UNICEF Weekly Situation Report (Myanmar)
Date: 30 November -2012

Reporting period: 28 October- 30 November 2012

Highlights

• The violence in Rakhine State in June and October 2012 has displaced an estimated total of 116,205 people. The June conflict displaced 33,868 children under the age of 12, 23,003 women and 18,243 men\(^1\). The October conflict displaced 41,091 people. Disaggregated data for IDPs resulting from the October conflict is currently being collated by the Inter Agency team in Rakhine.

• Over the last month, UNICEF has significantly steeped up its emergency response to Rakhine, including by delivering pre-positioned supply from other parts of the country. It has supported the government to set up health and nutrition service delivery systems to 34,500 IDPs in urban and rural camps; provided supplies to meet medical needs of 40,000 IDPs; and, made temporary latrines for 16,000 IDPs; supplemented UNHCR efforts to meet the shelter needs of 1859 households and family kits for 1000 IDPs families. This is in addition to routine development activities to support the Rakhine government to address the rights of all children.

• The IDP movements remain in a flux. In Sittwe Township, several thousand make shift camps have appeared along-side pre-existing camps and in recently harvested fields. Almost 20,000 IDPs, who arrived in Sittwe, after days on boats, have been shipped to Pauktaw Township in ‘transit camps’ set up by the government. The geographical spread of the displaced makes universal outreach challenging.

• UNICEF, as part of the Inter Agency team is assessing the needs of both Rohnigya\(^2\) and Rakhine IDPs and the host community. Initial assessment findings have been used to negotiate land allocation for the IDP camps, increased coverage of mobile health units and urgent prioritisation of limited humanitarian stocks. Initial findings also suggest that education services have been severely disrupted.

• A Rakhine Response Plan\(^3\) was launched by the government and the UN Resident Co-ordinator on the 21\(^{st}\) of November. At the launch, the government expressed its strong commitment to lead the humanitarian effort, solve the conflict and called for the support of the international community to assist the response. It stressed the need for reaching both sides of the ethnic and religious divide, need for a long term development vision and plan for Rakhine state and for addressing the root causes of the conflict.

• According to the Response Plan, USD67.6 million is required for total life-saving interventions, with a total funding gap of USD41 million as of 5 December 2012, according to OCHA. UNICEF’s funding level for the Rakhine crisis stands at USD2.6 million.\(^4\)

• The cluster mechanism has been activated for WASH, Health and Shelter for Rakhine and Kachin states. UNICEF leadership of the WASH cluster is ensuring co-ordinated implementation on the ground and accelerated inputs are being provided to the health cluster and the nutrition, protection and education sectors. UNICEF is mobilising additional human resources to provide specialist emergency, WASH and nutrition support.

• Existing local partners are close to overstretching capacities, and currently-operating international NGOs face similar constraints. A UNICEF multi-disciplinary mission will visit Rakhine 6-8 December 2012 to rapidly assess internal capacity, current and future partnerships – including through innovative delivery mechanisms- to deliver against the Core Commitments to Children, and, to support the long term development of the state.

\(^1\) Official figures shared by OCHA

\(^2\) While the term ‘Rohingya’ is itself subject to dispute, it is used in this document because it is the term most commonly used to refer to this ethnic, linguistic and religious minority group.


A visit by Ms Valerie Amos, Valerie Amos, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, is planned for this week. Her visit will include Rakhine and Kachin, and is expected to heighten interest on the situation of people affected by conflicts.

**Situation Overview**

**Update**

- Rakhine, bordering Bangladesh, is the second poorest state in the country. It is home to a majority Buddhist and a minority Rohingya Muslim population. There is a long standing history of tension between the two communities. The statelessness of the Rohingyas along with continued underdevelopment of the state exacerbates these tensions.
- Inter-communal violence started in June 2012 and escalated in October 2012 displacing 116,205 people. Emergency rule, with varying curfew timings, has been in place in Rakhine state. Tension between the two communities remains high. It is critical to maintain the fragile calm through improved security.
- IDP movements remain in a flux. Since the October violence, several IDPs have arrived in and around Sittwe townships. Almost 20,000 who arrived after days in boats have been moved by the government to transit camps in Pauktaw Township. In Sittwe itself, several thousand make shift camps have appeared along-side pre-existing camps and in recently harvested fields. It is unclear whether these are shelters house newly displaced or those living amongst host communities. The geographical spread of the displaced makes universal outreach challenging.
- UNICEF is participating in on-going Inter-agency assessments of IDPs displaced in October, agreed after successful lobbying with the state government. The priority of the interagency team is to provide shelter and basic amenities like shelter, non-food items, food, WASH, health, and nutrition services to the IDPs, in a context where population movements are still on-going.
- The initial results of the assessments have been used to influence the government to allocate land for camps, mobilise additional mobile health clinics and prioritize distribution of limited humanitarian stocks to those most in need.

