



Situation Analysis

MYANMAR CRISIS

Period: 02/03/26 – 08/03/26

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Introduction

Purpose

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the current humanitarian situation, focusing on both operational environment factors and sectoral analysis. It aims to support informed decision-making for humanitarian partners and stakeholders.

About GANNET

GANNET is a Generative AI Initiative from Data Friendly Space, offering AI-powered tools built to make knowledge and real-time information accessible to our community in a resource-efficient and ethical way. It provides tools such as the GANNET Virtual Assistant and GANNET SituationHub to help humanitarian actors access, analyze, and utilize critical information for their operations.

GANNET SituationHub

The GANNET SituationHub is a generative AI-powered digital public good designed to identify and analyze humanitarian data from thousands of trusted sources in real time. By transforming complex data into clear insights, it enables faster, more effective response strategies and improved coordination among stakeholders.

GANNET Virtual Assistant

The GANNET Virtual Assistant is a verified chatbot designed for humanitarian quick decision-making. Built on cutting-edge Generative AI and trained with humanitarian expert-reviewed data, it provides real-time information. The GANNET Virtual Assistant facilitates rapid data access and synthesis for crisis response.

Methodology Overview

The Situation Hub's analytical process uses a structured Human-in-the-Loop workflow that combines automated analysis retrieval through GANNET Virtual Assistant, DFS's AI-powered humanitarian assistant, with expert review by the DFS analysis team. GANNET automates the extraction and generation of crisis-related insights based on structured prompts, which are aligned with a tailored analytical framework. These outputs are then reviewed, validated, and refined by analysts to ensure accuracy, contextual relevance, and operational utility. The workflow is organized into four key phases: planning and setup, ongoing operations, quality assurance, and system evolution, ensuring a balance between speed and analytical rigor.

Planning, Setup & Quality Control

In the planning phase, analysts develop a contextualized analytical framework, largely based on the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF), and convert it into structured prompts for AI-assisted data extraction. These prompts are refined over time to improve output quality. Data sources are vetted for reliability, and translations are reviewed for accuracy. Using a centralized Content Management System (CMS), analysts review and curate AI-generated outputs, validate them against external sources, and make refinements to enhance clarity and relevance. The CMS enables collaborative editing and version tracking, ensuring outputs align with humanitarian needs.

Bias Mitigation

To minimize bias, the team diversifies data sources, cross-verifies information, and continuously evaluates the AI's performance. Analysts are crucial in identifying and correcting inaccuracies, especially in automated categorization. Future improvements aim to enhance source credibility checks and sentiment analysis, further strengthening the reliability of the Situation Hub's outputs.

Crisis Overview

The SituationHub landing pages use a standardized yet customizable template to deliver consistent, comprehensive crisis overviews. These pages integrate static content with dynamic data from sources like ACLED and DTM via open APIs, enabling interactive visuals with real-time updates. Regular reviews and verification with in-country partners ensure accuracy, while manual updates are used for sources not connected to APIs.

Media Monitoring

The media monitoring process has evolved from a manual, list-based approach to an AI-assisted system integrated into the CMS. This allows analysts to efficiently review, filter, and contextualize media narratives, while automation helps track emerging trends.

Overview

The following overview has been generated using the information available up to March 24, 2026. It provides a synthesized summary and key insights into the crisis based on the most recent data accessible at that time.

Summary

Myanmar has been in crisis since February 1, 2021, when the military (Tatmadaw) overthrew the democratically elected government. This coup sparked widespread protests and armed resistance, leading to a severe political, economic, and humanitarian crisis. The military junta, known as the State Administration Council (SAC), has responded with brutal force, resulting in thousands of civilian deaths and widespread human rights abuses.

As of December 2025, approximately 3.6 million people are internally displaced across the country—a dramatic increase from roughly 300,000 pre-2021—with displacement projected to rise toward 4 million in 2026. Intensified clashes continue in Sagaing, Magway, northern Shan, Kayah, and Mandalay, where junta forces have launched renewed ground and air offensives ahead of military-run elections starting December 28, 2025. The Arakan Army now controls all but three of Rakhine State's 17 townships, while resistance forces including the Karen National Liberation Army have consolidated influence across much of central and southeastern Myanmar. The UN's 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, released December 10, projects over 16 million people will require humanitarian assistance.

Recovery from the March 2025 earthquake remains slow, with an estimated 3.5 million tonnes of debris and reconstruction hampered by insecurity, shortages of heavy machinery (43%) and labour (40%), and limited access. Many affected communities, particularly in Magway, Sagaing, and Mandalay, continue to live in temporary shelters, while essential services remain disrupted. Approximately 24,200 houses were damaged (24% completely destroyed), and 132 health facilities were damaged—half in Mandalay.

The Rohingya crisis continues to worsen, with the junta's blockade of Rakhine preventing international aid delivery since late 2023, leaving hundreds of thousands of IDPs with severely limited assistance. On December 10, 2025, a military airstrike destroyed Mrauk-U General Hospital, killing at least 33 people and injuring 76–80—one of the deadliest attacks on healthcare in the conflict. Chronic poverty now affects over 80% of the population, the World Bank projects GDP will contract 2.0% in FY2025/26 with inflation remaining above 20%, and market disruptions have deepened food insecurity nationwide. The 2026 HNRP appeals for approximately \$890 million but reflects severely constrained funding and narrowed operational space, forcing agencies to prioritize only 2.6 million people with the most severe needs for life-saving support.

Key Insights

1. Myanmar's humanitarian crisis continues to deepen amid persistent conflict, economic collapse, and the lingering impacts of the March 2025 earthquake. An estimated 16 million people—nearly one in three citizens—are projected to require humanitarian assistance in 2026, as conflict-driven displacement, natural disasters, and funding shortages exacerbate vulnerabilities nationwide.

The March 28 earthquake remains a defining event in the humanitarian landscape. Official figures confirm 3,745 deaths and over 5,000 injuries, with the Early Recovery Cluster reporting over 24,200 houses damaged (24% completely destroyed), 4,857 apartments affected, and 132 health facilities damaged. An estimated 3.5 million tonnes of debris blocks roads and markets, with clearance impeded by shortages of heavy machinery (43%) and labour (40%). Nearly three-quarters of the most affected townships continue to face critical shelter and livelihood gaps—64% of communities reported job losses and 30–31% reported damage to crops and workplaces—while disrupted water systems (44% of groundwater sources contaminated) have fueled outbreaks of cholera and dengue.

2. Conflict has escalated dramatically ahead of junta-run elections starting December 28, 2025. The military has intensified air and ground offensives, conducting 2,165 airstrikes between January and November 2025—up from 1,716 in all of 2024. On December 10, a military airstrike destroyed Mrauk-U General Hospital in Rakhine State, killing at least 33 people and injuring 76–80—prompting UN, WHO, and Amnesty International condemnation and calls for investigation as a possible war crime.

Total displacement has reached approximately 3.6 million people as of late 2025, with projections indicating it could rise to 4 million in 2026. The Arakan Army now controls all but three of Rakhine's 17 townships, while resistance forces have captured extensive border areas in the southeast. Attacks on healthcare are widespread: Insecurity Insight recorded 1,815 attacks on health care between February 2021 and November 2025, with WHO verifying 67 attacks in 2025 alone. Access restrictions, including the junta's blockade of Rakhine since late 2023, continue to endanger civilians—particularly Rohingya communities facing persistent protection risks, restricted mobility, and limited access to aid.

3. Humanitarian access remains severely limited by insecurity and deliberate obstruction. The 2026 HNRP appeals for approximately \$890 million but reflects severely constrained funding and narrowed operational space, prioritizing only 2.6 million people with the most severe needs at a cost of \$521 million. Partners reached some 5 million people in the first nine months of 2025, but access constraints—including roadblocks, landmines, telecommunications blackouts, and the Rakhine blockade affecting 600,000 IDPs—force reliance on low-profile, community-led delivery modalities. WFP warns that hunger has reached "unacceptable" levels, with over 400,000 young children and mothers surviving on nutrient-deprived diets of plain rice or watery porridge.

4. The Food Security Cluster estimates about 8.5 million people face moderate-to-severe food insecurity in 2026, driven by conflict, displacement, rising food and fuel prices, reduced market access and supply-chain disruptions. September 2025 analyses reported "Serious" to "Critical" Global Acute Malnutrition in multiple conflict-affected townships, notably in Northern Rakhine, Kachin, Sagaing, Southern Shan, and Kayah—with nutrition and treatment services suspended or operating at minimal capacity due to access constraints.

Economic conditions continue to deteriorate: the World Bank projects real GDP will contract 2.0% in FY2025/26, with inflation remaining above 20%. Rising poverty and fear of forced conscription have driven male migration, leaving women, girls, and older people as household heads. More than four in ten households identify lack of income as their top challenge, and 83% of internally displaced families can meet half or less of their basic needs. The convergence of conflict, disaster, and economic decline continues to erode coping capacities, pushing Myanmar further toward a protracted humanitarian emergency with no signs of de-escalation.

5. International condemnation has intensified following the December 10 airstrike on Mrauk-U Hospital. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights called for an investigation, warning the attack could amount to a war crime. WHO's Director-General condemned the strike as among dozens of verified attacks on healthcare in 2025. Amnesty International and the Burma Human Rights Network have urged the UN Security Council to refer Myanmar to the International Criminal Court, impose an arms embargo, and authorize emergency cross-border humanitarian aid.

Peace negotiations remain effectively stalled: resistance leaders and the National Unity Government publicly rejected Chinese-brokered terms for northern Shan State. The junta has cancelled voting in thousands of wards where it cannot secure control, while nationwide "silent strikes" signalled popular rejection of the military's December elections. EU and Australia have declared the vote "not credible" amid junta repression. The junta denies responsibility for civilian casualties, accusing "terrorists" of being targeted, while humanitarian organizations warn the pre-election environment is driving further escalation rather than de-escalation.

Economy

Current Economic Situation

Myanmar is facing an acute fuel shortage after Thailand abruptly suspended fuel exports in early March 2026, with importers in eastern Shan State towns such as Tachileik and Kengtung warning current stocks may last no more than 10 days [2][8]. Panic buying caused long queues at petrol stations as motorists sought remaining supplies, and authorities temporarily shut some stations amid crowd surges [8]. Global oil prices jumped an estimated 10–13% following US-Israel strikes on Iran beginning 28 February, worsening supply concerns for a country that relies heavily on imported fuel from the Middle East and Russia [2][8]. The junta ordered a nationwide one-day-on, one-day-off driving restriction for most privately owned vehicles starting 7 March to conserve fuel, with exemptions for public transport, taxis, fuel tankers, ambulances and other essential vehicles [8][2].

Conflict Economic Landscape

A major Chinese-backed copper project in Sagaing's Salingyi Township resumed operations on 1 March after an election-period shutdown, with workers ordered back and military patrols and checkpoints reestablished around the site [9]. The copper projects are a significant revenue source for the junta—joint Wanbao–military operations generate millions annually, and a 2021 estimate put Letpadaung revenues at about US\$417 million for the regime [9]. Since the restart, resistance forces have launched attacks on the mining compound and the junta has reinforced troops in the area, while soldiers at checkpoints have been extorting money from travellers [9]. Road closures and phoneline cuts since February 10 have blocked aid routes to Thayetchaung IDPs, producing acute food shortages, sharp price rises (onions 10,000 kyats per viss; eggs 1,200 kyats each; cooking oil 10,000 kyats per litre) and displacing roughly 10,000 people who are largely hiding in forests [3]. WHO and UN assessments report that humanitarian access is increasingly blocked in conflict areas including Chin, Rakhine and Sagaing, disrupting health services and creating critical shortages in displacement sites [4][7]. The Myanmar Humanitarian Fund has funded distributions of dignity and hygiene kits to displaced women and girls in Kayah and northern Shan to help households direct limited income toward food and school fees and to protect safety and dignity [1]. The junta has also announced a Central Equipment Identity Register requiring IMEI registration for mobile phones; the system will capture device IMEIs via network providers and can block unregistered devices until taxes and fines are paid, a move that will affect communications and device use across the country [10].

Stability of Currency and Bank System

Thailand's abrupt suspension of fuel exports in early March 2026 triggered immediate supply fears in eastern Shan State, prompting importers in Tachileik and Kengtung to warn that current stocks may last no more than 10 days [8]. Global oil prices surged an estimated 10–13% after joint US–Israel strikes on Iran beginning 28 February, raising fears of wider supply disruption for a country that relies heavily on imported fuel from the Middle East and Russia [8]. The military junta ordered a nationwide one-day-on, one-day-off driving system for most privately owned vehicles starting 7 March 2026 to conserve dwindling fuel supplies [8]. Panic buying and long queues formed at petrol stations as motorists sought remaining supplies, and authorities temporarily shut some stations amid crowd surges [8].

