



Situation Analysis

MYANMAR CRISIS

Period: 09/03/26 – 15/03/26

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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

According to the World Bank, real GDP for the fiscal year ending March 2026 is expected to contract by about 2 percent and inflation is expected to remain above 20 percent [3]. The Myanmar kyat has sharply depreciated, falling from about 1,330 per US dollar in 2021 to roughly 4,520 in 2025 [3]. Military-imposed banking measures — including an April 2022 central bank order requiring conversion of foreigncurrency income to kyat and tighter capital outflow rules in June 2024 — have eroded trust in the banking system and contributed to capital being parked outside banks [3]. Property prices in Yangon have roughly doubled since 2020 as households and investors use real estate as a "storage of wealth" and a hedge amid currency volatility, driven by riskhedging behavior, internal migration to perceived safer urban areas, limited quality supply, and speculative flipping [3]. Myanmar's fuel supply is fragile: Middle East tensions have pushed global oil prices higher and threatened shipping routes, and recent regional measures and enforcement (including a Thai ban on fuel exports and arrests for smuggling) underline vulnerability to external shocks and crossborder shortages [5][19]. OCHA and humanitarian partners report steady economic decline contributing to humanitarian need, noting that partners reached 6.3 million people in 2025 (94 percent of the 6.7 million target) while by end2025 only 28 percent of the \$1.4 billion required had been received, exacerbating gaps in assistance [2]. UN experts note that targeted sanctions on militarycontrolled businesses and arms networks have disrupted the junta's ability to acquire weapons, but warn that declining international funding and shifting global attention risk further reductions in aid and worsening economic impacts [7][14]. OCHA's 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan calls for US\$890 million to reach 4.9 million people, while humanitarian actors are prioritizing 2.6 million people with the most severe needs in 2026 [2].

Conflict Economic Landscape

According to OCHA, ongoing conflict and recurrent disasters have driven steady economic decline, disrupted livelihoods and public services, and limited recovery capacity [2]. More than 3.6 million people are estimated to be internally displaced nationwide, approximately half in northwestern Myanmar [2]. Humanitarian underfunding has constrained basic service delivery and pushed households into negative coping strategies such as skipping meals and taking risky journeys [2]. Internal migration from conflict-affected areas and capital flight into tangible assets have driven a Yangon real-estate boom described as "risk hedging," with many condominium prices roughly doubling since 2020 and buyers using property as a store of wealth amid tighter currency and banking controls [3]. Conflict has also expanded illicit economies that undermine formal recovery: UNODC reports opium production has more than doubled since the coup and poppy cultivation reached over 53,000 hectares, alongside rising methamphetamine production and trafficking [18]. Landmine and explosiveordnance contamination has further reduced access to farmland and markets: Myanmar recorded 2,029 landmine/ERW casualties in 2024 and 357 in the first half of 2025, and since the start of 2026 at least 4 civilians have been killed and 17 injured in reported incidents, constraining agricultural and market livelihoods [2]. Ethnic and political marginalization directly restricts livelihood opportunities for vulnerable groups: Rohingya communities were systematically denied government jobs and subjected to forced, unpaid labour, while displaced and conflictaffected households face damaged livelihoods from airstrikes, shelter destruction and movement restrictions [11][13][2].

Stability of Currency and Bank System

The Myanmar kyat plunged from about 1,330 per US dollar in 2021 to about 4,520 in 2025 [3]. In April 2022 the military regime ordered the central bank to require conversion of all foreigncurrency income received from abroad into kyat, and the central bank tightened capitaloutflow rules in June 2024, measures that have undermined confidence in the banking system [3]. As a result, many citizens avoid the coupadministered banking system and are using real estate as a hedge against kyat depreciation, creating speculative "storage of wealth" demand in Yangon and other cities [3].

Employment

Conflict and displacement have sharply reduced livelihood opportunities across Myanmar. The World Bank estimated real GDP would contract by about 2 percent for the fiscal year ending March 2026 and inflation was expected to remain above 20 percent, eroding wages and purchasing power and increasing reliance on informal coping strategies [3]. Centralbank mandates to convert foreigncurrency income to kyat (April 2022) and tighter capitaloutflow rules (June 2024), combined with business closures, have driven household savings into speculative realestate "storage of wealth" and propertyflipping in Yangon, reducing formal investment in productive sectors and altering local employment dynamics toward construction, sales, and shortterm trading rather than stable employment [3]. Severe humanitarian funding shortfalls that left only 28 percent of the \$1.4 billion required received by end2025 have forced prioritization and reduced assistance that undermines household livelihoods, driving households to skip meals, take risky livelihood choices, or migrate internally, indicating rising unemployment and growing informalization even where formal labour statistics are unavailable [2].

Politics

Governance Structures and Rule of Law

The military junta has consolidated political control and staged internationally rejected "sham" elections, undermining separation of powers and democratic legitimacy [41]. UN humanitarian and rights reporting documents persistent, large-scale violations by state forces: airstrikes and attacks on civilians attributed to the Myanmar Armed Forces killed at least 982 people in 2025, and the conflict has displaced more than 3.6 million people nationwide, reflecting severe breakdowns in law-enforcement integrity and civilian protection [33]. OCHA's 9 March 2026 update also records expanding use of landmines (2,029 casualties reported in 2024 and 357 casualties in the first half of 2025) and ongoing constraints on humanitarian access, indicating weakened public-sector capacity and

accountability in conflict-affected areas [40][31]. Multiple reports identify the Myanmar military and Border Guard Police (BGP) as primary perpetrators of massacres, arbitrary arrests, forced labour and sexual violence against Rohingya communities, illustrating systematic abuse by security institutions and erosion of law enforcement professionalism [37][40]. Civilian victim and NGO investigations (Asian Dignity Initiative) and the UN fact-finding mission call for referral to the International Criminal Court or an ad-hoc tribunal and note the Myanmar government's denial of allegations and lack of cooperation with investigations, evidencing major gaps in domestic accountability and access to justice [37][40]. State policies have revoked or withheld Rohingya citizenship and imposed movement, marriage/reproductive and voting restrictions while blocking access to education, health care and formal employment, showing constitutional and legal protections are not applied equally or effectively [37]. Journalists and independent institutions face arrests, physical assaults and legal persecution, signifying that courts and security services often operate as instruments of repression rather than impartial guardians of rights [43][41]. Humanitarian partners report acute funding shortfalls and severely constrained service delivery; the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan requests US\$890 million to reach 4.9 million people amid shrinking funding and access limitations, underscoring diminished public-sector responsiveness to basic needs [31].

