Humanitarian Action for Children

Myanmar

In Myanmar, children and their families remain highly vulnerable, especially in conflict-affected areas. Provisional figures show that in 2020, approximately 905,000 people will need protection, over 870,000 will need access to safe water and sanitation, 255,000 will need education and 10,800 will need to be treated for severe acute malnutrition (SAM). The situation in Rakhine State is increasingly complex. In 2019, fighting between the Myanmar Army and the Arakan Army led to the displacement of 30,000 people. In addition to the 128,000 people internally displaced since 2012 and the 470,000 stateless people in need of humanitarian support, the situation remains relatively stable, though 100,000 people remain internally displaced and are living in camps. In northern Shan State, short-term displacement continued in 2019. Though fewer than 10,000 people are living in displacement camps in northern Shan, many have been displaced multiple times, exacerbating their vulnerabilities. In these environments, children, particularly girls, are vulnerable to exploitation, sexual and gender-based violence, neglect, family separation, risky migration and abuse. Cramped camp conditions heighten these vulnerabilities, and limited access to basic services increases risks of communicable disease transmission. Children face additional risks from the increasing use of improvised explosive devices and landmines.

Humanitarian strategy

In 2020, UNICEF will continue to meet the needs of internally displaced people and other conflict-affected populations through the provision of supplies and technical assistance, while improving accountability to affected populations and the implementation of durable solutions. UNICEF will continue to provide assistance in Rakhine, Chin, Kachin, Shan and Kayin states – including to address gender- and disability-specific needs – in line with the priorities identified by cluster/sector leads. UNICEF will work to establish humanitarian and development linkages while supporting authorities and local populations to strengthen capacities, identify risks and build resilience. UNICEF’s core activities will focus on preventing and treating SAM; providing nutrition support for pregnant and breastfeeding women; supporting access to health services; addressing gender-based violence; monitoring and reporting on six grave violations of children’s rights; ensuring access to safe water and sanitation; and fostering learning opportunities for children aged 3 to 17 years. Cross-sector programming will emphasize early childhood care and development and adolescent-focused education and protection activities. UNICEF will continue to advocate for unfettered access to all in need, and will address vulnerability throughout the country through risk-informed response and programming.

Results from 2019

As of 31 August 2019, UNICEF had US$20.2 million available against the US$59.1 million appeal (34 per cent funded). Due to the growing humanitarian needs, sector targets and costs increased substantially in 2019, though lack of funding and limited access inhibited the response. The Government continued to place severe restrictions on travel of international and national staff, which impeded the response to newly displaced people and in conflict-affected areas. UNICEF explored new opportunities and partnerships in 2019, and as a result, reached over 454,000 people with hygiene kits and 57,000 people with health care. Over 2,700 children aged 6 to 59 months with hygiene kits and 57,000 people with health care. Over 2,700 children aged 6 to 59 months with health care. Over 2,700 children aged 6 to 59 months with health care. Over 2,700 children aged 6 to 59 months with health care. Over 2,700 children aged 6 to 59 months with health care. Over 2,700 children aged 6 to 59 months with health care. Over 2,700 children aged 6 to 59 months.
NUTRITION

Children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM admitted to therapeutic care 5,202 2,712 10,401 2,712
Children aged 6 to 59 months who received micronutrient supplementation
Pregnant and breastfeeding women who received micronutrient supplementation

HEALTH

Children aged 9 to 18 months vaccinated against measles 15,000 7,086
Children and women provided with access to health care services 105,000 57,107

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

People with access to a sufficient water of appropriate quality and quantity for drinking, cooking and maintaining personal hygiene 487,648 228,424 573,384 124,994
People with access to toilets and washing facilities that are culturally-appropriate, secure, sanitary, user-friendly and gender-appropriate 487,648 201,375 573,384 88,681

CHILD PROTECTION

People with access to psychosocial support 267,596 50,700 287,160 36,683
People with access to mine risk/unexploded ordnance education information 164,150 83,246 111,500i 76,168
Adolescents provided with life skills 26,500 5,485 26,500 2,634

EDUCATION

Children aged 3 to 10 years provided with pre-primary or primary learning opportunities 95,062 43,539 105,409 34,284
Children aged 11 to 17 provided with non-formal education opportunities 37,837 5,441 89,793 5,307
Teachers/facilitators who have completed training 2,699 1,205 3,600 0

COMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

People reached through accountability mechanisms to voice their concerns 244,483 0ii

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Funding requirements

UNICEF requires US$40.7 million to provide life-saving and life-sustaining assistance to children, their caregivers and communities in five conflict-affected areas of Myanmar in 2020. UNICEF will target all children in need, as identified in the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan, who are not covered by other cluster partners. The budget requirements will allow UNICEF to fulfill its commitments to children and provide coordination for WASH, nutrition, education and child protection activities. UNICEF will continue to support internally displaced people and identify durable solutions to humanitarian needs. Timely and flexible funding will be critical to UNICEF’s ability to meet the 2020 targets.

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3 Within the first six months of 2019, there were 141 casualties documented (33 killed); children represent 30 percent of the total number of casualties. The trend of incidents and casualties is increasing, largely due to intensified conflicts and improved surveillance by UNICEF and the mine risk working group.
4 UNICEF leads the WASH cluster, the nutrition-in-emergencies sector and the child protection-in-emergencies sector working group, and co-leads the education-in-emergencies sector with Save the Children.
5 Available funds include US$15.3 million received against the 2019 appeal and US$4.9 million carried forward from the previous year.
6 This figure is provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency needs and planning documents. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, ‘Myanmar: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview’ (draft), OCHA, October 2019.
7 Ibid.
8 This includes the total number of people to be reached with hygiene kits or hygiene items as the largest target for a single indicator (women/girls represent at a minimum 50 percent of the target population for each activity). According to the 2014 census, an estimated 4.6 percent of the population is disabled - all efforts are being made to ensure that activities and policies are inclusive and include improved data collection.
9 This includes 49 percent of people to be reached with hygiene kits or hygiene items in a state (i.e., the percentage of children for that state as published in ‘Myanmar: 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan’). For the gender breakdown and information on disabilities, please see endnote 8.
10 Programme targets are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents. For UNICEF-led cluster/sectors, there is a decrease from 2019, as 2020 targets take into account more response limiting factors and discussions by the Humanitarian Country Team.
11 Figures are provisional estimates. Financial requirements are subject to change upon finalization of inter-agency appeals/planning documents.