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Reporting Period: 1 to 29 February 2020

Myanmar

Humanitarian Situation Report

No. 2 2020



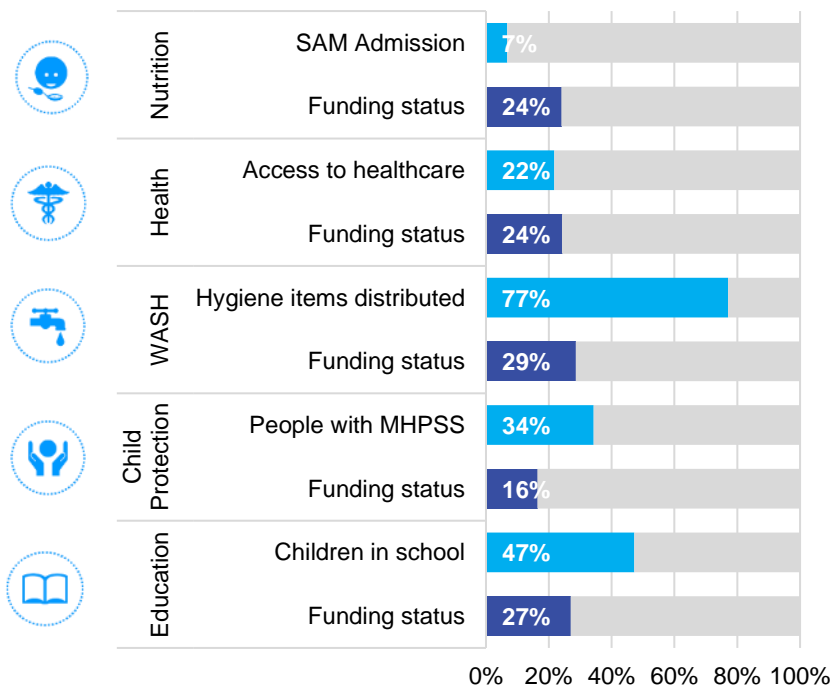
Highlights

- In response to COVID-19, UNICEF continues to support the Ministry of Health and Sports' Health Literacy Promotion Unit to translate and disseminate messages including in ethnic languages for the border areas on good hygiene and handwashing. Social media boosting and message dissemination reach approximately 15 million people countrywide.
- UNICEF Myanmar received \$175,000 in emergency response funds to begin COVID-19 communication and preparedness activities. Though there are no laboratory-confirmed cases in Myanmar at the time of reporting, Myanmar remains a high-risk country given the proximity to China, trade and population movements between the countries. The Government is increasing efforts to improve the capacity in hospitals to treat severe/critical cases in the event of a large outbreak.
- On 13 February an artillery shell hit a school in northern Rakhine, injuring at least 17 children. UNICEF issued a statement calling for parties to the conflict to protect children and civilian facilities, and to exercise restraint.

Situation in Numbers

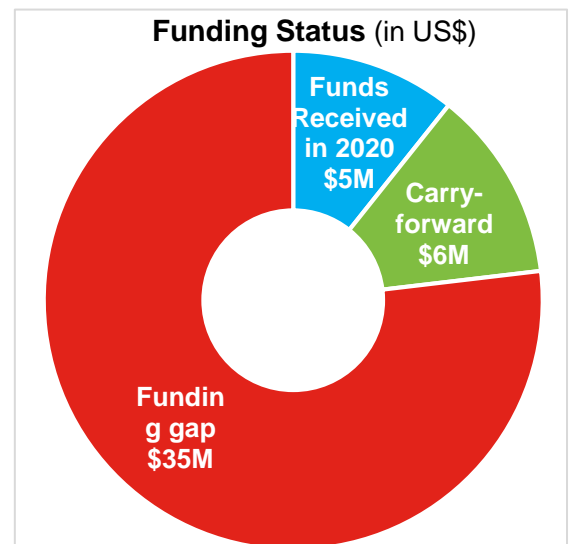
- 362,000** children in need of humanitarian assistance (HNO 2020)
- 986,000** people in need (HNO 2020)
- 274,000** internally displaced people (HNO 2020)
- 470,000** non-displaced stateless in Rakhine