Political Freedoms and Recent Laws

Since the 2021 coup the junta has sought to consolidate control and staged widely rejected "sham" elections that undermined electoral participation and institutional legitimacy [29][34]. UN experts and humanitarian reporting note escalating attacks, airstrikes and territorial gains by the junta that have displaced civilians and degraded civic space, with a UN humanitarian update dated 9 March 2026 reporting ongoing fighting and mass displacement across several states including Rakhine, Kayin and Mon [34][33]. Independent journalists and media outlets face sustained legal pressure, arrests, assaults and torture of associates, with Myanmar Now documenting long-running legal battles and attacks on its staff and sources [25]. The junta has tightened digital surveillance and communications control, with March 2026 reporting of mandatory phone IMEI registration and related measures to monitor citizens and restrict online expression [32]. Parallel authorities are also instituting restrictive controls affecting civic life: a National Unity Government directive of 6 March 2026 requires explicit NUG permission for fuel transit to Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, provoking public disputes and potential impacts on movement and local governance [51]. In Rakhine State, long-standing state policies have systematically denied Rohingya political rights—revoking or withholding citizenship, barring voting after 2015, pushing NVC registration that treated them as foreigners, and imposing movement, assembly, marriage and reproductive controls enforced by fines, detention and forced labor as documented by fact-finding missions and survivor reports [40][37]. International bodies and civil society continue to call for accountability, urging referral to the ICC or creation of ad hoc tribunals and truth-seeking investigations without immunity for perpetrators [40].

Influence of Non-State Actors and Political Factions

The National Unity Government's (NUG) 6 March fuel-transit directive—signed by U Lwin Ko Latt and requiring explicit NUG permission for fuel moving to Kachin, Chin and Rakhine states—provoked public disputes with Chin and Rakhine allies who warned it could discriminate against their populations and spur black markets, while the NUG said the measure aims to prevent fuel reaching the junta [51]. In northern Shan, intra-resistance tension escalated as the MNDA began blocking shipments to TNLA-held towns (Kutkai, Namtu, Namhsan, Mantong), inspecting vehicles at checkpoints, arresting TNLA members and seizing villages—actions that have already restricted staple supplies and risked further clashes between former allies [32]. The junta continues to rely on overwhelming military force, retaking or closing in on resistance strongholds (including recent advances toward Tagaung and earlier gains in Madaya and Singu) through airstrikes, drone attacks, ground troops and heavy artillery, underscoring the regime's operational dominance in contested areas [27][39]. Organised criminal networks remain influential: Chinese prosecutors in 2025 identified four major crime families operating telecom-fraud syndicates from Myanmar's Kokang region that used armed protection and committed violent abuses, illustrating how illicit networks intersect with armed and economic control in border areas [42]. External commercial and technical links are reinforcing junta power, with reported plans for Russian-designed satellite ground stations and high-profile appointments of businessmen tied to military conglomerates (e.g., Ko Ko Latt) that strengthen regime access to foreign technology and business legitimacy [36][49]. Humanitarian actors describe the operating environment as highly fragmented—marked by restricted mobility, shifting frontlines and uneven access—complicating coordination and humanitarian delivery amid competing state, non-state and factional controls [33].

Public Trust in State Institutions

Domestic and international confidence in Myanmar's state institutions is very low, with the UN special rapporteur calling the post-election leadership a "military junta in civilian clothing" after elections widely dismissed as a sham [41][29]. Sustained and escalating attacks on civilians—including a rise from nine airstrikes in 2021 to about 1,140 in the most recent year—and widespread rights abuses during the electoral period have further eroded legitimacy and citizen trust [41][33]. Humanitarian indicators signal collapsed public-service capacity and low citizen satisfaction with governance, as needs outstrip state response and protections [34][33]. Key figures: Nearly one-third of the population requires humanitarian assistance and more than 12 million face acute hunger [34]; over 3.6 million people are internally displaced nationwide [33]; OHCHR reported at least 982 civilians (including 287 children) killed by airstrikes in 2025, and 400+ aerial attacks were reported during the December 2025–January 2026 electoral period, killing more than 170 civilians [33]; humanitarian partners reached 6.3 million people in 2025 while funding met only 28% of the \$1.4 billion requirement [33]; the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan requests US\$890 million to reach 4.9 million people [31]. Targeting of journalists, arrests, torture and the historical use of courts and security forces as instruments of repression have undermined confidence in media freedom, the judiciary and the civil service [41][43]. Economic and service failures have reduced trust in public service providers and banks, prompting many households to "store wealth" in property; the kyat weakened from around 1,330 per USD in 2021 to roughly 4,520 in 2025 [46].

Fragmentation of alternative governance and disputes within anti-junta structures—exemplified by the NUG's 6 March 2026 fuel-transit directive that provoked public friction with Chin and Rakhine allies—further indicate weakened trust and coordination among non-state institutions [51]. Overall, UN and media reporting portray institutions under junta control as illegitimate and unable to protect civilians or deliver basic services, driving pervasive public distrust and low institutional legitimacy [34][41].

Role of Marginalized Groups

Rohingya communities have been effectively excluded from formal political representation and civic participation after 2015, with interviewees reporting that no Rohingya held citizenship and that voting rights were revoked from 2015 onward [40][37]. They have been denied meaningful participation in decision-making about return and repatriation, prompting repeated recommendations that the Myanmar government and international actors guarantee Rohingya participation in such discussions [37]. State policies and practices have produced systemic, institutionalized oppression—described by a UN fact-finding mission as persecution—and international bodies and rights groups have called for accountability measures including referral to the ICC or special tribunals [37][40]. Access to public services has been restricted: Rohingya have been denied or extorted for basic health care and subjected to discriminatory treatment in government clinics [40], and schooling was limited by segregation, teacher abuse, and barriers to higher education [37][40]. Economic exclusion included prohibition from public employment, confiscation and reallocation of Rohingya land to others, and obstacles to running businesses or owning property [37]. Civic and social life was constrained by bans and punishments on religious practice, administrative controls over marriage and reproduction, and severe movement restrictions (including curfews from 2016), which curtailed community organizing and social participation [37]. Widespread violence, including documented massacres and the August 2017 "clearance operations," forced mass displacement to Bangladesh and destroyed avenues for political, economic and social influence for Rohingya communities [37]. The March 2026 UN humanitarian update underscores that ongoing conflict and displacement in Rakhine continue to compound protection risks and limit Rohingya access to services and safe participation in public life [33].

Security And Stability

Security Overview

Since late 2025 and into early 2026, hostilities have persisted across multiple regions, driving widespread civilian harm, displacement and restricted humanitarian access [59][57]. More than 3.6 million people are displaced nationwide, roughly half in northwestern Myanmar [59]. Since the start of 2026, over 28,000 people were displaced across Magway and Sagaing regions [59]. In Bago Region's Nattalin Township, more than 30,000 people remained displaced since late 2025 [59]. In Mon State, airstrikes and shelling displaced over 10,000 people since early February 2026 [59]. In Rakhine State, an estimated 20,000 displaced people remained in Thandwe Town in early January 2026 [59]. Along the southern Shan–Kayah border, fighting displaced over 6,000 people in Mawmai and Pekon townships [59]. Renewed clashes in Hpakant, Kachin displaced more than 2,500 people since early February 2026 [59].

