



Reporting Period: 1 to 31 March 2020

Myanmar Humanitarian Situation Report No. 3 2020



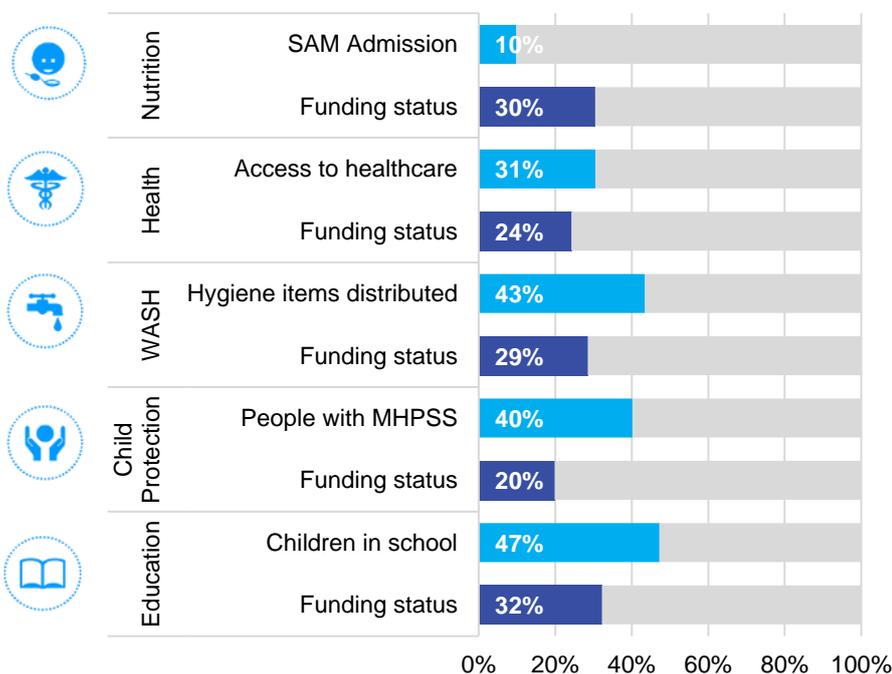
Highlights

- As part of the preparedness and response to COVID-19 in Myanmar, UNICEF is working with partners to suspend or re-orient activities to mitigate the risk to beneficiaries and partner staff. Life-saving activities continue.
- UNICEF is scaling up handwashing facilities, risk communication and protection activities as part of the COVID-19 response.
- Fighting in Rakhine and Shan States continue to cause displacement and increasing needs; access remains extremely limited to these populations.
- Reports of grave violations of child rights continue to be recorded, affecting at least 80 children thus far in 2020.

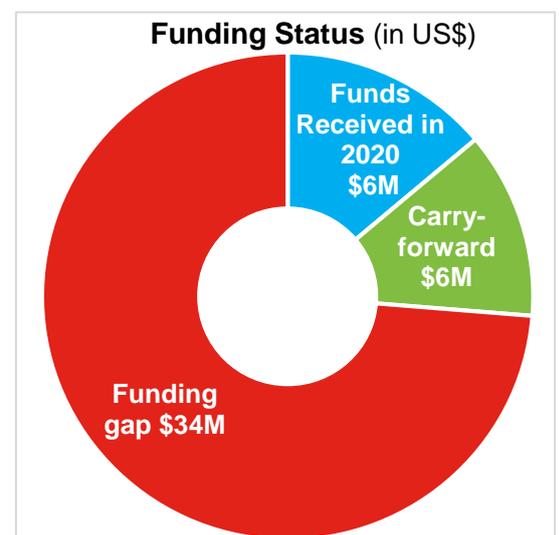
Situation in Numbers

- 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 million to sustain provision of critical and life-saving services for children and their caregivers in Myanmar. UNICEF/Myanmar received \$454,270 from the Government of Denmark and an allocation of \$1 million from global Humanitarian Thematic funding from Headquarters. These generous unearmarked contributions allow UNICEF to allocate funds to the areas of greatest need. Details of UNICEF's budget requirements can be found in Annex B below and include significant needs for all of UNICEF/Myanmar's ongoing emergency programmes including Child Protection, WASH, Health, Nutrition and Education.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

