DELIVERING RESULTS FOR CHILDREN IN RAKHINE STATE

Keeping children healthy, safe from harm, and with access to education
Rakhine State

Rakhine State faces severe challenges in order to restore the basic conditions needed for a decent life for everyone. Rakhine State suffers from a pernicious mix of underdevelopment, inter-communal conflict, and lingering grievances\(^1\).

The dramatic deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Rakhine State in late 2017, which led to an outflux of 730,000 refugees mainly Rohingya Muslims to Bangladesh, also resulted in a steep deterioration in basic protections and services. In 2019, fresh conflicts between the Myanmar Army and the Arakan Army are producing new waves of displacement among ethnic Rakhine and other groups and exacerbating existing widespread deprivations.

Chronic poverty, along with a profound human rights and security crisis, continue to cause multiple hardships in localized situations and throughout the state.

Achieving progress to expand essential services and protections is an urgent priority – especially for children.

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1. Final Report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, August 2017
2. Note, the term Rohingya Muslims is used in this document in recognition of the right of people to self-identify.
Everyone deserves a good childhood

Childhood is fleeting, but what happens in it lasts a lifetime.

All children in Rakhine State deserve a good beginning in life, and a promising future.

Yet for too many, this simple requirement has become increasingly hard to achieve.

As time goes on, the continuing humanitarian crisis in Rakhine State is undermining the prospects of a generation of children.

Hundreds of thousands of children require emergency humanitarian assistance to survive and to have the bare necessities of life.

Many more children continue to suffer from the effects of poverty and under-development. They fare more poorly than children in many other regions of Myanmar on numerous health, social, and education measurements.

Across the state, or in some localized situations, child survival rates are lower, nutritional status is poorer, fewer children access or stay in education, and children have more needs - but fewer chances – for protection against violence or psychological harm.
The ongoing crisis and affected populations

Situation of children in Rakhine

- Nearly 80% of households are living below the poverty line
- Over 40% of children are estimated to be out of school
- Nearly 14% of children are wasted and 38 percent are stunted
- 68% of people do not have access to safe drinking water
- 52% of children have not received vaccination against the five key life-threatening diseases
- Under 5 mortality rate is 58 deaths per 1,000 live births

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Beyond the emergency, across Rakhine State

Population

- 3.1 million
- 54,000 in temporary camps
- 128,000 Stateless/In IDP camps
- 364,767 Children needing humanitarian aid
- 715,000 Population needing humanitarian aid
- 600,000 Stateless

Other

- Integrated Household Living Conditions Assessment (IHLCA), 2009-10; Myanmar Population Census 2014; Myanmar Demographic Health Survey (DHS), 2015
UNICEF’s response: Leave no child behind

“The way to a better tomorrow is ensure children’s health, safety and education today.”

UNICEF is striving to ensure that all children in Rakhine State achieve the decent life and positive future they deserve.

First, we strive to make sure that children’s emergency humanitarian needs are met wherever they occur.

But this is not enough.

At the same time, UNICEF works closely with government and partners to support Myanmar to build and strengthen the national systems that can ensure children from across the state, from all communities, survive and stay healthy, are able to access education, and are safe from violence and psychological harm.

UNICEF’s Rakhine Response Strategy is committed to key principles, including ‘do no harm,’ across all programming, to human rights standards, and to contributing to the UN’s Human Rights Up Front Action Plan. We continue to advocate for increased access to affected areas and to all communities in need of assistance.”

5 Human Rights up Front (HRuF) is a United Nations Secretary-General’s initiative to strengthen prevention of serious problems that cut across the UN’s three pillars of peace and security, development and human rights pillars, and most especially problem issues with serious human rights consequences.
The situation in parts of Rakhine State remains unstable\(^6\), and UNICEF’s response is continually adapted to address evolving humanitarian needs - while also helping to build the resilient systems state-wide that are necessary for durable solutions.

