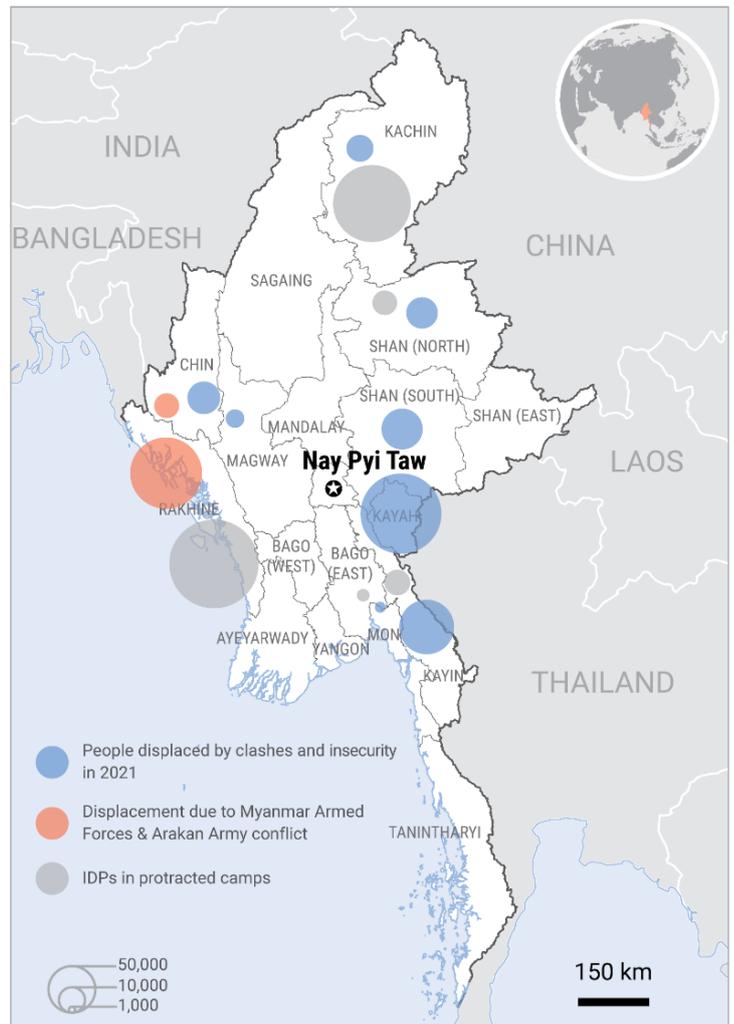


This regular update, covering humanitarian developments from 25 May to 23 June, is produced by OCHA Myanmar in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group and UNHCR. The next update will be issued towards the end of July 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS

- An estimated 177,500 people have been displaced in southeastern parts of Myanmar due to violence, armed clashes and insecurity since 1 February. This includes around 103,500 people displaced in Kayah State following an escalation of clashes since 21 May.
- In Chin State, clashes between the Chinland Defence Forces (CDF) and Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) continued across a number of townships until early June and more than 20,000 people are currently hosted in over 100 displacement sites in five townships in Chin State, one in Magway and another in Sagaing regions.
- In Kachin State, the displacement of 2,000 people has been verified in two townships. A total of 11,650 people have been internally displaced across Kachin since mid-March 2021; more than 10,200 of them remain displaced to date.
- Armed clashes were reported for the first time in Kyethi and Mongkaing townships in southern areas of Shan State in 2021, leading to the displacement of an estimated 1,660 people in June. Since the start of 2021, around 17,730 people have been internally displaced across 14 townships in north and southern parts of Shan State.
- The security situation across Rakhine remains relatively calm and despite a lull in hostilities since November 2020, thousands of displaced people who remain in camps and sites are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance and protection services.
- The Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF) First Standard Allocation will disburse US\$12.1 million (\$1.8 million increase from the initial strategy) to enable partners to strengthen the response in line with the [2021 Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\)](#). The allocation will also target additional life-saving activities to address the emerging humanitarian needs in other areas. The HRP, which seeks US\$276.5 million remains only 21 per cent funded.