Employment

A major China-backed copper project in Sagaing Region's Salingyi Township resumed operations, with workers reporting they returned to the site on 1 March 2026 [9]. The project had begun gradually restoring operations from mid-2024 and was reported to be running near full capacity by the end of 2024 [9]. Worsening economic conditions since the 2021 coup have pushed some Civil Disobedience Movement participants to return to work, though the number who returned is unclear [9][4]. Operations and local livelihoods have been affected by security risks, including artillery attacks on the mining compound, raids, reinforced troop deployments and reported extortion of travellers at nearby checkpoints [9]. The broader economy has experienced a sharp downturn since the 2021 coup, contributing to displacement and constrained livelihoods [4]. Among vulnerable populations, a 2025 study of Rohingya women and girls in Cox's Bazar identified poverty and joblessness as key drivers of intimate partner violence, early and forced marriage, and other protection risks [6]. Humanitarian assistance such as Myanmar Humanitarian Fund dignity kits has enabled displaced households to redirect limited income toward essentials, reflecting constrained income-generating opportunities for conflict-affected women and families [1].

Politics

Governance Structures and Rule of Law

The military junta rebranded as the State Security and Peace Commission (SSPC) on 31 July 2025, with Min Aung Hlaing retained as chair, indicating continuity of military leadership and command structures [40]. Following elections that concluded on 25 January 2026, the junta ordered mass pardons releasing more than 7,000–7,300 people convicted under laws forbidding "financing of terrorism" and related charges, with around 300 prisoners observed leaving Insein Prison [25][24]. The junta also announced the closure of judicial cases against 12,487 people abroad and reduced sentences for 2,825 persons while excluding those prosecuted for murder, rape, weapons, drugs, explosives, illicit association and corruption [24]. High-profile detainees, including Aung San Suu Kyi, remain in custody on multiple charges [24][25]. The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) reports that since the 2021 coup 30,448 pro-democracy activists and civilians have been arrested, 22,797 remain in detention, 129 face the death penalty, at least 7,777 detainees have been confirmed killed, and a further 4,500 deaths are pending verification [28].

The military announced in early March 2026 a Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) requiring mandatory IMEI registration linking mobile devices to individual users, with network providers automatically capturing IMEIs, a requirement to have a local SIM by the end of the month, blocking of unregistered devices, and fines or back taxes to reactivate devices—measures which digital rights groups warn will enable pervasive communication surveillance and remote disabling combined with existing Electronic ID and SIM-registration systems [34]. Humanitarian access to Myanmar has become “increasingly blocked” according to the World Health Organization, particularly as fighting intensifies in Chin, Rakhine, and Sagaing, disrupting health services and preventing patients and healthcare workers from reaching facilities [28]. Philippines Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro, speaking as special envoy of the 2026 ASEAN Chair, briefed the UN Security Council and called for renewed cooperation to implement the FivePoint Consensus and for urgent, unhindered humanitarian access [28]. The Rohingya remain stateless under Myanmar’s 1982 Citizenship Law [20].

Political Freedoms and Recent Laws

Analysts and opposition figures characterised the 25 January 2026 elections as fraudulent and said the pardons appear intended to soften the junta’s image ahead of a nominal handover to a civilian government [24][25]. Civil-society and digital-rights groups warn that the combination of expanded CEIR surveillance and the broad use of anti-terror legislation is likely to further restrict freedom of expression, association and assembly through monitoring, device-blocking and selective prosecutions [34][25]. Digital-rights researchers specifically warn the CEIR will allow the regime to integrate IMEIs with existing Electronic ID and SIM-registration systems, enabling precise identity and location tracking of users [34]. Series of airstrikes and masscasualty attacks across regions including Sagaing, Magway and Rakhine in early 2026 have caused multiple civilian deaths and damage to civilian infrastructure, undermining security and safe civic participation [27].

Influence of Non-State Actors and Political Factions

Armed non-state actors—notably the Arakan Army—and the military council are both implicated in attacks and restrictions that intensify risks for Rohingya communities in Rakhine, prompting UN warnings for civilian protection and unimpeded humanitarian access [26]. Road closures and phone-line cuts amid clashes in Thayetchaung since 10 February have left roughly 10,000 displaced people cut off from aid and facing food shortages and price spikes, according to aid providers and resistance groups [36]. Resistance groups and People’s Defence Force-aligned units have mounted operations across multiple regions, and the junta has intensified campaign-style operations in Sagaing after defections (including Bo Nagar) while conducting sustained airstrikes that have caused mass civilian casualties [29][27]. The junta continues to derive substantial revenue from extractive projects jointly run with Chinese firms (Wanbao) and military-owned conglomerates, with Letpadaung and other copper projects cited as major sources of funds for the regime [37]. National Unity Government-linked local administrations publicly targeted private-sector managers at Chinese-run mining projects, naming 10 senior managers in Salingyi Township in February and labelling them traitors [37].

Public Trust in State Institutions

The mass pardons announced after the 25 January 2026 elections—widely denounced as fraudulent by opponents and the international community—are described by analysts as a bid to soften the junta’s image during a nominal transition, a move likely to undermine perceptions of legitimacy among pro-democracy actors and the international community [25][24]. The junta’s mandatory IMEI registration plan has raised digital-rights alarms as a significant step toward pervasive surveillance and further erosion of public trust in state institutions [34]. UN officials warned that intensified fighting in Rakhine has deepened the humanitarian emergency, causing new displacement, critical shortages of food and medicine, and constrained access to services, and they have called for civilian protection and unimpeded humanitarian access—conditions that further weaken confidence in the state’s capacity to protect civilians [26].

Role of Marginalized Groups

The Rohingya were driven into displacement in 2016–2017, with over a million now living in Bangladesh’s Cox’s Bazar camps [20]. A 2025 study of genderbased violence in Cox’s Bazar, based on 1,003 survey responses and 26 indepth interviews across 33 camps, found widespread GBV—particularly intimatepartner violence, early and forced marriage, sexual exploitation and harassment—and linked these patterns to overcrowding, movement restrictions, lack of livelihoods, gender inequality and weak legal protections [20]. The study reported that only a small proportion of survivors access medical, psychological or legal services because of fear, stigma, language barriers, corruption and funding shortfalls, and it called for survivorcentred services and meaningful participation of Rohingya women in decisions affecting their lives [20]. UN assessments warn that Rohingya communities in Rakhine are being targeted by both the military council and the Arakan Army, with intensified clashes causing new displacement, restricted movement, allegations of forced recruitment and obstruction of aid [26]. Conflictrelated disruptions have cut roads and phone lines, delaying aid and creating shortages for displaced populations—for example, roughly 10,000 people displaced in Thayetchaung Township have faced blocked roads, phone cuts and rising food prices since fighting intensified from February 10 [36]. Humanitarian responses include targeted support for women and girls, such as dignity kits distributed by Myanmar Humanitarian Fund partners in Kayah and Shan to help displaced mothers maintain safety and dignity [31].

Security And Stability

Security Overview

Since late February–early March 2026, Myanmar’s junta has intensified aerial, artillery and drone attacks across multiple regions, producing mass-casualty incidents, large-scale displacement and severe constraints on humanitarian access [46][49][51]. Multiple recent attacks produced at least five mass-casualty incidents with 48 confirmed deaths: a 1 March airstrike on a trading junction in Mindon Township (Magway) killed more than two dozen people [49]; an airstrike at a Magway truck stop killed at least 25 [46][54]; a Pinlebu (Sagaing) strike killed nine [46][57]; and bombs on a market in Ponnagyun (Rakhine) reportedly killed at least 18 [46].

Between 1–3 March, sustained artillery fire and drone-coordinated strikes in Aungmyan Township (Magway Region) displaced about 3,000 residents from seven villages and destroyed 27 houses and a monastery dining hall [49]. In Sagaing's Pale Township, residents reported intense aerial operations in early March—combining fighter jets and paramotors—with at least a dozen strikes over consecutive days as the junta sought to project force where ground control is limited [51]. Local actors report increased use of reconnaissance drones to coordinate strikes and reposition heavy weapons, raising alerts of further ground offensives in affected areas [49].

In Tanintharyi's Thayetchaung area, junta troops were reported to have killed seven civilians around 27 February amid renewed clashes, and concurrent road closures and phone-line cuts have constrained aid and communications for displaced populations [48][59]. Roadblocks and communications blackouts around Thayetchaung have left nearly 10,000 displaced people sheltering in forests or makeshift sites, facing food shortages, soaring prices and limited humanitarian access [59]. The UN has warned of targeted attacks on Rohingya communities in Rakhine, with civilians caught between the military council and the Arakan Army, and called for civilian protection and unimpeded humanitarian access [43]. WHO reported that humanitarian access is "increasingly blocked" in conflict-affected areas including Chin, Rakhine and Sagaing [44][43].

The junta has also tightened domestic controls that affect civilian movement and communications, including a new IMEI registration system for phones that automatically captures device identifiers via network providers, can block unregistered handsets, and links devices to users [56]. A nationwide alternate-day driving order imposed from 7 March amid fuel shortages further restricts civilian mobility [65][55].

Security Forces and Law Enforcement

Myanmar's military junta remains the primary security actor, conducting sustained air, artillery, drone and ground operations across multiple regions and relying on aircraft (fighter jets, paramotors), reconnaissance drones and heavy weapons to project force in contested areas [51][45]. In Sagaing's Pale Township, residents reported repeated airstrikes by fighter jets and paramotors from 1–3 March as junta columns advanced into former BNRA areas [51][53]. Human rights monitors documented widespread use of air strikes in 2025 against community buildings and civilian infrastructure in Southeast Burma, including schools, monasteries, churches, homes and farms [45][58].

Security forces have been implicated in summary killings and civilian massacres throughout the crisis [48][54]. UN briefings have warned that Rohingya communities in Rakhine are being targeted by both the military council and the Arakan Army, with allegations of abuses and obstruction of aid for civilians caught between warring parties [43]. Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) figures reported since the 2021 coup include: 30,448 people arrested; 22,797 people remaining in detention; 129 individuals facing the death penalty; and at least 7,777 detainees confirmed killed with another 4,500 deaths pending verification [44].

Demography

Demographic Overview

Over one million Rohingya were forcibly displaced to Bangladesh during 2016–2017 and remain in large camps in Cox's Bazar, where a 2025 survey collected 1,003 responses across 33 camps [69]. Myanmar's ethnic landscape is diverse: stateless Rohingya populations remain concentrated in Rakhine State, while Southeast Burma is home to ethnic Karen alongside Bamar, Shan, Mon and Pa'O communities in Karen State [74]. Recent conflict has triggered widespread internal displacement. Since early February 2026 approximately 10,000 civilians from roughly 20 villages in Thayetchaung Township, Tanintharyi Region, have been displaced and are largely sheltering in forests or hiding, with road closures and cut phone lines impeding aid delivery [72]. Intensified fighting in early March 2026 displaced approximately 3,000 residents from seven villages in Aungmyan Township (1–3 March 2026) after artillery and drone strikes [71]. Throughout 2025, air strikes in Southeast Burma killed at least 66 villagers, including 18 children, and caused large-scale displacement and disruption to health and education services [75]. WHO reported that humanitarian access has become increasingly blocked as conflict intensifies in Chin, Rakhine and Sagaing [66]. Displacement settings reveal acute protection needs and heightened gender-based violence. In Rohingya camps, widespread early and forced marriage, intimate partner violence, sexual exploitation and limited survivor access to services are driven by overcrowding, movement restrictions, lack of livelihoods and weak camp management [69].

Socio-Cultural

Socio-Cultural Overview

The Rohingya remain stateless under Myanmar's 1982 Citizenship Law and have endured decades of systemic persecution and exclusion that undermine their sense of belonging and civic rights [78]. As of early 2026, intensified fighting in Rakhine has seen Rohingya communities targeted by both the military council and the Arakan Army, triggering new displacement and severe constraints on access to food, medicine and essential services [79]. UN assessments and reporting indicate both sides have been implicated in abuses — the military in forced recruitment, movement restrictions and obstruction of aid, and the Arakan Army in village attacks including arson, killings and forced displacement — further eroding local protection mechanisms [79].