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



UNICEF Appeal 2020

US\$ 46 million



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. UNICEF received \$4.9 million from the Government of Japan in February for humanitarian needs in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States and would like to express our sincere thanks for this contribution. Details of UNICEF's remaining budget requirements can be found in Annex B below and include significant requirements for all of UNICEF/Myanmar's ongoing emergency programmes including Child Protection, WASH, Health, Nutrition and Education.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The situation in Rakhine and Chin States worsened in February with significant fighting between the Arakan Army and the Myanmar military causing injuries and deaths among civilians as well as additional displacement. In central Rakhine, the dry season, which followed a shortened monsoon season, has triggered alarms for upcoming water shortages—particularly in the vulnerable Pauktaw IDP camps which appear to be running dry earlier than expected. In northern Shan State, sporadic fighting continues but has not cause significant displacement in recent weeks.

Coronavirus

No confirmed cases of the 2019 novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Myanmar have been reported to date (as of 12 March 2020). However, the World Health Organization notes that it's biologically plausible that there are cases in country which remain undetected. The focus remains on screening and preparedness with sustained efforts to improve awareness and hygiene behaviours throughout the country. In addition to national coordination mechanisms, UNICEF participated in a one-day State Health Department workshop on preparedness planning for COVID -19 in Kachin State during which the government acknowledged challenges in screening and response capacity in non-government-controlled areas which share a porous border with China. Similar meetings are happening in other states and regions as well.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

With UNICEF support, the National Nutrition Centre (NNC) delivered Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) TOT training to 86 basic health staff and nutrition partners which will now be rolled out in several townships. In Buthidaung Township of northern Rakhine State, and in coordination with the Township Health Department (THD) and partner staff, UNICEF nutrition and WASH officers carried out integrated assessments in six villages providing nutrition screening for 1,374 children from 1,176 households of who 13 children (female: 6) were found to have severe acute malnutrition and 72 (female: 34) with diagnosed with moderate acute malnutrition. In February, UNICEF's partners were largely able to provide scheduled activities with the exception of Myebon and areas of northern Rakhine which were inaccessible due to conflict. UNICEF's partner Action Contre La Faim (ACF) supported the construction of a new Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) centre in the Shwe Zar Rural Health Center, Maungdaw which will allow nutrition services to be provided by ACF with basic health staff from early March. In February, UNICEF supported Save the Children with 44 cartons of Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF)—enough to treat approximately 44 children with severe acute malnutrition—and 1,053 packages of multiple micronutrient tablets—enough for 4,800 children or pregnant and breastfeeding women—in Rakhine State.



Health

Significant progress in utilization of primary health care services for women and children was observed in Kachin and Shan States, as compared to January. This was especially true in Shan State once the long Chinese New Year holidays completed. A total of 4,831 affected people (female: 2,580), or 166% of the monthly target, utilised primary health care services. A total of 1,652 children 9 to 18 months (girls: 823) were vaccinated against measles which was almost quadruple of monthly target in Kachin and Shan States. Similarly, a total of 8,241 people (female: 5,659) utilized primary health care services provided by partner Myanmar Health Assistance Association (MHAA) in Rakhine State. A total of 769 children, 9 to 18 months of age (girls: 397) were vaccinated against measles (92% of monthly target) in Rakhine. Myanmar Health Assistant Association (MHAA) is working on collaboration with other partners and local volunteers to

ensure reach in conflict-affected communities. The cumulative affected population who utilised primary health care services were 22,872 by the end of February helping to reduce the likelihood of measles infection or other notifiable diseases during the reporting period.

