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Reporting Period: 1 January to 31 December 2020

Myanmar

Humanitarian Situation Report

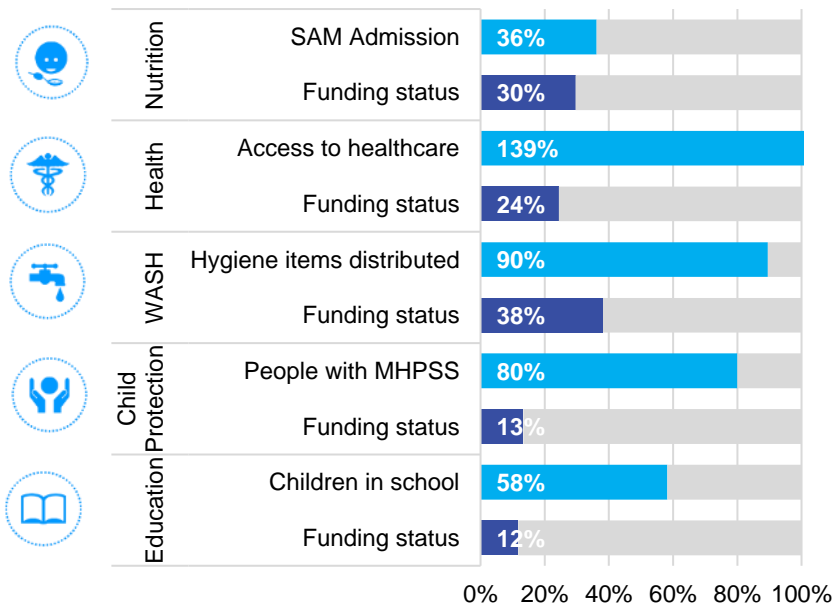
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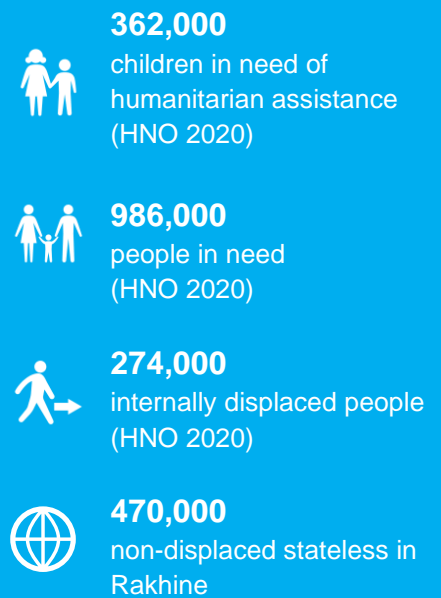
Highlights

- UNICEF continued to lead the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Nutrition, Education and Child Protection clusters/sectors providing support for the overall strategic direction and strengthening of the humanitarian response.
- Humanitarian access became more constrained with additional administrative layers and extra security clearance measures imposed as a result of the ongoing conflict in Rakhine, Southern Chin, Northern Shan States. COVID-19 travel restrictions further reduced access. Mechanisms and strategies to expand access had to be rethought due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Several UNICEF and implementing partner staff tested positive for COVID-19, resulting in the temporary suspension of all direct implementation of activities throughout the state. Only life-saving activities continued, with the support of camp-based staff.
- The interest towards durable solutions for internally displaced persons (IDP) remained high throughout 2020. The government established a committee to support the return of IDPs; however, concerns remained about the process, security and safety of the IDPs, including landmines, land and property rights and lack of livelihoods.