The use of aerial attacks, landmines and explosive remnants of war has intensified civilian risk. The UN Human Rights Office reported at least 982 civilians killed by airstrikes in 2025, including 287 children, and more than 400 aerial attacks were recorded during the December 2025–January 2026 electoral period that killed over 170 civilians [59]. Landmines and explosive remnants of war caused record casualties in 2024 with 2,029 casualties and continued to inflict harm into 2025 with 357 casualties in the first half of the year; since the start of 2026 at least 4 civilians were killed and 17 injured in landmine/ERW incidents [59]. Contamination is reported near military sites and civilian infrastructure, limiting movement and humanitarian access [59]. Recent lethal incidents include a junta airstrike on a gold-mining block in Kachin that killed about 30 people and an attack in Rakhine that reportedly killed more than 100, mostly POWs, reflecting continued use of heavy aerial firepower [66][76]. The Burmese Women's Union reported more than 60 women killed in February 2026 from air and ground attacks, including girls and a pregnant woman [71].

Territorial dynamics and armed group activity remain fluid. Resistance forces captured a base and severed a junta supply line in Tanintharyi, while the junta advanced to retake Tagaung in Mandalay Region, illustrating shifting control and continued offensives by both sides [74][63]. The junta has detained civilians during raids and reportedly used them as human shields; resistance forces subsequently rescued hundreds of hostages in Bago's Nyaunglebin area, where dozens were found dead after recent operations [55][68]. Inter-group tensions and localised blockades are affecting access and markets, including MNDA blockades of goods to TNLA-controlled northern Shan towns [54].

Border and criminal-security threats include increased telecom-fraud and organised crime activity linked to Kokang crime families, rising drug production and smuggling in conflict-affected border areas, and cross-border smuggling incidents such as a recent Thai arrest for attempted diesel smuggling into Myanmar [70][53][61]. A Thai patrol encounter in November left 2.2 million methamphetamine pills after a clash, while UNODC reporting documents large increases in opium cultivation and meth production since the coup [53][75].

Humanitarian operations remain constrained by insecurity and funding shortfalls. Humanitarians reached millions in 2025 but funding gaps—only approximately 28% of the \$1.4 billion 2025 requirement was received—and access constraints limit scale and frequency of assistance in 2026 [59][57]. Security operations deploying air operations, drones, launchers, machine guns and heavy artillery continue to constrain movement and impede safe humanitarian access [63][67][59].

Security Forces and Law Enforcement

Myanmar security forces—principally the Myanmar Armed Forces, Border Guard Police and police—have been repeatedly identified by NGOs and investigations as perpetrators of mass killings, arson, unlawful arrests, rape and forced labour against the Rohingya and other civilians in Rakhine and elsewhere [67][72]. UN and humanitarian reporting documents extensive use of airstrikes, drone attacks and heavy ground operations by the military that have driven displacement and civilian harm [59].

Law-enforcement presence and access are uneven across the country. Shifting frontlines, restricted mobility and access constraints limit state and humanitarian reach in rural conflict-affected areas [59]. Elements of armed groups and reporting implicate parts of the security apparatus in illicit economies that undermine rule of law, with a surge in drug production and trafficking reported [53][75].

Persistent accountability gaps have prompted calls from NGOs and experts for independent investigations and referrals to the ICC or ad-hoc tribunals to address allegations against senior military and BGP officials [67].

Demography

Demographic Overview

Conflict-driven displacement is the dominant demographic trend shaping Myanmar's population landscape, with more than 3.6 million people estimated to be internally displaced nationwide, approximately half of whom are located in northwestern Myanmar [83]. Large-scale cross-border refugee flows continue, with approximately 800,000 Rohingya having fled to Bangladesh during the 2017 exodus, Cox's Bazar camps now exceeding one million people, and UNHCR recording 892 Rohingya dead or missing at sea in 2025 during irregular maritime crossings [91][87]. Ethnic-specific displacement trends include Chin-area displacement exceeding 100,000 IDPs with an additional ~60,000 having fled abroad by the end of January [89].

Notable localized displacement patterns since late 2025 include over 30,000 people remaining displaced in Nattalin Township (Bago Region) [83], an estimated 20,000 displaced people in Thandwe Town (Rakhine State) in early January 2026 [83], more than 10,000 people displaced in Mon State since early February 2026 amid airstrikes and shelling [83], over 6,000 people displaced along the southern Shan-Kayah border in Mawmai and Pekon townships [83], and over 2,500 people displaced to Hpakant Town following renewed clashes in Kachin's Hpakant Township [83]. Since the start of 2026, over 28,000 people were displaced across Magway and Sagaing regions, with further waves displacing approximately 17,000 in Chaung-U and Ye-U (Sagaing), approximately 5,000 in Ngazun (Mandalay) and over 850 in Mindat (Chin), while shelter damage included more than 870 houses damaged or destroyed since mid-January in multiple locations [83].

Explosive hazards and mine contamination are contributing to civilian harm and mobility restrictions, with at least 4 civilians killed and 17 injured in reported landmine and explosive remnants of war incidents since the beginning of 2026 [83]. Humanitarian partners reached 6.3 million people at least once in 2025, and the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan requests US\$890 million to reach 4.9 million people with life-saving assistance and protection services [83][82]. A localized demographic snapshot from a survivor initial survey in Done Paik recorded 779 people—503 men and 276 women—with the following age distribution: 6 children aged 10 or younger; 86 aged 11–19; 243 in their 20s; 173 in their 30s; 95 in their 40s; 109 in their 50s; 48 in their 60s; 17 in their 70s; and 1 person in their 80s [91].

Socio-Cultural

Socio-Cultural Overview

The Rohingya, a Muslim ethnic minority in Rakhine State, have been documented by UN factfinding bodies and multiple NGOs as subject to systematic oppression and widespread human rights violations that shaped their social marginalization [103][102]. State policies and practices over decades removed legal status from Rohingya, with authorities denying citizenship and pressuring registration on NVC identity cards rather than restoring nationality rights [102][103]. Movement and social life were tightly controlled through measures including curfews (reported from 18:00–06:00 since 2016), mandatory travel permits and Form No.4 at checkpoints with frequent extortion, restrictions on marriage requiring official permission and fees, and systematic denial of education, public employment, healthcare and regular conscription into forced labour [102]. Local power holders—village administrators, Border Guard Police/Na Sa Ka and other de facto authorities—control travel permits and checkpoints and routinely levy fines, directly constraining civilian movement [103]. Land confiscation, arson, mass killings and other atrocities in 2016–2017 drove largescale displacement to Bangladesh and entrenched narratives of dispossession among affected communities [103][105][102]. Survivors consistently report that attacks were driven by religious and ethnic animus and describe treatment amounting to ethnic cleansing, producing deep distrust of state institutions and intercommunal relations [102]. Victim groups and investigative reports urge international accountability (referral to the ICC or ad hoc tribunals), restitution and rights restoration, an end to NVC registration practices, and guaranteed Rohingya participation in any repatriation or remedy processes [103][102]. These entrenched discriminatory policies have eroded social cohesion and resilience within Rohingya communities, leaving them highly vulnerable and dependent on external justice and rights restoration as preconditions for safe return and reintegration [103][102]. Beyond Rakhine, large internal displacement into host communities and collective sites (e.g., church compounds) is straining social cohesion between hosts and displaced populations across Myanmar [96].