**Political and Other Developments**

- A Rakhine Response Plan was launched by the government and the UN Resident Co-ordinator on the 21st of November. At the launch, the government expressed its strong commitment to lead the humanitarian effort, solve the conflict and called for the support of the international community to assist the response. It stressed the need for reaching both sides of the ethnic and religious divide, need for a long term development vision and plan for Rakhine state, and for addressing the root causes of the conflict.
- Hostility towards the United Nations and INGOs is high amongst Buddhist Rakhines. International humanitarian assistance is perceived as lacking neutrality, skewed towards Rohingyas in the context of deprivation amongst both communities. This animosity has built up over time. During the last month, two NGOs which were working in newly affected areas were reportedly threatened. There is speculations that the inter agency assessment did not focus on the needs of Buddhist people who are affected by the October violence.
- The Rakhine state government is supportive in terms of assessment and access for humanitarian assistance. After successful lobbying, areas where IDPs from the October unrest have moved to, have been opened up for assessments and are receiving shelter, NFI, food, health, and nutrition assistance.
- The commission, established by the president to investigate the unrest, has requested a four month extension from November 2012 to March 2013.

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Humanitarian Needs, Cluster Leadership and Key Partnerships

Key humanitarian issues

- The Rakhine Response Plan flags that food, shelter, WASH, health, and nutrition are the most important priorities. The humanitarian situation is more challenging in areas where humanitarian agencies presence is limited, including Kyaukphyu, Mrauk-U, Minbya and Myebon.
- Protection is a significant issue and life-saving activities remain a high priority. Both Rohingya and Rakhine populations need to be reached.
- The IDP movement remains in flux and their geographical spread is expanding. Consistent advocacy will be needed with the government to secure access to the IDP locations and to make adequate camp sites available for these communities.
- Communicating how the humanitarian community is assisting both the affected Rohingyas and Rakhines, as well as displaced and host communities, will be important.
- The conflict has disrupted routine development activities in Rakhine state, indirectly affecting all children. UNICEF will prioritise humanitarian needs while continuing to invest in its broader partnership with the Rakhine state government to realise the rights of all children, such as in education.

Impact of the emergency on children and women with data disaggregated by gender, age, geographical area

- The violence in Rakhine State in June and October 2012 has displaced 116,205 people. The June conflict displaced 33,868 children under the age of 12, 23,003 women and 18,243 men. Disaggregated data for IDPs resulting from the October conflict is currently being collated by the Inter Agency team in Rakhine.
- A map illustrating displacement in Rakhine is attached (Annex I). About 75,000 IDPs are in camps, monasteries and villages in and around Sittwe, while the remaining are dispersed across 8 townships (Minba, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw, Kyauktaw, Rathedaung, Kyauk Phyu, Ramree).
- Initial rapid assessments are showing children without access to health care or education, and high levels of malnutrition and trauma.
- In late October, of 4,066 children examined using the Middle and Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurement screening method, 413 were found to be severely acute malnourished and 649 moderately malnourished. All these cases were treated accordingly. Given the pre-crisis high prevalence of malnutrition in Rakhine, it is difficult to directly attribute all such cases to the emergency.

Cluster Leadership

- The cluster mechanism has been activated for WASH, Health and Shelter for Rakhine and Kachin states. UNICEF leadership of the WASH cluster is ensuring co-ordinated implementation on the ground. A WASH cluster strategy is being developed for Rakhine and Kachin which will be agreed on in the next WASH cluster meeting.
- UNICEF as the sector lead is coordinating the nutrition sector response to Rakhine. Accelerated inputs are being provided to the health cluster and the protection and education sectors (UNICEF is education sector lead, along with SCF). UNICEF is mobilising additional human resources to provide specialist emergency, WASH and nutrition support for Rakhine.
Partnerships

The state Government remains a strong partner for UNICEF as it has access and reaches all parts of the state, particularly for WASH activities.