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status

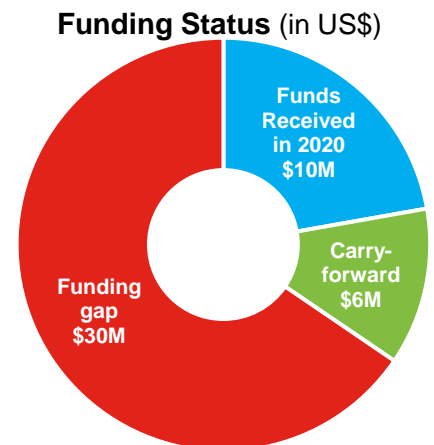


Situation in Numbers



UNICEF Appeal 2020

US\$ 46 million



Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF appealed for US\$46.04 million to sustain the provision of critical and life-saving services for children and their caregivers in Myanmar plus an additional US\$31.1 million for COVID-19 response activities. UNICEF received funds from ADB, CERF, DFID, ECHO, Global Partnership for Education USAID, Government of Australia, Government of China, Government of Denmark, Government of Germany, Government of Japan, German Committee for UNICEF, Netherlands Committee for UNICEF, Swedish Committee for UNICEF, UK Committee for UNICEF and UNICEF's Global Thematic Humanitarian Fund for continuing programmes and COVID-19 response activities in 2020. UNICEF Myanmar received 35% of the US\$46.04 million funding appeal. Details of UNICEF's budget requirements can be found in Annex B and include significant needs for all of UNICEF Myanmar's ongoing emergency programmes. UNICEF requires US\$61.7 million to continue to meet the needs of children, adolescents and caregivers in Myanmar. UNICEF's appeal aligns with the sectoral needs in six conflict-affected states (Rakhine, Chin, Kachin, Shan and Kayin), where life-saving and life-sustaining support is urgently required, in line with the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The humanitarian situation in Myanmar throughout 2020 was overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government of Myanmar confirmed its first positive case of COVID-19 at the end of March and managed to keep a limited rate of infections until the beginning of August, when community transmission was reported and cases started increasing at alarming rates. As of 31 December, 2020 Myanmar had 124,630 confirmed COVID-19 cases with 2,682 deaths; 107,069 cases have recovered and were discharged from hospitals. A total of 310 out of 330 townships in Myanmar have confirmed COVID cases across all 15 states and regions. The main focus of all humanitarian work in 2020 was adapting programmes to be COVID-safe and prioritising to ensure that critical activities continued.

Humanitarian access became more constrained with additional administrative layers and extra security clearance measures imposed as a result of the ongoing conflict in northern Rakhine, southern Chin and northern Shan states. COVID-19 travel restrictions further reduced access to populations in need. Throughout the course of the year, several UNICEF and implementing partners staff tested positive for COVID-19, resulting in the temporary suspension of all direct implementation of activities throughout the bg, impacting all sectors. During this time, only life-saving activities continued through the support of camp-based staff.



Myanmar held its general election on 8 November 2020. While 37 million people were originally eligible to vote, around two million, mostly ethnic minorities (including Rohingya) in conflict-affected areas of Rakhine, Shan and Kachin States, were disenfranchised due to closure of voting stations and security concerns.

Insecurity and instability increased in 2020, with significant displacement and increased conflict in Rakhine and Chin States, continuing conflict in Shan State, and hardening of positions by ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) and the Myanmar Armed Forces. Conflict and COVID-19 have significantly diminished space for international assistance, limiting access to key regions of Myanmar and impeding efforts to support refugees and IDPs.

The previously conflict-ridden Kachin State experienced relative calm for the second successive year. It was therefore anticipated that this would lead up to the signing of bilateral ceasefire agreements between the Myanmar military and the ethnic armed groups. Instead, both maintained their hard

stance declaring three monthly unilateral ceasefires laced with strong language with the control of the COVID-19 pandemic and the November elections given as reasons for the cessation of hostilities. Continued troop movements in potential areas of return, coupled with the occasional skirmishes and landmine contamination, prevented any meaningful return of IDPs, with an estimated 94,600 IDPs (of whom 70 per cent are women and children) still living in 136 camps and camp-like settings across thirteen townships.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

In 2020, UNICEF and implementing partners Myanmar Health Assistant Association, Save the Children, Action Contra La Faim and Health Poverty Action provided life-saving nutrition services in humanitarian areas. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the partners reached 44,471 6-59 months children (22,725 girls, 21,746 boys) (60% of the target) and 28,262 pregnant and lactating women (70% of the target) with preventive nutrition services. In the same period, 2,991 6-59 months children (1,675 girls, 1,316 boys) with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were admitted for treatment and management in Rakhine (36% of the target). Admissions were significantly reduced when COVID-19 cases started increasing in April and in September 2020. The suspension of activities and interruption of supply transportation during the peak periods of COVID-19 transmission led resulted in low performances and high defaulters within the treatment of acute malnutrition programme. Partners adjusted programme modalities using the adapted 'Nutrition in Emergency guidelines in the context of COVID-19' to ensure essential nutrition services were provided to the most vulnerable populations while ensuring infection, prevention and control of COVID-19. In addition, 385,737 people, including 43,202 caregivers with 0-23 children, were reached with nutrition promotion messages in the context of COVID-19. Due to the anticipated increased needs during COVID-19, UNICEF provided additional life-saving supplies, including ready to use therapeutic food and therapeutic milk, and anthropometric equipment.



