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Reporting Period: 1 to 31 January 2020

Myanmar

Humanitarian Situation Report

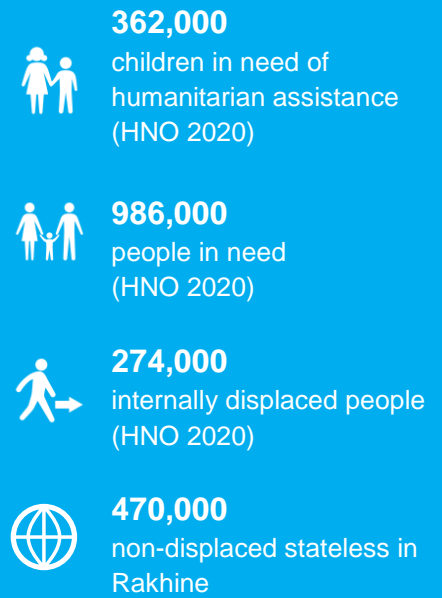
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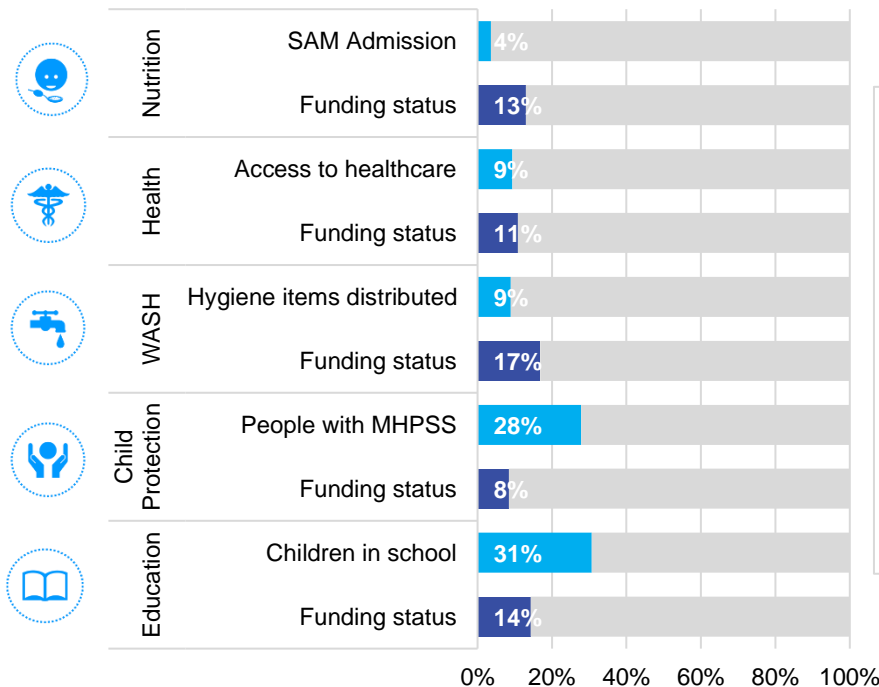
Highlights

- In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, UNICEF’s focus has been on child-friendly risk communication messages in a number of ethnic languages to promote good hygiene and hand-washing behaviors to reduce transmission and spread. UNICEF is also issuing a U-Report “chatbot” to provide basic information and advice reaching over 33,000 young people countrywide.
- UNICEF and the Mine Risk Working Group (MRWG) recorded 36 casualties in January of whom 15 were children, and of five deaths, four were children.
- During the visit of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, she acknowledged the progress made by the Government with regards to the 2012 Joint Action Plan on the recruitment and use of children and urged continued engagement and a new joint action plan to better protect children and end killing, maiming and sexual violence.

