) and 6,577 pregnant and breastfeeding women (PLW) with preventive nutrition services. 318 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were admitted for treatment in Rakhine. In Kachin, 1,567 children 6-59 months (girls: 749) and 2,342 PLW were provided with preventive nutrition services. Key nutrition supplies including ready-to-use therapeutic foods, therapeutic milk and oral rehydration solution for children with SAM were provided to the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) in Rakhine, Kachin, Chin, Kayin, Nay Pyi Taw, and Magway States/Regions.

UNICEF and partners maintained essential nutrition services while adapting guidelines and infection prevention and control (IPC) measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in nutrition facilities through increasing handwashing stations, mandatory handwashing for caretakers and child at the entrance to the facility, physical distancing at the waiting areas, operating the services with essential staff, more frequently cleaning/disinfecting centres and introducing fever screening. Dissemination of COVID-19 nutrition messages promoting continued breastfeeding was completed through partner volunteers and posting in the community was implemented reaching over 259,650 people including 3,662 caregivers with children aged 0-23 months.

Health

UNICEF's health partners continued to provide critical services including immunization during the second period of the year, though at a slightly reduced level. Between April to June, a total of 1,859 children 9 to 18 months (girls: 793) were vaccinated against measles or 149% against quarterly target of 1,251 children in Kachin and Shan. In Rakhine State, results were lower with 823 children (425 girls) receiving the measles vaccination, about one-third of the quarterly target. A similar trend was seen in the utilization of essential health care services among conflict-affected populations in Rakhine. As of June 2020, only 43% targeted population utilized primary health care services in Rakhine (female: 5,236; male: 2,364). Reasons for the low coverage of measles immunization and primary health care services in Rakhine State was mainly due to armed conflicts between the MAF and AA, exacerbated by the MOHS suspension of immunization programmes nationwide for six weeks in April and May due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Kachin and Shan, from the quarterly target of 8,751 of affected population accessing primary health care services, a total of 40,503 affected population (female: 14,875;) or 463% of the target, utilised primary health care services in Kachin and Shan. The increase in usage of healthcare facilities is thought to be in part due to the lack of conflict in Kachin State, catch-up activities carried out quickly after the immunization suspension was lifted, and availability of basic personal protective equipment for health care workers and beneficiaries provided in part by UNICEF.



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WASH

WASH humanitarian activities were constrained between April and June due to COVID-19 restrictions with many organizations dealing with restrictions in staff movement and departure of some international staff. To respond to COVID-19 risks, WASH partners have switched to physically distanced or remote meetings to continue coordination and planning. In response to COVID-19, UNICEF supported the installation of 6,365 handwashing stations reaching nearly 1.7 million people across the country. This includes 367 in Rakhine State and 583 and 352 in Kachin and northern Shan States respectively.

In Rakhine State, water shortages between March and early June were significantly worse than previous years and required delivery of water by boat to critically affected camps and communities where ponds were dry. Water-boating to five IDP camps and villages in Pauktaw township ended on 18th June, following the onset of the monsoon season and replenishment of water ponds. At the peak of shortages, UNICEF provided water to 18,000 people/week. To support those fleeing from fighting in temporary camps, 332 emergency latrines were constructed. In total, UNICEF is supporting sanitation for more than 37,000 conflict affected people in Rakhine. Hygiene items reached over 226,000 in Rakhine and southern Chin State. Activities to support existing displacement in Kachin and northern Shan camps and border areas continues, though activities were hampered due to COVID-19-related travel restrictions. In Kayin State, UNICEF is supporting renovation and rehabilitation of water and sanitation networks at Myaing Gyi Ngu camp which support the needs of more than 5,000 IDPs.

Child Protection

Intensified fighting in Rakhine created serious protection concerns for children. UNICEF's partners organized psychosocial support (PSS) activities for children and provided child protection kits to 11 new displacement sites. The intensifying fighting has taken a high toll on civilians including children, who are being caught in crossfire and killed or injured by landmines and other explosive remnants of war. Figures show the number of casualties countrywide reaching more than 64% of the total annual casualties for the entire year of 2019. The most notable increase is in Rakhine State which accounts for nearly 53% of casualties.