In March, fighting between the Arakan Army (AA) and the Myanmar Military or Tatmadaw intensified in Rakhine and Chin States and the total estimated displacement now stands at 69,000, an increase of approximately 12,000 people in March alone. Clashes were reported on an almost daily basis in the townships of Buthidaung, Maungdaw and Rathedaung in northern Rakhine, and Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Kyauktaw, Ponnagyun and Ann in central Rakhine and in Paletwa Township of Chin State. The Kyauktaw and Paletwa areas have been a particular focus of fighting. The main road route between Yangon and Sittwe continues to be impacted by the conflict, with temporary closures occurring in various locations as a result of clashes. UN vehicles, including UNICEFs, have been stopped at checkpoints around Ann, Myebon, Minbya and Mrauk-U.

In Kachin, the desire to find durable solutions and an end to IDP camps is ongoing—though currently stalled by COVID-19. UNICEF participated in a workshop with the 'Joint Strategy Team' and the 'Kachin Humanitarian Concern Committee' where consensus was reached on benchmarks to be met before returns can be supported. In northern Shan, clashes continue between the Ta'ang National Liberation Army and the Tatmadaw. Fighting in mid-March displaced 115 people and fighting and landmines killed additional civilians.



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COVID-19

UNICEF Myanmar is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and provides information into the East Asia and Pacific Situation Reports being released frequently. The most recent Situation Reports for COVID-19 can be found [here](#). As of 15 April 2020, WHO reported nearly 2 million confirmed cases and almost 125,000 deaths, with cases confirmed across 212 countries/areas or territories, including Myanmar, which has a total of 85 confirmed cases, including four deaths. While the first case in Myanmar was only reported on March 23, the country has been preparing for the pandemic since the outbreak began in China. To date, over 45,000 economic migrants have returned through official channels from Thailand, with hundreds of thousands more expected in coming weeks due to closure of shops or factories; the unofficial figures are estimated to be approximately 100,000 returnees already in country. The majority of confirmed cases are in Yangon, however there are close contacts under investigation and thousands in quarantine facilities in border areas, as well as positive cases in remote Chin State. All of these factors, in concert with poor traditional health-seeking and food/water sharing behaviours could contribute to widespread community transmission. As a result, the Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS) has warned the country is at very high risk of a "major outbreak".

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

In March, UNICEF has been coordinating with partners on COVID-19 nutrition-specific materials including programme guidelines in the changing context. UNICEF has also been closely coordinating with nutrition Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) for at the national level and prepositioning essential nutrition commodities in various hubs for a potential nutrition response should the cases surge. As part of this, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS) with essential nutrition supplies including 1,023 cartons of Ready to Use Therapeutic Food for Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) program in Rakhine, Chin and Magway.

In coordination with the Rakhine State Nutrition Team (SNT) and State Health Department (SHD), UNICEF facilitated and supported the IMAM scale-up plan and held a review meeting in which IMAM nutrition services, supplies, workforce

and main challenges for strengthening IMAM services were discussed. UNICEF's partner; Action Contre la Faim (ACF) supported the SNT for improving IMAM data collection, analysis and action planning that, moving forward, will be utilized for risk profiling and action prioritization as the launch of the Multi-sectoral National Plan of Action on Nutrition MSN-PAN in Rakhine. UNICEF's partner ACF started provision of outpatient therapeutic programme (OTP) services at Shwe Zar health facility in Maungdaw Township. In March, a total of 332 children were screened and 100 children (19 SAM and 81 MAM) with acute malnutrition were provided with nutrition services. The Myanmar Health Assistant Association (MHAA) implemented direct integrated health and nutrition activities in authorized townships of Sittwe, Pauktaw and in the Taungpaw IDP camp in Myebon. The MHAA team also operated joint mobile clinic activities with Township Health Department (THD) staff in new displacement sites and villages in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, Rathedaung, Kyauktaw, Mrauk-U and Minbya. MHAA and UNICEF have been coordinating with Buthidaung THD for upcoming nutrition assessments.