Situation in Numbers

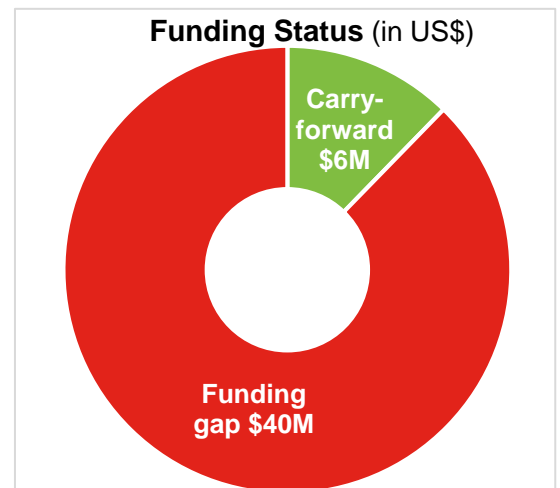


UNICEF’s Response and Funding Status



UNICEF Appeal 2020

US\$ 46 million

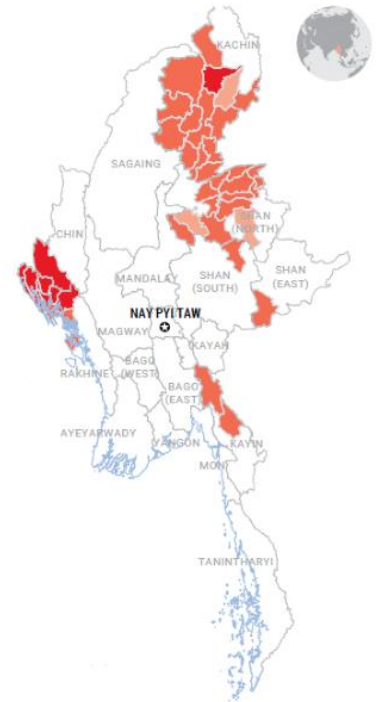


Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF appeals for US\$ 46.04 million to sustain provision of critical and life-saving services for children and their caregivers in Myanmar. UNICEF is currently using funds received from ECHO and USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance in mid-2019 for continuing programmes. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private donors for contributions in previous years to support the children of Myanmar. Details of UNICEF's 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 Myanmar continues to be mired in conflict and displacement, particularly in Rakhine State and northern Shan State. The map, right, from the 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview shows the vulnerability of various populations throughout the country with notable risk areas in Rakhine, Paletwa Townships of Chin State, significant portions of Kachin State, northern Shan State and several townships in Kayin State. The nature of the conflict and needs of the populations vary by location requiring a multi-faceted and unique approach in each location. In addition, a significant number of IDPs in Kachin and northern Shan, reside in areas controlled by ethnic armed organizations; areas UNICEF has not been able to access since early 2016. Localizing the response through strong national organizations and communities remains a focus of UNICEF's humanitarian work countrywide.



In Rakhine, the most recent figures issued by the Government count over 50,000 people displaced by fighting between the Arakan Army and the Myanmar military. The fighting has added to an already precarious situation for the nearly 130,000 IDPs, primarily Rohingya, living in IDP camps in central areas of the State. The needs of these 180,000 displaced people and other conflict affected populations is central to UNICEF's humanitarian programming. This includes addressing gaps in water supply and sanitation, education, and child protection. UNICEF continues to receive reports of children and other civilians injured or killed due to armed conflict and works to ensure all Grave Violations against children are channelled through the monitoring and reporting mechanism.

In northern Shan State, armed conflicts between the Myanmar military and ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) or between varying EAOS continued in January in Manton, Namhsan, Hseini and Kyuakme townships. Shelling and gunfire reported killed a dozen civilians. Violence in northern Shan continues to be characterized by short-term displacement to churches, monasteries or other public locations as fighting flares up in a particular village/area. While local communities continue to act as first responders, the coping mechanisms of all communities is starting to wear under the years of required response support.