Gender Dynamics

Humanitarian partners prioritized distinct vulnerabilities of women and girls in early 2026, with Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF)—supported distributions of dignity kits to displaced women and girls in Kayah and Shan containing sanitary products, hygiene items and handcrank flashlights to support safety, dignity and basic needs while enabling households to redirect limited income toward food and schooling [96]. Displaced mothers are frequently the primary household decisionmakers in coping strategies and often sacrifice their own health and essential items to sustain families [96]. IDP women in Chin State and Sagaing Region face acute shortages of menstrual supplies and medicines, inadequate and poorly segregated toilets and showers that heighten insecurity, daily sexual harassment and verbal abuse, and significant barriers to reporting (unsafe travel, lack of law and order), according to a Women for Justice report released on 5 March 2026 [98]. The Burmese Women's Union reported on 10 March 2026 that 63 women (including one pregnant woman and 18 girls under 18) were killed across Myanmar in February 2026 and 66 women were injured, citing

causes including airstrikes, mortars, landmines and conflict-related sexual violence, and monitors note nearly 1,000 documented cases of sexual violence over the past five years with ethnic women and underage girls particularly targeted [106].

Impact of Socio-Cultural Drivers on Aid

The UN OCHA Myanmar Humanitarian Update (9 March 2026) reports that prolonged conflict and repeated displacement have eroded community coping mechanisms and forced impossible choices around safety, food and services, complicating trust and uptake of humanitarian assistance [97]. Longstanding, state-level discrimination against Rohingya—including revocation of citizenship, strict movement controls, marriage and population controls, denial of services and forced fines—has produced deep social stigma and exclusion that directly limit Rohingya access to government services and shape distrust of authorities and some providers [103][102]. As a result, Rohingya communities often rely on trusted community providers (e.g., Muslim village doctors) and avoidance of official channels, affecting where and how aid must be delivered to be acceptable and effective [102]. Humanitarian consultations and documentation have required Rohingya-language interlocutors, indicating the necessity of linguistically appropriate engagement to build trust and communication [103]. Humanitarian partners and the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF) have prioritized gender-sensitive items—for example, dignity kits—distributions that humanitarian staff say both meet practical needs and signal recognition and support to recipients [96]. Local solidarity and informal assistance—including donations from Thai donors and local NGOs during border area displacement—partly fill gaps when formal aid is disrupted, but also create uneven coverage and dependence on ad hoc channels [101][96]. The widespread presence of landmines and explosive remnants of war further restricts movement, elevates protection risks (especially for children) and impedes safe humanitarian access and returns [96].

Environment

Environmental Conditions

In March 2025, earthquakes damaged or destroyed more than 55,000 homes across Mandalay, Sagaing and Naypyitaw, generating sudden large-scale humanitarian needs and added pressure on response capacity [127]. Since the start of 2026, at least 4 civilians have been killed and 17 injured in reported landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) incidents [112]. Explosive hazards are reported near military bases, mobile phone towers, extractive sites and energy pipelines, restricting movement and impeding humanitarian access and safe returns [112]. Landmine use and contamination expanded during 2024–2025, with Myanmar recording 2,029 landmine/ERW casualties in 2024 and 357 casualties in the first half of 2025, contributing to long-term risks for civilians and livelihoods [112]. Middle East tensions and higher oil prices in early March 2026 are reported to threaten Myanmar's fragile fuel supply and global shipping routes, risking an energy crisis [117]. Humanitarian partners have introduced solar-powered potable-water systems in northwestern Myanmar with CERF support, restoring tap water access for affected families [112].

Environmental Challenges

Airstrikes, drone attacks and incendiary weapons have destroyed homes, schools, clinics and other civilian infrastructure across multiple states and regions, including heavy damage in Rakhine in 2025 and repeated bombing of villages in March 2026, aggravating environmental degradation and loss of services [112][125][119]. Food stocks and agricultural supplies have also been directly lost or burned during attacks—for example, artillery and incendiary strikes destroyed stored rice, corn and peanut sacks in Hpruso in March 2026 [131]. Poppy was farmed on more than 53,000 hectares in 2025 as opium production rose, reflecting conflict-driven harmful land use and expanded drug-crop cultivation [124]. Humanitarian partners report damage to water and sanitation assets and ongoing WASH needs, with CERF- and UNICEF-supported solar-powered systems installed in northwestern Myanmar to restore potable water access for affected households [116][112]. The combined effects—destroyed WASH and health infrastructure, and shortages of medicines and sanitary supplies in IDP camps—are increasing risks of waterborne and other environment-related illnesses and undermining access to health care for affected populations [112][116].

Environmental Risks and Mitigation

The earthquake response reached about 1.7 million people through rapid, temporary access arrangements [113][112]. According to OCHA, those temporary access arrangements enabled rapid aid delivery during the earthquake response but chronic funding shortfalls—only 28% of the \$1.4 billion required was received by end-2025—limited the scale, coverage and frequency of assistance [112][113]. Intensified hostilities and air operations since early 2026 have driven shelter losses and displacement, with more than 28,000 people displaced across Magway and Sagaing and over 870 houses damaged or destroyed since mid-January [112]. Separately, reporting warns that Middle East tensions are threatening Myanmar's fragile fuel supply, risking energy shortages that could further undermine humanitarian operations and recovery [117].

Conflict

Overview of the Ongoing Armed Conflict

OCHAs independent update covering developments to 9 March 2026 describes a nationwide, multi-front conflict marked by sustained hostilities, widespread displacement and rising civilian harm [135]. Intense fighting is reported across northwestern and southeastern corridors and in Rakhine, Shan, Kayah and Kachin states, with recurrent clashes in Sagaing, Magway, Chin, Bago, Kayin, Mon and Tanintharyi regions and continued risks from aerial operations and drones in several areas [135]. More than 3.6 million people are estimated to be internally displaced nationwide, with large concentrations in northwestern Myanmar and over 30,000 people remaining displaced in Nattalin Township (Bago Region) since late 2025 [135]. Localized waves of displacement include more than 10,000 people displaced in Mon State since early February, an estimated 20,000 displaced in and around Thandwe/Thandwe Town in early January, and over 28,000 displaced across Magway and Sagaing since the start of 2026 [135]. Hostilities are high-intensity and characterised by frequent airstrikes, drone attacks, heavy artillery and ground offensives; the UN human rights office reported at least