Health

Substantial improvement of both *provision of primary health care services* and *number of children 9 to 18 months vaccinated against measles* were observed in most of the humanitarian project areas, especially in Rakhine despite



continued fighting between the AA and Tatmadaw. Partners were occupied also with COVID-19 preparedness and response activities in all project areas. From the monthly target of 2,917 of affected population accessing primary health care services, 3,307 people (female: 1,752) or 113 percent utilized primary health care services and a total of 440 children 9 to 18 months (girls: 232) were vaccinated against measles or 106 percent of the monthly target in Kachin and Shan. Similarly, a total of 5,901 people (female: 3,711) or 101 percent utilized primary health care services provided by UNICEF's implementing partner in Rakhine State. A significant increase of children 9 to 18 months vaccinated against measles in Rakhine was observed as compared to last reporting period. A total of 2,443 (girls: 1,228) or 293% of the monthly target were

immunized against measles. The Myanmar Health Assistant Association (MHAA) provided access to these services through collaboration and coordination with the THDs of Kyauktaw, Pauktaw, Rathedaung and Sittwe and using local volunteers. The total cumulative affected population accessing primary health care service reached 32,080 by the end of March 2020.

WASH

Normal humanitarian activities were constrained due to the focus on COVID-19; however UNICEF's partners installed handwashing facilities for 500 people and World Water Day was used to convey COVID-19 messages in March. In addition, menstrual hygiene management facilities were upgraded by UNICEF's partner Kachin Baptist Convention in temporary learning centres. UNICEF also supported the design and fabrication of 125 hand washing stations and installed handwashing stations at four designated quarantine/isolation facilities. In addition, UNICEF provided 5,000 bars of soap coupled with handwashing stations reaching an estimated 2,500 people. In northern Shan, two gravity flow water supply systems were constructed and one renovated in IDP camps during this period by partner Metta Development Foundation. Additionally in northern Shan, 50 new emergency latrines and two new semi-permanent latrines were constructed and installed. To cope water scarcity in Rakhine State, UNICEF and Solidarites International started water boating activities for Ah Nauk Ye (ANY) and Khin Ni Phyin (KNP) camps in Rakhine benefitting 11,024 IDP by providing an average of 7.5 litres per person per day. UNICEF is looking to increase water provision to these locations given the importance of hygiene and handwashing as COVID-19 spreads in Myanmar. UNICEF also provided hygiene kits for new displaced populations in Minbya and Ann Townships and completed 65 blocks of latrines for 8,310 individuals in Minbya, Sittwe and Buthidaung.

Child Protection

UNICEF and partners reached over 90 per cent of the 2019 target for psychosocial support (PSS) and 101 per cent of the target for specialized protection assistance. Support services for girls and women who have experienced, or been found at risk of, gender-based violence (GBV) continued. Timely availability of resources helped continue and expand partnerships; mid-year, UNICEF expanded services in four additional camps to ensure continuation of protection

services after the exit of an NGO partner due to lack of funds. Reports of grave violations of child rights continue to be recorded in 2020, affecting at least 80 children so far; the majority of incidents have been verified by the UN. UNICEF funding for GBV and children affected by armed conflict is limited, with potential to negatively impact service delivery should shortages continue.

The fighting in Rakhine State has reportedly resulted in the death and injuries of children and women, however due to security concerns and limited access, it has been difficult to verify these incidents. UNICEF and implementing partners were able to supply PSS and delivered 1,750 child protection kits in some of the new displacement sites however others remain underserved and inaccessible. Mobile and static MHPSS in northern Rakhine focused on new displacement sites and reached 9,273 children. UNICEF's partner CFSI continued to raise awareness of the affected communities on Child Protection including migration, drug abuse, sexual abuse, and explosive ordnance. Starting in mid-March Child Protection implementing partners suspended or adjusted group activities including PSS to mitigate COVID-19 risks. However, implementing partners have continued case management services including follow up cases and in Rakhine partners were able to close 204 cases.

Earlier this month, two trainings on Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism were conducted for partners in Kachin and Shan States. A total of 55 participants (33 women) from the areas by armed conflict attended the training to strengthen the monitoring and reporting system and ensure the children affected by armed conflict are provided appropriate services and support. At the end of the month, UNICEF provided three days of training on Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) for 15 newly appointed staff of the Department of the Rehabilitation to introduce the concepts and definitions.