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Child Protection partners suspended or adjusted group activities including PSS to mitigate COVID-19 risks. Due to lockdown and movement restrictions, case workers face challenges in mobilizing necessary services for affected children and families, as well as keeping themselves safe from COVID-19 while providing case management services. Although logistical and operational difficulties have had some impact on the efficiency of case management response, case workers responded to 293 new cases in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine. UNICEF organized an online training for over 300 frontline workers and child protection practitioners on case management and mental health and PSS.

The Annual Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict was released on 15 June 2020 which highlighted an increase in grave violations in 2019. While the Tatmadaw was de-listed for the recruitment and use of children, they remain listed for killing and maiming, and rape and other forms of sexual violence. Seven ethnic armed organizations remain listed for recruitment and use of children. The task force working on these issues continues to work with the MAF and Government and on May 29, actions were agreed to end and prevent the use of children.

Education

UNICEF supported the registration and attendance of 268 'volunteer teachers' working in IDP camps at the Ministry of Education's new curriculum training for grades 4, 7 and 10. Teachers, who work in Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan, were unable to register without UNICEF support as they do not have national registration cards. UNICEF, in cooperation with State Education Directors, and in preparation for school reopening in July, will provide essential learning package kits, recreation kits, early childhood development kits, school-in-a carton kits and roofing sheets, to benefit an estimated total of 11,200 IDP or conflict-affected children in targeted townships of Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan States. Schools are normally closed between late March and early June; due to COVID-19 schools will reopen in late July starting with high school levels with primary expected to open in August.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF leads the WASH Cluster, Education in Emergencies sub-sector (EiE), Nutrition in Emergencies (NiE) Sector and Child Protection sub-sector (CPIE) working groups. The priority for the second quarter of the year for all sectors was to ensure safe continuation of programmes while mitigating risks of transmission of COVID-19 between the provider and beneficiary. The nutrition sector provided virtual nutrition orientation sessions on the Emergency Nutrition Guidance Package in the Context of COVID-19 Pandemic with more than 150 participants while the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling in the context of COVID-19 had 297 participants. The Child Protection Working Group adopted guidance notes on Child Protection in Quarantine Centres and Case Management in the COVID-19 context which



were translated into several local languages. CPWG actors developed COVID-19-safe strategies to ensure safe delivery of programmes and protection from abuse, neglect and exploitation. Strategies included reaching children and care givers through phone, online platforms, and working through local mechanisms to deliver interventions. The EiE Sector completed a multi-partner technical review of learning materials to use at home and produced recommendations for home-based learning materials. Based on this list, EiE partners are printing and distributing learning materials for children from ECCD through high school.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

UNICEF Myanmar Press Releases:

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/press-releases/more-1-million-doses-vaccines-and-10000-covid-19-test-kits-arrive-myanmar>

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/press-releases/united-nations-launches-european-unionswitzerland-funded-humanitarian-flights-first>

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/press-releases/myanmar-srsg-gamba-echoes-un-secretary-generals-call-ceasefire-alarming-increase>

Human Interest Stories:

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/unicef-supports-critical-frontline-care-rakhine-state-during-covid-19-pandemic>

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/displacement-and-migration-kachin-state-during-covid-19>

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/disability-quarantine>

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/unicef-supports-newly-displaced-populations-rakhine-state-myanmar>

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/disinfecting-washing-and-encouraging-physical-distancing-protection>

Facebook Posts:

<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/3221767164557453>

<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/3213215285412641>

<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/3210510439016459>

<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/3191694270898076>

<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/3191694270898076>

<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/3172345272832976>

Next SitRep: 15 October 2020

(note: due to COVID-19, the planned monthly situation reports have been changed to quarterly for the remainder of the year.)

