

This report is produced by OCHA on behalf of the Humanitarian Coordinator with information provided by humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 29 October to 2 November.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- The total IDPs caseload in Rakhine reached close to 110,000 people. The Rakhine State Government's estimates of 31 October indicates that over 35,000 people were displaced in the recent wave of violence, and about 75,000 IDPs are in Sittwe and Kyauktaw since June.
- The October violence also caused 89 fatalities and 136 injuries. Over 5,300 houses and religious buildings were burned or destroyed.
- The Government requested the international community's assistance for all those affected.
- Inter-agency assessment/distribution teams visited Minbya, Mrauk-U and Myebon. IDPs need urgent food, shelter and health care assistance. Some 48.5 MT of food and 240 non-food items have been distributed to about 3,000 people in Minbya and in Mrauk-U townships. Other items are being dispatched but stocks are low. The Government and the private sector are also distributing food, health and non-food items to affected people.

II. Situation Overview

Sporadic incidents continue to be reported in Rakhine State where the second wave of communal violence resurfaced on 21 October. The situation continues to be fluid and tense. Authorities announced that the curfew (19h00 to 05h00) had been extended to new locations, including Minbya and Mrauk-U. Additional troops have been dispatched to the area.

As of 31 October, the Rakhine State Government estimates that 35,058 people have been displaced in Kyaukpyu, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw, Ramree and Rathedaung. It has also been announced by the Office of the President that 89 people have been killed, 136 injured and 5,351 private and public, including religious buildings were burned or destroyed during the resurgence of the violence. Some people fled to areas close-by their villages; other groups – especially from Pauktaw and Kyaukpyu - left by boat and landed in some locations, including in Sin Tet Maw in Pauktaw Township, and Thea Chaung and Ohn Taw near Sittwe.



People in Ramree waiting for assistance © UN

The recent outbreak of violence followed a relatively quiet period after the communal conflict in Rakhine State in June 2012 left at least a dozen people dead and hundreds of homes destroyed, and 75,000 displaced as of late September.

The Government reiterated, in an announcement by the President's Office on 31 October, that it would continue to take action against individuals and organizations that are found to be associated with the conflict to prevent further outbreak of the violence. The same announcement indicated that an investigation of individuals and organizations involved in the violence is ongoing. It also indicated that 180 locally made guns and gun-making materials have been confiscated and the gun makers were arrested. The President's Office has asked for everybody in Rakhine State to surrender any illegal weapons, including guns, swords and spears to the security forces by 3 November.

Table of total number of IDPs as of 31 October 2012

Township	Number of IDPs from June unrest	Number of IDPs from October unrest	Total Number of IDPs by Township
Kyaukpyu	-	2,301	2,301
Kyauktaw	3,390	796	4,186
Minbya	-	4,537	4,537
Mrauk-U	-	3,655	3,655
Myebon	-	4,113	4,113
Pauktaw	-	18,890	18,890
Ramree	-	350	350
Rathedaung	-	416	416
Sittwe	71,427	-	71,427
Total	74,817	35,058	109,875

With the increased level of security across the region, it is hoped that the safety and security of the humanitarian personnel will be assured. Adequate safety and security are necessary for humanitarian partners to reach vulnerable people who are in urgent need of assistance. Some staff continues to be threatened should they engage in providing assistance.

The ambassadors from the US, UK and Australia are visiting Rakhine State, accompanied by the Minister of Border Affairs, and will travel to some of the affected townships. On 2 November, a mission from India is scheduled to visit Sittwe.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Humanitarian partners are working closely with the Government to deliver timely assistance to the IDPs in all affected townships.

On 1 November, WFP distributed 48.5 MT of food to 2,889 people in two villages in Minbya and one village in Mrauk-U townships. UNHCR provided 240 tarpaulin sheets to the same caseload. Distribution of food and tarpaulins in Myebon township starts on 2 November.

Malteser plans to provide health care services, NFI kits and implement WASH activities in Pauktaw and Myebon as soon as the assessment findings are available.

Inter-agency teams from Sittwe visited Minbya and Mrauk-U townships on 31 October and Myebon on 1 November, respectively to conduct needs assessments. Preliminary findings indicate that the displaced communities are isolated and reportedly staying in open spaces close-by their houses that have been burned. Urgent needs reported by the communities include food, shelter and health care assistance.

The needs assessment teams will visit Kyauktaw and Rathedaung on 2 November to assess the situation and to deliver immediate assistance to IDPs. Rathedaung, Pauktaw and Kyauk Phyu will be visited from 2 to 4 November whereas assessment in Ramree will be carried out by the Rakhine State Government.

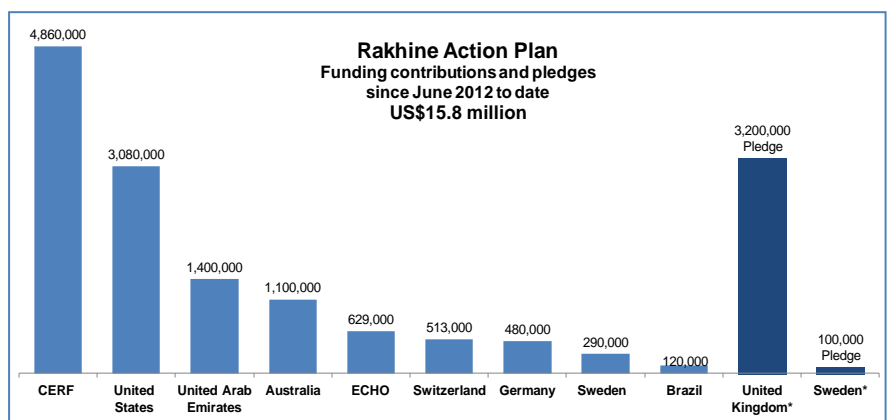
IV. Coordination

- Coordination meetings, including the government-led coordination meeting and sector meetings continue to be held in Sittwe. Additional meetings to coordinate assessments and dispatch of assistance to newly affected locations are ongoing.
- OCHA has organized a number of inter-agency coordination meetings, in support of the Government efforts in Yangon and Sittwe. Different sectors in Yangon continue to carry out sectoral coordination, based on arrangements at Sittwe level.

V. Funding

- The Rakhine Response Plan launched in July asked for \$32.5 million.
- As of 1 November, \$15.8 million has been disbursed or pledged against the plan. The plan is being revised, taking into account the new displacement across a large area.

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org.



VI. Contact

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