Myanmar's ethnic landscape includes areas such as locally-defined Karen State, primarily inhabited by ethnic Karen alongside Bamar, Shan, Mon and Pa'O, and community and religious sites (schools, monasteries, churches) have been directly affected by air strikes and attacks, undermining social cohesion [86][88]. Intensifying conflict across regions including Chin, Rakhine and Sagaing has increasingly blocked humanitarian access and disrupted health and other services that sustain community resilience [81].

Disruptions to communications and transport—such as blocked roads and cut phone lines since 10 February that delayed aid to an estimated 10,000 IDPs in Thayetchaung—have hindered community communication and complicated outreach and information-sharing with affected populations [80].

Gender Dynamics

A 2025 report by the Asian Dignity Initiative and the Rohingya Human Rights Center documented widespread gender-based violence across 33 camps in Cox's Bazar, noting intimate partner violence, early and forced marriage, sexual exploitation, and harassment as common forms of abuse [78]. The study—based on 1,003 survey responses and 26 in-depth interviews in 2025—found intimate partner violence comprised the majority of reported cases and identified high rates of child marriage driven by poverty, movement restrictions, and entrenched gender norms [78]. Researchers linked GBV to structural factors including severe overcrowding, limits on movement, lack of livelihoods, weak legal systems, unsafe camp infrastructure (for example, shared latrines without lighting), the presence of gangs or armed actors, and chronic funding shortfalls for services [78]. Deep gender inequality and harmful traditions—including polygamy and dowry-related practices—further compound these vulnerabilities [78].

Only a small proportion of survivors access medical, psychosocial, or legal support due to fear, stigma, corruption, language barriers, and social pressure, while shortages of funding constrain shelters, counselling, and safe spaces [78]. The report calls for survivor-centred measures—improved lighting and security, strengthened community protection systems, accessible health, mental health and legal services, GBV prevention programming, and expanded education and livelihoods opportunities to enable meaningful participation of Rohingya women and girls [78]. Active engagement of local and religious leaders is needed to challenge harmful norms, shift traditions, and reduce stigma [78]. Separately, the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund supported distribution of dignity kits (sanitary items, hygiene supplies and flashlights) to displaced women and girls in conflict-affected Kayah and Shan States in 2025, which partners reported improved safety, dignity and household ability to prioritise food and schooling [77].

Impact of Socio-Cultural Drivers on Aid

Rohingya communities in Rakhine face entrenched statelessness, movement restrictions and discrimination that increase exposure to violence and limit acceptance of and access to aid [79]. In displacement settings in Cox's Bazar, severe overcrowding, restricted movement, lack of livelihoods and poor camp management limit survivors' ability to seek help and participate in decisions affecting aid delivery [78]. Unsafe camp infrastructure (e.g., shared, unlit bathrooms) increases women's and girls' vulnerability and constrains effective aid provision [78].

Reports call for increased donor prioritization of GBV prevention and response, including survivor-centered services, safer camp measures (improved lighting, security patrols, shelters), and stronger community systems to reduce barriers to accessing medical, psychosocial and legal support [78]. In conflict-affected areas of Kayah and northern Shan, Myanmar Humanitarian Fund-supported distributions of dignity kits by local partners have been reported to improve displaced women's safety, dignity and ability to prioritize household needs such as food and education [77], demonstrating how gender- and dignity-focused interventions can address distinct protection needs and enhance aid effectiveness [77].

Environment

Environmental Conditions

Myanmar's heavy dependence on imported fuel leaves the country vulnerable to global shocks, particularly after oil prices rose following US-Israel strikes on Iran beginning 28 February 2026 [100]. Thailand suspended fuel exports, prompting importers in eastern border towns such as Tachileik and Kengtung to warn that stocks could last no more than about 10 days, triggering panic buying and long queues at petrol stations in early March 2026 [100][105]. To conserve dwindling fuel supplies, the junta imposed a nationwide alternate-day "one-day-on, one-day-off" driving order for most private vehicles starting 7 March 2026 [100][105]. China-invested copper projects, including the Letpadaung mine which resumed operations gradually from mid-2024 and approached full capacity by the end of 2024, remain active sources of revenue and have been subject to artillery attacks and reinforced military security into late 2025–early 2026 [106]. UN officials warned that intensified fighting in Rakhine State in early 2026 has cut off villages and displacement sites, constraining access to food, medicine and essential services and raising risks of malnutrition and disease outbreaks, and WHO reported that humanitarian access and health services are increasingly blocked in areas including Chin, Rakhine and Sagaing [96][95].

Environmental Challenges

A KHRG photo set published 4 March 2026 documented extensive 2025 Burma Army air strikes that damaged farms, plantations and community buildings, disrupted access to agriculture and healthcare, displaced villagers into forests and caves, and recorded at least 66 civilians killed and 176 injured in Southeast Burma during 2025 [99][103]. These attacks caused contamination and widespread destruction of rice fields and plantations, disrupting livelihoods and local environments and forcing many to flee to forests and caves, significantly disrupting villagers' ability to work on farms and access essential services [99]. Between 1 and 3 March 2026, junta artillery and drone strikes displaced approximately 3,000 residents in Aungmyan Township, leaving displaced people in urgent need of clean drinking water, food and shelter materials [97]. Since at least 10 February 2026, road closures and phone-line cuts in Thayetchaung Township have caused food shortages and sharply rising prices for displaced civilians, with roughly 10,000 people sheltering in forests and makeshift sites [107]. Fuel supply interruptions driven by halted imports from Thailand and global oil-price shocks in late February 2026 have strained energy supplies in Shan State and nationwide [105][100]. The junta imposed a nationwide "one-day-on, one-day-off" driving restriction from 7 March 2026 to conserve fuel, while exempting garbage trucks and other key service vehicles [100].

Environmental Risks and Mitigation

Intensified aerial, artillery and drone attacks have caused widespread destruction of community infrastructure, farms and plantations, large-scale displacement, and severely constrained access to food, medicine and essential services in Rakhine, Magway, Sagaing, Chin, Shan and parts of Southeast Burma [96][99][97][102]. Agricultural and livelihood losses from repeated air strikes have undermined food security and coping capacity, further increasing dependence on humanitarian assistance [99]. Humanitarian agencies and WHO report that access to aid and health services has become increasingly blocked, disrupting patient and healthworker movement to facilities and raising risks of malnutrition and preventable disease outbreaks [95][96]. Key documented impacts and figures include: KHRG documented that in 2025 at least 66 villagers (including 18 children) were killed and 176 villagers (including 66 children) injured by Burma Army air strikes, based on a photo set and field documentation [99]; a series of masscasualty incidents in late February 2026 resulted in 48 confirmed deaths across multiple attacks in Magway, Sagaing and Rakhine [102]; a 1 March 2026 airstrike on a trading junction in Mindon (Magway) killed over two dozen people, and artillery/drone attacks displaced some 3,000 people in Aunglan Township during a three-day assault [97]; KHRG received more than 3,600 photographs documenting airstrike impacts across Southeast Burma in 2025, illustrating destruction, displacement and disruption to services and livelihoods [99]. UN officials and ASEAN representatives have called for civilian protection and unimpeded humanitarian access, with the Philippines urging full implementation of the Five-Point Consensus at the UN Security Council in March 2026 [96][95]. Humanitarian mitigation measures documented in the period include Myanmar Humanitarian Fund-supported distributions of dignity and hygiene kits (including sanitary items and handcrank flashlights) to displaced women and girls in Kayah and northern Shan to protect safety and dignity, and targeted prioritization of women and girls in MHF programming [104].

Conflict

Overview of the Ongoing Armed Conflict

Fighting intensified in early March 2026 with sustained junta air, artillery and drone strikes that drove new waves of displacement and civilian casualties across Magway, Sagaing, Tanintharyi and Rakhine regions [113][116][119][108]. Between 1–3 March, artillery and drone bombardment in Aunglan Township, Magway Region displaced approximately 3,000 people, destroyed houses and a monastery dining hall, and left displaced populations in urgent need of food, clean water and shelter materials [113]. A junta airstrike on or around 1 March hit a truck stop in Mindon/Magway, killing at least 25 people, while separate strikes on markets and restaurants in late February–early March produced multiple mass-casualty incidents across the country [109][113][117]. Regime fighter-jet strikes killed nine civilians in NUG-controlled Pinlebu Township, Sagaing, and resistance-held areas have seen intensified aerial attacks since the post-election period [117][116]. In Pale Township, Sagaing, the junta used fighter jets, paramotors and repeated airstrikes from 1–3 March during an advance into former BNRA-held areas following the defection of BNRA leaders in mid-February [116]. Junta ground operations have included reported arbitrary killings of seven civilians in Tanintharyi, near-daily airstrikes, and large-scale displacement into forests and makeshift shelters [119][114]. Road closures and deliberate phone-line cuts—notably the Palauk–Thayetchaung section of Union Highway No.8 closed since 10 February—are delaying aid to roughly 10,000 IDPs and causing acute shortages and sharp price rises for basic goods [114]. According to WHO, access to humanitarian aid has become increasingly blocked and clashes have disrupted health services in areas including Chin, Rakhine and Sagaing [110]. Humanitarian monitoring and photographic evidence document repeated damage to community infrastructure—markets, schools, monasteries and churches—from aerial attacks and shelling, resulting in casualties, destruction and interruption of education and health services [118][117]. The conflict shows expanded use of heavy and aerial weapons including fighter jets, paramotors, gyrocopters, artillery, drones and mortars, intensified troop deployments around strategic sites such as Chinese-linked mining projects, and shifting armed-group dynamics such as BNRA defections and pockets of resistance control of townships [116][113][121]. The UN has warned that Rohingya populations in Rakhine remain at extreme risk amid escalating clashes, targeting by multiple parties and severely constrained humanitarian access [108].

Conflict Stakeholders

The national state actor is the military junta (Burma Army/SAC, renamed State Security and Peace Commission in July 2025), which has intensified aerial, artillery, drone and paramotor strikes and ground offensives to retake contested areas and project control across Sagaing, Magway, Rakhine and other regions in early March 2026 [118][116][111][113][117]. Non-state armed actors contesting territory include the Arakan Army (AA), ethnic armed organisations such as the Karen National Liberation Army/KNDO/KNU, the Burma National Revolution Army (BNRA), and numerous local People's Defence Force (PDF) units aligned with the National Unity Government (NUG), all of which have carried out operations against junta forces [108][118][112][116]. BNRA cohesion fractured in mid-February when six senior BNRA leaders, including Bo Nagar, defected to the junta after a February 17–18 raid by NUG-aligned forces, prompting a junta push into former BNRA strongholds in late February–early March 2026 [116][111]. The AA and the military council have both been accused of targeting Rohingya communities and obstructing humanitarian access, a concern raised by UN officials including Assistant Secretary-General Khaled Khari and reflected in UN assessments of increased abuses during 2024–2025 [108]. Chinese economic involvement is visible at the Wanbao (NORINCO) copper project in Sagaing, where operations resumed on March 1, 2026 and soldiers have been stationed at checkpoints with reports of extortion of travellers [121]. Regional diplomatic engagement included the Philippines briefing the UN Security Council in early March 2026 urging delivery of humanitarian assistance and implementation of ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus, while WHO reported that humanitarian access has become increasingly blocked and the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) provided updated detention and casualty figures since the 2021 coup [110].

Peace Negotiations

The Philippines, acting as 2026 ASEAN Chair and through Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro as the ASEAN special envoy, briefed the UN Security Council and urged full implementation of the Five-Point Consensus and a Myanmar-led, Myanmar-owned pathway to peace [110].

ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus remains the central regional framework guiding diplomatic efforts, with key parties central to any mediation including the military council (junta) and ethnic armed groups such as the Arakan Army [108][110]. The United Nations has repeatedly called for an immediate cessation of attacks on civilians, unimpeded humanitarian access, and political engagement that addresses citizenship, accountability and freedom of movement for the Rohingya as prerequisites for a durable resolution [108]. Progress is being undermined by intensifying hostilities, ongoing air and ground offensives, new waves of displacement, blocked aid deliveries, and restricted humanitarian access, which constrain negotiators' leverage and humanitarian channels [110][108][113]. UN and humanitarian actors identify major obstacles to progress as intensifying clashes, severely constrained humanitarian access, and structural drivers such as statelessness and systemic discrimination against the Rohingya, all of which must be addressed for a durable settlement [108][110].