KEY FIGURES

177.5K

people internally displaced in the southeastern parts of the country, including neighboring areas of southern Shan since 1 February

20K

people internally displaced in Chin State, Magway and Sagaing regions due to clashes since May

17.7K

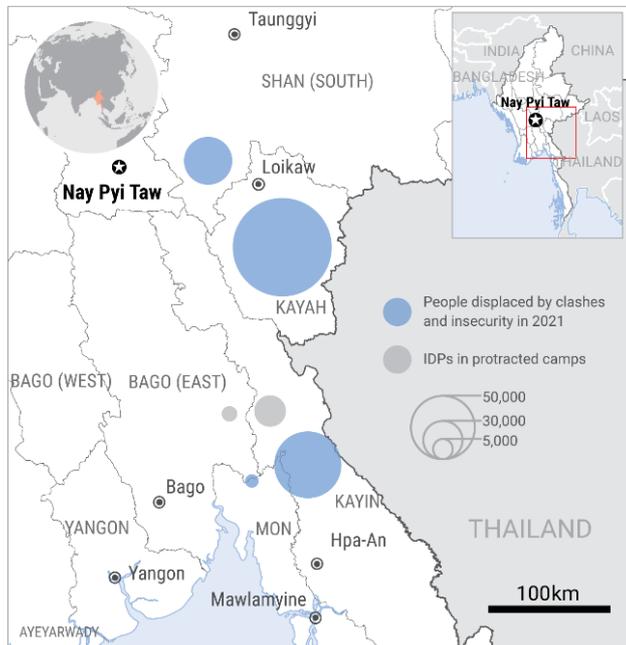
people internally displaced in north and southern parts of Shan State since January

11.6K

people internally displaced in Kachin State due to armed clashes since March

SITUATION OVERVIEW

WORSENING HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN THE SOUTHEAST: The number of people internally displaced in Kayah State and neighboring areas of southern Shan continued to increase during the reporting period. As of 22 June, a total of 103,500 people have been internally displaced, mainly in Demoso, Hpruso, Loikaw and Mese townships, according to UNHCR. An additional 24,500 people have been displaced in Hsihseng and Pekon townships in neighboring areas of southern Shan. The numbers are almost three times more than the numbers reported in the last humanitarian update in May. The first displacement in Kayah was reported in late May, following an escalation of hostilities between the MAF and Karenni civilian resistance forces.



The security situation in Kayah itself remains volatile, with regular reports of indiscriminate attacks on civilian areas, airstrikes and artillery fire, resulting in damage to civilian property and protected objects such as religious buildings. Hostilities were mainly reported in Demoso and Loikaw townships. In the southern areas of neighboring Shan State, clashes were mainly reported in Pekon Township. At least eight churches in three townships in the two states have been reportedly destroyed since late May. Local sources indicated that about 55 civilians were killed between 21 May and 15

June; however, this could not be verified at the time of reporting, mainly due to access challenges and insecurity. In Pekon Township in southern areas of Shan State, two vehicles, of which one was carrying food items and medicine intended for over 3,000 displaced people, were set ablaze on 8 June.

This displacement in Kayah and southern areas of Shan states is in addition to the toll of internally displaced people (IDPs) reported earlier in other parts of southeastern Myanmar. As of 22 June, a total of 47,600 people remain displaced in Kayah State, mostly in the forest areas, while around 1,900 people have been displaced in parts of Mon State and eastern Bago Region since 1 February. This brings the total number of displaced people to 177,500 from southeastern Myanmar due to violence, armed clashes and insecurity since 1 February, according to UNHCR. In Thailand, all 7,300 people who had previously crossed the border have returned to Myanmar but remain internally displaced, unable to return to their places of origin.

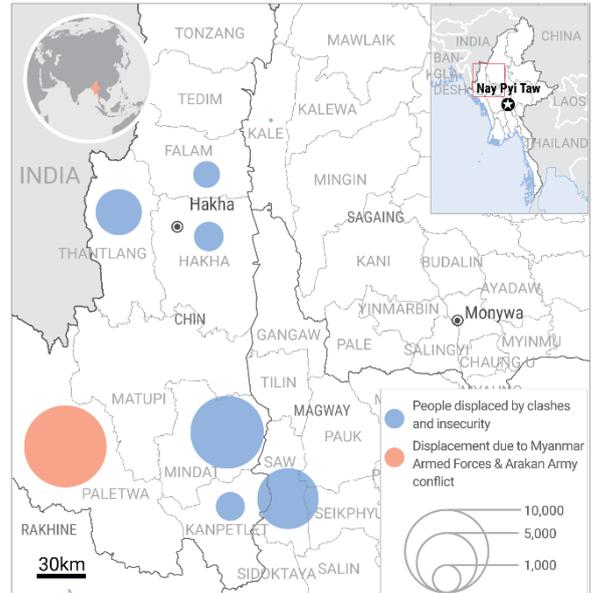
Displaced people as well as communities in affected areas are in urgent need of a wide range of humanitarian assistance, including food and basic household materials, shelter, access to healthcare, water and sanitation, as well as various protection services, including psychosocial support. Local communities are leading efforts to address these needs and together with national and international organizations, some protection and healthcare services were recently provided to the newly displaced in Kayah and Shan states. Efforts to scale-up relief activities to address the needs of those affected continue to be stymied by access challenges due to insecurity and road blockages.