982 civilians killed by airstrikes in 2025 (including 287 children) and more than 400 aerial attacks during Dec 2025–Jan 2026 that killed over 170 civilians [135][138]. Recent frontline shifts include the juntas recapture of Tagaung in early March and sustained air campaigns that struck Tigyang (10 March) and Myawaddy (8–12 March), causing dozens of civilian deaths and damage to houses, monasteries, schools and clinics [155][159][141]. Conflict has damaged critical infrastructure and livelihoods—homes, schools, hospitals and IDP camps have been hit, with shelter losses (over 870 houses damaged/destroyed since mid-January in multiple locations) and civilian assets such as vehicles and plantations affected; explosive hazards have also been reported near civilian infrastructure including mobile towers and pipelines [135]. Landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) are expanding and severely restricting movement and safe returns; Myanmar recorded 2,029 landmine/ERW casualties in 2024 and 357 in the first half of 2025, and since the start of 2026 at least 4 civilians have been killed and 17 injured in reported incidents, including children [135]. Humanitarian access is impeded by active hostilities, shifting frontlines and targeted disruptions to key routes (including temporary disruption along the old Yangon–Mandalay highway in Kyauktaga), while funding shortfalls and operational constraints have reduced the scale and frequency of assistance [135]. The conflict environment also features contestation among armed actors and shifting control of supply lines, including inter-group tensions such as MNDAA blockades affecting TNLA areas and recent resistance gains and base captures in southern fronts, complicating aid delivery and security dynamics [158][150][155].

Conflict Stakeholders

The primary state actor is the Myanmar military junta, which has mounted territorial offensives using airstrikes, drones, heavy artillery and ground troops to retake areas such as Tagaung and to sever resistance supply lines in Mandalay and upper Ayeyarwady areas [155][143]. The National Unity Government (NUG) and allied resistance forces control rural footholds outside major towns and have taken administrative and logistical measures—most notably a 6 March NUG fuel-transit directive intended to prevent fuel reaching the junta—that have also provoked friction with Chin and Rakhine allied groups [155][165]. Ethnic armed organisations and local militias are decisive and sometimes fractious actors: the MNDAA has blockaded shipments to TNLA-controlled towns in northern Shan State, while frontline resistance operations (including recent captures of bases in Tanintharyi) have severed junta supply lines and shifted local control [158][150]. External involvement includes deepening regime ties to Russia through planned satellite-ground infrastructure and Russian-designed technologies that analysts warn will bolster junta capabilities, while UN experts report that international pressure and sanctions have disrupted some arms flows to the junta [152][142]. Factional divisions—illustrated by MNDAA–TNLA tensions, NUG–ethnic ally disputes over logistics, and localized resistance offensives—are fragmenting authority and enhancing the autonomy of non-state armed actors over local governance and supply routes [158][165][150]. The humanitarian and security impacts shaping power dynamics are severe: UN reporting cites about 12 million people facing acute hunger, reinforcing the influence of armed actors over territory, services and civilian movement [138][142].

Peace Negotiations

There are limited, localized negotiation efforts between ethnic armed groups, with the TNLA seeking to defuse a standoff and hold meetings with the MNDAA to avoid further confrontation while the MNDAA had not issued a public statement on the situation [158]. Bangladesh has urged the international community to move beyond humanitarian assistance toward sustained diplomatic engagement, accountability mechanisms and concrete political solutions to create conditions for safe, voluntary and dignified Rohingya return [144]. UN officials have called for unimpeded humanitarian access and restraint, with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urging all parties to enable safe, sustained and unimpeded access on 30 January, while the UN special rapporteur warned that waning international resolve risks deepening the crisis [135][142]. Human rights and civil society reporting recommends referral of atrocities to the International Criminal Court or to a special/adhoc tribunal and insists investigations proceed without grants of immunity to perpetrators [145]. International measures and sanctions have reportedly disrupted the junta's ability to acquire weapons, but experts warn that shifting global attention (notably the Middle East war) and declining humanitarian funding threaten to weaken pressure and support for civilians in Myanmar [138][142].

Conflict Outlook

The near-term outlook points to likely intensification: the junta has recently retaken key towns north of Mandalay (including Tagaung, after earlier gains in Madaya and Singu), signaling a push to consolidate control along the upper Ayeyarwady and cut resistance supply lines while relying heavily on airstrikes, drones and heavy artillery [155]. Local resistance forces continue to inflict tactical setbacks on the junta—most recently capturing a base and severing a supply line in Tanintharyi—indicating continued contested frontlines rather than a clear, stable front [150]. External dynamics exacerbate risks: the Middle East war and shifting donor attention are already driving aid reductions and threaten further declines in humanitarian funding and visibility for Myanmar, according to the UN special rapporteur, which would worsen needs and constrain response capacity [142][136]. Humanitarian funding shortfalls remain acute—partners received only 28 percent of the \$1.4 billion required by end-2025 and the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan requests US\$890 million to reach 4.9 million people—limiting lifesaving coverage even as needs rise [135][137]. Strengthening technical and military ties between the regime and external actors (e.g., plans for a Russian-designed satellite ground station) are likely to sustain or improve junta command, control and targeting capabilities, reducing incentives for deescalation absent stronger external pressure [152]. Given continued junta offensives, hardened positions by resistance groups, obstruction of aid and the political fallout from contested elections, the prospect of a negotiated settlement in the short term is low and a continuation or escalation of hostilities is the more likely trajectory, with corresponding increases in internal displacement and crossborder pressures on neighboring states (Bangladesh and Thailand) already warned about by regional authorities [142][136][144][141]. Overall, risks of further escalation are high and deescalation unlikely without renewed, sustained international pressure, resumed and scaled humanitarian funding, and measures to limit the junta's operational reach and external military-technical support [138][135].

Displacement

Displacement Overview

More than 3.6 million people are estimated to be displaced nationwide, with approximately half located in northwestern Myanmar [168]. Displacement patterns are both acute and protracted, with many displaced sheltering in host communities or in sites such as church compounds, while returns remain limited and bilateral repatriation attempts have repeatedly failed for lack of security and legal guarantees [168][173]. Since late 2025 and into early 2026, localized escalations have driven repeated displacements across multiple states and regions. In Bago Region, more than 30,000 people remain displaced in Nattalin Township since late 2025, while mid-January air operations and drone activity displaced over 1,000 people from several villages in Kyauktaga Township [168]. In Mon State, more than 10,000 people were displaced since early February following airstrikes, drone attacks and shelling [168]. In Rakhine State, about 20,000 displaced people remained in Thandwe Town in early January [168]. Along the southern Shan–Kayah border, over 6,000 people were displaced in Mawmai and Pekon townships [168]. In Kachin State, renewed clashes in Hpakant since early February displaced more than 2,500 people to Hpakant Town [168]. Since the start of 2026, more than 28,000 people were displaced across Magway and Sagaing regions, including in Kamma, Pauk, Pwintphyu, Salin, Seikphyu, Bamauk, Indaw, Katha and Tigyaing townships, with further January–February escalations displacing over 17,000 in ChaungU and YeU townships, nearly 5,000 in Ngazun Township (Mandalay), and more than 850 in Mindat (Chin) [168]. Conflict in Karen National Union areas has displaced more than 1.2 million people according to the Committee for Internally Displaced Karen People [182]. Landmines and explosive ordnance continue to restrict movement and force displacement, with at least 4 civilians killed and 17 injured in reported landmine/ERW incidents since the beginning of 2026 [168]. Crossborder displacement remains protracted: Bangladesh hosts over 1.2 million Rohingya refugees, and UNHCR recorded 892 Rohingya deaths or missing persons at sea in 2025 amid irregular maritime departures [173][174]. Underfunding and access constraints are hindering assistance and prospects for durable solutions [168].