UNICEF has direct Programme Cooperation Agreements with a range of NGOs (Myanmar Health Assistant Association for health and nutrition, and WASH, ABCD for WASH) and INGOs (e.g. Save the Children for Child Protection and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practice, and Consortium of Dutch NGOs and Solidarities International for WASH. UNICEF is also exploring the possibility of partnerships with smaller local civil society groups, INGOs and direct contracting of local contractors.

A multi-disciplinary mission will visit Rakhine 6-8 December 2012 to rapidly assess internal capacity, current and future partnerships to deliver against the Core Commitments to Children, and, to support the long term development of the state.

UNICEF Response

Programme Commitments:
UNICEF has accelerated efforts to address both the humanitarian and long term needs of Rakhine state.

- **Health and Nutrition:**

  UNICEF has leveraged its long term relationship with the State Health Department (SHD) to accelerate the health and nutrition response. In response to the June unrest, UNICEF has supported the local NGO, Myanmar Health Assistant Association (MHAA), to form part of the SHD’s mobile health and nutrition units which provide support to all rural and urban IDP camps. The existing partnership has been extended to cover the 5 newly affected townships (Myaybon, Pauk Taw, Kyauk Taw, Myauk U and Minbya) for a period of 6 months till June 2013. This mechanism will deliver health and nutrition services to reach 34,500 IDPs affected by the October conflict.

  UNICEF has provided 25 Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) kits to augment the social and human development support to affected populations. To date four of these kits have been distributed benefitting 40,000 people. Together with the SHD, UNICEF is training NGOs on the ground to improve the quality of nutrition activities. UNICEF has also supported Save the Children in implementing IYCF program in the IDP camps and provided adequate stock of therapeutic food to SHD. Advocacy with SHD to implement immunization and other normative programs in health for women and children is on-going.

  Access to affected populations is hampered by the geographical spread of the IDP camps and the affected populations, the limited resources available (medical personnel and logistics), and the security situation making it difficult for medical personnel to safely access people in need. As an ethnic conflict, the ethnicity of medical staff is an additional challenge with regards to access.

- **WASH:**

  The IA assessment showed that emergency latrines are the main immediate concern for the new displaced populations. UNICEF has provided supplies to DRD and State health Departments that have resulted in latrines available for a population of 16,000. UNICEF is in the process of partnering with INGOs to deliver these needs. The recently agreed partnership between UNICEF and Solidarities International will meet the WASH needs of 10,000 IDPs. Additional partners are being identified to speed up WASH coverage and hygiene promotion.
• **Child Protection:**

A child protection assessment will be conducted by Save the Children in the IDP camps in Sittwe Township. It will result in setting up of Child Friendly Spaces. The geographical spread of the populations will require a significant increase in resources in order to respond to the children in need. There is now potentially a further 10,000 to 12,000 under-12 children spread across 26 locations in seven townships. This data will need to be confirmed by the assessment.

• **Education:**

Most schools in the affected areas are unable to operate because of lack of safe access for teachers and many children are not able to continue their schooling. An assessment of children in urban IDP camps’, one of the few sites where schools are operational, reveals 15% of children are without access to formal or informal education.

Save the Children, with UNICEF support, will conduct a state wide assessment of children’s access to school. It is expected that the findings will lead to the establishment of temporary learning spaces. 10 Education Field Officers has been redirected from other UNICEF field offices and will arrive in Sittwe early December to participate in the assessment. The status of the schools in the newly affected townships is being monitored by UNICEF in collaboration with Department of Education.

• **Non Food Items:**

This is part of the Shelter Cluster and is led by UNHCR, but UNICEF has, and will continue to, support the NFI sector with family kits and plastic sheeting. Since the October unrest, UNICEF has distributed 1,859 plastic sheets and 1,000 family kits to the newly displaced.

