

Myanmar • Displacement in Kachin State

28 December 2011

This report is compiled by UN-OCHA with the Humanitarian Country Team partners' contribution. It covers the period from 25 October 2011 to 28 December 2011. The next report will be issued as soon as more information becomes available.

HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- *Displacement and humanitarian needs continue to increase. The urgent needs include shelter, NFIs, WASH, vaccines and psychosocial support, among others.*
- *The UN team visited Laiza and provided NFI assistance to IDPs. Advocacy for follow up missions across all affected areas continues.*

I. SITUATION OVERVIEW

Displacement and humanitarian needs in Kachin continue to rise as a result of ongoing instability.

According to available sources, the estimated number of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) who left their homes and sought refuge in camps, and with friends and relatives or into the forest across the affected region has reached a peak of 50,000 IDPs in Kachin and Shan States, from an estimated 29,000 in October, when instability intensified. There are also indications that more people attempt reaching Chinese territory, although information is still sketchy and cannot be independently verified. On 10 December the President's instructed for the army to take only defensive positions, and for military offensives to stop. However, incidents continue to be recorded, and this is of concern as more persons are likely to flee in locations perceived as safe.

Following discussions between the Government and the Kachin Independence Organizations (KIO), on 12 December a convoy with relief goods to Laiza was organized, and the UN took the opportunity to ensure a first delivery of UN relief supplies to IDPs in areas previously not covered by UN assistance. The mission travelled from Bhamo to Laiza and experienced logistical difficulties along the road, as road conditions are poor and several bridges have been damaged in recent months. The UN team visited six IDP camps (four in Laiza and two in the vicinity) and identified shelter, NFIs (particularly tarpaulins, blankets and warm cloths), education materials, vaccines and psychosocial support as the most urgent needs for IDPs there. There has been no report of outbreak of diseases in the six visited



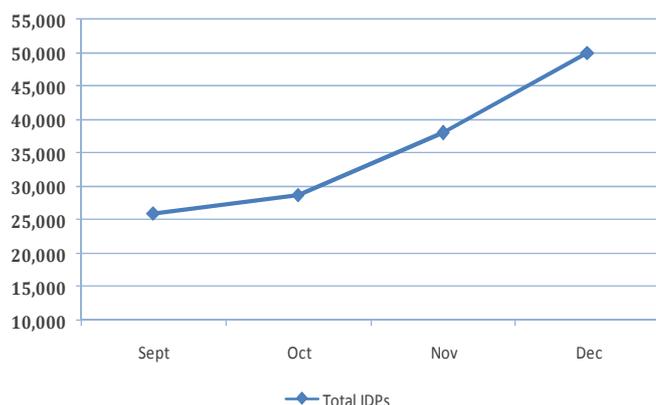
The elderly and children are among the most vulnerable groups.

camps. Laiza Hospital and camp clinics continue to provide health care to IDPs. However, additional medical supplies, including vaccines are needed. The UN basic household items (800 NFI kits) were distributed to two of the locations visited outside Laiza town, in collaboration with camps committee, but were insufficient even to cover basic needs of the population there. Additional humanitarian aid is urgently needed for all IDPs across the affected areas.

The Kachin State Government, local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs), with the support of United Nations (UN) agencies and international NGOs have been providing some assistance to the IDPs since June. In general, due to easier accessibility and the presence of a larger number of agencies, IDPs in Myitkyina and Waingmaw have been receiving more assistance than those in other townships. The UN's advocacy efforts continue to deliver assistance to all IDPs including those in Laiza and in other locations along the border with China.

The number of displaced and needs are rapidly increasing and partners have mobilized all existing stocks and funds available. No more buffer resources to continue carrying out even basic assistance in accessible areas and for an extended period of time is available. Partners decided to undertake a planning exercise which includes an analysis of assistance provided to date, identification of gaps, and additional resources required for the provision of life-saving relief assistance to a projected caseload of up to 50,000 people. Partners estimated that such assistance would be required even if

Estimated IDPs in Kachin State



the situation was to normalize in the coming months, as most of the IDPs lost their possessions and their sources of livelihood, and social services would take some time to become again fully functional. As such, the UN and partners continue to appeal donors for additional funding to provide assistance to all IDPs in Kachin.

II. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSE

Education

Government sources, on 13 December, reported that 51 schools has so far been closed down due to ongoing instability, affecting some 7,872 students from ten townships. In areas covered by government services, the Kachin State Government opened a number of temporary schools to accommodate some 3,153 school children from the relief camps to ensure continuation of education. The influx of the displaced children has put additional strain on basic education facilities, resulting in needs for additional space, as well as additional teaching and learning materials.

