Highlights

UNICEF is supporting people affected by conflict, ethnic tension and displacement in Rakhine, Kachin, and Shan states. Access to communities, particularly those in and around key areas in all three states remains constrained.

In Kachin and Shan States, UNICEF and partners continue to provide services to IDPs in camps and surrounding communities. In the past year, the number of IDPs has increased by 43,000, some of whom have suffered multiple displacements.

In Rakhine State, UNICEF child protection partners continue to expand services in townships of northern Rakhine reaching over 4,000 children with mobile psycho-social support services every week in Maungdaw and Buthidaung. Meanwhile, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion partners are providing services to over 29,000 IDPs every month, including 11,500 children.

UNICEF’s Response with Partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cluster/Sector</th>
<th>UNICEF</th>
<th>Cluster/Sector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNICEF</strong></td>
<td>Target</td>
<td>Total Results*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition: # of children 6-59 months with SAM admitted to therapeutic care</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health: # children and women provided with access to health care services</td>
<td>135,000</td>
<td>11,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH: # people accessing sufficient water</td>
<td>117,570</td>
<td>37,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection: # children with access to PSS</td>
<td>246,950</td>
<td>94,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education: # children accessing pre-primary/primary learning opportunities</td>
<td>37,000</td>
<td>4,124</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Total results for UNICEF are for January 2018 only.

Funding Status 2018:

- **Funds received 2018:** $3.8m
- **Funding requirement:** $31.8m
- **Funding Gap:** $22.5m
- **Carry-forward amount:** $5.5m

Note: Carry forward funding includes funding for activities in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine as well as $1.5 million for ongoing school reconstruction in response to 2015 flooding in Rakhine.
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Rakhine

Rakhine State is the second poorest state in Myanmar and is characterised by high population density, high levels of malnutrition, low incomes, extreme poverty and weak infrastructure. Following attacks on Myanmar forces on 25 August 2017 and subsequent “security operations”, 688,000 Rohingya fled to neighbouring Bangladesh. Significant destruction of homes and villages in the three northern townships took place, and the exact whereabouts, numbers and needs of the remaining people - both Rohingya and non-Rohingya - are largely unknown given the lack of access. Between October 2017 and early 2018, UNICEF regained access to Maungdaw and Buthidaung urban centres, however access to rural areas remains restricted. UNICEF is currently surging international and national staff to provide additional support from the Maungdaw office. UNICEF partners - both international and national NGOs - face similar access constraints, making provision of assistance extremely difficult.

In central Rakhine, 129,000 internally displaced, including over 120,000 Rohingya in camps are reliant on humanitarian assistance for basic survival and access to social services such as water and sanitation facilities and health care. Rohingya and other Muslims throughout Rakhine continue to face severe restrictions on freedom of movement, and tensions between Muslims and non-Muslims and between Arakan/Rakhine and government officials remain high. As part of the overall strategy of support and localization of assistance in Myanmar, UNICEF continues to look at strengthening national capacity of GoM officials and national NGOs, however, in Rakhine, very few national NGOs have the capacity to take on the significant burden of camp management and humanitarian activities.

In Rakhine, in addition to long-standing limitations in general health service provision, humanitarian needs remain due to continued restrictions on access to health facilities and township hospitals for the Muslim population (including IDPs) in central Rakhine. Recruitment of skilled staff and retention of existing staff to support health operations continues to be a major challenge. Humanitarian health interventions remain essential until all populations have equitable access to health services through strengthening of government capacity and removing the current restrictions on freedom of movement and access to health facilities in line with the recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission.

Kachin and Shan

In Kachin and Shan states, armed conflict has continued and an estimated 106,000 displaced people remain in camps. In Kachin and Shan, most IDPs, particularly in areas beyond the Government control, continue to rely on humanitarian support and facilities available in China, as their access to health services and referral systems in Myanmar remains limited. Access constraints faced by organizations working to establish functional referral systems equate to a serious health risk for the affected population. In mid-2017, only 33 per cent of the target population in Kachin had access to basic health care, largely due to logistical and security constraints, while 93 per cent in Shan had access. The conflict in Kachin and Shan between the GoM military and ethnic armed groups has decreased in terms of the number of clashes, however the severity of attacks in 2017 increased leading to additional displacement of 43,000 people since the start of the year. The displacement in Shan is generally categorized by short displacements with people sheltering in public and religious buildings; while in Kachin longer-term movement and settlement in informal camps is more common. For some in northern Shan, recent displacements are the second, third or fourth displacement leading to increased vulnerability. In both states, the displacement remains fluid and the numbers in need, and the type of assistance required, varies greatly. Given the lack of access in many areas for UN staff and international NGOs, many partners rely on the work of NGOs; however, they too are facing increasing restrictions on their movements. The constant movement of people and new displacements are straining existing capacities and resources. In response to the increased fighting and movements, the Area Humanitarian Country Team in Kachin has developed a contingency plan to prepare for additional large-scale displacements.
Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