**Supply and Logistics:**

• 25 Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) - each kit with supplies needed for a population of 10,000 for 3 months - have been prepositioned at Sittwe to be utilised by the State Health Department and UNICEF’s partner MHAA for emergency medical response to the eight affected township. 4 kits have already been used and the rest will be used based on need and access.
• Of the 2,000 UNICEF plastic sheeting available in Sittwe 1,859 have been distributed through UNHCR for shelter.
• UNICEF has supplied 1,000 family kits in Minbya and Mrauk-U townships. Additional 2,000 family kits are being procured and will be supplied in the next 3 weeks.
• 800 sets of pipes and pans and 570 tarpaulins have been distributed to construct latrines.
• Additional humanitarian contingency items have reached Sittwe and are being distributed (mainly WASH items: water purification tablets - 472,000, 45 litre buckets with tap and spigot - 1,705, IEC material for 10 camps, water guard - 13,000, 50 kg drum bleaching powder - 10, 400 gallon fibre glass water tanks – 17, 10 litre ceramic water filters - 1,736; Shelter: roofing nails – 2,200 kg)
• One 10x24m rub hall has been erected in Sittwe with assistance from WFP and will be used for warehousing.
• A vehicle has been redirected from another township and is currently available in Sittwe to assist with the logistic constraints.
• The following nutrition supplies have also reached Sittwe and are being used based on needs:: RUTF – 825 cartons, BP5 – 490 cartons, Multimicronutrient tablets 1000/Pac – 197 Packets,
Multimicronutrient sprinkles 30 Sac/Pac – 18,557 Packets, Thiamine tab 100/Pac – 1,426 Packets, Resomal 84g Sac for 2L Car – 10 Cartons, and Sprinkle Pamphlets – 40,000.

- Due to the onset of winter season UNICEF is also in the process of procuring and supplying 3,400 blankets to families in need. These supplies are expected to be distributed in 10 days. They will complement supplies from other partners to ensure adequate coverage.
- The following supplies will be prepositioned at Yangon over a period of 3 weeks: 2,200 family kits, 2,700 tarpaulins, 105 IEH Kits, 1,000 boxes of ORS, 500 boxes of LLIN, 2,800 basic hygiene kits, 4,000 buckets, and 50 drums (50 kg) of Bleach. These prepositioned stocks will not have UNICEF logo as a result of the sensitivities related to the conflict.

**Human Resources and Surge Capacity:**

UNICEF has accelerated human resource capacity to deal with the Emergency Operations. A Yangon-based international staff member is being assigned to head the UNICEF Rakhine (Sittwe) office for 2 months on a temporary basis, the time for UNICEF to identify a longer term solution. Two surge support staff are being identified for WASH (Yangon based) and nutrition (Rakhine based). A multi sector mission will visit Rakhine to comprehensively review UNICEF’s capacity, assess current and potential partnerships on the ground including for operations, logistics (NGO, Government, and UN), security, communications etc.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sittwe Based: Current Status - 18</th>
<th>Yangon Based: Current status - 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resident Program Officer 1</td>
<td>Representative 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education officer 1</td>
<td>Deputy Representative 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education field monitor 2</td>
<td>Chief of Operations 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency officer 1 (Surge Capacity)</td>
<td>Emergency Specialist (OIC) 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child protection officer 1</td>
<td>Nutrition Officer 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH Coordinator 1 (Surge Capacity)</td>
<td>Emergency officer 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygiene Promotion officer 2</td>
<td>Additional expected - 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH Engineer 1</td>
<td>Emergency specialist WASH 1 (international) 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Logistics Officer 1</td>
<td>Emergency specialist WASH (international from RO for short term)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Assistant 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Driver 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guards 5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional expected - 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency specialist for nutrition (international) 1</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Media and communication:**

Two press releases have been issued and are available at [www.unicef.org/myanmar/media.html](http://www.unicef.org/myanmar/media.html). The latest news note focused on child malnutrition and generated interests from media and the international donor community, as well as from Rakhine Government structures.

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- UNICEF Myanmar, Programme Communication & Information Section Chief, Zafrin Chowdhury: zchowdhury@unicef.org

**Funding:**

According to the Response Plan, USD67.6 million is required for total life-saving interventions, with a total funding gap of USD41 million as of 5 December 2012, according to OCHA. UNICEF’s funding level for the Rakhine crisis stands at USD2.6 million.”
**Next steps:**

- Act on findings of the multi-disciplinary mission tasked with reviewing internal and partners’ capacity in Rakhine and work strategically on the long term Rakhine development plan.
- Identify new partners as well as innovative operational modalities to effectively deliver services to address emergency needs of children.
- Ensure that the programs in existing IDP camps - as a result of the June unrest - are not hampered and monitored regularly.
- Continue to ensure that the emergency operations and the overall development programme meets the needs of children from both sides of the ethnic and religious divide and those directly as well as indirectly affected by the conflict (e.g. IDPs, host communities and those indirectly affected.)
Annex 5

Displacement in Rakhine State as of 12 Nov 2012

115,000 IDPs in 58 IDP locations

Legend
- IDP locations since October
- IDP locations since June

Administrative Towns
- State Capital
- Township Capital
- Township Boundaries
- Country Boundary
- International Boundaries

Bay of Bengal

Myeik
