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# Humanitarian Action for Children

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## Myanmar

Since late August, more than 655,000 Muslims<sup>4</sup> have fled Myanmar's Rakhine State into Bangladesh following fighting between government military forces and Muslims, and widespread violence, death and destruction have been reported. Although UNICEF staff have received travel authorization for central and northern Rakhine, restrictions on humanitarian access and needs assessment remain. More than 690,000 people in Rakhine<sup>5</sup>—including 255,300 children,<sup>6</sup> 400,000 stateless Muslims, 160,000 non-displaced people and 128,000 internally displaced persons<sup>7</sup>—require assistance. Over 841,000 people are in need of water for drinking, cooking and hygiene purposes.<sup>8</sup> New displacements in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine states have added to the existing caseload of internally displaced persons, some of whom have been displaced since 2011. More than 166,000 displaced and conflict-affected people, including 61,500 children,<sup>9</sup> require humanitarian support in Kachin and Shan states, where the protracted conflict continued in 2017, with increased aerial attacks and landmines causing displacement and civilian casualties. Access to communities, particularly those in and around key areas, remains constrained. Myanmar is also extremely vulnerable to natural disasters, including floods and cyclones, including in Rakhine State.

### Humanitarian strategy

UNICEF is striving to meet the humanitarian needs of crisis-affected and displaced children, women and men across parts of Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states in partnership with the Government of Myanmar and local and international partners. In Rakhine, UNICEF will provide humanitarian assistance to a large number of non-displaced stateless Muslims who are suffering increased communal tensions and movement restrictions. UNICEF will coordinate with partners to provide critical life-saving and life-sustaining services in child protection, education, health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) for the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations.<sup>10</sup> UNICEF will expand assistance to children under 5 years with severe acute malnutrition (SAM); reach women and children with health care services; support community-based solutions for access to safe and sufficient water and appropriate sanitation facilities; mitigate child protection risks through psychosocial support in safe community spaces; provide mine-risk and life-skills education; and increase access to schooling for children aged 3 to 17 years through formal and non-formal learning opportunities and temporary learning spaces. UNICEF will also continue to lead the WASH cluster, the nutrition sector and the child protection sub-sector and co-lead the education sector.

### Results from 2017

As of 31 October 2017, UNICEF had raised US\$5.8 million against the US\$25.1 million appeal. Another US\$12.2 million was available from previous years, including US\$7 million for the reconstruction of 47 schools in Rakhine.<sup>11</sup> Despite low funding and restricted access, UNICEF and partners still achieved significant results. In Rakhine, 55 percent of targeted children were treated for SAM. Service disruptions affected UNICEF's ability to reach all children in need. Low achievement against the measles vaccination target was due to the Government's focus on other major vaccination campaigns. Ultimately, 11,600 children were reached (39 per cent of the target). UNICEF and partners expanded WASH facilities and services for more than 59,000 people in need. More than double the targeted number of children received child protection case management services due to increasing needs and the strengthened case management system. UNICEF also facilitated the release of 49 children from the armed forces in 2017. Furthermore, over 17,900 children living in camps for internally displaced persons and host communities gained access to learning opportunities. UNICEF also continued to focus on building the technical capacities of government counterparts and national non-governmental organizations.

#### Total people in need:

863,000

#### Total children (<18) in need:

319,000<sup>1</sup>

#### Total people to be reached:

246,950<sup>2</sup>

#### Total children to be reached:

224,500<sup>3</sup>

#### 2018 programme targets:

##### Nutrition

- 9,000 children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted to therapeutic care
- 32,000 pregnant or lactating women accessed infant and young child feeding counselling

##### Health

- 28,000 children aged 9 to 18 months vaccinated against measles
- 65,000 children and women provided with access to health care services

##### WASH

- 117,570 people accessing sufficient water of appropriate quality and quantity for drinking, cooking and maintaining personal hygiene
- 117,570 people accessing toilets and washing facilities that are culturally appropriate, secure, sanitary, user-friendly and gender-appropriate

##### Child protection

- 246,950 people have access to psychosocial support
- 118,000 people have access to mine-risk education

##### Education

- 37,000 children aged 3 to 10 years accessing pre-primary or primary learning opportunities
- 5,450 adolescents aged 11 to 17 years accessing non-formal education opportunities