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Health



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There were sustained resumption of the immunization programmes and health services in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) areas, namely Shan, Kachin and Rakhine during the COVID-19 pandemic. UNICEF provided personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure the provision of services in adherence with infection prevention and control (IPC) measures. UNICEF also used virtual platforms and social media such as zoom meetings, WhatsApp and viber to provide orientation on basic IPC measures and to ensure quality of immunization and health services. COVID tests of all mobile team staff were done before deploying them for service provision in IDP camps and hard to reach areas. In total, 145,622 beneficiaries were reached with primary health care services, which was a 138 per cent achievement of the annual target. A total of 14,391 children 9-18 months were vaccinated against measles - 95.9 per cent of the annual target in HRP areas. Coverage of measles immunization and other health services were comparatively less in Rakhine as Rakhine was worse affected by the pandemic. Some staff of partners tested positive for COVID-19 resulting in the suspension of services in the first few weeks of implementation. Even after the resumption of services, there were limited movement of beneficiaries due to travel restriction, especially in IDP camps and hard to reach areas.

WASH

UNICEF worked with three partners in delivering humanitarian support to more than 50,000 vulnerable IDP communities and children in IDP camps. In close coordination with government departments, COVID-19 response activities such as handwashing were promoted through the installation of handwashing facilities and risk communication. In northern Shan, despite COVID-19 restriction UNICEF and partners continued to deliver humanitarian support to over 12,000 IDPs including 4,800 children as well surrounding communities, including from hard to reach areas with ongoing essential WASH services.



In Rakhine, humanitarian response activities were mainly delivered through NGO and INGO partners. Humanitarian response is also directly delivered by UNICEF through contractors in central Rakhine and in northern Rakhine State. UNICEF's partnership with WFP for soap distribution reached more than 210,000 people in central and northern Rakhine State. In Chin, in close coordination with Department of Rural Development (DRD), essential WASH supplies were supported to IDPs in Samee town in Paletwa township. UNICEF also supported Department of Disaster Management (DDM) with prepositioning WASH contingency stock to support preparedness for future emergencies. Through two partnerships, COVID-19 response was supported in Chin State on handwashing promotion with the installation of handwashing facilities and risk

communication. In Kayin, more than 5,000 IDPs gained access to safe drinking water for domestic purposes in line with minimum cluster standards.

Child Protection

UNICEF child protection continued to strengthen the quality and coverage of the child protection services. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF supported standard-setting, capacity building and service provision delivered through local partners. UNICEF provided child protection services to 75,307 conflict-affected children in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan States. While UNICEF-supported psychosocial support services benefitted 65,239 people including 57,284 children (27,802 girls, 29,482 boys), 1,014 children (522 girls, 492 boys) received case management services. An



additional 11,971 children (5,316 girls, 6,655 boys) engaged in life skills interventions that aim at building their skills, sense of wellbeing and resilience. In addition, 18,399 girls, boys and women received gender based violence (GBV) services, including awareness raising and survivor assistance. In order to enhance the case management system to better respond to COVID-19, UNICEF with the implementing partners developed Guidelines on Case Management and Alternative Care amidst COVID-19 and trained more than 350 case managers and medical social workers. UNICEF also expanded the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services and workforce capacity of government and non-government actors and supported two dedicated MHPSS helplines for children, caregivers and frontline workers. These efforts have culminated in reaching 75,352 children, caregivers and frontline workers (55% female) who have received child protection services as part of the COVID-19 response.