UNICEF is also supporting the Ministry of Health and Sports' Health Literacy Promotion Unit to boost social media messaging and provide translation of approved materials including facts above COVID-19 and good hygiene and handwashing behaviours. Messages are expected to reach approximately 15 million people through these channels. Through UNICEF's U-Report platform in Myanmar, over 6,000 young people have accessed the "chatbot" which provides relevant COVID-19 messaging. This is the first component of a broader risk communication and community engagement strategy being developed in partnership with the government and partners. Additional strategies are being developed for people without access to smartphones or social media channels.



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WASH

In northern Shan State, UNICEF's partner Metta Development Foundation continued with emergency WASH provision in IDP camps and nearby schools receiving conflict-affected children. Similarly, in Kachin State, UNICEF partner Karuna Mission Social Solidary (KMSS), provided menstrual hygiene training to 30 students in a boarding school. Activities in both locations was impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak which has caused some partners to have more restricted movement of staff between different areas of the state or as a result of staff based in China unable to return after the Chinese New Year holiday due to border closures. As of mid-February, most staff have returned and work in resuming as expected. In northern Rakhine State, UNICEF's partner Community and Family Services International (CFSI) has completed multiple pond rehabilitations and supported household latrine constructions in Maungdaw District. Through direct action, UNICEF reached more than 180 households displaced by recent fighting with hygiene supplies and constructed, through contractors 14 emergency latrines in displacement sites in Buthidaung town. UNICEF undertook needs identifications in three additional locations hosting newly displaced and will continue to support families as the needs arise and access allows. In central Rakhine, UNICEF and our contractor received travel authorization for only 24 percent of proposed sites. Planning to provide water to Pauktaw IDP camps through "water boating" is underway in coordination with partner Solidarities international and private contractors. Solidarites, the main WASH provider in Pauktaw camps, estimates that drinking water supplies will run dry approximately one month earlier in 2020 than in previous years.



Child Protection

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In Kachin State, more than 5,000 children and adolescents benefitted from mental health and psychosocial support (PSS) and life skills interventions thus far in 2020. In northern Rakhine State, of the 13,000 people reached with PSS interventions, over 9,000 are children. Due to the ongoing fighting between Tatmadaw and the Arakan Army, UNICEF's implementing partner was unable to conduct mobile CFS activities in Rathedaung Township. UNICEF, on behalf the Mine Risk Working Group (MRWG) recorded 18 casualties in February including 5 deaths, of whom 4 are children. Looking at the countrywide situation, 64% of casualties in 2020 have been in Rakhine State. The increasing risks of mines and explosive ordnance, as well as active conflict, has resulted in several child protection activities being carried out remotely and have affected the participation of communities in learning sessions throughout central and northern Rakhine.

Education

UNICEF continued to support more than 15,000 displaced children in IDP camps and host villages in central Rakhine State as they participate in year-end examinations. In

Chin State, essential learning packages were provided to 260 primary school children whose homes were damaged by wind and fire. In Shan State, one school was hit by shelling during fighting between the Myanmar Military and the Shan State Army, however no children were in class at the time. The Ministry of Education, Department of Basic Education, provided COVID-19 messages to all State Education Departments for further dissemination to schools; there are approximately 47,000 government-run schools in Myanmar. To complement this work, UNICEF is supporting the printing of messages for 500 non-formal education centres, reaching approximately 10,000 children with good hygiene and handwashing messages.