UPSURGE IN DISPLACEMENT IN CHIN AND MAGWAY: The number of people internally displaced in Chin State and Magway Region has seen a gradual increase since mid-May. As of 22 June, over 20,000 people were sheltering in over 100 displacement sites and amongst host communities in Falam, Hakha, Kanpetlet, Mindat and Thantlang townships in Chin State and in Saw Township in Magway Region. A smaller number of IDPs are also hosted in Kale Township in Sagaing Region. Of the total figure, almost half is reportedly concentrated in around 40 displacement sites in Mindat Township, where hostilities between the MAF and the CDF had begun in mid-May.

According to local partners, people displaced and those affected remain in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, including food, healthcare, shelter, hygiene and access to safe drinking water and other critical WASH facilities. Communities supported by national and international actors have been able to provide urgent assistance, but this is not to the extent needed to meet the high number of needs. Humanitarian actors have also pre-positioned food and non-food items in Magway Region, but distributions have not been possible until now as Travel Authorizations (TA) have not been granted.

As with other locations, humanitarian response and people's access to basic services and assistance have been complicated due to multiple factors. For example, in Mindat Town, movement of people and essential commodities, including food, has become difficult due to the high number of military checkpoints in affected locations, restricting the movement of humanitarian supplies and potentially constricting the movement of people fleeing hostilities. Landslides and roadblocks caused by heavy rains have further restricted travel and movement. Compounded by travel restrictions and the overall insecurity, these challenges pose a major threat to the continuation and scaling up of much-needed response efforts, leading to increased humanitarian needs.

The recent displacement in the area is in addition to some 9,850 people displaced across 27 sites in Paletwa Township in Chin State due to the conflict between the MAF and the Arakan Army (AA).



FLUID POPULATION MOVEMENT IN NORTH AND

SOUTHERN SHAN: Population movement remains fluid in north and southern Shan, with frequent armed clashes between ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) as well as insecurity, including due to fears of being forcibly recruited. Internal displacement was reported for the first time in 2021 in Kyethi and Mongkaing townships in southern areas of Shan State. In early June, over 1,660 people from these two townships had to flee their home following armed clashes between the Restoration Council of Shan State and Shan State Progress Party. Fear of being forcibly recruited by armed groups was another driver for population displacement. For example, in Kunlong Township in northern Shan, around 175 people fled their home on 12 June in fear of being recruited by an EAO. People newly displaced have received some humanitarian assistance, such as food and basic household materials and primary healthcare from local communities and partners.

Additional small-scale displacements and returns have been reported, mainly in Hsipaw, Kutkai and Nawngkio townships in northern Shan and Kyethi Township in the south, during this period. More than 17,730 people have been internally displaced as a result of armed clashes and insecurity, including due to fears of being forcibly recruited, since the beginning of 2021. Around 3,350 out of the 17,730 who have been displaced across 14 townships in Shan State (15,759 in the north and 1,971 in southern Shan) remain displaced in 13 sites in five townships in the north and six sites in two townships in southern areas of Shan State. These numbers are in addition to the displacement of about 24,500 people in neighboring townships of southern Shan as a result of clashes between the MAF and the Karenni civilian resistance forces mentioned in the above section on the South-east.

Meanwhile, civilians remain in threat of landmines and unexploded ordnances. In Namhsan and Namtu townships, two civilians, including a child, were reportedly injured due to explosions of landmines on 11 and 13 June, respectively. UNICEF [reported](#) a total of 27 civilians killed or injured in Shan State in the first four months of 2021, which make up 38 per cent of all landmine-related casualties country-wide.

VOLATILE SITUATION IN KACHIN: The security situation remains volatile across a number of townships in Kachin State, with frequent clashes between the MAF and the Kachin Independence Army. Armed clashes have mainly been reported in Hpakant, Injangyang, Mansi, Momauk, Mohnyin, Myitkyina, Puta-O, Shwegu and Tanai townships.