Education

Schools and learning centres including temporary learning classrooms in IDP camps were closed for the greater part of the year. Although some high schools reopened in July, they were quickly closed after one month following the emergence of COVID-19 community transmission cases in the country. Schools and learning centres in non-government-controlled areas remained open. Education in Emergencies (EiE) supplies which had been transported to

township level could not be distributed further to schools. These supplies include ELP Kits, recreation kits, ECD kits, school-in-a carton kits and roofing sheets. Access to IDP camps by UNICEF and partner staff was severely restricted and monitoring was affected. UNICEF's partners remained on the ground, implementing those components of the programme that did not require gathering people, like renovation of classrooms and procurement of teaching and learning materials. Alternative models were introduced to ensure continuity of services to the affected populations, with virtual meetings and online training sessions. Home-based learning materials were developed and distributed in conflict affected areas in Rakhine, Kachin, northern Shan, Kayin and Chin. Volunteer teachers received new grade 4 curriculum training. UNICEF continued with advocacy with Ministry of Education for safe school reopening. Remote programme monitoring was introduced to keep track of progress. In 2021, UNICEF will continue to support fostering safe in-person or remote learning opportunities for children aged 3 to 17 years. Cross-sector programming will focus on early childhood care and development and adolescent-focused education.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF continued to lead the WASH Cluster as well as the EiE, Nutrition in Emergencies (NiE) and Child Protection in Emergency (CPIE) sub-sectors. All clusters supported monitoring and coordination of the activities including the preparation of 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and HRP.

The NiE sector developed adapted guidelines in the context of COVID-19 and provided capacity building initiatives. Orientation on the adapted COVID sensitive NiE guidelines was conducted among 150 partners. Virtual training on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) was provided for 85 nutrition staff, and virtual training on integrated management of acute malnutrition was provided to 218 humanitarian partners. The EiE sector developed recommendations for home-based learning materials; partners reached over 20,000 children with these recommended materials. The EiE sector also drafted an Emergency Preparedness and Response Strategy for the next ten years. The Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) worked closely with the MHPSS and GBV Working Groups with an aim to strengthen coordination. The remote mechanism of MHPSS support for children and caregivers was also strengthened through working closely with MHPSS and GVB working groups and development and dissemination of coloring books in partnership with local actors, supported training and provided supplies. The CPWG also supported the development and dissemination of the safe play handbook for children. Finally, the WASH sector provided safe drinking water, promoting personal hygiene and supported a functional excreta disposal system - 80 per cent of the beneficiaries reported being satisfied with the WASH services provided.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

UNICEF Myanmar Press Releases:

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/press-releases/unicef-joins-hands-government-japan-build-resilience-crisis-myanmar>

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/press-releases/joint-statement-ilo-and-unicef-regarding-alleged-case-child-labour-dagon-seikkan>

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/press-releases/unicef-statement-death-child-and-his-parents-and-injury-four-more-children-due>

<https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/2020/11/on-world-childrens-day-a-new-hope-for-children-in-myanmar-the-democratic-karen-benevolent-army-signs-a-joint-action-plan-to-end-prevent-the-recruitment-and-use-of-children/>

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/press-releases/un-ctfmr-signs-joint-action-plan-democratic-karen-benevolent-army-end-use-and>

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/press-releases/media-advisory-first-ever-signing-joint-action-plan-between-un-ctfmr-and-ethnic>

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/press-releases/without-interventions-two-million-more-children-fall-poverty-myanmar-central>

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/press-releases/COVID-19-unicef-provides-60000-take-home-toys-children-frontline-workers-and>

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/press-releases/unicef-myanmar-expresses-deep-sorrow-over-death-boy-killed-explosive-device-mrauk-u>

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/press-releases/ctfmr-expresses-grave-concern-over-circumstances-two-children-killed-fighting>

Human Interest Stories:

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/essential-nutrition-interventions-kayin-state-bridging-communities-and-hospitals>
<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/lawyers-praise-new-child-rights-law-important-advocacy-tool-children>
<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/sharing-message-hand-hygiene-all-global-handwashing-day>
<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/handwashing-stories-change>
<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/spotlight-shone-child-and-adolescent-mental-health-myanmar>
<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/banana-bags-encourage-baby-and-infant-nutrition>

Facebook Posts:

<https://web.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/3797385456995618>
<https://web.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/videos/405351584014089/>
<https://web.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/3665301200204045>
<https://web.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/3553822071351959>
<https://web.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/3797385456995618>
<https://web.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/3550787951655371>
<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/insights/?section=navPosts>
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=465938827718429>
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=623024015029019>
<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/3755613257839505>
<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/3783665965034234>