- The Government of Myanmar is leading response activities in Rakhine through the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Response, Rehabilitation and Development. In Kachin and Shan, the Department for Disaster Management (formerly Relief and Resettlement Department) and line ministries are providing support to newly displaced people and working to increase service provisions in government-controlled areas.

- UNICEF is currently leading the WASH Cluster and the Nutrition Sector, co-leads the Education Sector with Save the Children, and leads the Child Protection sub-sector under the Protection Sector led by UNHCR. The CCCM and Health Clusters are led by UNHCR and WHO respectively, and the Food Security Sector is co-led by WFP and FAO.

- UNICEF also participates in the interagency coordination mechanisms at the national and sub-national levels to ensure joint planning and advocacy including Humanitarian Country Team and Area Humanitarian Country Teams and the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group.

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. UNICEF is coordinating 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. UNICEF’s comparative advantage is its ability to work simultaneously with the Government, international and national NGOs and other local organizations to ensure that vulnerable communities receive the support they require. UNICEF continues to work with the Government of Myanmar to advocate for additional access and is identifying new partners to ensure the full complement of services can be provided to those in need, including those in hard-to-reach or isolated locations.

UNICEF also has emergency supplies for 20,000 people prepositioned in Sittwe, Rakhine, Myitkyina, Kachin and Yangon - in addition to regular programme stocks - which can be used for the return of refugees from Bangladesh or sudden onset disasters such as cyclones or flooding, common in Rakhine.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

Identification and treatment of severe acute malnutrition in Rakhine state has been a priority humanitarian activity for UNICEF for several years. UNICEF is working to provide access to appropriate malnutrition management services including screening of children 6-59 months for severe acute malnutrition and providing micronutrient supplementation for both children, pregnant and breastfeeding women. For severely acutely malnourished children, UNICEF is providing ready to use therapeutic foods. For all pregnant and breastfeeding women, UNICEF is supporting counselling on young child feeding and breastfeeding. To increase detection of severe acute malnutrition, particularly among children under five, UNICEF is training GoM and national NGO partner health staff on screening and referral mechanisms for malnourished children. In Kachin and Shan, UNICEF is focusing on providing preventive nutrition services (support to Infant and young child feeding and micronutrient supplementation) to IDPs and communities with humanitarian needs. Through 2018 UNICEF nutrition programmes and partners in Myanmar, at least 39,000 children under five will receive services including screening for acute malnutrition and micronutrient supplementation. Infant and Young Child Feeding messaging will reach another 32,000 caregivers for a total targeted population of 71,000.
Health
UNICEF is supporting the State Health Departments and local NGOs to provide preventive health services including outreach and fixed services, EPI, immunisations focusing on measles, polio, Japanese Encephalitis, and other vaccine preventable diseases. UNICEF is also supporting antenatal care, delivery and post-natal care to women of reproductive age, as well as referrals for emergency obstetric services. Inclusive with all services is a focus on sharing information to improve health seeking behaviour and care and feeding practices. UNICEF has expanded its programmes for children to ensure equitable access to health services by adapting a state-wide approach to strengthen local health system of Rakhine State with three main objectives: (1) Strengthening planning and coordination, (2) Improving health information management, and (3) Strengthening supply chain and public financial management. Strengthening State and Townships’ capacity in these key areas would greatly improve service delivery for all children. In 2018, UNICEF plans to support 135,000 men, women and children in all states including 50,000 children with access to critical preventive and life-saving services.

WASH
Restriction of access to Maungdaw District in Rakhine and non-government controlled areas in Kachin and Shan remains acute and even basic information on WASH situation for HRP targeted communities is largely unavailable. Humanitarian access to implement, supervise, and monitor the effectiveness and quality of WASH services remains significantly restricted in almost all other locations. This is especially critical for WASH during the dry season when there is a window of opportunity for construction and rehabilitation of basic WASH infrastructure before the monsoon. Crisis-affected populations with limited access to adequate water and sanitation facilities are expected to face elevated risks of disease outbreak during the dry season (March-May) when water availability is likely to be seriously restricted in areas of northern & central Rakhine especially. Camp Management Committees in Rakhine continue to block WASH service delivery severely impairing the quality and timely delivery of WASH services.