While priorities, needs, and interventions may change depending on circumstances, and may often overlap, broadly, we are supporting the needs of the most vulnerable children living in four situations:

**Children living in northern townships**

**Helping children survive and stay healthy.** Many children, in this heavily affected area of the state, along the border with Bangladesh, do not have access to a sufficiently nutritious diet, jeopardizing their health and future development. UNICEF is scaling up support for treatment for children with Severe Acute Malnutrition, as well as access to health and nutrition support for mothers as well as children, whether at government health centres or through training for community health volunteers. In addition, we are supporting reintegration of out-of-school children, birth registration, and Maternal and Child Cash Transfers as well as child protection services.

**Children living in camps for the internally displaced in townships in central Rakhine State**

**Alleviating the stresses and health threats of camp life.** Living in makeshift camps over many years threatens children’s health, safety, education and well-being. UNICEF supports critical basic health services in the camps as well as improved water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. Our support for Temporary Learning Centres and educational materials helps ensure children’s education continues. We also provide psycho-social support, including life-skills classes for adolescents, to help coping mechanisms in the camps, as well as among other local communities nearby.

**Children affected by conflict between the Myanmar Army and the Arakan Army**

**Attending to urgent needs.** UNICEF and partners strive to access and support recently displaced populations in need of various kinds of emergency relief. Children who are victims of conflict-related displacement also need continued access to education, as well as psychological services and child protection support.

**Children in communities in central and southern Rakhine State**

**Supporting stronger systems for durable results for children.** Rakhine is one of the poorest states in Myanmar, and UNICEF is committed to supporting the Government to improve services across the board through strengthened national health, education, water and sanitation and child protection systems. Our support with partners is ensuring that more children are vaccinated against diseases such as measles and more mothers and children are able to access health care. Maternal and Child Cash Transfers provide vital help for the health and well-being of families. Our support also ensures more children are accessing quality learning materials in schools, a number of which UNICEF has built or helped repair in areas of greatest need. Children are better protected from violence or harm as trained national social work case managers, as well as community volunteers, assume more responsibilities for child protection across the state.

\(^6\) Since late 2018 fresh conflicts have emerged between the Myanmar Army and the Arakan Army in northern and central parts of the State, impacting mainly local Rakhine communities who have been displaced amid fighting. This is adding a new dimension to the crisis which erupted in 2012, resulting in more than 128,000 mainly stateless Rohingya Muslims living in camps for the internally displaced, more than 730,000 mainly Rohingya leaving for Bangladesh (2017), and all communities impacted adversely by the ongoing security and development crisis. (See Snapshot 1 for humanitarian overview).
People helping people: In action around Rakhine State

Child Friendly Schools

“The Child Friendly Schools training showed us an improved method of teaching which builds our skills and enables children to learn more from each other. They are much happier. I can see that this will enhance class unity and give us a sense of working together as a team.”

Assistant teacher Phy u Nway Moe on the new skills she is putting into practice at her school in Buthidaung Township.

See the story for more details: www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/child-friendly-sCHOOLS-training-greatly-improved-my-teaching-skills
# Health, safety, education:
## How we help in numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>UNICEF key results in Rakhine State for 2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>75,385 children and women provided with access to health care services</td>
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<td></td>
<td>25,469 children 6-59 months that receive micronutrient supplementation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10,866 pregnant or lactating women that receive micronutrient supplementation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5,940 children 9-18 months vaccinated against measles</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WASH</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>55,115 people accessing sufficient quality water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>49,201 people accessing appropriate toilets and washing facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,187 people accessing safe WASH facilities in learning environment, child-friendly spaces and emergency health care facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>53,452 people that received critical WASH-related information to prevent child illness, especially diarrhoea</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Child Protection</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>124,920 people with access to psychosocial support</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1,101 children accessing appropriate case management services</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1,432 people with access to UXO information</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10,850 adolescents provided with life skills to prevent negative coping mechanisms</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>20,445 children aged 3-10 years accessing pre-primary or primary learning opportunities</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,051 adolescents 11-17 years accessing non-formal education opportunities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>69,990 children 3-17 years who receive emergency education and recreational materials</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Going forward: Every child included

UNICEF’s approach in Rakhine State seeks to ensure that all children receive the necessary support and protection they need.