Conflict Outlook

Junta offensives have pushed into formerly resistance-held areas in Sagaing—notably Pale Township after BNRA defections—while resistance attacks and defections have reshaped frontlines, producing fluid territorial shifts since late February–early March 2026 [116][111]. The junta's increasing reliance on air power, paramotor strikes, drones and artillery has contributed to widespread civilian casualties and destruction documented across conflict areas in 2025, with recent operations between 1–3 March 2026 displacing about 3,000 people in Aunglan Township and producing mass-casualty incidents including an estimated 25+ killed at a Magway truck stop and heavy losses in Mindon and Sagaing townships [116][118][113][131][123]. Humanitarian access is increasingly blocked and displacement sites face critical shortages of food, medicine and shelter, while road and phone cut-offs have delayed aid to roughly 10,000 displaced in Thayetchaung Township [110][108][114]. External stressors—most immediately a fuel crunch after Thailand halted fuel exports amid the Iran conflict and related global oil-price shocks—are disrupting supplies in Shan State and could aggravate economic hardship and operational constraints for civilians and aid delivery [120][115]. ASEAN, through the Philippines as 2026 chair, and UN officials are pressing for full implementation of the Five-Point Consensus and unimpeded humanitarian access, but renewed escalation and continued use of aerial and artillery tactics make a near-term negotiated settlement unlikely without concrete de-escalation measures [110][108][116]. The UN warns that without immediate de-escalation and unimpeded access vulnerable communities—including the Rohingya—remain at extreme risk, indicating continued intensification of hostilities and fresh internal displacement in the near term unless access and political engagement improve [108][113][114].

Displacement

Displacement Overview

Intensified fighting across multiple states has driven new waves of internal displacement in early March 2026, with hotspots including Rakhine, Sagaing, Magway, Tanintharyi and parts of Southeast Burma. Around 10,000 civilians from roughly 20 villages in Thayetchaung Township (Tanintharyi Region) have been displaced since fighting escalated from 10 February, with roads blocked, phone lines cut, and most people hiding in forests while only a small number reached Dawei town [134]. A three-day artillery and drone assault from 1–3 March forced approximately 3,000 residents from seven villages in Aunglan Township (Magway Region) to flee, with reports of destroyed homes and urgent needs for food, drinking water and shelter materials [136]. The United Nations has warned that Rohingya populations in Rakhine State face renewed displacement as they are increasingly trapped between the military council and the Arakan Army, with access to food, medicine and services severely constrained as of early 2026 [132]. Documentation of Burma Army air strikes in Southeast Burma shows large-scale displacement in 2025—many villagers fled to forests and caves—and records at least 66 villagers killed and 176 injured by air strikes in 2025, indicating sustained displacement pressures into 2026 [142][147]. Humanitarian access constraints reported by WHO and others—particularly in Chin, Rakhine and Sagaing—are limiting aid delivery and likely exacerbating displacement dynamics and protection risks for affected populations [137].

Living Conditions of the Displaced Population

Intensified fighting has severely constrained access to food, medicine and essential services, raising concerns about malnutrition, preventable disease outbreaks and civilian casualties. WHO reported access to humanitarian aid has become "increasingly blocked," particularly as clashes intensified in Chin, Rakhine and Sagaing, disrupting health services [137][132]. Since early February, road closures and phone line cuts on the Palauk–Thayetchaung section of Union Highway No. 8 have left roughly 10,000 displaced people facing acute food shortages and sharply rising prices—onions at 10,000 kyats per viss and eggs at 1,200 kyats each—with limited aid access [134]. Between 1–3 March 2026, junta artillery and drone strikes in Aunglan Township (Magway) forced about 3,000 residents from seven villages to flee and remain in hiding, with urgent needs for food, safe drinking water and tarpaulins for temporary shelter [136]. A 1 March airstrike on a trading junction in Mindon Township killed over two dozen people, further exacerbating displacement in central Myanmar [136]. KHRG documentation shows Burma Army air strikes in 2025 caused widespread civilian deaths, injuries and destruction—at least 66 villagers (including 18 children) killed and 176 injured—and damaged schools, monasteries, farms and other community assets, undermining displaced populations' access to healthcare and education [142]. The Myanmar Humanitarian Fund supported distribution of dignity kits (sanitary products, hygiene supplies and handcrank flashlights) to displaced women and girls in Kayah and northern Shan, helping households prioritize food and school fees while addressing safety and dignity needs [133]. Reports on Rohingya camps note severe overcrowding, movement restrictions, lack of jobs, weak legal systems and poor camp management drive widespread genderbased violence and limit survivors' access to medical, psychological and legal services, based on a 2025 survey of 1,003 respondents in Cox's Bazar [135]. Overall, active hostilities, infrastructure disruptions and restricted humanitarian access have produced shelter shortages, constrained basic services and increased protection risks for displaced populations across multiple regions.

Drivers of Displacement

Widespread and intensifying armed conflict—including junta airstrikes, artillery bombardments and drone-enabled strikes—has driven mass displacement across regions such as Magway and Tanintharyi, with documented incidents displacing thousands and causing multiple mass-casualty events [142][136][134][139]. The Rohingya in Rakhine have been repeatedly targeted by both the Military Council and the Arakan Army, with UN officials warning of escalating clashes, restricted movement, and acute protection risks for the community in early 2026 [132]. Political instability and repression since the 2021 coup—including large-scale arrests, detentions and killings reported by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners—have compounded displacement and constrained humanitarian access [137]. Economic shocks, notably a fuel shortage driven by halted Thai exports and global oil-price spikes, prompted measures such as an alternate-day driving order from 7 March 2026 and have disrupted livelihoods and mobility, exacerbating displacement pressures [144]. Severe overcrowding, limits on movement, chronic unemployment and gender inequality in long-term Rohingya displacement settings have fuelled gender-based violence and worsened protection needs, reinforcing drivers of continued or secondary displacement [135]. Displaced populations face secondary displacement and constrained returns as people flee to forests, caves and hiding places to escape attacks, while road closures and phone-line cuts delay aid and create acute shortages of food, water and shelter materials in affected areas [142][134].

Integration

Access to employment is severely constrained for displaced populations, with reports from Rohingya camps citing lack of jobs, movement restrictions and severe overcrowding as drivers of vulnerability and gender-based violence [135]. Access to education and vocational pathways is also limited: South Korea reportedly approved visas for only 15 of 105 Myanmar applicants to Cheongju University for the 2026 intake, with widespread denials from 10 February 2026, while the UK announced it will stop issuing study visas for Myanmar nationals [143][149]. Humanitarian research recommends improving camp safety (lighting, security patrols), expanding survivor services, and providing education and job opportunities to support longer-term integration of Rohingya women and girls [135]. The UN has urged unimpeded humanitarian access and measures addressing citizenship, accountability and freedom of movement as prerequisites for durable solutions for Rohingya communities [132].

Humanitarian Access

Humanitarian Access Overview

Humanitarian access across Myanmar is severely constrained by intensified fighting, with UN officials warning of new displacement and communities cut off in Rakhine State [154]. According to WHO, access to humanitarian aid has become "increasingly blocked", particularly as armed conflict intensifies in Chin, Rakhine and Sagaing [155]. At the UN Security Council, the Philippines' acting special envoy Ma. Theresa Lazaro urged full implementation of the FivePoint Consensus and renewed cooperation to ensure unhindered humanitarian access [155].

Road closures and communications cuts are directly impeding aid delivery: the PalaukThayetchaung section of Union Highway No. 8 has been closed since 10 February and phone lines cut, leaving nearly 10,000 displaced people in Thayetchaung with acute shortages amid ongoing air and naval attacks [156]. Junta use of air, artillery and drones has driven recurrent displacement and damaged access routes, including a three-day bombardment in Aungmyan Township from 1–3 March that displaced about 3,000 people who urgently need food, clean water and tarpaulins for shelter [165]. Airstrikes have caused mass civilian casualties and disrupted services in multiple regions, including a 1 March airstrike on a trading junction in Mindon Township that killed over two dozen people [165][161].

Logistical constraints are compounded by a looming fuel shortage and a junta "onedayon, onedayoff" driving restriction announced from 7 March, together with Thai suspension of fuel exports, that risk further limiting roadbased aid deliveries [174][176][168]. Humanitarian actors active on the ground include the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund and local partners distributing dignity kits to displaced women and girls in Kayah and northern Shan, alongside local civil society groups and resistance-aligned organisations reporting needs and access constraints [160][156]. The UN has repeatedly called for unimpeded humanitarian access and civilian protection as conditions deteriorate in conflict-affected areas [154].

Barriers to Humanitarian Access

Deliberate infrastructure disruption has severely hampered aid coordination and delivery. Phone-line cuts have disrupted communications needed for aid coordination and increased protection risks for vulnerable populations and responders on the ground, while tightening digital surveillance including mandatory IMEI registration has further constrained operations [156][169]. Road closures have delayed and limited aid delivery, causing food shortages and sharply higher local prices in affected areas [156].

Intensified aerial attacks and ground assaults have increased civilian casualties and created direct barriers to humanitarian movement. The United Nations warned that Rohingya communities in Rakhine face severe constraints on access to food, medicine and basic services, with villages cut off by insecurity and allegations that both the military council and the Arakan Army have obstructed aid and targeted civilian populations [154].

Transport and logistics capacity has been undermined by fuel import disruptions and nationwide driving restrictions that have constrained relief deliveries across several states including eastern Shan [168][174][176]. Overcrowding, restrictions on movement, poor camp management and chronic funding shortfalls in Rohingya displacement settings have reduced survivors access to medical, psychosocial and protection services, limiting effective GBV response and overall humanitarian assistance in those camps [163].

Humanitarian Access Gaps

Road closures, phone-line cuts and intensified air, artillery and drone attacks in early March have sharply limited humanitarian access across multiple regions, constraining deliveries of food, medical supplies and shelter items to displaced populations [156][165][155].

- Approximately 10,000 people displaced by fighting in Thayetchaung Township (Tanintharyi) are struggling to access aid after the Palauk–Thayetchaung section of Union Highway No.8 was closed and phone lines cut since 10 February, causing food shortages and price spikes [156].
- About 3,000 residents from seven villages in Aungmyan Township (Magway) were forced to flee following a three-day artillery and drone assault from 1–3 March and are reported to urgently need food, clean drinking water and tarpaulins for shelter [165].
- Market disruptions in Thayetchaung have driven staple prices to extreme levels (onions ~10,000 kyats per viss; eggs ~1,200 kyats each; cooking oil up to ~10,000 kyats per litre), exacerbating access to food for displaced families [156].

A 1 March airstrike on a trading junction in Mindon Township killed more than two dozen people and has further deepened barriers to aid and movement in central Myanmar [165][171]. Rohingya communities in Rakhine are reported to be trapped in active combat zones, facing severe shortages of food, medicine and essential services and experiencing impeded humanitarian access, prompting UN calls for unimpeded assistance and civilian protection [154].

Immediate needs documented on the ground include food, medicines, clean water, shelter materials (tarpaulins) and malnutrition prevention, while insecurity and funding shortfalls limit scale-up of response [165][156][154]. Some localized assistance continues: Myanmar Humanitarian Fund partners distributed dignity and hygiene kits to displaced women and girls in Kayah and northern Shan, but these efforts are small-scale relative to needs due to security and resource constraints [160].

Information, Communication and AAP

Information Landscape

Communication and access constraints are severely limiting needs data and response monitoring across Myanmar. Since 10 February, road closures and phone-line cuts on the Palauk–Thayetchaung section have constrained information flow and aid deliveries for roughly 10,000 displaced people, with local sources reporting critical shortages while IMNA continues to verify casualty figures [181]. Between 1–3 March, artillery, drone and reconnaissance operations in Aungmyan Township displaced about 3,000 residents from seven villages and local actors reported urgent needs for food, clean water and tarpaulins, while resistance groups warned that surveillance drones may presage a ground offensive, complicating access and monitoring [193]. The World Health Organization has reported that humanitarian access has become "increasingly blocked," particularly in Chin, Rakhine and Sagaing, a point highlighted in a Philippines briefing to the UN Security Council calling for urgent delivery of assistance under the FivePoint Consensus framework [188]. United Nations officials have publicly called for unimpeded humanitarian access and civilian protection in Rakhine, warning that intensified fighting has further constrained delivery of food, medicine and essential services [180]. New state digital-surveillance measures are degrading the safety and reliability of information sharing: the junta's Central Equipment Identity Register will automatically capture IMEI numbers via network providers and link devices to individuals, a process experts warn will allow the regime to identify and locate users and is likely to deter reporting by activists and affected communities [182]. Local monitoring and partner reporting remain important sources of evidence and response data: KHRG-trained community members documented airstrike impacts with photographic evidence in 2025, and Myanmar Humanitarian Fund partners have documented distributions of dignity and hygiene kits to displaced women and girls, indicating ongoing community-sourced monitoring and program reporting despite access constraints [194][196][191].