Education

In March the regular Myanmar school year ended; the new school year begins in June. In Maungdaw, UNICEF's partner Community Family Services International (CFSI) supported 21 remedial classes in 20 school locations for 2,091 out-of-school children (1,043 girls) in early March. Classroom activities and training for teachers and community members have now been put on hold due to the COVID-19. In central Rakhine State, temporary learning classrooms supported by UNICEF through partners Save the Children and Plan International also closed as expected until the next school year. In Kachin, while schools are on break, some activities including renovation of education infrastructure and procurement of teaching and learning materials were ongoing as of the end of March.



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. Due to COVID-19, nutrition partners in Rakhine and Kachin States have temporarily suspended mass nutrition activities and are continuing the life-saving interventions with some adaptations including physical distancing in, installing additional handwashing points, fever screening, using disinfectant solutions, increasing RUTF amounts to reduce the need for weekly visits, and reducing the number of field visits by staffs relying more on community-based volunteers. Nutrition partners in Kachin and Rakhine have been developing contingency plans for COVID-19 in their nutrition programs and the Rakhine sub-sector joined an inter-cluster coordination group assessment in Taungpaw camp.

The Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) organized several capacity-building activities targeted at improving knowledge and skills of implementing agencies. Additionally, all three sub-national CPWGS participated in work planning activities and MPHSS webinars/workshops. In Shan State, explosive ordnance risk education training was provided to adolescents to improve community awareness and risks.

The Education in Emergencies (EiE) Sector focused on COVID-19 response including development of an EiE Sector COVID-19 Response Strategy and supporting the Ministry of Education with its own response and preparedness planning. EiE partners also continued non-COVID-19 activities joint work to standardize teacher incentive payments in Kachin State.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

UNICEF Myanmar Press Releases:

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/press-releases/un-send-50000-more-test-kits-myanmar>

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/press-releases/secretary-generals-appeal-global-ceasefire>

Human Interest Stories:

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

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/preventing-coronavirus-through-wash-response-rakhine-state>

Facebook Posts:

<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/2977556718978500>

<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/2953406708060168>

Next SitRep: 15 July 2020

(note: due to COVID-19, monthly situation reports have been changed to quarterly for the remainder of the year. The Q2 sit rep covering April-June will be issued mid-July)

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	815	255	8,272	815	255
# of children aged 6 to 59 months receive micronutrient supp.	85,057	68,393	3,142	3,142	68,393	3,142	3,142
# of PLW that receive micronutrient supplementation		38,210	4,647	2,308	38,210	4,647	2,308
# of PLW that access IYCF counselling	48,306	20,500	4,922	1,098	38,210	5,016	1,118
HEALTH							
# children 9 to 18 months vaccinated against measles		15,000	2,899	2,883			
# of affected population accessing primary health care services	524,000	105,000	22,872	9,208			
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROMOTION#							
# of people with safe drinking water for domestic purposes	869,154	166,550	40,004	-433	527,991	301,366	-
# of people with a functional excreta disposal system	869,154	527,991	22,942	15,085	527,991	219,467	-
Population provided hygiene kits or key hygiene items	869,154	339,850	128,296	-18,116	527,991	160,949	-
Population accessing WASH & hygiene in schools, TLS and CFS	193,028	38,700	12,643	-5,852	4,600	28,300	-
CHILD PROTECTION							
# people with access to psychosocial support		81,500	27,985	4,808	236,214	46,256	-
# children accessing case management services		n/a	854	63	n/a	0	-
# of with interv. to address GBV	380,000*	68,500	4,193	5,347			
# people with access to landmines/UXO information		68,500	8,372	795	210,250	11,470	-
# adolescents with life skills to prevent negative coping mechs.		10,500	4,521	408	15,000	0	-
EDUCATION							
# of children (3-10 years) accessing pre-primary/primary learning	116,369	39,925	20,089	0	93,130	25,849	-
# of adolescents (11-17 years) accessing post primary learning	132,992	11,220	4,074	0	106,044	9,583	-
# 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	225	-

*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.

#WASH figures are reduced due to correction of reporting errors in previous month

Annex B Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Over	\$	%
Nutrition	\$7,780,000	\$1,416,520	\$950,106	\$5,413,374	70%
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	\$1,610,564	\$1,271,309	\$11,656,127	80%
Education	\$8,733,000	\$1,564,834	\$1,244,545	\$5,923,621	68%
Total	\$46,044,000	\$6,386,088	\$5,713,271	\$33,944,641	74%

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