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/reports/humanitarian-action-children-2020-appeal-myanmar>

UNICEF Global COVID-19 Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/covid-2019.html>

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Annex A:

Summary of Programme Results

Summary of Programme Results		UNICEF and IPs			Cluster Response **		
Sector	Overall Needs (HRP)	2020 Target	Total Results	Change Since Last Report	2020 Target	Total Results Q2	Change Since Last Report
NUTRITION							
# of children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted to treatment	9,425	8,272	1,133	318	8,272	1,133	318
# of children aged 6 to 59 months that receive micronutrient supplementation	85,057	68,393	14,959	11,817	68,393	14,959	11,817
# of PLW that receive micronutrient supplementation		38,210	11,224	6,577	38,210	11,224	6,577
# of PLW that access IYCF counselling	48,306	20,500	9,155	4,233	38,210	9,272	4,256
HEALTH							
# children 9 to 18 months vaccinated against measles		15,000	8,464	2,682			
# of affected population accessing primary health care services	524,000	105,000	80,183	48,103			
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROMOTION							
# of targeted people benefitting from safe drinking water for domestic purposes	869,154	166,550	70,065	8,374	527,991	330,657	29,291
# of targeted people benefitting from a functional excreta disposal system	869,154	527,991	51,055	12,040	527,991	244,170	24,703
Targeted population provided hygiene kits or key hygiene items	869,154	339,850	243,508	95,820	527,991	420,989	260,040
Targeted population accessing WASH in schools, TLS and CFS	193,028	38,700	21,183	15,846	38,604	36,156	7,856
CHILD PROTECTION							
# people (children, women and men) with access to psychosocial support	380,000*	81,500	33,687	894	236,214	70,184	44,032
# children accessing case management services		n/a	736	24	n/a	736	736
# of (women, girls and boys) with interventions to address GBV		68,500	12,360	2,820			
# people with access to landmines/UXO information		68,500	13,272	4,105	210,250	31,202	19,732
# adolescents with life skills to prevent negative coping mechanisms		10,500	5,064	135	15,000	5,064	5,064
EDUCATION							
# of targeted children (3-10 years) accessing pre-primary/primary learning opportunities.	116,369	39,925	20,089	0	93,130	35,764	9,915
# of adolescents (11-17 years) accessing post primary learning opportunities	132,992	11,220	4,074	0	106,044	28,221	18,638
# of 3-17 years children who received learning materials		34,500	288	0			
# of teachers/facilitators who completed trainings on quality/inclusive education	6,394	1,210	284	268	5,018	353	128

*The HRP does not include disaggregation on the needs or related tracking indicators for child protection.

Annex B

Funding Status Humanitarian Activities* (non-COVID-19)

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Over	\$	%
Nutrition	\$7,780,000	\$1,063,421	\$950,106	\$5,766,473	74%
Health	\$5,532,000	\$1,351,208	\$656,756	\$3,524,036	64%
WASH	\$9,461,000	\$3,011,160	\$1,590,555	\$4,859,285	51%
Child Protection	\$14,538,000	\$1,938,282	\$1,219,446	\$11,328,409	78%
Education	\$8,733,000	\$1,025,512	\$1,244,545	\$6,462,943	74%
Total	\$46,044,000	\$8,389,583	\$5,713,271	\$31,941,146	69%

* As defined in Myanmar Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal of 06 February 2020 for a period of 12 months.

Funding Status COVID-19 Humanitarian Activities**

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Over	\$	%
Nutrition	\$3,036,480	\$321,167	\$0	\$2,715,313	89%
Health	\$3,611,542 ¹	\$2,542,877	\$0	\$1,068,665	30%
WASH	\$8,165,039	\$3,555,329	\$0	\$4,609,710	56%
Child Protection	\$2,317,933	\$199,694	\$0	\$2,118,239	91%
Education	\$4,462,990 ²	\$1,523,810	\$0	\$2,939,180	66%
Social Protection	\$1,074,881	\$284,442	\$0	\$790,439	74%
Total	\$22,668,865	\$8,427,319	\$0	\$14,241,546	63%

**As defined in the Global Humanitarian Action for Children COVID-19 Response Appeal through 31 December 2020.

Results against COVID-19 indicators can be found in the Global Humanitarian Situation Reports.

¹This does not include \$4.9 million which has been reallocated for the Myanmar COVID-19 response from the Global Vaccine Alliance funding.