Recognizing that virtually all children from all communities are affected by the poverty and under-development that are exacerbating factors in the recent conflicts, UNICEF is committed to continuing its support for the growth of stronger national health, education and social systems that are the key to long-term resilience and prosperity for everyone.

At the same time, we maintain our strong focus on the most vulnerable, working to ensure that children in especially critical situations - those affected by conflict, those who are stateless, and those with a disability or who are otherwise marginalized – receive the tailored support they need.

Our work with partners involves untiring efforts by thousands of women and men, including staff of many organizations, government departments, and community volunteers, to build a better future for all the children, and all communities, of Rakhine State.

They are not giving up, and neither are we.

By working together, we can address the immediate needs as well as foster the development, opportunity, social cohesion and peace that all children in Rakhine deserve.

“Keeping children healthy and safe, and ensuring their education, underpins all our work.”
UNICEF’s key targets for Rakhine State: 2019 and beyond

Child Protection

- **100%** of children in need of protection reached through case management
- **500** of child survivors of violence, including SGBV, receiving services
- **120,450** of people (children, men and women) accessing psychosocial support
- **20,000** adolescents provided with life skills to prevent negative coping mechanisms

Education

- **1,800** teachers on CFS; 4,498 teachers 1,451 head teachers and education officers on SITE-ELT of teachers/head teachers trained on child friendly schools (CFS) and School-Based In-Service Teacher Education (SITE)
- **21,000** of students learning together in inclusive environments
- **30,000** of children of 3-10 years accessing pre-primary/primary learning
- **5,000** of adolescents of 11-17 years accessing post-primary

Health and Nutrition

- **21,000** children 9 to 18 months vaccinated against measles
- **35,000** children and women provided with access to health care services
- **903** pregnant women receiving at least 4 Ante Natal (AN) care services
• **100%** of Mother Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) beneficiaries who are reached with Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) on nutrition

• **9,000** of children aged 6-59 months with SAM admitted to therapeutic care

• **41,000** of children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women who receive multi micronutrient supplementation

• **29,000** of pregnant and lactating women who access infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling

• **25,876** of children aged 24-59 months who are dewormed through bi-annual nutrition campaigns

• **100%** of children (under 10) with birth registration certificates

• **20** communities reached with water supply through WASH Resilience (WASH-R) programmes

• **70** schools supported through the establishment of the Three Star Approach for WASH in Schools (the Three Star Approach helps schools meet the essential criteria for a healthy and protective learning environment for children as part of the broader child-friendly schools initiative)

• **428,369** of targeted women, men, boys and girls benefitting from safe/improved drinking water meeting demand for domestic purposes, at minimum/agreed standards

• **428,369** of targeted population provided with sanitation or hygiene kit or key hygiene items

• **128,000** People in IDP camps reached through feedback and complaints mechanisms
People helping people: In action around Rakhine State

WASH in Action

The logistical challenges in bringing water by boat to the Ah Naeuk Ywe camp for internally displaced people in Rakhine State are significant. Sometimes, during low tides, boats cannot reach the drop-off point. But somehow, solutions are found.

See the photo story at:
www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/delivering-urgently-needed-water-boat
2019 UNICEF is seeking US $33.6m for its operations in Rakhine State

Our work relies on the generosity of our donors and in 2019 UNICEF is seeking US $33.6m for its operations in Rakhine State of total Myanmar funding requirement of US $59.1 million.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Funding status as of September 2019</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>4,476,587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>2,579,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>2,579,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>2,744,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Policy and Child Rights Monitoring</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1,230,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations and Programme Support</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>2,577,686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication for Development</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1,230,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>45%</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,688,223</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Delivering results together

UNICEF Myanmar would like to express its deepest gratitude to our donors who support our work in Rakhine State - including the Government of Japan, the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), Department for International Development (DFID), the European Union, GAVI and the generous contributions of individuals through UNICEF National Committees. UNICEF would also like to thank all who contribute to our global thematic funds for humanitarian action, particularly Norway, Sweden and Denmark, who are the three biggest contributors.

UNICEF would also like to thank all partners working across Rakhine State for their efforts in achieving results for all children in Rakhine State.