The displacement of around 2,000 people was verified by operational partners in Bhamo and Momauk townships. The families had fled clashes from late March to mid-May and were hosted in 24 sites and host communities. Close to 11,650 people have been displaced across Kachin State since the resurgence of armed clashes in mid-March 2021. Of which, more than 10,200 people remain displaced in seven townships of Bhamo, Injangyang, Momauk, Myitkyina, Sadung, Shwegu and Waingmaw, unable to return home due to insecurity to date.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS ARE SEVERE IN RAKHINE STATE: While the security situation remains stable in Rakhine since November 2020, IDPs and non-displaced vulnerable populations continue to rely on humanitarian assistance. As of 17 June, a total of 81,630 people displaced due to the MAF – AA conflict from January 2019 to November 2020 remain in 146 sites and amongst 27 host communities across 10 townships.

While small-scale returns have been occasionally reported over the course of 2021, lack of sufficient livelihoods opportunities, landmine contamination and overall insecurity in the villages of origin continue to hinder of the possibility of larger scale returns.

The MAF-AA induced displacement is in addition to an estimated 126,000 IDPs hosted in protracted camps established in 2012, with a further 470,000 non-displaced population across Rakhine, all of whom continue to need critical humanitarian and protection assistance.

COVID-19: The number of locally transmitted COVID-19 cases and fatalities has seen a steady rise since May. Countrywide, 149,247 COVID-19 cases, including 3,267 fatalities and 133,893 recoveries, have been confirmed as of 22 June. COVID-19 prevention and control measures have been reinstated or put in place such as health checks (PCR testing) and 14 days' quarantine for people entering Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, domestic flights have been suspended, stay-at-home orders enforced in a few townships in Chin State and Sagaing Region.

In Rakhine, a total of 72 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed since 1 May, with one local transmission and others with travel history. Several cases have been reported in other conflict-affected areas; however, comprehensive data is not available at the time of reporting.

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

INSECURITY AND BROAD CHALLENGES HINDER OPERATIONS: Armed clashes and overall insecurity in areas where there is an active conflict and violence, continue to hinder humanitarian operations. This is further compounded by the increase of military checkpoints in certain areas along roads that serve as key transportation routes for humanitarian delivery. There are also continuous reports of blockage of roads, particularly in Chin, Kachin, Kayah and northern Shan. These challenges are in addition to the cumbersome TA procedures, which remain in place in all conflict-affected areas, hindering the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance.

CASH CRISIS HINDERS HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS: Countrywide, the cash liquidity crisis continues to present a major obstacle for relief operations. While Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) activities continue, it has become increasingly difficult to identify suppliers and vendors who are tending to request in-cash payments rather than transfers via banks. Markets continue to function in areas where the security situation is stable, but the prices for basic commodities and staples, like rice and cooking oil continue to increase.

CLUSTER/SECTORAL HIGHLIGHTS

Protection

- In Rakhine, Kachin, northern Shan and Kayin states, partners continued to provide remote and where possible, in-person Gender-Based Violence (GBV) services, including case management and psychosocial support (PSS). Over the course of May, partners distributed 2,400 dignity kits, 110 clean delivery kits (soap, plastic sheets, gloves, camps, sterilizer, towels etc.) to women and girls in these areas. In Kayin and Kachin specifically, women and girls in four townships received a total of 270 hygiene kits and 1,400 COVID-10 prevention materials such as masks and hand sanitizers, along with awareness on GBV and other services.
- In Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan, Women and Girls Centers continue to function, while mobile activities are suspended in northern Shan due to frequent armed clashes. In Hsipaw Township in northern Shan, recently displaced women and girls received GBV awareness and sanitary pads, after a rapid needs assessment conducted in the area. In Rakhine, the GBV Working Group is strengthening engagement with private legal service providers to discuss and identify practical ways to enhance legal support for GBV survivors. In Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw and Sittwe townships, paralegals received capacity building trainings on GBV prevention and PSS response.
- Safe houses remain operational and are providing safety services for GBV survivors in Kachin, Mon and Kayin states. In Kachin, the sub-national Protection Working Group is establishing a Protection Emergency Response mechanism to strengthen the delivery of protection services in emergency and ensure a timely response to the

needs of the newly displaced population. In southern parts of Shan State, GBV service mapping is ongoing, while emergency referral support for GBV survivors is active and available. Partners in southern Shan are working on identifying the most feasible channel to transport 1,000 dignity kits for those displaced in Kayah as well as in bordering areas with Shan State.