Communication Channels

Mobile phone networks and SIM-linked services are the primary channels for information exchange, but infrastructure disruptions and new surveillance measures are severely limiting their effectiveness. Phone-line cuts and road closures around Thayetchaung since 10 February have disrupted communication and delayed aid to roughly 10,000 displaced people, with local sources reporting very limited information from the ground and difficulty reaching displaced populations [181][187]. The junta has announced a Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) requiring IMEI registration, with IMEIs automatically captured via local network providers when a SIM is inserted and unregistered devices subject to blocking or remote deactivation [182]. Digital-rights groups and the Myanmar Internet Project warn the CEIR will enable authorities to link specific devices, SIMs and identity data to locate and identify users, prompting activists and vulnerable people to exercise extreme caution with local SIMs [182]. Social media and circulating photos continue to provide situational information but verification and reach are constrained where networks are down and access is restricted [187][181].

Barriers to Information

Multiple overlapping barriers are preventing affected populations and humanitarian actors from accessing and sharing critical information. Road closures and deliberate cutting of phone lines have isolated roughly 10,000 civilians displaced by fighting in Thayetchaung Township since around 10 February, delaying aid delivery and severely limiting on-the-ground information for responders and communities [181]. Phone network disruptions have repeatedly hindered reporting and coordination during military operations and aftermath incidents, reducing situational awareness for humanitarian actors [187]. The World Health Organization reported that access to humanitarian aid has become "increasingly blocked," particularly in Chin, Rakhine and Sagaing, reflecting movement restrictions and insecurity that also impede information flows to and from affected populations [188]. UN assessments indicate intensified fighting in Rakhine and longstanding restrictions on movement have trapped communities and obstructed humanitarian and information access [180].

The junta's mandatory IMEI registration and Central Equipment Identity Register will automatically capture IMEIs via local SIM insertion and block unregistered devices, a measure digital-rights researchers and the Myanmar Internet Project say enables pervasive surveillance by linking IMEI, SIM and existing biometric databases to identify and locate users, increasing risks for activists, resistance members and other vulnerable groups who rely on mobile communication [182]. New fuel shortages and a junta directive limiting private vehicles to alternate days from 7 March further reduce physical mobility to information hubs and constrain access to services and aid [183][184]. The junta's use of reconnaissance drones alongside artillery has forced mass displacement and, by enabling coordinated strikes, further restricts civilians' ability to move and communicate safely [193].

Misinformation and Rumors

Communications blackouts and disrupted transport routes have created conditions conducive to misinformation and complicated verification of reports. Since at least 10 February, road closures and cuts to phone lines on the Palauk–Thayetchaung section of Union Highway No. 8 have constrained information flow for nearly 10,000 displaced people in Thayetchaung Township, with aid providers reporting acute shortages of rice, cooking oil and salt and sharp price increases [181]. These blackouts have made humanitarian actors and external monitors reliant on reports from local aid providers and resistance groups for situational updates, complicating verification and increasing the risk of rumours and misinformation among affected communities [181]. The military junta's announcement of a mandatory phone IMEI registration system (Central Equipment Identity Register) that will automatically capture IMEI numbers via local network providers, block unregistered devices from making calls or accessing the internet, and link device permissions to tax/import rules has generated concern among digital rights researchers and activists, including Thit Nyan and the Myanmar Internet Project, who warned the CEIR would enable the regime to link specific handsets, SIMs and personal identity—allowing pinpoint surveillance and prompting users to self-censor or avoid normal communications [182].

Accountability Needs and Transparency

Accountability mechanisms and transparency are severely constrained by access restrictions, communications blackouts and surveillance risks. UN officials warned that Rohingya communities in Rakhine are being targeted by both the military council and the Arakan Army, with both sides implicated in abuses and obstruction of aid deliveries, and called for unimpeded humanitarian access [180]. Road closures and deliberate cuts to phone lines have delayed aid and disrupted communication for roughly 10,000 displaced people around Thayetchaung since 10 February, limiting feedback and complaint channels on the ground [181]. The junta's Central Equipment Identity Register will automatically capture device identifiers via network providers and link phones to users, creating a surveillance risk that undermines the confidentiality and safety of phone-based feedback mechanisms; digital rights groups warned activists to exercise extreme caution [182]. A 2025 study by the Asian Dignity Initiative and the Rohingya Human Rights Center documented widespread gender-based violence in Cox's Bazar camps and found poor access to medical, psychosocial and legal services for survivors—attributed to fear, stigma, corruption, language barriers and funding shortages—and called for survivor-centred services and meaningful participation of Rohingya women in decisions affecting their lives [185]. The Myanmar Humanitarian Fund supported distributions of dignity kits to displaced women and girls in Kayah and northern Shan, which partners report improve perceived responsiveness to women's needs [191]. Key accountability gaps across sources include obstructed humanitarian access and logistics, communication blackouts, heightened surveillance risks to confidential reporting, under-resourced GBV services, and chronic funding shortfalls that restrict transparency and meaningful community engagement [188][180][181][182][185].

Legal and Policy

Legal and Policy Framework

At a UN Security Council briefing in early March 2026, the Philippines as 2026 ASEAN Chair called for urgent humanitarian assistance for Myanmar and reiterated commitment to fully implement the Five-Point Consensus and a Myanmar-led, Myanmar-owned pathway to peace [204]. UN officials have demanded that all parties cease attacks on civilians, uphold International Humanitarian Law (including distinction, proportionality and protection of noncombatants), and allow unimpeded humanitarian access amid a deepening emergency in Rakhine and other conflict-affected areas as of early 2026 [203]. UN Assistant Secretary-General Khaled Khari told the Security Council in April 2024 that fighting in Rakhine had reached unprecedented intensity and that both the military council and the Arakan Army have been implicated in abuses [203]. Myanmar's 1982 Citizenship Law continues to strip the Rohingya of citizenship, underpinning statelessness and exclusion from legal protections [210]. The junta has applied broad "terrorism" legislation to criminalize prodemocracy activists and armed opponents [219][211]. The regime issued mass pardons and amnesties in early 2026, with reports of more than 10,000 prisoners released and the closure or commutation of large numbers of terrorism-related cases, including judicial cases against 12,487 people abroad, measures taken after elections denounced as fraudulent by the United Nations and the international community, while many political detainees remain in custody and the junta ignored international calls for the release of detained leaders such as Aung San Suu Kyi [220][209]. The junta announced legal and administrative measures to tighten domestic surveillance through a Central Equipment Identity Register requiring IMEI registration, enabling blocking of unregistered devices and prompting rights-group concerns about expanded state surveillance [216]. The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) has documented large-scale arrests and detentions since the 2021 coup — including 30,448 arrested, 22,797 still detained, 129 facing the death penalty, 7,777 confirmed killed and 4,500 deaths pending verification [204]. The Myanmar Humanitarian Fund continues to fund local partners to distribute dignity kits and gendersensitive assistance to displaced women and girls in Kayah and northern Shan to support dignity and safety in displacement settings [207].

Humanitarian Impact of Legislation

The Rohingya remain stateless under Myanmar's 1982 Citizenship Law, a structural driver UN officials say must be addressed to guarantee safety and freedom of movement [210][203]. WHO and UN officials warn that intensified fighting and deliberate measures are increasingly blocking humanitarian access and disrupting health services across Chin, Rakhine and Sagaing, undermining delivery of essential assistance [204][203].

Security measures and deliberate actions—including road closures and communications blackouts—have directly impeded aid deliveries and situational reporting; for example, road closures and phone-line cuts in Thayetchaung since 10 February have left roughly 10,000 displaced people facing shortages and limited contact with aid providers [206][204]. Recent offensives and air/artillery strikes, including early March attacks in Magway, Aungmye and Rakhine and a 1 March airstrike on a trading junction that killed over two dozen people, have generated new displacement and acute needs while further complicating lawful access, protection obligations and the ability of aid actors to operate safely [218][203][214]. The junta is implementing mandatory IMEI registration via a Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) that links devices to national IDs and SIMs and automatically captures device identifiers, enabling comprehensive surveillance that risks exposing activists, displaced people and humanitarian communications [216]. The junta's broad application of "terrorism" legislation to criminalize prodemocracy activists and armed opponents, combined with large amnesties affecting thousands of detainees, constrains civic space and raises legal risks for humanitarian engagement [219][211][220][209]. Humanitarian responses in displacement settings are further undermined by chronic funding shortages and weak legal and justice systems that limit GBV prevention, survivor services and access to remedy in Rohingya camps [210].

International Agreements Impacting the Crisis

The Philippines, acting as special envoy of the 2026 ASEAN Chair, briefed the UN Security Council in March 2026 urging full implementation of ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus and renewed cooperation to support a Myanmar-owned pathway to peace [204]. UN officials have called on all parties to cease attacks, uphold international humanitarian law (including distinction and proportionality), and allow unimpeded humanitarian access, warning the Rohingya remain at extreme risk as of early 2026 [203]. The UN has repeatedly warned that Rohingya communities are being targeted by both the military council and the Arakan Army, stressing that any durable resolution must address citizenship rights and accountability for past atrocities [203]. UN assessments and reporting cite continued restrictions on movement, forced recruitment allegations, and obstruction of aid by military authorities as direct policy-related impediments to civilian protection and humanitarian access [203].

Limitations of Current Policies

ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus remains only partially implemented despite repeated calls from the 2026 chair for urgent humanitarian assistance and full adherence, while access to humanitarian aid has become "increasingly blocked" in conflict-affected areas including Chin, Rakhine and Sagaing [204]. Myanmar's 1982 Citizenship Law, which effectively strips many Rohingya of citizenship and contributes to statelessness, remains a structural barrier to rights and protection for the Rohingya population [210]. Security-driven disruptions have produced operational bottlenecks that delay or prevent deliveries of assistance, and intensifying air and artillery attacks have degraded civilian safety and humanitarian space across regions, compounding access and protection shortfalls [206][218][214]. Large-scale arrests, detentions and deaths reported since the 2021 coup—including AAPP figures on tens of thousands arrested and thousands killed or in detention—underscore systemic violations of human rights and a lack of domestic accountability mechanisms [204]. The junta's economic entanglements and revenue from major projects (such as Chinese-backed copper operations) and reported extortion by military checkpoints create conflicts of interest that sustain the regime's capacity to resist reforms and fuel local grievances [223]. Recent ad-hoc governance measures, such as the junta's alternate-day driving order starting 7 March to manage a fuel shortfall, have been perceived as erratic and reflect weak policy coherence and implementation capacity, eroding public trust and complicating crisis response planning [205].

Food Security and Livelihoods

Access to Food and Market Functionality

Approximately 10,000 civilians displaced in Thayetchaung Township face severe food shortages after the Palauk–Thayetchaung section of Union Highway No. 8 was closed for security reasons since 10 February and phone lines were cut, limiting humanitarian reach and communication [239]. Reported local prices in Thayetchaung included onions at 10,000 kyats per viss, eggs at 1,200 kyats each, and cooking oil up to 10,000 kyats per liter, while some shops were reported empty, driving rising food costs for displaced households [239]. In Aunglan Township, roughly 3,000 residents from seven villages were displaced by junta artillery and drone strikes between 1–3 March and are reported to be in urgent need of food, clean water, and shelter materials as they remain in hiding [232]. The junta ordered a nationwide one-day-on, one-day-off driving ration from 7 March to conserve fuel amid halted imports from Thailand, with importers warning stocks in eastern Shan towns could last about 10 days and panic buying reported, constraining market access and transport of goods [233][241]. According to WHO, access to humanitarian aid has become “increasingly blocked” as armed conflict intensifies in areas including Chin, Rakhine, and Sagaing, further constraining assistance delivery to food-insecure populations [237]. The United Nations and humanitarian agencies warn that, as of early 2026, critical shortages of food and medicine in Rakhine displacement sites and villages cut off by insecurity are raising serious concerns about malnutrition [226].

Coping Mechanisms

Displaced households report skipping meals and reducing essential spending, with women frequently cutting back on personal health and hygiene items so limited income can be used for food and children's needs [230]. Myanmar Humanitarian Fund-supported dignity kits distributed to displaced women and girls in Kayah and Shan have helped some households redirect scarce resources toward food and school fees, partly relieving the need to adopt damaging coping strategies [230]. In Cox's Bazar refugee camps, families are resorting to harmful long-term coping mechanisms—including early and forced marriage and withdrawing girls from school—driven by poverty, lack of livelihoods and overcrowding, according to a 2025 survey of Rohingya survivors by ADI and RHRC [238]. Funding shortfalls and barriers such as fear, stigma and language obstacles leave many survivors unable to access medical, psychosocial or legal assistance, reducing options for households to cope safely and sustainably [238].