Next SitRep: April 2021

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 Implementing Partners			Cluster Response **		
		2020 Target	Total Results	Change Since Last Report ▲▼	2020 Target	Total Results Q4	Change Since Last Report ▲▼
NUTRITION							
# of children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted to treatment	9,425	8,272	2,991	1,043	8,272	2,991	1,043
# of children aged 6 to 59 months that receive micronutrient supplementation	85,057	68,393	41,049	13,824	68,393	41,049	13,824
# of pregnant and lactating women (PLW) that receive micronutrient supplementation		38,210	28,262	7,472	38,210	28,262	7,472
# of PLW that access IYCF counselling	48,306	20,500	21,374	6,264	38,210	22,773	7,357
HEALTH							
# children 9 to 18 months vaccinated against measles		15,000	14,391	2,566			
# of affected population accessing primary health care services	524,000	105,000	145,622	26,463			
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROMOTION							
# of targeted people benefitting from safe drinking water for domestic purposes	869,154	166,550	149,876	66,601	527,991	387,203	27,675
# of targeted people benefitting from a functional excreta disposal system	869,154	527,991	122,164	63,171	527,991	281,858	23,064
Targeted population provided hygiene kits or key hygiene items	869,154	339,850	304,244	37,331	527,991	1,214,405	415,618
Targeted population accessing WASH & hygiene in schools, temporary learning spaces and child friendly spaces	193,028	38,700	25,948	15,846	38,604	42,227	6,071
CHILD PROTECTION							
# people (children, women and men) with access to psychosocial support		81,500	65,239	5,406	236,214	114,155	13,504
# children accessing case management services		n/a	1,014	180	n/a	0	0
# of (women, girls and boys) with interventions to address GBV	380,000*	68,500	18,399	1,809			
# people with access to landmines/unexploded ordnance information		68,500	41,840	16,227	210,250	126,115	37,812
# adolescents with life skills to prevent negative coping mechanisms		10,500	11,971	773	15,000	16,746	889
EDUCATION							
# of targeted children (3-10 years) accessing pre-primary/primary learning opportunities.	116,369	39,925	23,921	0	93,130	45,478	9,714
# of adolescents (11-17 years) accessing post primary learning opportunities	132,992	11,220	5,828	0	106,044	31,203	2,982
# of 3-17 years children who received learning materials		34,500	15,831	0			
# of teachers/facilitators who completed trainings on quality/inclusive education	6,394	1,210	696	290	5,018	2,510	2,157

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

**Cluster results are reported quarterly.

Annex B

Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Over	\$	%
Nutrition	\$7,780,000	\$2,301,975	\$950,106	\$4,527,919	58%
Health	\$5,532,000	\$1,351,208	\$656,756	\$3,524,036	64%
WASH	\$9,461,000	\$3,610,895	\$1,590,555	\$4,259,550	45%
Child Protection	\$14,538,000	\$1,938,282	\$1,219,446	\$11,380,272	78%
Education	\$8,733,000	\$1,025,512	\$1,244,545	\$6,462,943	74%
Total	\$46,044,000	\$10,227,873	\$5,661,408	\$30,154,719	65%

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

Funding Status COVID-19 Humanitarian Activities**

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Over	\$	%
Nutrition	\$3,036,480	\$690,499	\$0	\$2,345,981	77%
Health	\$3,611,542 ¹	\$3,491,237	\$0	\$120,305	3%
WASH	\$8,165,039	\$5,275,511	\$0	\$2,889,528	35%
Child Protection	\$2,317,933	\$2,693,978	\$0	(\$376,045)	0%
Education	\$4,462,990 ²	\$1,811,419	\$0	\$2,651,571	59%
Social Protection	\$1,074,881	\$300,463	\$0	\$774,418	72%
Total	\$22,668,865	\$14,263,106	\$0	\$7,099,065	31%

**As defined in the Global Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) COVID-19 Response Appeal through 31st December 2020. Results against COVID-19 indicators can be found in the Global Humanitarian Situation Reports.

¹ This does not include \$4.9 million which has been reallocated for the Myanmar COVID-19 response from the Global Vaccine Alliance funding.

² This does not include \$8.5 million from the Global Partnership for Education for which UNICEF will be the grant agent (not in HAC requirements).