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 EiE Sector began a series of workshops with the Myanmar Ministry of Education (MoE) for development of an Emergency Preparedness and Response Policy Framework. The Policy Framework will include contributions from all of Myanmar's States and Regions, and lead to greater coordination between MoE and EiE Sector for more effective and sustainable humanitarian action. EiE Sector engagement with MoE over this period also included ensuring access to end-of-year examinations for displaced children, a key element for recognition of their learning. The WASH Cluster is promoting more inclusive response activities in all five conflict-affected states in partnership with Humanity and Inclusion International; activities will begin in March. The NiE sector in Rakhine state provided a two-day workshop to improve integration of essential nutrition services—including infant and young child feeding counselling and multiple micronutrient supplementation—into mobile outreach activities in crisis-affected areas

Human Interest Stories and External Media

UNICEF Myanmar Press Releases:

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/press-releases/education-initiative-reaches-over-300000-disadvantaged-children-rakhine-and-chin>
<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/press-releases/unicef-statement-injury-least-17-school-children-buthidaung-township-rakhine-state>

Human Interest Stories:

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/education-every-child-must-continue-be-top-priority-myanmar-says-unicef-chief-edu>

Facebook Posts:

<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/photos/a.416623888405142/2870183439715829/?type=3&theater>
<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/videos/vb.354768004590731/186766115977693/?type=2&theater>
<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/photos/a.416623888405142/2894202417313931/?type=3&theater>
<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/photos/a.416623888405142/2894241103976729/?type=3&theater>

Next SitRep: 15 April 2020

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>

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Annex A:
Summary of Programme Results

Sector	Overall Needs (HRP)	UNICEF and IPs			Cluster Response **		
		2020 Target	Total Results	Change Since Last Report ▲▼	2020 Target	Total Results Q1	Change Since Last Report ▲▼
NUTRITION							
# of children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted to treatment	9,425	8,272	560	265	8,272	560	265
# of children aged 6 to 59 months receive micronutrient supp.	85,057	68,393	0	0	68,393	0	0
# of PLW that receive micronutrient supplementation		38,210	2,339	1,730			
# of PLW that access IYCF counselling	48,306	20,500	3,824	2,236	38,210	3,898	2,239
HEALTH							
# children 9 to 18 months vaccinated against measles		15,000	2,899	2,421			
# of affected population accessing primary health care services	524,000	105,000	22,872	13,072			
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROMOTION							
# of people with safe drinking water for domestic purposes	869,154	166,550	40,004	15,846	527,991	0	-
# of people with a functional excreta disposal system	869,154	527,991	22,942	8,799	527,991	0	-
Population provided hygiene kits or key hygiene items	869,154	339,850	128,296	113,375	527,991	0	-
Population accessing WASH & hygiene in schools, TLS and CFS	193,028	38,700	12,643	15,846	4,600	0	-
CHILD PROTECTION							
# people with access to psychosocial support		81,500	27,985	5,266	236,214	0	-
# children accessing case management services		n/a	854	65	n/a	0	-
# of with interv. to address GBV	380,000*	68,500	4,193	2,759			
# people with access to landmines/UXO information		68,500	8,372	5,431	210,250	0	-
# adolescents with life skills to prevent negative coping mechs.		10,500	4,521	1,852	15,000	0	-
EDUCATION							
# of children (3-10 years) accessing pre-primary/primary learning	116,369	39,925	20,089	5,560	93,130	0	-
# of adolescents (11-17 years) accessing post primary learning	132,992	11,220	4,074	2,899	106,044	0	-
# 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	16	0	5,018	0	-

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

**Cluster results are reported quarterly with the exception of nutrition which reports monthly.

Annex B Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Over	\$	%
Nutrition	\$7,780,000	\$916,520	\$950,106	\$5,913,373	76%
Health	\$5,532,000	\$683,606	\$656,756	\$4,191,638	76%
WASH	\$9,461,000	\$1,110,564	\$1,590,555	\$6,759,881	71%
Child Protection	\$14,538,000	\$1,111,876	\$1,271,309	\$12,154,815	84%
Education	\$8,733,000	\$1,110,564	\$1,244,545	\$6,377,891	73%
Total	\$46,044,000	\$4,933,130	\$5,713,271	\$35,397,598	77%

* As defined in Humanitarian Appeal of 06 February 2020 for a period of 12 months