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Myanmar

The humanitarian situation in Myanmar continues to pose significant challenges for children. In 2019, an estimated 460,000 children will require humanitarian assistance.¹ Fighting and displacement continue in Kachin and Shan states; more than 10,000 people remain displaced and in camps in Kayin State;² and overcrowded camps and ethnic tensions remain causes for concern in Rakhine State. Approximately 244,500 people are internally displaced and living in camps across the country.³ Following the exodus of over 700,000 Rohingya from Myanmar in late 2017,⁴ this population continues to face significant challenges, including lack of freedom of movement, discrimination and limited access to basic services, as well as tensions with other communities. In Kachin and Shan, intense fighting in 2018 led to a rise in the number of internally displaced people in those states. In Kachin, Kayin, Shan and Rakhine, UNICEF and partners lack consistent and unfettered access to affected populations, which has undermined the delivery of assistance. In Kachin, Kayin and Shan, as well as other areas, unexploded ordnance and landmines represent a significant risk to children, with a child injured or killed every three days.

Humanitarian strategy

In 2019, UNICEF will address the humanitarian needs of crisis-affected and displaced people in Rakhine, Kachin, Kayin and Shan states. As a cluster/sector lead agency,⁵ UNICEF will work with the Government, national and international nongovernmental organizations and civil society partners to provide critical life-saving and life-sustaining services in nutrition, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), child protection and education. These will include treatment for acute malnutrition, health services for women and children, access to safe water facilities, monitoring and case management of child protection concerns, evidence-based programming for adolescents and formal and non-formal education programmes. Services will target populations identified in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), including internally displaced people in camps, stateless populations and other crisis-affected populations. UNICEF will continue to advocate for unfettered and consistent humanitarian access to ensure that services can be provided to those in need, in line with their basic human rights. Working at the inter-agency level, UNICEF will conduct natural disaster response planning and related activities throughout the country. When possible, durable solutions will be applied through the integration of humanitarian and development programmes.

Results from 2018

As of 31 October 2018, UNICEF had US\$15.1 million available against the US\$31.8 million appeal (60 per cent funded).⁶ In 2018, low achievement against planned targets was due to limited funding and bureaucratic impediments related to travel authorizations. Despite these constraints, UNICEF was able to achieve important results for children and their caregivers over the course of the year. As of 31 October, UNICEF and partners had reached nearly 93,000 people with access to health services, exceeding the original target by 28,000 people. Nearly 67,000 internally displaced and conflict-affected people were reached with critical water and sanitation services. To support education, UNICEF provided nearly 78,000 children—primarily displaced students and those affected by natural disasters—with emergency education and recreation materials. Nearly 86,000 people received mine risk education and nearly 179,000 people received mental health and psychosocial support. In nutrition, only 22 per cent of the 9,000 children under 5 years targeted with treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were reached due to lack of funding and limited access for implementation, particularly in northern Rakhine State. UNICEF also supported cluster/sector coordination at the national and sub-national levels for nutrition, WASH, child protection and education.

Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

Total people in need: 941,000⁷

Total children (<18) in need: 461,090⁸

Total people to be reached: 573,384⁹

Total children to be reached: 286,692¹⁰

2019 programme targets:

Nutrition

- 10,401 children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted to therapeutic care
- 18,940 pregnant or breastfeeding women receiving micronutrient supplementation
- 73,052 children aged 6 to 59 months receiving micronutrient supplementation

Health

- 15,000 children aged 9 to 18 months vaccinated against measles
- 105,000 children and women provided with access to health care services

WASH

- 573,384 people benefiting from safe/improved drinking water
- 573,384 people benefiting from functional excreta disposal systems

Child protection

- 287,160 people accessing psychosocial support
- 103,700 people accessing unexploded ordnance information
- 26,500 adolescents provided with life skills to prevent negative coping mechanisms

Education

- 105,409 children aged 3 to 10 years accessing pre-primary or primary learning opportunities
- 89,793 adolescents aged 11 to 17 years accessing post-primary education opportunities
- 3,600 teachers/facilitators who have completed training to provide quality and inclusive education to children

Communication for development

- 244,483 people reached through accountability mechanisms to voice their concerns

	Cluster/sector 2018 targets	Cluster/sector total results ⁱ	UNICEF 2018 targets	UNICEF total results
NUTRITION				
Children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted to therapeutic care	10,600	2,843	9,000	1,997
Pregnant or breastfeeding women who accessed infant and young child feeding counselling	36,510	19,499	32,000	19,197
HEALTHⁱⁱ				
Children aged 9 to 18 months vaccinated against measles			28,000	8,482
Children and women provided with access to health care services			65,000	92,939
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE				
People with access to sufficient water of appropriate quality and quantity for drinking, cooking and maintaining personal hygiene	508,978	249,267	117,570	70,406
People with access to toilets and washing facilities that are culturally-appropriate, secure, sanitary, user-friendly and gender-appropriate	508,978	188,249	117,570	64,061
CHILD PROTECTION				
People with access to psychosocial support	274,475	188,781	246,950	178,697
People with access to mine risk education information			118,000	85,522
EDUCATION				
Children aged 3 to 10 years provided with pre-primary or primary learning opportunities	60,850	42,054	37,000	17,482
Children aged 11 to 17 provided with non-formal education opportunities	31,620	14,939	5,450	1,051

Results are through 31 October 2018 unless otherwise noted.

ⁱ Education, child protection and WASH sector/cluster results are as of 30 September 2018. The nutrition sector is reporting through 31 October 2018.

ⁱⁱ Due to access restrictions, partners could only reach 29 per cent of the target area. For Kachin and Shan, the sporadic fighting also prevented partners from providing measles immunization, especially in Tanai, Sumprabum and some Kokang areas.

Funding requirements

UNICEF requires US\$59.1 million to provide life-saving and life-sustaining assistance to children in conflict-affected areas of Myanmar in 2019. UNICEF will target all children and others in need identified in the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan who are not covered by other cluster partners. This represents a significant scale-up of UNICEF activities. These sector costs, inclusive of cluster/sector staff, will allow UNICEF to provide basic services to internally displaced persons, including those who have been resettled, Rohingya and other crisis-affected children and their caregivers. Timely and flexible funding will be crucial to UNICEF's ability to meet the significant targets described above.

Sector	2019 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	4,083,586
Health	4,260,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	28,117,920
Child protection	9,743,920
Education	10,464,523
Communication for development	2,444,830
Total	59,114,779

¹ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Myanmar: 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan' (draft), 2018. The Humanitarian Response Plan document was not finalized/published at the time of writing this appeal. The appeal will be updated to be aligned with the published Humanitarian Response Plan, once finalized.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ A return opportunity was provided to refugees on 15 November, but no voluntary returns occurred. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) notes that conditions were not conducive to return at this time. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 'Bangladesh Operational Update: 1-15 November', UNHCR, 15 November 2018.

⁵ UNICEF leads the WASH cluster, the nutrition sector and the child protection sub-sector and co-leads the education sector.

⁶ Available funds include US\$10 million received against the current appeal and US\$5.5 million carried forward from the previous year.

⁷ 'Myanmar: 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan' (draft).

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ This was calculated based on the WASH highest coverage target.

¹⁰ An estimated 50 per cent of the people to be reached by WASH interventions are children.

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