Humanitarian Action for Children

Myanmar

The humanitarian situation in Myanmar continues to pose significant challenges for children. In 2019, an estimated 460,000 children will require humanitarian assistance.1 Fighting and displacement continue in Kachin and Shan states; more than 10,000 people remain displaced and in camps in Kayin State;2 and overcrowded camps and ethnic tensions remain causes for concern in Rakhine State. Approximately 244,500 people are internally displaced and living in camps across the country.3 Following the exodus of over 700,000 Rohingya from Myanmar in late 2017,4 this population continues to face significant challenges, including lack of freedom of movement, discrimination and limited access to basic services, as well as tensions with other communities. In Kachin and Shan, intense fighting in 2018 led to a rise in the number of internally displaced people in those states. In Kachin, Kayin, Shan and Rakhine, UNICEF and partners lack consistent and unfettered access to affected populations, which has undermined the delivery of assistance. In Kachin, Kayin and Shan, as well as other areas, unexploded ordnance and landmines represent a significant risk to children, with a child injured or killed every three days.

Humanitarian strategy

In 2019, UNICEF will address the humanitarian needs of crisis-affected and displaced people in Rakhine, Kachin, Kayin and Shan states. As a cluster/sector lead agency,5 UNICEF will work with the Government, national and international nongovernmental organizations and civil society partners to provide critical life-saving and life-sustaining services in nutrition, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), child protection and education. These will include treatment for acute malnutrition, health services for women and children, access to safe water facilities, monitoring and case management of child protection concerns, evidence-based programming for adolescents and formal and non-formal education programmes. Services will target populations identified in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), including internally displaced people in camps, stateless populations and other crisis-affected populations. UNICEF will continue to advocate for unfettered and consistent humanitarian access to ensure that services can be provided to those in need, in line with their basic human rights. Working at the inter-agency level, UNICEF will conduct natural disaster response planning and related activities throughout the country. When possible, durable solutions will be applied through the integration of humanitarian and development programmes.

Results from 2018

As of 31 October 2018, UNICEF had US$15.1 million available against the US$31.8 million appeal (60 per cent funded).6 In 2018, low achievement against planned targets was due to limited funding and bureaucratic impediments related to travel authorizations. Despite these constraints, UNICEF was able to achieve important results for children and their caregivers over the course of the year. As of 31 October, UNICEF and partners had reached nearly 93,000 people with access to health services, exceeding the original target by 28,000 people. Nearly 67,000 internally displaced and conflict-affected people were reached with critical water and sanitation services. To support education, UNICEF provided nearly 78,000 children—primarily displaced students and those affected by natural disasters—with emergency education and recreation materials. Nearly 86,000 people received mine risk education and nearly 179,000 people received mental health and psychosocial support. In nutrition, only 22 per cent of the 9,000 children under 5 years targeted with treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were reached due to lack of funding and limited access for implementation, particularly in northern Rakhine State. UNICEF also supported cluster/sector coordination at the national and sub-national levels for nutrition, WASH, child protection and education.

2019 programme targets:

Nutrition
- 10,401 children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted to therapeutic care
- 287,160 people accessing psychosocial support

Health
- 287,160 people accessing psychosocial support
- 103,700 people accessing unexploded ordnance information
- 28,500 adolescents provided with life skills to prevent negative coping mechanisms

Education
- 105,409 children aged 3 to 10 years accessing pre-primary or primary learning opportunities
- 89,793 adolescents aged 11 to 17 years accessing post-primary education opportunities
- 3,600 teachers/facilitators who have completed training to provide quality and inclusive education to children

Communication for development
- 244,483 people reached through accountability mechanisms to voice their concerns
Funding requirements

UNICEF requires US$59.1 million to provide life-saving and life-sustaining assistance to children in conflict-affected areas of Myanmar in 2019. UNICEF will target all children and others in need identified in the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan who are not covered by other cluster partners. This represents a significant scale-up of UNICEF activities. These sector costs, inclusive of cluster/sector staff, will allow UNICEF to provide basic services to internally displaced persons, including those who have been resettled, Rohingya and other crisis-affected children and their caregivers. Timely and flexible funding will be crucial to UNICEF’s ability to meet the significant targets described above.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cluster/sector</th>
<th>2018 targets</th>
<th>Cluster/sector total results</th>
<th>UNICEF 2018 targets</th>
<th>UNICEF total results</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NUTRITION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted to therapeutic care</td>
<td>10,600</td>
<td>2,843</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>1,997</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pregnant or breastfeeding women who accessed infant and young child feeding counselling</td>
<td>36,510</td>
<td>19,499</td>
<td>32,000</td>
<td>19,197</td>
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<td><strong>HEALTH</strong>a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children aged 9 to 18 months vaccinated against measles</td>
<td></td>
<td>28,000</td>
<td>8,482</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Children and women provided with access to health care services</td>
<td></td>
<td>65,000</td>
<td>92,339</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>People with access to sufficient water of appropriate quality and quantity for drinking, cooking and maintaining personal hygiene</td>
<td>508,978</td>
<td>249,267</td>
<td>117,570</td>
<td>70,406</td>
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<tr>
<td>People with access to toilets and washing facilities that are culturally-appropriate, secure, sanitary, user-friendly and gender-appropriate</td>
<td>508,978</td>
<td>188,249</td>
<td>117,570</td>
<td>64,061</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CHILD PROTECTION</strong></td>
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<td>People with access to psychosocial support</td>
<td>274,475</td>
<td>188,781</td>
<td>246,950</td>
<td>178,697</td>
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<tr>
<td>People with access to mine risk education information</td>
<td></td>
<td>118,000</td>
<td>85,522</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EDUCATION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Children aged 3 to 10 years provided with pre-primary or primary learning opportunities</td>
<td>60,850</td>
<td>42,054</td>
<td>37,000</td>
<td>17,482</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children aged 11 to 17 provided with non-formal education opportunities</td>
<td>31,620</td>
<td>14,939</td>
<td>5,450</td>
<td>1,051</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results are through 31 October 2018 unless otherwise noted.

1 Education, child protection and WASH sector/cluster results are as of 30 September 2018. The nutrition sector is reporting through 31 October 2018.
2 Due to access restrictions, partners could only reach 29 per cent of the target area. For Kachin and Shan, the sporadic fighting also prevented partners from providing measles immunization, especially in Fanai, Sumprabum and some Kokang areas.

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Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, ‘Myanmar: 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan’ (draft), 2018. The Humanitarian Response Plan document was not finalized/published at the time of writing this appeal. The appeal will be updated to be aligned with the published Humanitarian Response Plan, once finalized.

Ibid.

Available funds include US$10 million received against the current appeal and US$5.5 million carried forward from the previous year.


Ibid.

This was calculated based on the WASH highest coverage target.

An estimated 50 per cent of the people to be reached by WASH interventions are children.