All displaced children are lacking essential learning material (exercise books, text books etc.) as families left their villages with only a few household possessions. UNICEF has supplied materials to the displaced primary school children in areas where government services are available, while local organizations are supplying school material elsewhere, although some locations have not yet been reached due to the prevailing instability.

In November, UNICEF, through the Township Education Offices, provided text books and essential learning packages to 1,273 primary school children in Myikyina and Waingmaw. In addition, Early Childhood Development kits (ECD) were distributed through local NGOs and FBOs to IDP children in Myikyina, Waingmaw, Mansi, Bhamo, Moemauk and Sumprabum Townships. Similar support remains needed for IDP children in Laiza in which most of them have limited education materials, including text books, exercise books and stationary.



Some IDP children in Laiza have to sleep on the concrete floor.

Partners are in the process of constructing additional temporary learning spaces in several locations, including Myitkyina, Waingmaw, Moemauk and Bhamo Townships. Faith-based organizations, community-based organizations and volunteers are providing assistance to pre-school aged IDPs children in camps/sites, with the support of NGOs and of UNICEF, including psychosocial support which is administered by volunteers in Child Friendly Spaces.

As the current school year ends in February, agencies mobilized internal resources, which will be sufficient to cater for current needs. However, education partners will need to conduct more detailed assessment before the next school season starts in June to map out potential needs in education sector.

Emergency Shelters and Non Food Items

Living conditions, particularly in larger temporary camps/shelters and community buildings where the population density is high, continue to be a major concern with reports of IDPs sleeping on paper boards over concrete floor in several IDP locations, including in Laiza. More shelters remain needed as most of the camps are now over-crowded due to the increasing number of IDPs.

Following a request by the Kachin State Government, UNHCR is building 270 temporary housing family units, and has conducted Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) trainings from 25 to 27 October and 14 to 16 December, targeting local authorities, NGOs, FBOs, and CBOs, volunteers and UN staff directly involved in camp management activities in Myitkyina, Waingmaw, Bhamo, Moemauk and Mansi Townships. As of 6 December, UNHCR has completed the construction of approximately 50 out of 270 planned temporary housing family units in Myitkyina and Waingmaw Townships.

Although a certain number of Non-Food Items (NFIs) has been provided by the Government and humanitarian partners since June, most of the IDPs need additional NFI support, particularly blankets and warm cloths as the cold season has started. UNHCR, UNICEF and World Vision and other partners have been



A temporary school in one of the camps in Laiza.



A temporary clinic in one of the camps in Laiza.

able to mobilize existing resources and distributed approximately 1,900 NFI household kits. On 13 December, additional 800 NFI kits were distributed to two camps in Laiza. UNICEF has pre-positioned an additional 500 family kits in Bhamo. UNHCR is procuring additional 5,500 kits, which is expected to arrive in January/February 2012 and be sufficient for up to 27,500 people.

Food

Since August 2011, WFP, either directly or through its implementing partners, has been distributing basic food items, including rice, pulses, oil and salt to IDPs in camps/sites in Myitkyina, Waingmaw, Bhamo, Mansi, Momauk and Shwegu townships. Some other organizations have delivered fresh food items to complete the daily intake. Despite some concerns over accessibility to complementary food (curry, chillies, vegetables, meat, etc), partners involved in nutritional programme do not indicate so far any concerns over the nutritional status of the population. In Laiza area, local partners continue to provide rice and basic food items to IDPs and do not foresee food shortage in coming months.

As of 15 December, WFP and its partners distributed 413 metric tons of mixed commodities to some 10,000 IDPs in Myitkyina, Waingmaw, Bhamo, Mansi, Momauk and Shwegu Townships. WFP has taken steps to ensure that its warehouses in the region are always stocked with maximum capacity in order to minimize possible pipeline disruptions of supply routes. In addition, alternative logistic arrangements for food and other supplies to reach affected areas (to and within Kachin State) are being reviewed, including an analysis of all transport methods and maximum capacity of "absorption" of different corridors - in terms of transport and storage - is also being assessed.

Health

As the cold season has started, exposure to seasonal flu will increasingly become of concern, particularly for the elderly and children. The prevalence of TB is high in the area under normal circumstances, and overcrowding and protracted displacement will increase the risk of

further spreading of diseases. According to partners, the most recently established camps are reported to have poor sanitary and hygiene facilities and are often located in the remote areas with limited access to basic services.