Living Conditions of the Displaced Population

The humanitarian situation for displaced people in Myanmar is severe, with widespread shelter loss, limited services, protection risks and constrained livelihoods driven by ongoing hostilities and funding shortfalls [168]. More than 870 houses were reported damaged or destroyed since mid-January across multiple locations, including heavy losses in Myingyan, Myaing and Pakokku townships, leaving urgent shelter needs [168]. Movement and access to basic services have been disrupted by fighting and air operations, including temporary disruption of movement and service access along the old Yangon–Mandalay highway in early January in Kyauktaga Township [168]. The UN human rights office reported that airstrikes attributed to Myanmar's armed forces killed at least 982 civilians in 2025 (including 287 children), and that more than 400 aerial attacks between December 2025 and January 2026 killed over 170 civilians and damaged civilian infrastructure and health facilities [168]. Explosive hazards and landmines further limit movement, impede humanitarian access and block safe returns; Myanmar recorded 2,029 landmine/ERW casualties in 2024 (the highest reported globally) and 357 casualties in the first half of 2025 [168]. Humanitarians have delivered some lifesaving services—for example, CERF-supported, UNICEF-backed solar water systems now provide potable tap water in parts of northwestern Myanmar—but overall assistance has been reduced or less frequent due to severe underfunding and access constraints [168]. Displaced women and girls face specific gaps in health, sanitation and protection: IDP women in Chin State and Sagaing Region lack menstrual supplies and medicines, report inadequate and poorly segregated toilets, and face daily harassment and safety concerns according to a February report by Women for Justice; reluctance to report abuse is widespread [172]. The Myanmar Humanitarian Fund supported distributions of dignity kits (sanitary items, hygiene supplies and torches) to displaced women and girls in Kayah and Shan to address some of these needs [168]. Funding shortfalls have reduced coverage and frequency of assistance: by 31 December 2025 humanitarians reached 6.3 million people at least once, but partners had received only 28% of the \$1.4 billion required in 2025, and the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan requests US\$890 million to reach 4.9 million people while prioritizing 2.6 million with the most severe needs [168][167]. Landmine contamination and active frontlines continue to restrict livelihoods, agricultural access and safe humanitarian operations, worsening foodsecurity and income prospects for displaced households [168].

Drivers of Displacement

Armed conflict—including intense airstrikes, drone strikes, mortar shelling and ground clashes—is the primary driver, producing large-scale displacement across multiple states and regions in 2025–2026 and restricting humanitarian access and safe returns [168]. Air attacks have sharply increased civilian harm: the UN Human Rights Office reported at least 982 civilians killed by airstrikes in 2025 (including 287 children), and over 400 aerial attacks during the December 2025–January 2026 electoral period that killed more than 170 civilians [168]. Since the start of 2026, intensified fighting displaced more than 28,000 people across Magway and Sagaing regions and destroyed or damaged over 870 houses in multiple locations, with further January–February displacements including some 17,000 people in ChaungU and YeU, nearly 5,000 in Ngazun, and over 850 in Mindat [168]. Landmines and explosive remnants of war have expanded contamination and casualties—Myanmar recorded 2,029 landmine/ERW casualties in 2024 (the highest reported globally), 357 casualties in the first half of 2025, and since the beginning of 2026 at least 4 civilians killed and 17 injured—constraining movement and impeding returns [168]. Environmental shocks compound needs and displacement: the March 2025 earthquakes damaged or destroyed more than 55,000 homes across multiple regions and the earthquake response reached some 1.7 million people, adding to layered humanitarian needs [168][167]. Deepening economic hardship and funding shortfalls have increased vulnerability and secondary displacement risks—partners reached 6.3 million people in 2025 but had received only 28% of the \$1.4 billion required by end-2025, and the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan sought US\$890 million to reach 4.9 million people, with underfunding driving harmful coping strategies and irregular movement [168][167]. Longstanding political persecution and systemic discrimination against the Rohingya—including mass violence and denial of rights—continue to produce protracted refugee flows and irregular sea departures, with UNHCR reporting 892 Rohingya died or went missing at sea in 2025 amid deteriorating camp conditions and declining aid [176][174].

Integration

Movement, safety and access constraints—including widespread landmine/ERW contamination—are impeding returns, access to markets and services, and safe humanitarian access [168]. Severe funding shortfalls (only 28% of the US\$1.4 billion required for 2025 was received) have forced partners to prioritise lifesaving assistance, reducing coverage, frequency and the scope of support that would facilitate integration through livelihoods and services [168]. Donor and pooled fund responses provide targeted support—examples include MHF-funded dignity kits for displaced women and girls in Kayah and Shan, CERF-supported solar potable water systems in northwestern Myanmar, and limited lifesaving assistance initiated for newly displaced groups—but these remain insufficient to meet wider integration needs [168]. IDP women in Chin State and Sagaing face specific gaps in health and hygiene supplies, inadequate gender-segregated sanitation, safety risks including daily sexual harassment, and shortages of medicines, undermining access to essential services and social protection [172]. Longer-term settlement and durable integration are constrained by policy and protection barriers for specific groups: advocacy and documentation call for an end to NVC registration and restoration of citizenship rights for the Rohingya, and for their meaningful participation in repatriation discussions, while neighbouring Bangladesh emphasises that repatriation remains the only sustainable solution absent security and rights guarantees [175][176][173]. The 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan requests US\$890 million to reach 4.9 million people, while humanitarians are prioritising 2.6 million people with the most severe needs, reflecting limited institutional capacity to scale integration-focused recovery and services without increased funding and access [167].