- Child Protection (CP) partners responded to nearly 670 new cases countrywide related to the ongoing political developments through remote case-based support mechanism. In Rakhine, some 700 children and caregivers in Kyauktaw, Mrauk-U, Pauktaw and Sittwe townships participated in story-telling sessions. A total of 1,500 children in northern Rakhine were reached with psychosocial support and services, while 290 people received case management services. In IDP camps in central Rakhine, seven CP cases were newly registered; trainings on case management supervision were conducted; mental health and psychosocial support as well as community-led child protection and positive parenting support were provided. Similarly, in northern Shan, partners provided psychosocial support to about 1,500 children, and organized CP awareness raising activities for 700 people in conflict-affected townships. Despite these efforts, access to cash and TA challenges continue to hinder operations of both GBV and CP partners, causing delays in implementation of routine and newly planned interventions.



Health

- Countrywide, there have been 220 attacks on health care services leading to 14 deaths and 53 injuries, according to the data recorded between 1 February and 16 June by the WHO [Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care](#). 123 attacks against personnel, 78 targeting patients and 26 impacted medical vehicles.
- In Rakhine and Kachin, close to 17,000 consultations were reported through Early Warning, Alert and Response System (EWARS) between 16 May and 15 June. A total of 25 notified cases in Rakhine as well as nine malaria cases in Kachin have been verified and followed up. Health partners continue to monitor and respond to the Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) outbreak in Rakhine while a decline in the number of cases has been reported in recent weeks. In Kachin State, partners conducted vector control measures for the dengue fever prevention, while coordinating emergency response to the newly displaced people in Bhamo and other townships. Separately, partners are coordinating COVID-19 response efforts in Chin State and Sagaing Region. In northern Shan, health partners reached about 4,000 people affected by conflict with basic healthcare assistance and supported vaccination of over 640 children against measles.
- Delays in transporting medical supplies from Myitkyina to Bhamo Township have severely impacted the provision of essential health services in Kachin. In Rakhine, the distribution of reproductive health kits is pending due to the lack of transportation for delivery and ongoing insecurity.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- Partners responded to the AWD outbreak in IDP camps in Rakhine during the reporting period. Specifically, they distributed 5,580 sachets of Oral Rehydration Salt (ORS), 5,230 drinking water bottles, 421 hygiene kits and 510 pamphlets to raise awareness in three villages in Minbya Township, as well as Myaung Bwe and Pan Myaung station hospitals. Additionally, partners continued the distribution of some 5,254,000 litres of water, as well as sanitation and hygiene kits, purification tablets, ORS sachets and pamphlets to AWD-affected villages in Minbya and Mrauk-U townships. In Kachin, over 230 people in protracted IDP camps and host villages are receiving awareness on COVID-19 prevention and access to basic health services. This includes setting up hand washing stations for 300 people in IDP camps. In northern Shan, partners participated in an interagency field mission to IDP camps and new displacement sites in Kutkai, Namhkan, Mansi, Namtu and Man Ton townships. Contingency WASH supplies for 5,000 people have been prepositioned in WFP warehouse in Lashio.
- As with other sectors, programmes/services, including payments for new construction, desludging, operation and maintenance of WASH facilities have been hampered due to cash transfer difficulties, especially from Yangon to field locations.



Education in Emergencies

- Schools in many areas of the country were re-opened on 1 June. Over 70 per cent of children have reportedly returned to schools in Rakhine State, whereas in Kayah State participation was minimal. The week leading to school re-opening witnessed a surge in attacks on schools, with over 100 unverified reported incidents countrywide. Partners are formulating a provisional strategy, covering June to November 2021 to identify joint

objectives, including on preparedness and response activities, to reach children who have had their education disrupted due to the current situation. In conflict-affected areas, partners are planning to reach children and young adults who are displaced in Chin, Kayah, Kayin states and eastern Bago Region with critical learning supplies to address existing protection issues and improve their wellbeing.