Through our water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities, UNICEF is ensuring that children and families access sufficient water of appropriate quality and quantity for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene as well as sanitation facilities both in camps and communities as well as at educational facilities, health facilities and child-friendly spaces. UNICEF continues to work with nine national and international partners to deliver emergency WASH services to IDPs and crisis affected communities throughout Rakhine, Kachin and Shan States and is targeting over 117,500 people including over 43,500 children with WASH programming.

Education
UNICEF is prioritising access to quality education opportunities for children affected by emergency, including pre-primary and primary learning in formal and non-formal environments. This includes setting up or supporting safe, temporary learning classrooms, providing schools supplies and teaching materials, recreation kits, and support and training to teachers. UNICEF is currently procuring essential learning packages, teaching and learning materials and recreation kits. In 2018, UNICEF is targeting 42,450 children between 3-17 years of age with formal and non-formal educational opportunities.

Child Protection
UNICEF is particularly concerned about the number of reported child sexual violence cases, children who are unaccompanied or orphaned from violence, trafficking of children and female-headed households, especially in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan where violence, discrimination and conflict are constant concerns. UNICEF is prioritizing mental health and psycho-social support programming in addition to case management with a focus on provision of services. This includes mobile or static child-friendly spaces creating safe spaces for children and parents or caregivers and providing key messages and support including mine risk education. In addition, UNICEF is supporting training of para-social workers and monitoring of violations against children. In Maungdaw District, UNICEF’s partners are currently reaching nearly 5,000 children per week with psycho-social activities and in general UNICEF is targeting over 236,500 people with our child protection activities in 2018.

Social Policy
UNICEF is working with the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) for the rollout of a universal and inclusive Maternal and Child Cash Transfers (MCCT) programme in Rakhine. The objective of this DSW-led program is for pregnant women and children aged 0-2 from all communities to meet their most immediate basic needs, especially health and nutrition related, through unconditional cash transfers.

UNICEF leads a Technical Reference Group (TRG) formed to support DSW, which includes the international development partners including the World Bank, WFP, Save the Children and IRC as core members. The TRG is helping develop operational options to implement a universal, inclusive and government-led MCCT in Rakhine State. Work focused on developing four operational modalities for the variety of communities in Rakhine including: Villages/Wards with Rakhine populations, villages/wards with minority populations; IDP camps; and Maungdaw District. DSW is intending to hire additional staff to work in areas with minority populations or IDPs. Rakhine State is DSW's second location for MCCT rollout in Fiscal Year 2017/18, following the rollout in 2017 in Chin State. The first registration was completed at the end of January, and the first round of payments began on February 3rd.

**Media and External Communication**

The Rohingya Child Alert: “Lives in Limbo: no end in sight to the threats facing Rohingya children”, launched on 23 February 2018. The report calls on the Government of Myanmar to provide unrestricted access for humanitarian organisations to all areas of Rakhine state, protection for Rohingya children and those of all other ethnic groups, improved conditions for all persons in need of humanitarian and long-term development support in Rakhine, in line with the recommendations of the Kofi Annan-led Rakhine Advisory Commission and the creation of appropriate conditions on the ground that would allow the voluntary, safe and dignified return of Rohingya refugees to their former communities.

**Funding**

UNICEF's 2018 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for Myanmar is US$31.8 million. To-date, UNICEF has received US$3.8 million from the Government of Denmark, Government of Japan and the UN Central Emergency Response Fund. With the carryover funding available from the previous year, the current funding gap is 71 percent. Given the nature and complexity of the crisis in three locations of the country, UNICEF requires predictable and flexible resources to be able to meet the increasing humanitarian needs of children and women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds available</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Funds Received</td>
<td>Carry-Over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Current Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>5,686,000</td>
<td>701,613</td>
<td>698,403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>3,017,000</td>
<td>180,071</td>
<td>241,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>8,650,000</td>
<td>1,372,216</td>
<td>1,109,133</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>5,800,000</td>
<td>869,569</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>6,434,000</td>
<td>664,128</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cluster Coordination</td>
<td>2,195,000</td>
<td>51,351</td>
<td>620,804</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>32,780,000</td>
<td>3,838,948</td>
<td>5,453,335</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Funds available includes funding received against current appeal as well as carry-forward from the previous year including a continuing programme under Education for school reconstruction following 2015 floods.

**UNICEF Myanmar:** [https://www.unicef.org/myanmar](https://www.unicef.org/myanmar)
**UNICEF Myanmar Facebook:** [https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/](https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/)

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