In Kachin, the tentative cessation of fighting is sustained and the push for identifying and implementing durable solutions for nearly 100,000 people, displaced since 2011, gained momentum in January. The Government convened a high-level meeting to look at operationalization of the National Strategy on Closure of Camps as well as a concept note provided by the United Nations which identified actions which could be taken to support voluntary and inclusive return, relocation or resettlement. An estimated 500 IDPs from three of the selected 17 communities have been identified as potential "pilot programmes" to kickstart returns. Humanitarian agencies including UNICEF continue to engage with Government officials offering support and advocating to all solutions and movements are informed, adhere to international principles on displacement and return, and ensure that identified return locations are safe, secure, free of landmines and UXOs and allow for livelihoods and basic service provision to resume.

Coronavirus

No confirmed cases of the 2019 novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Myanmar have been reported to date (as of 17 February). The World Health Organization (WHO) and other actors are working to ensure the National Health Laboratory in Myanmar has the appropriate assays and reagents to test in country; until the laboratory is verified to provide accurate results, samples are transported to Thailand for testing. Myanmar has a large and porous border with China and Thailand, increasing fears that the COVID-19 could enter the country by land, where screening at the 29 border points may be more difficult. The potential spread of COVID-19 is slowing trade between Myanmar and China which may have impact on availability in markets and day labour opportunities. The Government of Myanmar has response teams

screening people at eight border locations and ethnic health organization are reportedly monitoring 20 border areas under their control.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

The Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) has been rolling out the Multisectoral National Plan of Action for Nutrition (MSN-PAN) program in targeted States and Regions in order to improve maternal and children nutritional status. UNICEF and nutrition partners in close coordination with National Nutrition Centre (NNC) and Rakhine State Health Department have been providing technical and operational support in Rakhine State. In January, there were state-level roll-out coordination and advocacy meetings chaired and attended by the Rakhine Chief Minister and Social Minister at the Rakhine State Health Department. A multisectoral workshop for the roll-out with related departments is planned for the first week of April 2020. Similarly, the roll-out of the Infant and Young Child Feeding programme in Kachin townships continues with UNICEF and partners supporting ongoing technical and operational support.



UNICEF's partner Myanmar Health Assistant Association (MHAA) supported nutrition needs assessment and coordination activities in Buthidaung Township however activities in Kyauktaw township were temporarily suspended in January due to insecurity. Partner Action Contre la Faim (ACF) is extending its Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) in Maungdaw which will allow more children to be screened and treated for severe acute malnutrition. ACF also provided training to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Community Health Workers in northern Rakhine to expand nutritional screening and facilitate referrals of identified malnutrition cases to OTP centres. Nutrition partners jointly performed MUAC nutrition assessments for over 600 children in northern Rakhine with the analysis and report due in February. Expansion of the activity is planned and awaiting travel authorization.

Health

In January 2020, UNICEF and implementing partners were targeting at least 8,750 children and women for immunization and basic health services provision across humanitarian settings in Kachin, Shan, and Rakhine States. Sustained coverage of basic health care services was observed in all areas except Kachin State (3% of its monthly target), which has a significant number of targeted locations near the border with China. Basic ongoing services were disrupted by the COVID-19 outbreak. Measles immunization coverage was low in most targeted locations in part due to constraints in access as a result of fighting between the Myanmar Military and Arakan Army (AA) in central and northern parts of Rakhine and Chinese New Year celebrations and COVID-19 in Kachin and Shan.

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, UNICEF is coordinating with the MoHS, WHO and other donors and implementing agencies for preparedness and response activities. UNICEF is focusing on expanding child-friendly risk communication messages in multiple ethnic languages to promote good hygiene and hand-washing behaviours to reduce transmission and spread. Messages, once approved by the MOHS, will be transmitted by internet, SMS, tv, radio and roaming trucks in Myanmar, Kachin, Shan, Kokang, Wa and other languages. UNICEF is also issuing a U-Report "chatbot" to provide basic information and advice which will reach over 33,000 young people in all states and regions of the country.