Shelter/Non-Food Items/Camp Coordination and Camp Management

- In Rakhine, partners provided makeshift shelter materials to some 310 people, and basic household items to about 20,700 people in three IDP camps in Myebon, Pauktaw and Sittwe townships. Partners are also starting the distribution of mega tarpaulins to over 500 longhouses, sheltering over 24,400 people. A total of 1,440 people in 16 displacement sites in Pauktaw and Sittwe townships, who were displaced due to the MAF-AA conflict received basic household items. In Kachin and northern Shan, partners completed shelter repair activities in several IDP camps over the course of May. Despite these efforts, the camp management agencies continue to face challenges with cash withdrawals due to the cash liquidity crisis.

Nutrition

- Countrywide, over 700 children and 4,800 women have received preventive nutrition services. In Rakhine, nutrition partners screened about 14,400 children as well as 3,400 pregnant and lactating women for acute malnutrition; close to 780 children as well as 70 women were admitted for malnutrition treatment. Partners have been responding to the AWD cases by implementing key activities at community level, such as referral services to malnourished children with medical complications, sharing hygiene-related messages and distributing relevant commodities. In Kachin, partners continue nutrition activities through camp-based volunteers in government-controlled areas as well as in those controlled by non-state armed actors.
- The Nutrition sector developed an online tool to assess the capacity of partners to implement and scale-up nutrition specific interventions across the country. The results will be crucial for the development of a capacity building strategy which partners deem useful. Additionally, partner organizations participated in the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition training to deliver multiplier trainings to field workers in coming months.

Food Security

- Over the course of May, WFP reached a total of 340,000 people with food and cash assistance in Chin, Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states. This is in addition to over 334,000 people who received food assistance in Hlaing Tharyar Township in Yangon. In Rakhine, cash for work projects in four townships in the northern and central areas continue to benefit vulnerable people. About 640 people in Ah Nauk Ye village and Nget Chaung 2 IDP camp in Pauktaw Township received daily wages ranging between Myanmar kyats 6,000 and 7,500 (approximately US\$4-5). Food distribution is ongoing in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships. In Kachin State, partners distributed cash grants for paddy cultivation and agricultural inputs - paddy seeds, seeders fertilizers power tillers to IDP camps and villages in Bhamo, Mansi and Momauk townships. Additionally, close to 300 people newly displaced in Bhamo Township received emergency cash for food assistance.
- Despite these efforts, limited availability of cash and the disruption of banking services continue to hamper ongoing food security and livelihoods interventions, including income generating activities, cash distributions and support to commercial gardening activities. In Rakhine, some partners are exploring implementation modalities besides cash. The ongoing cash for work activities in Rakhine have been suspended until September due to the start of monsoon. In Kachin, implementation and follow-up were severely impacted by the frequent armed clashes, access constraints and travel restrictions.

Logistics

- WFP-arranged international relief flight between Kuala Lumpur-Vientiane-Yangon continued operating every other Sunday, with forthcoming flights scheduled for 4 and 18 July. In general, air services from Yangon to most domestic destinations continue. The majority of the ports are running and the custom clearance both for sea and air shipments are operating smoothly. Cargo can be transported by waterway and road without any restriction between Yangon and Sittwe, however, limitations on the number of trucks and drivers remain in place when transporting from Yangon to other parts of the country via road and railway. A hike in fuel prices across Myanmar since February has been gradually declining since mid-May, and price levels are likely to be stable in the short-term.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

US\$12.1 MILLION TO BE RELEASED BY MHF FIRST STANDARD ALLOCATION: The MHF had initially launched its [First Standard Allocation](#) in the amount of US\$10.4. Out of 46 submitted projects, 26 projects have been pre-selected for funding, for a total amount of \$12.1 million, which exceeds by \$1.8 million of the initial funding for this allocation. Considering the underfunded situation of the HRP, the severity of needs and the emerging humanitarian situations, the MHF proposed to assume this increase with additional available funding contributed by donors.

The allocation will enable the humanitarian partners to support priority needs included in the HRP as well as additional life-saving activities related to the emerging humanitarian situation, including in Chin and Kayah states. The MHF is prepared to open a Reserve Allocation for arising needs, including the mobilization of other sources of funding as much as possible.

The implementation of 34 projects funded in 2019 and 2020, targeting 617,824 people, including 46,000 persons with disabilities, for a total of US\$13.6 million is ongoing. These projects directly involve 26 partners and are located in Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine and Shan states in addition to a countrywide project on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Meanwhile, only US\$58.2 million has been received against the \$276.5 million requested under the 2021 HRP, around 21 per cent of the total requirements to provide assistance and protection services to around 1 million people, according to the [Financial Tracking Service](#).

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