Humanitarian Access

Humanitarian Access Overview

According to OCHA's Myanmar Humanitarian Update No.51 (9 March 2026), humanitarian actors maintained presence across conflict-affected areas including northwestern Myanmar (Sagaing, Magway, Chin), southeastern areas (Bago, Kayin) and states at high risk of aerial attacks (Rakhine, Shan, Kayah), reaching 6.3 million people in 2025 through adapted operations [185][184]. More than 3.6 million people are estimated to be internally displaced nationwide, with approximately half located in northwestern Myanmar [185]. Key delivery actors include UN agencies and humanitarian partners, the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF) with local implementing partners, and UN leadership including Humanitarian Coordinator Gwyn Lewis who actively engaged to assess needs and call for unimpeded access [185]. Modes of delivery relied on temporary access arrangements during emergencies—the 2025 earthquake response reached 1.7 million people using such arrangements—and routine field distributions such as MHF-funded dignity kits and CERF-supported solar WASH systems [185][184]. However, road transport has been severely constrained by checkpoints, blockades and disrupted routes, while widespread security threats including airstrikes, drone attacks, ground fighting and expanding landmine/ERW contamination regularly impede operations, cause civilian casualties and drive displacement [185][184][197][187]. OHCHR reported at least 982 civilians killed by airstrikes in 2025, OCHA documented more than 400 aerial attacks during the December 2025–January 2026 electoral period, and landmine/ERW incidents since early 2026 have killed at least 4 civilians and injured 17 [185]. Operational impacts include extensive damage to homes, schools and health facilities, road and market disruptions—such as Myawaddy airstrikes of 8–12 March 2026—and constrained staff mobility that limit the scale, frequency and geographic reach of humanitarian assistance [187][185]. Severe funding shortfalls have reduced coverage and frequency of assistance: partners received only 28% of the \$1.4 billion 2025 requirement by end-2025, forcing prioritisation to the most severe needs, while the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan requests US\$890 million to reach 4.9 million people [185][184]. The UN Secretary-General and the Humanitarian Coordinator have urged all parties to enable safe, sustained and unimpeded access so the UN and partners can deliver assistance to those in need [185].

Barriers to Humanitarian Access

Widespread and intensifying hostilities—including airstrikes, drone strikes and shifting frontlines—have disrupted movement and access across multiple states and regions, notably causing temporary disruption along the old Yangon–Mandalay highway in Kyauktaga and continuing to drive displacement in northwest and southeast Myanmar [185][196]. Air operations and aerial attacks in 2025–early 2026 caused extensive damage to civilian infrastructure, shelter and services, with the UN Human Rights Office reporting at least 982 civilians killed by airstrikes in 2025 and more than 400 aerial attacks reported during the December 2025–January 2026 electoral period, further impeding safe humanitarian delivery [196]. Widespread contamination by landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) has expanded in 2024–2025, making movement and returns unsafe; Myanmar recorded 2,029 landmine/ERW casualties in 2024, 357 casualties in the first half of 2025, and at least 4 deaths and 17 injuries from ERW incidents since the start of 2026 [185]. Non-state blockades, checkpoints and localised interdictions—including the MNDAA blockade of goods to TNLA-controlled towns that prevented supplies such as rice and bottled water from reaching Kutkai, Namtu, Namhsan and Mantong—have stopped commercial and humanitarian consignments reaching parts of northern Shan State [197]. Road and transport disruptions from fighting and airstrikes have severed links to frontline and border towns; for example, roads connecting multiple villages to Myawaddy Town were disrupted after sustained airstrikes, complicating supply routes and cross-border assistance [187][185]. Systematic administrative and movement restrictions imposed on the Rohingya—including requirements for travel permissions, receipt cards or NVC registration, curfews, and extortion at checkpoints that block access to clinics and services—have denied communities freedom of movement and constrained humanitarian reach and protection in Rakhine State [189][196]. Humanitarian staff and partners continue to operate under the same insecurity and constraints as affected populations, with temporary access arrangements remaining necessary in some areas [185].

Humanitarian Access Gaps

Conflict-driven access gaps are concentrated in northwestern Myanmar (notably Sagaing, Magway and Chin), southeastern areas (Bago, Kayin, Mon and Tanintharyi), and persist across Rakhine, Shan, Kayah and Kachin states [185]. Since the start of 2026, hostilities displaced over 28,000 people across Magway and Sagaing, and more than 30,000 people remain displaced in Nattalin Township (Bago Region) following late-2025 escalation [185].

Critical sector shortfalls include health—medicine shortages and disrupted services—shelter, with more than 870 houses reported damaged or destroyed since mid-January, and protection and dignity supplies for women and girls, with shortages of menstrual products and hygiene kits reported in Chin and Sagaing IDP sites and MHF-supported distributions in Kayah and Shan [188][185]. Displaced populations face the greatest difficulty accessing consistent life-saving services, particularly IDPs in northwestern and southeastern frontlines, women and girls in camps, children exposed to landmine risk, and Rohingya refugees facing declining assistance and hazardous sea departures [185][188][204]. Although temporary access arrangements and local partner channels—including MHF-supported distributions—enabled large-scale and rapid deliveries in 2025, they remain insufficient to overcome access constraints caused by insecurity, contamination and underfunding [185].

Information, Communication and AAP

Information Landscape

According to OCHA's Myanmar Humanitarian Update No.51 (9 March 2026), humanitarian partners reached 6.3 million people in 2025 (94% of a 6.7 million target) and the earthquake response reached 1.7 million people, while funding shortfalls left only 28% of the \$1.4 billion 2025 requirement funded [208][207]. The 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan requests US\$890 million to reach 4.9 million people and humanitarians are prioritizing 2.6 million people with the most severe needs [207]. OCHA describes a highly fragmented operating environment — restricted mobility, shifting frontlines and uneven access — that constrains data collection, verification and information-sharing among actors [208]. The UN Human Rights Office reported at least 982 civilian deaths from airstrikes in 2025, illustrating reliance on UN monitoring for civilian harm figures [208]. Mine and ERW monitoring reported record casualties — Landmine Monitor recorded 2,029 mine/ERW casualties in 2024 and 357 in the first half of 2025, and at least 4 civilians killed and 17 injured have been reported since the start of 2026 — with reporting delays likely causing undercounts [208]. Humanitarian coordination includes field verification and engagement: the UN Humanitarian Coordinator visited Rakhine on 27 January 2026, and Myanmar Humanitarian Fund partners conducted community consultations ahead of dignity-kit distributions, indicating some direct community-level information collection [208]. NGO documentation practices (for example, Asian Dignity Initiative's 2018 Rohingya interviews conducted in the Rohingya language using recorded statements and satellite mapping) show capacity for detailed community-level evidence-gathering, though those datasets predate 2026 [214]. Overall, primary information sources cited in the updates are UN agencies (OCHA, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF), monitoring bodies (Landmine Monitor), UN-managed funds (MHF), local partners and NGOs, but fragmented access, reporting delays and severe underfunding limit data completeness, timeliness and the ability to fully validate needs and response monitoring [207][208][225][214].