WASH

WASH activities continue in Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan States. In central Rakhine State, UNICEF and our partners are preparing for dry season "water boating"—potable water is carried by boat to more remote IDP camps



whose water ponds have run dry. Once the ponds are dry, work will also begin to rehabilitate rainwater harvesting ponds in the most affected locations to improve capacity ahead of the upcoming monsoon season. UNICEF is also continuing the construction of 65 new latrine blocks in central Rakhine and 31 emergency latrines in northern Rakhine State in “new” displacement sites support those displaced in 2019 due to conflict between the Arakan Army and Myanmar Military. Also, in preparation for support for UNICEF’s “Learning Together” initiative across the state, assessments to improve WASH in schools have been completed at 93 schools. In northern Rakhine State, UNICEF supported integrated

nutrition and WASH assessments in collaboration with the MoHS. UNICEF is also working through partner Community and Family Services International to improve household sanitation and has distribution latrine equipment to nearly 1,300 households in Buthidaung and Maungdaw Townships.

In Kachin, UNICEF and our partner Karuna Mission Social Solidarity (KMSS), with the Government, provided eighty teachers with refresher trainings on how to lead on WASH in Schools in Emergencies which will be linked in the future to other government trainings. UNICEF also provided the MOHS with soap to promote handwashing in critical border or transit locations as part of the COVID-19 preparedness and screening process.

Education

UNICEF continues to provide support to more than 15,000 children in temporary learning classrooms, host villages and schools in central Rakhine State. Students are preparing for the end of academic year exams that will take place in February and March. To support the “Playing Together” programme, UNICEF has provided 472 recreation kits in 11 townships of Rakhine which can be used by over 45,450 children. Access challenges continue to affect monitoring, especially in Minbya Township where remoted monitoring is conducted by phone after travel authorizations were declined. In Kachin State, UNICEF supported 17 volunteer teachers from IDP camps managed by Kachin Baptist Convention in Myitkyina, Waingmaw, Tanai, Mogaung, and Hpakant Townships attended a 10-day of child friendly school training. This same training was also provided to seven teachers in Myaing Gyi Ngu IDP camp. In Kayin State, 28 students (15 female) in non-formal primary learning programmes have not been able to attend classes as the centre remains closed due to armed clashes between the Myanmar military and the Mon ethnic armed organization. UNICEF’s new partnership with Metta Development Foundation means that nearly 3000 children in northern Shan are now enjoying learning opportunities.



Child Protection

In northern Shan State, UNICEF and our partners are expanding case management activities to include Muse, Hsipaw, Namtu and Manton Townships. UNICEF’s new partnership with the Legal Clinic Myanmar (LCM), started to provide services for children in conflict with the law. In central Rakhine State, travel restrictions in place by the government including in Myebon Township is impacting the ability to provide child protection awareness sessions in targeted locations at the same time that violence is expanding. UNICEF’s implementing partner in Taung Paw IDP camp in Myebon, Relief International, has noted an increase in early marriage cases since September 2019. Follow up is being

conducted to better understand the reasons behind the increase and address the child protection issues. In Mrauk-U township in central Rakhine State, UNICEF's partners Danish Refugee Council and People in Need are using new child-friendly space kits to support activities in 10 new IDP sites and host communities suffering from Arakan Army and Myanmar military conflict. Casualties due to landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) are higher in January 2020 compared to the same month in 2019. UNICEF on behalf the Mine Risk Working Group (MRWG) recorded 36 casualties of who 15 were children and of five deaths in January, four were children. The majority of these casualties are occurring in Rakhine State, a place that was relatively free of landmines and ERW prior to August 2017. UNICEF continues to scale up the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) in the state, especially through schools. 600 teachers from 300 schools in 10 townships in northern and central Rakhine have been trained and are now delivering sessions in schools.