Livelihood Disruption

The junta imposed a nationwide “one-day-on, one-day-off” driving restriction for most privately owned vehicles starting 7 March 2026 to conserve dwindling fuel supplies [233]. The measure followed Thailand's abrupt suspension of fuel exports and a surge in global oil prices after 28 February 2026, prompting importers in eastern Shan towns such as Tachileik and Kengtung to warn current stocks could last no more than ten days and triggering panic buying and long queues at petrol stations [233][241]. Authorities temporarily shut some stations amid crowds, while exemptions were granted for public transport, taxis, fuel tankers, construction and cargo vehicles, ambulances, hearses and garbage trucks [233]. Road closures and phone-line cuts since 10 February have blocked humanitarian access and markets in Thayetchaung Township, displacing roughly 10,000 people and causing food shortages and sharp price rises that have reduced household purchasing power [239]. Worsening economic conditions have pushed some Civil Disobedience Movement participants back to work at major projects; a Chinabacked copper mine in Salingyi resumed operations with workers reporting returns on 1 March 2026, and residents reported troop deployments and extortion at checkpoints that impede travel and commerce [242]. An airstrike on 1 March 2026 at a trading junction in Mindon Township killed over two dozen people and further disrupted local trade in Magway Region [232].

Impact on Agricultural Activities and Production

According to KHRG, Burma Army air strikes in 2025 destroyed plantations and rice fields across Southeast Burma, leaving many villagers unable to continue working on their farms and forcing them to flee to forests and caves [235]. KHRG documented widespread damage to community buildings including schools and monasteries, villagers' homes, farms and plantations across seven locally-defined Karen State districts, contributing to massive displacement and loss of livelihoods [240][235]. KHRG recorded that air strikes in 2025 killed at least 66 villagers, including 18 children, and injured 176 villagers, including 66 children, exacerbating food-production and labour shortages in affected communities [235]. Since early February, fighting and air and naval attacks in Thayetchaung Township displaced around 10,000 people from roughly 20 villages who are largely hiding in forests, with road closures constraining access to inputs and markets [239]. Junta artillery and drone strikes from 1–3 March displaced about 3,000 residents from seven villages in Aunglan Township, Magway Region, destroyed 27 houses and a monastery dining hall, and left the displaced in urgent need of food, clean water and shelter materials, undermining local agricultural resilience [232]. Fuel shortages following Thailand's suspension of exports and the junta's alternate-day driving restriction for private vehicles starting 7 March constrain transport and market access for agricultural producers and inputs [233][241].

Food and Livelihood Needs and Current Response

The World Health Organization reported that access to humanitarian aid has become “increasingly blocked,” particularly in Chin, Rakhine and Sagaing, as clashes intensify [237]. Road closures and communications cuts since 10 February have left roughly 10,000 people displaced from about 20 villages in Thayetchaung Township struggling to reach aid, with local actors urging urgent deliveries of rice, oil and salt [239]. The Myanmar Humanitarian Fund supported local partners to distribute dignity kits—sanitary items, hygiene supplies and handcrank flashlights—to displaced women and girls in Kayah and Shan, enabling households to reallocate limited income toward food and other essentials [230]. Reports highlight broader livelihood drivers—widespread joblessness, movement restrictions and weak services—that reduce income opportunities and limit access to assistance, while funding shortages mean only a small proportion of survivors access medical, psychosocial or legal services [238].

Humanitarian actors and regional representatives have called for unimpeded access and coordinated response as villages and displacement sites remain cut off and underserved [226][237].

Education

Learning Environment and Facility Conditions

KHRG's March 4, 2026 photo set documents Burma Army air strikes across Southeast Burma in 2025 that damaged community buildings, including numerous schools, and caused school closures and displacement [253][256]. In 2025 at least 66 villagers, including 18 children, were killed and 176 villagers, including 66 children, were injured by Burma Army air strikes, which also destroyed schools, monasteries, churches, plantations and rice fields and severely disrupted education and other services [253][256]. KHRG documented specific incidents: a bomb at the entrance of a KECD-supported school in Dd--- village damaged the teachers' boarding house in January 2025 [253], an SAC air strike on a school in Hsaw Htee Township injured a villager in May 2025 [253], and an April 23, 2025 air strike forced village schools to close [253]. Photographs show direct structural damage to school buildings, including shattered windows, collapsed ceilings and damaged housing for teachers, resulting in forced closures in affected villages [253]. These attacks affected multiple locally-defined Karen State districts—Doo Tha Htoo (Thaton), Taw Oo (Toungoo), Kler Lwee Htoo (Nyaunglebin), MerguiTavoy, Mu Traw (Hpapun), Dooplaya and Hpaan—and displaced students and teachers who fled to forests or sought refuge, disrupting continuity of learning [256][253].

Access to Education and Barriers

Localised conflict and Burma Army air strikes in 2025 damaged and destroyed school buildings, forced school closures, injured and killed children, and broadly disrupted access to education in Southeast Burma [256][253]. In displacement settings, gender-based violence, overcrowding, movement restrictions, and economic hardship have led families to marry off daughters or prevent girls from attending school, reducing educational access for Rohingya women and girls in camps according to a 2025 report by the Asian Dignity Initiative and the Rohingya Human Rights Center [252]. International study opportunities have been severely constrained for Myanmar students in 2026. South Korea approved visas for only 15 of 105 Myanmar applicants to Cheongju University for the March 2026 intake, with major visa denials beginning on 10 February 2026, leaving most prospective students unable to travel despite having paid tuition and fees [249]. Many applicants enrolled through the local agency WorldEdupia Myanmar, which had an MOU with the university; students paid service fees (typically 50% upfront of a US\$700 fee) and tuition of 2.8 million Korean won (approximately US\$1,900), and reported losing time and family savings after rejections and difficulties obtaining refunds [249]. South Korean authorities have tightened scrutiny of Myanmar student visa applications—verifying sponsors' income and bank accounts more strictly—after concerns about visa holders overstaying or switching to humanitarian work visas, a trend cited by Myanmar exile officials as contributing to higher rejection rates [249]. The British government also announced it would suspend issuing education visas to nationals of Myanmar (alongside Afghanistan, Cameroon, and Sudan) citing a surge in student asylum claims, further constraining international study options for Myanmar students [250].

Education Needs and Current Response

Air strikes and military operations have damaged school buildings, injured teachers and at least one child, and damaged teachers' boarding houses in southeastern Myanmar, disrupting education provision in affected townships [253]. Local ethnic education providers such as the Karen National Union's Education and Culture Department continue to deliver mother-tongue learning in rural Karen areas but lack official recognition by the Myanmar government, creating gaps in formal support and protection for these services [253]. Humanitarian monitoring and local reports note broader education challenges in conflict-affected districts (e.g., Dooplaya/Noh TKaw), including school damage and operational disruptions caused by air strikes and ongoing fighting [253]. In Rohingya camps, gender-based violence, overcrowding, movement restrictions and economic pressures reduce girls' access to schooling and increase child marriage, and analysts call for prioritized education, livelihoods and safe spaces for survivors to restore learning opportunities [252]. Documented humanitarian assistance in the provided texts focuses on non-education items—such as dignity kits for displaced women distributed via the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund—rather than on emergency schooling, temporary learning spaces, teacher support or learning materials [251]. The UN has warned that intensified fighting and increasingly blocked humanitarian access in states including Rakhine constrain delivery of services to affected populations, further limiting prospects for safe and continuous education in those areas [254].

Health

Availability and Access to Healthcare Services

As of early 2026, conditions in Rakhine State have deteriorated sharply, with intensified fighting triggering new waves of displacement and severely constraining access to medicine and essential services [262]. The World Health Organization reported that access to humanitarian aid has become increasingly blocked—particularly in Chin, Rakhine, and Sagaing—and that clashes have disrupted health services, preventing patients and healthcare workers from reaching facilities [265]. Repeated Burma Army airstrikes in 2025 damaged community infrastructure, caused civilian deaths and displacement, and significantly disrupted villagers' access to healthcare and other essential services [272]. Intensifying fighting and air and artillery strikes in early March 2026—including a 1 March airstrike that killed over two dozen people and a three-day assault that displaced about 3,000 in Aunglan Township—have further disrupted health services and humanitarian access in central Myanmar [268]. Approximately 10,000 displaced people in Thayetchaung Township face blocked roads and cut phone lines that have delayed aid delivery, limited communication, and caused shortages in displacement areas since February, hindering aid groups from reaching those in need [267]. A halt to fuel imports and ensuing shortages in Shan State triggered panic buying and prompted a nationwide "one-day-on, one-day-off" driving restriction starting 7 March, further complicating transport and supply chains for goods and services [264][263].

Humanitarian agencies report critical shortages of medical supplies in displacement sites and villages cut off by insecurity, raising concerns about malnutrition and preventable disease outbreaks among displaced populations [262][272].

Disease Outbreaks

According to WHO, the increasing blockade of humanitarian aid has reduced capacity to identify and treat communicable diseases in conflict-affected areas [265]. UN officials have expressed concerns about preventable disease outbreaks among displaced populations in Rakhine and other areas as of early 2026, calling for unimpeded humanitarian access to mitigate these risks [262]. Road and phone disruptions since February have delayed aid deliveries to roughly 10,000 displaced people in Thayetchaung Township, causing food shortages and price spikes that heighten malnutrition and public-health risks where sanitation and services are limited [267].

Health System Challenges

Intensified fighting, airstrikes, blockades, and infrastructure destruction have fundamentally undermined the health system's capacity to deliver timely, quality care across conflict-affected areas of Myanmar [262][272][265]. Road closures, phone-line cuts, and movement restrictions have paralyzed supply chains, leaving displacement sites and cut-off villages struggling to obtain food and basic items [267]. Funding shortfalls are further constraining health and protection services: gender-based violence survivors in Rohingya camps received only limited medical, psychosocial, and legal assistance due to funding gaps [266]. In response to these constraints, the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund supported distributions of dignity kits containing sanitary products, hygiene supplies, and other items to displaced women and girls in Kayah and northern Shan to protect women's health and dignity and help households prioritize food and other essentials [261].

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

Humanitarian reporting indicates severely constrained availability of MHPSS in displacement settings. In Rohingya camps, only a small number of gender-based violence survivors receive medical, psychological, or legal assistance, and funding shortfalls limit provision of shelters, counseling, and safe spaces [266]. Myanmar Humanitarian Fund-funded partners distributed dignity kits—including sanitary items, hygiene supplies, and hand-crank flashlights—to displaced women and girls in Kayah and northern Shan, with beneficiaries reporting improved dignity and feelings of safety from these non-clinical supports [261]. Intensified conflict, airstrikes, and mass displacement have increased community fear and further undermined availability of and access to MHPSS in affected areas [273][265]. Road closures and phone line cuts have hindered access to services for displaced populations—roughly 10,000 people displaced in Thayetchaung have faced blocked roads and communications outages since 10 February, constraining delivery of assistance including psychosocial support [267]. Humanitarian assessments note that vulnerable populations at extreme risk in displacement sites and cut-off villages in Rakhine and elsewhere are not receiving psychosocial services [262]. Reports call for scaled-up, survivor-centered counseling and mental health services across camps and displacement sites, as current interventions remain largely limited and insufficient to meet identified needs [266].

Health Needs and Current Response

Intensified fighting and insecurity in Rakhine and other conflict areas have exacerbated urgent health needs, with shortages of food, medicine, and essential services raising risks of malnutrition and preventable disease outbreaks among displaced and trapped communities [262]. Airstrikes and other attacks during 2025–early 2026 caused civilian deaths and injuries that significantly disrupted access to healthcare and other essential services in affected areas [271][273]. Critical gaps remain across the response: displacement sites and villages cut off by insecurity face shortages of medical supplies and under-resourced facilities, and only a small proportion of gender-based violence survivors in camps access medical, psychological, or legal assistance due to funding, access, and protection barriers [262][266]. To address these gaps, the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF) has funded distributions of dignity and hygiene kits to displaced women and girls in Kayah and northern Shan, providing sanitary products, hygiene supplies, and items such as hand-crank flashlights [261]. UN officials and ASEAN representatives have called for unimpeded humanitarian access and implementation of agreed mechanisms, while MHF and partners continue localized distributions to reach women and girls despite access constraints [265][262][261].