In the areas with the government services, the Kachin State Government has provided health facilities to IDPs and 177 patients in the hospital, including landmine victims who were given proper medical attention, thereby saving their lives. Health authorities continue to provide basic health assistance, with support from UN, primarily in the urban and peri-urban IDPs camps/sites. Specialized medical NGOs also compliment this assistance in remote locations.

In Laiza area, although the Township Hospital and camp clinics continue to provide medical care to the IDPs, additional medical supplies including vaccines, among others, are needed.

Protection

Findings of the September rapid needs assessment highlighted a number of protection concerns, particularly for IDP children and women, including family separation, children being left unsupervised, as well as landmines presence, among others.

To respond to some of the concerns, partners have mobilized resources immediate response. UNICEF provided 110 Child Friendly Space (CFS) kits to 40 IDP locations. This was supported through child protection training provided to 40 staff and volunteer care givers, who run the spaces to provide a safe environment for children, deliver important messages on protection – including mine risk awareness – and use the spaces for provision of psychosocial support and counseling. These training were held in Myitkyina from 24-27 October and in Bhamo from 31 October to 3 November.

Water Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

The quality of drinking water is a concern in many IDP camps/sites. The situation is particularly dire in the most recently established camps. Due to constant fluctuation



Relief convoy crossed a damaged bridge on the road Bhamo-Laiza.



Latrines in one of the camps in Laiza.

tuation of the population, temporary and mobile measures, including household water purification, are considered most suitable than permanent interventions such as constructing water supply systems or installing water treatment plants. The access to safe water in urban camps (Myitkyina, Bhamo, and Waingmaw) is reportedly better, although the existing water supply systems (primarily wells) will need to be supplemented in time for the approaching dry season. In Laiza area, although drinking water is sufficient since there are a number of water sources including wells, ponds and spring water near IDP locations, more latrines are needed in the camps due to the increasing number of IDPs.

Local NGOs, with support from UNICEF, are constructing additional 77 latrines in camps and providing hygiene promotion along with family kits and IEC materials, which will benefit 6,100 IDPs (1,550 families) in Myitkyina, Waingmaw, Bhamo and Momauk Townships. Oxfam, in partnership with local NGOs, provided hygiene kits, water purification, water collection and storage capacity for 6,000 IDPs. The organization also supported the construction of 450 temporary latrines, 10 washrooms, five additional water points, along with rapid hygiene promotion, focusing on key public health messages targeting over 9,000 IDPs in different locations. World Vision plans to construct 26 sanitary latrines with locally available resources in four camps in Waingmaw.

Construction of more latrines in the camps/sites remain needed whilst families require safe means of excreta disposal, constant supply of clean water and hygiene supplies to minimize the risk of water-borne diseases. Buckets for water collection and hygiene items such as soap, sanitary materials are also needed.

WASH assistance provided by UNICEF and Oxfam to approximately 12,000 people is expected to last until the end of December 2011. As of January 2012, additional funding will be required to support some 50,000 IDPs with safe water and safe sanitation.

III. COORDINATION

An Inter-Agency coordination meeting is organized on weekly basis in Myitkyina with the participation of the government and on monthly basis in Bhamo.

On 19 December, the Kachin State Government and partners had a meeting in Myitkyina to discuss the development of a framework for recovery operation for 50,000 IDPs in Kachin, including resources needed/available to establish an enabling environment for a safe return of IDPs. The Myitkyina Relief and Resettlement Department remains the focal point for development of a framework with support from other government departments and humanitarian partners.

In the field, partners are encouraged to liaise with the OCHA and UNICEF staff at the hub established in Myitkyina at the UNICEF office.

IV. FUNDING

According to the Government's sources, although the donations in cash and kind, provided by the Government and humanitarian partners from 9 June to 9 December amounted to over 1.4 billion Myanmar Kyats (approximately US\$1.77 million), humanitarian needs remain in shelter, NFIs, health, and psychosocial support, among others.

More information about donors contribution is being compiled.

Additional US\$6,440,680 is needed to provide assistance to some 50,000 IDPs for six months.

Sector	Requirements (US\$)
Food Security	4,200,000
Livelihood	0
NFI	135,000
Shelter	200,000
Camp Management	50,000
Health/Nutrition	155,000
WASH	1,282,680
Education	0
Protection	418,000
TOTAL	6,440,680

V. CONTACTS

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Reported IDP figures, Kachin, Status 24 Dec 2011, various Sources  OCHA