The SRSG-CAAC visited Myanmar in January where she met with national authorities, civil society, ethnic armed organizations, the diplomatic corps and the Country Taskforce on Monitoring and Reporting on Children and Armed Conflict in Myanmar. She acknowledged that significant progress had been made by Government Forces in the implementation of their joint Action Plan signed in 2012 with the UN on the recruitment and use of children, and urged that the Plan must be expedited and finalized. She urged the Tatmadaw Army to continue its engagement with the UN to develop measures to better protect children and to commit to a joint action plan on killing and maiming and sexual violence, violations for which they were listed in 2018. She also met with 3 listed ethnic armed organizations, welcomed their willingness to increase their engagement with the UN to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children, and urged them to complete and sign action plans to end child recruitment and use.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF leads the WASH Cluster, Education in Emergencies sub-sector, Nutrition in Emergencies Sector and Child Protection sub-sector working groups. In 2019, the WASH cluster focused on a Quality Assurance and Accountability System which is in place as of January 1st which will focus on measuring the quality of the response and ensuring appropriate actions are taken to address any issues raised. Additionally, the human-centred design project is launching trial phases of several options to address the continued open defecation problem in the Rakhine IDP camps. This collective effort of several WASH cluster partners will contribute to a more evidence-based, and thus effective, response. The Nutrition in Emergencies sector worked to conduct a joint assessment in 10 villages in the Sein Hnyin Pyar village tract to inform an integrated health, nutrition and WASH response.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

UNICEF Myanmar Press Releases:

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/press-releases/myanmar-renewed-engagement-end-and-prevent-violations-against-children-affected>

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/press-releases/unicef-statement-death-four-children-due-explosion-rakhine-state-myanmar>

Human Interest Stories:

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/learning-together-brings-children-together>

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/journey-reach-quality-teaching-most-remote-parts-myanmar>

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/children-making-movies-about-children>

Facebook Posts:

<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/2795838673816973>

<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/videos/464988021114581>

<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/videos/589681285128253/>

Next SitRep: 15 March 2019

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	2020 Target	Total Results Q1
NUTRITION					
# of children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted to treatment	9,425	8,272	295	8,272	295
# of children aged 6 to 59 months that receive micronutrient supplementation	85,057	68,393	0	68,393	0
# of PLW that receive micronutrient supplementation		38,210	609		
# of PLW that access IYCF counselling	48,306	20,500	1,588	38,210	1,659
HEALTH					
# children 9 to 18 months vaccinated against measles		15,000	478		
# of affected population accessing primary health care services	524,000	105,000	9,800		
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE					
# of targeted people benefitting from safe drinking water for domestic purposes	869,154	166,550	24,158	527,991	0
# of targeted people benefitting from a functional excreta disposal system	869,154	527,991	14,143	527,991	0
Targeted population provided hygiene kits or key hygiene items	869,154	339,850	14,921	527,991	0
Targeted population accessing WASH & hygiene in schools, TLS and CFS	193,028	38,700	8,135	4,600	0
CHILD PROTECTION					
# people (children, women and men) with access to psychosocial support		81,500	22,719	236,214	0
# children accessing case management services		n/a	789	n/a	0
# of (women, girls and boys) with interventions to address GBV	380,000*	68,500	1,434		
# people with access to landmines/UXO information		68,500	2,941	210,250	0
# adolescents with life skills to prevent negative coping mechanisms		10,500	2,669	15,000	0
EDUCATION					
# of targeted children (3-10 years) accessing pre-primary/primary learning opportunities.	116,369	39,925	14,529	93,130	0
# of adolescents (11-17 years) accessing post primary learning opportunities	132,992	11,220	1,175	106,044	0
# of 3-17 years children who received learning materials		34,500	288		
# of teachers/facilitators who completed trainings on quality/inclusive education	6,394	1,210	16	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	-	\$ 1,006,855	\$ 6,773,145	87%
Health	\$ 5,532,000	-	\$ 600,007	\$ 4,931,993	89%
WASH	\$ 9,461,000	-	\$ 1,590,268	\$ 7,870,732	83%
Child Protection	\$ 14,538,000	-	\$ 1,219,732	\$ 13,318,268	92%
Education	\$ 8,733,000	-	\$ 1,244,545	\$ 7,488,455	86%
Total	\$ 46,044,000		\$ 5,661,408	\$ 40,382,592	88%

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