Nutrition

Availability and Access to Nutrition Services

WHO reported that access to humanitarian aid has become "increasingly blocked" and that intensified clashes have disrupted health services in Chin, Rakhine and Sagaing, preventing patients and healthcare workers from reaching facilities [280]. Road closures and phone cuts since 10 February have delayed aid to displaced people in Thayetchaung Township (Tanintharyi), causing food shortages, rising prices and urgent needs for rice, oil and salt [274]. Key figures from Thayetchaung reported by local sources include approximately 10,000 civilians displaced and hiding in forests [274], with onions priced at 10,000 kyats per viss [274], eggs priced at 1,200 kyats each [274], and cooking oil priced up to 10,000 kyats per liter [274]. Fuel shortages in Shan State after imports from Thailand halted were reported and may further disrupt supply chains and access to food and nutrition items [279]. With support from the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund, partners distributed dignity kits (sanitary products, hygiene supplies and hand-crank flashlights) to displaced women and girls in Kayah and northern Shan, enabling households to redirect limited income toward food and reducing the need for mothers to skip meals [275]. The UN has reiterated calls for unimpeded humanitarian access and civilian protection to enable delivery of lifesaving assistance, including food and health services, to affected communities [277].

Nutrition Needs and Current Response

The United Nations reports that conditions in Rakhine have further deteriorated with intensified fighting driving new displacement and creating critical shortages of food, medicine and services, raising acute concerns about malnutrition in displacement sites and villages cut off by insecurity as of early 2026 [277]. Documentation of Burma Army air strikes in 2025 shows destruction of schools, community buildings, rice fields and plantations, and mass displacement that has disrupted livelihoods and access to food, exacerbating nutrition risks in affected areas [276]. Displaced mothers report skipping meals and cutting back on essential items to prioritize their families [275]. Funding shortfalls and critical shortages across displacement sites and service points are constraining humanitarian capacity to address these nutrition risks, including gaps in supplies and service delivery in affected areas [278][277].

WASH

Availability of Water Sources

Water access information was not detailed in the available reporting. However, intensified fighting in Rakhine State as of early 2026 has triggered new displacement and created critical shortages in displacement sites and villages cut off by insecurity, indicating that water sources are likely severely constrained [282]. Air strikes in 2025 caused widespread environmental contamination across multiple districts, increasing risks of waterborne disease spread and other contamination-related health hazards that threaten water safety [286]. Road closures and phone-line cuts since 10 February in Thayetchaung Township have delayed aid to roughly 10,000 displaced people, causing shortages and severely limiting communication needed for timely relief delivery [284].

Access to Sanitation Facilities and Hygiene Practices

Reports on Rohingya camps document severe overcrowding, restricted movement, weak camp management and unsafe camp structures – including shared bathrooms without lights – which increase vulnerability and indicate poor quality and insecure sanitation facilities in the settlements [283]. These conditions increase sanitation and hygiene risks and contribute to gender-based violence vulnerabilities [283]. The Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF) supported local partners to distribute dignity kits containing sanitary products, hygiene supplies and items such as hand-crank flashlights to displaced women and girls in Kayah and northern Shan, with recipients reporting improved daily hygiene and safety [281].

Waste Management and Vector-Borne Disease Risks

Intensified fighting in Rakhine State as of early 2026 has triggered new displacement and created critical shortages in displacement sites, raising concerns of malnutrition and preventable disease outbreaks among affected communities [282]. Air strikes in 2025 caused widespread displacement, destruction and environmental contamination across multiple districts, increasing risks of waterborne disease spread and other contamination-related health hazards [286]. The World Health Organization reported that access to humanitarian aid has become “increasingly blocked,” with clashes in areas including Chin, Rakhine and Sagaing disrupting health services and preventing patients and healthcare workers from reaching facilities [285].

Main WASH Needs and Humanitarian Response

Intensified fighting in Rakhine and other areas has triggered new waves of displacement and severely constrained access to food, medicine and essential services, creating critical shortages in displacement sites and raising concerns about malnutrition and preventable disease outbreaks [282]. Humanitarian access has become increasingly blocked, particularly in Chin, Rakhine and Sagaing, disrupting health services and complicating delivery of aid including WASH services, according to WHO [285]. Both the Myanmar military and the Arakan Army have been implicated in obstructing aid deliveries and targeting communities, further limiting the reach of WASH interventions [282]. Road closures and phone-line cuts since 10 February in Thayetchaung Township have delayed aid to roughly 10,000 displaced people, causing food shortages and severely limiting communication needed for timely relief delivery [284]. Shortages of funding hinder provision of shelters, counseling, safe spaces and improvements to WASH facilities in affected communities [283]. The Myanmar Humanitarian Fund has distributed dignity kits containing sanitary products, hygiene supplies and hand-crank flashlights to displaced women and girls in Kayah and northern Shan, providing hygiene support and items that improve safety at night [281]. Key challenges to scaling the WASH response are funding gaps, security-related logistical constraints and active obstruction of humanitarian access by parties to the conflict [283][285][282].

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

Damage to Housing and Shelter Needs

Between 1–3 March 2026, artillery and drone strikes in Aungmyan Township (Magway Region) forced about 3,000 residents from seven villages to flee, destroying 27 houses and a monastery dining hall in Dazan village [294]. Since 10 February, fighting in Thayetchaung Township (Dawei District, Tanintharyi Region) has displaced roughly 10,000 civilians from around 20 villages, with clashes and air/naval attacks burning homes and cutting roads and phone lines [292]. KHRG photographic documentation shows widespread destruction of homes and community buildings including schools, monasteries, and churches across Southeast Burma in 2025, with villagers fleeing to forests and caves, indicating extensive loss of housing and communal shelter options and disruption to healthcare and education services that compounded shelter needs [296][295]. Road closures, phone cuts and ongoing aerial and artillery attacks are delaying aid deliveries, restricting access to markets and supplies, and obstructing return and rebuilding efforts, while shortages and rising prices limit access to materials for shelter repair [292][294][296]. Displaced populations are in urgent need of food, clean water, and tarpaulins for temporary shelter [294].

Living Conditions in Camps or Settlements

Reports document severe overcrowding and constrained movement in Rohingya camps, with 1,003 survey responses and 26 in-depth interviews across 33 Cox's Bazar camps surveyed in 2025 underpinning findings on widespread GBV and camp vulnerabilities [287]. Inadequate camp management and shared, poorly lit sanitation facilities increase risks of gender-based violence and limit women's and girls' safety and privacy, while only a small proportion of survivors access medical, psychological, or legal services due to fear, stigma, language barriers, and funding shortfalls [287]. Humanitarian actors warn of critical shortages of food, medicine and essential services in displacement sites across Rakhine as fighting intensified in early 2026, with concerns about malnutrition, preventable disease outbreaks, and civilians cut off by insecurity and access constraints; the UN has called for unimpeded humanitarian access and civilian protection [288]. The World Health Organization noted that access to humanitarian aid is increasingly blocked as conflict intensifies in areas including Chin, Rakhine and Sagaing, disrupting health services and humanitarian delivery [290]. Road and communications disruptions have delayed and limited aid to displaced populations; for example, since 10 February approximately 10,000 displaced people around Thayetchaung (Tanintharyi) have faced blocked roads, cut phone lines, and urgent shortages of staples such as rice, oil and salt, leaving many hiding in forests and unable to reach assistance [292]. About 3,000 residents displaced from seven villages in Aunglan Township (Magway) following bombardment from 1–3 March remain in hiding [294]. Documentation of Burma Army air strikes and related violence in 2025 shows widespread destruction, displacement and disrupted access to healthcare, education and other essential services in conflict-affected settlements, exacerbating shelter and protection needs [296]. Humanitarian responses include distribution of dignity and hygiene kits containing sanitary supplies and items such as hand-crank flashlights to displaced women and girls in conflict-affected Kayah and northern Shan with support from the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund, which partners say have improved safety and dignity at night [289].

NFI and Shelter Needs and Current Response

The Myanmar Humanitarian Fund funded distribution of tailored dignity kits—containing sanitary products, hygiene supplies and hand-crank flashlights—to displaced women and girls in Kayah and Shan, with beneficiaries reporting improved daily living and a greater sense of safety [289]. GBV-focused assessments of Rohingya displacement settings note funding shortages limit the provision of shelters, counseling and safe spaces, and identify inadequate camp infrastructure such as shared bathrooms without lighting as driving needs for shelter improvements, lighting, and protection-focused NFIs [287]. Humanitarian assessments report critical shortages of food, medicine and essential services in Rakhine displacement sites as fighting intensifies, constraining access and raising concerns about NFI shortfalls for affected communities [288][290]. In Thayetchaung Township (Tanintharyi), blocked roads and cut communications have delayed deliveries of aid and basic commodities, impeding NFI distribution to those hiding in forests or remote locations [292]. At the diplomatic and coordination level, ASEAN and UN actors have called for urgent, unhindered humanitarian access and delivery of assistance amid escalating conflict in Chin, Rakhine and Sagaing, highlighting ongoing coordination and access challenges that constrain NFI and shelter responses [290].

Protection

Impact on civilians

Artillery and drone bombardments by junta forces from 1–3 March displaced approximately 3,000 residents from seven villages in Aunglan Township, Magway Region, destroyed 27 houses and a monastery dining hall, and left displaced people urgently needing food, clean water and tarpaulins for shelter [315]. A 1 March airstrike on a trading junction in Mindon Township killed over two dozen people, and separate reporting indicates a junta airstrike killed at least 25 civilians at a truck stop in Magway during the same period [315][316]. Intense aerial operations and paramotor strikes across Sagaing's Pale Township from 1–3 March caused multiple airstrikes and at least seven civilian deaths as junta columns advanced into resistance-held areas [304][308]. Renewed fighting and near-daily airstrikes in Thayetchaung Township have forced around 10,000 people from about 20 villages to flee and left roads closed and phone lines cut since early February, severely delaying aid delivery and causing food shortages and rising local prices; reconnaissance aircraft were reported near Winwa on 3 March [309]. Documentation of Burma Army air strikes in 2025 recorded at least 66 villagers killed, including 18 children, and 176 injured, including 66 children, and states that fear from these attacks has become widespread, severely impacting community security, access to health care and education [311][302]. Targeting of civilian infrastructure and community buildings—schools, monasteries, churches, markets and health facilities—in airstrikes and shelling has disrupted education, health services and livelihoods, generating long-term protection threats and large-scale displacement documented by local monitoring groups [311]. The World Health Organization warned that humanitarian access is increasingly blocked in conflict-affected areas including Chin, Rakhine and Sagaing, and UN/ASEAN interlocutors called for urgent humanitarian delivery at the UN Security Council, while the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners reported 30,448 arrests since the 2021 coup with 22,797 currently detained, 129 people facing the death penalty, 7,777 confirmed killed and a further 4,500 deaths pending verification [306]. The junta's fuel shortage response—an alternate-day driving order starting 7 March—alongside regional fuel export suspensions, is constraining civilian mobility and the transport of goods and services [324][325].

Factors Driving protection risks

Intensified armed conflict across multiple regions—including Rakhine, Sagaing, Magway, Tanintharyi, Kayah, Shan and Karen areas—with frequent airstrikes, artillery and drone strikes has driven large-scale displacement, civilian casualties, and severely restricted humanitarian access [300][312][311][315][309]. Multiple recent mass-casualty incidents include at least 48 confirmed deaths from five mass casualty events across Myanmar within a single month [312]. Rohingya communities are specifically at extreme risk due to statelessness, movement restrictions and allegations that both the Military Council and the Arakan Army have targeted Rohingya villages, producing new waves of displacement and critical shortages of food and medical supplies, prompting UN calls for civilian protection and unimpeded humanitarian access [300].

UN assessments report allegations of forced recruitment by the Myanmar military of Rohingya men and widespread abuses affecting Rohingya communities amid intensified 2024–2026 clashes [300]. Legal and institutional weaknesses—notably the 1982 Citizenship Law that stripped Rohingya citizenship and poorly functioning justice systems—compound protection gaps, while overcrowding, restricted movement, lack of livelihoods, unsafe camp infrastructure such as poorly lit shared facilities, gender inequality, the presence of gangs or armed groups, and chronic funding shortfalls drive widespread gender-based violence and limit survivors' access to medical, psychosocial and legal services in camps [299]. Humanitarian access is increasingly blocked and operationally impeded by communications and road disruptions—for example, the Palauk-Thayetchaung section of Union Highway No. 8 has been closed for security reasons since 10 February—producing food shortages and sharp price increases for displaced populations [306][309]. The junta's expansion of digital surveillance—a mandatory IMEI registration scheme that links devices to users via a central register, automatically captures IMEIs via local SIM insertion and enables blocking or remote disabling of unregistered devices—raises protection risks by enabling the regime to identify and locate users, increasing vulnerability to targeting, arrest or reprisals [321].