	Sector 2017 targets	Sector total results	UNICEF 2017 target	UNICEF total results
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
Children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted for treatment	15,655	8,332	12,500	6,851
Children aged 6 to 59 months who receive multiple micronutrient supplementation			20,000	3,336
<b>HEALTH</b>				
Children aged 9 to 18 months in humanitarian situations vaccinated against measles			30,000	11,635
Children and women in humanitarian situations provided with access to health care services			38,000	41,082
<b>WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE<sup>i</sup></b>				
People in humanitarian situations accessing water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	356,014	328,322	75,000	59,071
People in humanitarian situations with access to appropriate sanitation facilities	356,014	254,306	75,000	18,111
<b>CHILD PROTECTION</b>				
Children in humanitarian situations with access to psychosocial support	170,974	142,492	127,000	89,027 <sup>ii</sup>
Adolescents provided with life skills to prevent negative coping mechanisms			6,500	13,563 <sup>iii</sup>
Children in humanitarian situations accessing appropriate case management services			850	1,648 <sup>iv</sup>
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
Children aged 3 to 17 years in humanitarian situations accessing formal or non-formal basic education	77,425	50,101 <sup>v</sup>	45,000	17,906
Children continuously accessing pre-primary/primary education aligned with formal curricula	51,720	43,470 <sup>v</sup>	30,125	14,668

Results are through 31 October 2017 unless otherwise noted.

<sup>i</sup> WASH results are through 30 September 2017. Due to access restrictions following the August attacks in northern Rakhine State, UNICEF and partners faced significant challenges that impacted data collection for third quarter reporting.

<sup>ii</sup> Due to the access challenges described in footnote i, UNICEF was unable to calculate the number of children in the catchment area that currently have access to services.

<sup>iii</sup> Over-achievement against the target was due to strengthened case management systems and the increase in violence, which led to an increase in the number of cases to be managed.

<sup>iv</sup> Over-achievement against the target was due to the addition of mobile programmes in two areas.

<sup>v</sup> Education sector results represent achievements through 30 June 2017 because reporting timelines were revised by the Inter Cluster Coordination Group to a frequency of every six months.

## Funding requirements

UNICEF is requesting US\$31,780,000 to meet the increasing humanitarian needs of children in Myanmar in 2018. Without timely and flexible funding, UNICEF will be unable to support the growing needs of the internally displaced and conflict-affected persons in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states. This funding will also enable UNICEF to maintain basic emergency stocks in health, nutrition and WASH to provide life-saving response during floods and cyclones.

Sector	2018 requirements (US\$) <sup>12</sup>
Nutrition	5,680,000
Health	3,017,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	8,650,000
Child protection	5,800,000
Education	6,434,000
Cluster/sector coordination	2,199,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,780,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Calculated at an average of 37 per cent of the population aged 0 to 17 based on 2014 census rates for the three targeted areas.

<sup>2</sup> Targets for 2018 have been increased to include non-displaced crisis-affected populations and host communities previously unreached in Kachin, Shan and northern and central Rakhine states.

<sup>3</sup> Children to be reached is the subset of the highest 2018 target, which is 246,950 people to be reached with psychosocial support, which includes 224,500 children.

<sup>4</sup> Inter Sector Coordination Group Situation Update of 14 December 2017.

<sup>5</sup> Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, '2018 Myanmar Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, 2017.

<sup>6</sup> UNICEF calculation of 37 per cent of the population aged 0 to 17 based on 2014 census rates for Rakhine.

<sup>7</sup> Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, '2018 Myanmar Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, 2017.

<sup>8</sup> Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, '2018 Interim Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, November 2017.

<sup>9</sup> Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, '2018 Myanmar Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, 2017.

<sup>10</sup> Due to access restrictions and logistical challenges, operational costs for UNICEF and partners are high in hard-to-reach areas.

<sup>11</sup> Available funds include US\$5.8 million raised against the current appeal and US\$12.2 million carried forward from the previous year, which includes US\$7 million from the Government of Japan, which allowed for the renovation/repair/reconstruction of 47 schools in Rakhine in areas affected by the 2015 floods. Children benefitting from this intervention are not included in the 2017 Humanitarian Action for Children targets and results.

<sup>12</sup> The UNICEF funding requirements for education and WASH are higher than in the 2018 Interim Humanitarian Response Plan requirement because they include higher caseloads and wider geographical coverage.

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