Psychological and mental health impacts

A 2025 survey of 1,003 Rohingya respondents and 26 in-depth interviews documented widespread gender-based violence in Cox's Bazar—primarily intimate partner violence, early and forced marriage—which survivors report has produced long-term injuries, trauma, and social isolation [299]. Humanitarian reporting notes that only a small proportion of GBV survivors receive medical, psychological, or legal assistance due to fear, shame, corruption, language barriers and social pressure, and that funding shortfalls constrain shelters, counselling and safe spaces [299]. Structural barriers including statelessness, movement restrictions, overcrowding and weak camp management compound mental health risks for Rohingya communities and limit access to services [300][299]. Conflict-related violence and bombardment have generated widespread fear, disrupted livelihoods and services, and driven mass displacement that heightens stress and trauma. Road and communications cuts have left displaced populations struggling with shortages and isolation, with approximately 10,000 people in Thayetchaung Township cut off since early February [309]. Fear from air strikes has severely impacted psychosocial wellbeing across affected communities [311][302]. Coping responses increasing psychosocial vulnerability include families skipping meals and making harmful protection choices such as child marriage, while local reporting also notes rising addictive behaviours among children at public events as a concerning behavioural change [301][299][305]. Humanitarian responses that address dignity and safety show psychosocial benefits: Myanmar Humanitarian Fund-supported dignity kits distributed to displaced women and girls have been reported to improve feelings of safety and recognition of needs [301].

Protection Needs and Current Response

Displaced populations in Aungmyan and Thayetchaung townships require urgent food, clean water and tarpaulins for temporary shelter, with local reports warning the use of surveillance drones to coordinate artillery strikes increases protection risks for civilians and complicates aid delivery [315][309]. The UN has warned that Rohingya communities in Rakhine are being targeted by both the military council and the Arakan Army, with conditions deteriorating as of early 2026 and severe constraints on access to food, medicine and essential services [300]. A 2025 ADI/RHRC study of 1,003 respondents across 33 Cox's Bazar camps documented widespread gender-based violence and found survivors face stigma and poor access to medical, psychosocial and legal services [299]. The report identified severe gaps in safe spaces, shelters and GBV services due to funding shortages and camp vulnerabilities, and called for expanded survivor-centred services, improved camp safety through lighting and security patrols, strengthened community systems, engagement of local leaders, and strengthened legal remedies with guaranteed access to medical, counselling and legal services [299]. National-level analyses note shortages of shelters and under-resourced One-Stop Crisis Centres and Victim Support Centres, and report that protection orders are unevenly enforced and survivors face threats and intimidation in court processes, contributing to case withdrawals and lack of timely redress [307]. Humanitarian response includes Myanmar Humanitarian Fund-supported distributions of dignity kits—sanitary items, hygiene supplies and hand-crank flashlights—to displaced women and girls in Kayah and northern Shan, which partners report have improved dignity, safety at night and a sense of recognition [301]. However, road closures, communications blackouts and access restrictions are delaying aid and exacerbating protection gaps, while funding and operational constraints limit the scale of shelters, counselling and legal assistance [309][299][306]. Humanitarian actors run prevention and awareness programmes but coverage is limited [299]. Key protection and justice figures reported at international fora include 30,448 pro-democracy activists and civilians arrested since the 2021 coup, 22,797 remaining in detention, 129 facing the death penalty, at least 7,777 detainees confirmed killed and a further 4,500 deaths pending verification [306]. The junta's planned mandatory IMEI registration and Central Equipment Identity Register will link devices to individual users and enable blocking or remote disabling of unregistered devices, creating significant risks to privacy, protection monitoring and safe communication for activists, displaced people and protection actors [321]. The UN has reiterated calls for all parties to respect international humanitarian law and for unimpeded humanitarian access, while assessments indicate both sides have been implicated in abuses and that protection monitoring and reporting remain constrained by insecurity and access limitations [300][306].

Child Protection concerns

A 2025 survey of Rohingya survivors in Cox's Bazar found early and forced marriage and intimate-partner violence are widespread, with young girls at high risk and families resorting to marrying daughters or preventing schooling as coping strategies [299]. KHRG documented that in 2025 Burma Army air strikes in Southeast Burma killed at least 18 children and injured 66 children, and that schools and other community buildings were damaged or destroyed, disrupting education and services [302][311]. Air strikes and fighting have caused mass displacement, forced families into hiding or flight, and disrupted health and education access into early 2026 [302][311]. UN assessments report allegations of forced recruitment by the Myanmar military of Rohingya men, raising concerns about recruitment risks and protection for youth in Rakhine [300]. Local reporting noted children present at gambling dens during festivals and at risk of exploitation and addiction [305]. Some humanitarian responses have targeted women and girls but point to limited specialized child protection coverage across conflict-affected areas, and funding shortages constrain shelters, counseling, and safe/child-friendly spaces [305][301][299].

Violence against women and girls

Rohingya women and girls in displacement face widespread gender-based violence—including early and forced marriage, intimate partner violence which represents the majority of reported cases, sexual exploitation and harassment—while humanitarian agencies report funding shortages for GBV services [299]. A 2025 study by the Asian Dignity Initiative and the Rohingya Human Rights Center based on 1,003 survey responses and 26 in-depth interviews across 33 Cox's Bazar camps found these as the most common forms of GBV [299]. The report attributes GBV drivers to severe overcrowding, movement restrictions, lack of livelihoods, gender inequality, weak legal systems, unsafe camp infrastructure such as shared bathrooms without lights, and the presence of gangs or armed groups, which increase women's and girls' vulnerability [299]. Only a small proportion of survivors access medical, psychosocial or legal assistance because of fear, shame, corruption, language barriers and social pressures, while chronic funding shortfalls limit availability of shelters, counselling and safe spaces [299]. Myanmar Humanitarian Fund partners distributed dignity kits—including sanitary items and hand-crank flashlights—to displaced women and girls in Kayah and northern Shan, with beneficiaries reporting improved safety at night [301]. Escalating conflict and related access constraints—highlighted by UN and WHO warnings about blocked humanitarian aid and disrupted health services in Rakhine, Chin and Sagaing—along with widespread airstrikes and displacement across Myanmar, further increase protection risks and hamper GBV response capacity [306][300][302][311].

Vulnerable Groups / Special Needs Groups

Unaccompanied and Separated Children

Burma Army air strikes in 2025 caused widespread civilian casualties and displacement that exposed children to grave protection risks, with KHRG documenting at least 66 villagers killed (including 18 children) and 176 villagers injured (including 66 children) in Southeast Burma that year [335]. Air strikes and attacks damaged schools and community buildings, disrupting education and essential services and forcing families to flee [335][337]. Large displacement episodes pushed thousands into hiding or flight—about 10,000 displaced in Thayetchaung Township and roughly 3,000 in Aunglan Township—straining humanitarian access and protection for children in those populations [330][338]. In Cox's Bazar refugee camps, a 2025 survey documented widespread gender-based violence that places young girls at high risk, including early and forced marriage, sexual exploitation, and intimate partner violence, with most survivors unable to access medical, psychological, or legal support due to fear, stigma, language barriers and funding shortages [326]. Humanitarian response capacity for child protection, shelters, and survivor services is reported as limited by funding shortages, access constraints, and insecurity, reducing availability of case management and specialised support for child survivors [326][331]. Reports also note children present in unsafe settings such as gambling dens and crowded festivities, indicating additional risks of exploitation and harmful practices for children in displacement-affected areas [329].

Pregnant and Lactating Women

With support from the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund, partners distributed dignity kits containing sanitary products, hygiene supplies and items such as hand-crank flashlights to displaced women and girls in Kayah and Shan, helping preserve women's health, dignity and safety in displacement contexts [328]. As of early 2026, intensified fighting in Rakhine triggered new displacement and severely constrained access to food, medicine and essential services, raising concerns about malnutrition and preventable disease among affected populations [327]. The World Health Organization reported that access to humanitarian aid has become increasingly blocked and that clashes in Chin, Rakhine and Sagaing have disrupted health services, preventing patients and healthcare workers from reaching facilities [331]. Air strikes across Southeast Burma/Myanmar have significantly disrupted villagers' access to healthcare and other essential services and caused civilian deaths, injuries and displacement [335][336].

Adolescents and Youth

An ADI-RHRC study in Cox's Bazar (2025), based on 1,003 survey responses and 26 in-depth interviews across 33 camps, found widespread early and forced marriage and documented that families often prevent girls from attending school because of poverty, safety fears and traditional norms [326]. The research reports intimate partner violence as the most common form of GBV and notes that survivors—including young girls—face stigma and very limited access to medical, psychosocial and legal services [326]. Funding shortages and barriers such as fear, shame, corruption and language prevent most survivors from receiving counselling, shelter or safe spaces [326]. Armed conflict and junta air strikes have forced school closures and directly harmed children, with multiple schools damaged or closed [335][337]. The UN and independent monitoring report that Rohingya communities are increasingly trapped between warring parties and that the military has been accused of forced recruitment of Rohingya men, heightening risks of recruitment and youth exposure to violence [327]. The ADI-RHRC report calls for expanded education, livelihood and meaningful participation initiatives for Rohingya women and girls to prevent child marriage and long-term marginalization, as well as survivor-centered GBV prevention and services, safer camp infrastructure (improved lighting, security patrols, separate sanitary facilities), stronger community systems, and meaningful participation of Rohingya women and girls in decisions that affect their lives [326].

People with Disabilities

No specific information on people with disabilities was documented in the available reports.

Elderly

Conflict-related access constraints and attacks have severely limited older people's access to healthcare, medicines, and health workers, with the World Health Organization reporting that humanitarian aid has become "increasingly blocked" and clashes have prevented patients and healthcare workers from reaching facilities [331]. UN and humanitarian agency assessments describe critical shortages of food, medicine and essential services in Rakhine displacement sites and villages cut off by insecurity, raising concerns of malnutrition and preventable disease among trapped populations, including older persons [327]. Documented incidents include older civilians killed in attacks, such as an elderly couple killed in junta airstrikes in Sagaing's Pale Township [341]. Large displacements have

also generated urgent needs for food, clean drinking water and tarpaulins for temporary shelter among displaced populations [330].

Displaced

A three-day junta artillery and drone assault from 1–3 March displaced about 3,000 residents from seven villages in Aunglan Township, Magway, who are hiding and urgently need food, clean water and tarpaulins for temporary shelter [338]. Since early February, fighting in Thayetchaung Township (Tanintharyi) has forced nearly 10,000 people from around 20 villages to flee—most are hiding in forests and face blocked roads, cut phone lines, acute food shortages and sharp price rises for staples [330]. Humanitarian access is increasingly blocked as fighting intensifies in multiple regions [331]. Air strikes across southeast Burma in 2025 caused mass displacement and further undermined livelihoods and access to services [335][337]. Displaced communities repeatedly report urgent needs for rice, cooking oil and salt, as well as shelter materials, while road closures and communications cuts continue to limit humanitarian reach [330][338]. Myanmar nationals seeking study visas have faced high denial rates in early 2026—South Korea approved only 15 of 105 Cheongju University applicants for the 2026 intake and reportedly denied visas to about 90 applicants after 10 February, causing financial losses and allegations of agency malpractice, and the UK has announced it will stop issuing study visas to Myanmar nationals [333][342].

Minorities

UN officials warned that Rohingya civilians in Rakhine are being targeted by both the military council and the Arakan Army, with fighting trapping communities and implicating both sides in abuses, according to Assistant Secretary-General Khaled Khari [327]. As of early 2026, intensified fighting in Rakhine has triggered new waves of displacement and left displacement sites and villages cut off, causing critical shortages of food, medicine and essential services and raising risks of malnutrition, disease outbreaks and civilian casualties, and the UN has demanded unimpeded humanitarian access and civilian protection [327]. The Rohingya remain stateless and were stripped of citizenship under Myanmar's 1982 law, a structural driver of exclusion highlighted alongside widespread gender-based violence in recent reporting [326]. The 2025 ADI–RHRC study documents widespread GBV—most commonly early and forced marriage, intimate partner violence, sexual exploitation and harassment—and reports limited survivor access to medical, psychosocial and legal services because of stigma, fear, language barriers and funding shortages [326]. Humanitarian access and service delivery are increasingly blocked in multiple conflict-affected areas including Rakhine, Chin and Sagaing, further compounding minority exclusion from aid and protection [331][327].

Operational Environment

Economy

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- [2] <https://myanmar-now.org> | Myanmar junta responds to fuel crisis with bizarre alternate-day driving order
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Humanitarian Access

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