Communication Channels

Humanitarian actors publish regular OCHA Humanitarian Updates and use social media channels (Facebook and X) to share operational information and public messaging [207][208]. The UN Humanitarian Coordinator visited displacement sites in Sittwe on 27 January 2026, and local partners carry out consultations ahead of distributions such as dignitykit deliveries in Shan State, indicating active facetoface community engagement [208]. Reports in March 2026 note plans for a Russian-designed satellite ground station and a related reference to mandatory phone IMEI registration, signalling regime efforts to expand and tighten control over telecommunications [215][209]. Historical documentation shows social media (notably Facebook) was used to incite violence against the Rohingya, underscoring ongoing misinformation and protection risks around digital platforms [219]. Humanitarians therefore rely heavily on inperson channels and temporary access arrangements to reach people rapidly in emergencies (for example the 2025 earthquake response reached 1.7 million people), but funding and access constraints limit the scale, frequency and consistency of informationsharing to affected communities [208][207].

Barriers to Information

Explosive hazards and newly placed landmines have been reported near civilian infrastructure, including mobile phone towers, restricting freedom of movement and impeding humanitarian access; since the start of 2026 at least four civilians were killed and 17 injured in landmine/ERW incidents [208]. Air operations, drone activity and airstrikes in early 2026 damaged homes and civilian infrastructure and temporarily disrupted movement and access to services along key routes, further degrading communities' ability to receive and share information [208]. Large-scale displacement and fragmented populations have reduced access to information: more than 3.6 million people are estimated displaced nationwide and over 30,000 people remain displaced in Nattalin Township since late 2025, fracturing information channels and community networks [208]. Systematic movement controls and administrative barriers faced by Rohingya—curfews, requirements for travel permits (Tawkenza/Form No.4), confiscation of prior documents and issuance of restrictive 'receipt' cards—have historically prevented free movement to services and information sources [219][214]. The Myanmar authorities' obstruction of humanitarian access, coupled with steep funding shortfalls for the humanitarian response, has reduced the scale and frequency of communication and information-sharing by aid actors to affected populations [210][208]. Reports in March 2026 that the military is tightening digital surveillance via mandatory phone IMEI registration pose additional risks of chilling information sharing and independent reporting [209][224].

Misinformation and Rumors

Investigations and international media have documented that online platforms — notably Facebook in earlier phases of the crisis — were used to incite violence and amplify false narratives against the Rohingya [214][219]. Misinformation sources identified in reports include social media, local actors and leaders spreading hate speech, and official narratives that have denied Rohingya identity or downplayed atrocities [214]. False and prejudiced information contributed to mass violence, displacement and the targeting of civilians, as documented in survivor testimonies and NGO reporting of killings, arson and forced displacement [214][219]. Humanitarian and rights actors have urged legal measures, education campaigns and sanctions against hate speech and prejudiced information, and recommended referral to international accountability mechanisms to address disinformation-driven harms [214].

Affected communities frequently mistrust official government information (for example, widespread refusal to accept NVC identity cards) and instead rely on local humanitarian staff, trained community interviewers and independent media for information and verification [214][210]. Ongoing insecurity and constrained operating environments in 2026 have further complicated efforts by humanitarians to reach populations with verified information and counter misinformation [208].

Accountability Needs and Transparency

The UN Humanitarian Coordinator conducted field engagement, visiting displacement sites in Sittwe on 27 January 2026 to assess needs and response priorities, signalling senior-level engagement with affected communities and partners [208]. Consultation was undertaken ahead of dignitykit distributions in Shan State, and Myanmar Humanitarian Fund partners reported that the kits conveyed recognition of women's needs, indicating some participatory practice and positive community perceptions of that support [208]. Humanitarians state that temporary access arrangements enabled rapid delivery in hardest-hit areas, and described those prioritisation choices as "conscious and transparent decisions" to maximise limited resources, reflecting some operational transparency in decision-making [208]. Significant gaps remain: restricted mobility, shifting frontlines and access constraints continue to impede scale, coverage and frequency of assistance, forcing partners to prioritise only the most lifethreatening needs and deliver reduced or less frequent support [208]. Persistent underfunding and service disruptions are driving households into "impossible choices" (skipping meals, taking dangerous journeys), undermining the adequacy of the response and community satisfaction with available assistance [207].

Legal and Policy

Legal and Policy Framework

UN and humanitarian reporting documents extensive violations of international humanitarian law and human rights in Myanmar, noting widespread airstrikes, landmine and explosive remnant of war use, and mass displacement. The UN Human Rights Office reported that airstrikes attributed to Myanmar's armed forces killed at least 982 civilians in 2025, including 287 children [231]. More than 3.6 million people are displaced nationwide as of early 2026 [231]. Humanitarian sources and monitoring bodies report record levels of landmine and ERW casualties, with 2,029 reported in 2024 and 357 in the first half of 2025, and at least 4 civilians killed and 17 injured in landmine/ERW incidents since the start of 2026 [231]. The UN SecretaryGeneral and the Humanitarian Coordinator have publicly urged parties to uphold IHL and IHRL, protect civilians, and enable safe, sustained and unimpeded humanitarian access, with the SecretaryGeneral issuing a statement on 30 January 2026 and the Humanitarian Coordinator visiting Rakhine in late January 2026 to assess needs [231]. Independent factfinding bodies, NGOs and survivor reports have called for accountability through referral to the International Criminal Court or establishment of special/adhoc tribunals and for truthseeking investigations proceeding without immunity [236][237]. Civil society and survivorbased recommendations demand the Myanmar government end discriminatory legal practices against the Rohingya, including forced NVC registration, restore citizenship rights, adopt antidiscrimination legislation, and ensure Rohingya participation in repatriation and remedy processes [236][237]. Reporting indicates domestic accountability mechanisms are effectively nonfunctional and that Myanmar authorities have denied genocide allegations and failed to cooperate with international efforts, underpinning international referral proposals and calls for external investigation [236][237].

Humanitarian Impact of Legislation

Asian Dignity Initiative and related investigations document systemic legal and administrative measures against the Rohingya, including revocation and nonrecognition of citizenship, confiscation of temporary registration cards and pressured or forced NVC registration, curfews and multilevel travel permit regimes (Tawkenza/Form No.4) with extortionate bribes, marriage and reproductive controls with heavy fines, bans on voting and public employment, and denial of healthcare and education. These measures effectively deny legal identity, freedom of movement and basic rights and undermine prospects for safe, voluntary return and durable solutions [236][237]. Reports of forced bribes, fines and coerced administrative controls reflect entrenched abuses and corrupt practices that undermine rule of law and impede enforcement of protections [236]. International recommendations have urged Myanmar to cease registering Rohingya with NVC and to restore citizenship and participation rights as prerequisites for safe repatriation and access to basic rights [237][236]. According to the Myanmar Humanitarian Update No.51 (9 March 2026), the operating environment is highly fragmented with restricted mobility, shifting frontlines and uneven access that constrain humanitarian operations [231]. The update documents recent localized displacements, including over 30,000 people remaining displaced in Nattalin Township since late 2025 and more than 28,000 displaced across Magway and Sagaing since the start of 2026, with shelter destruction of over 870 houses exacerbating access and protection needs [231]. Humanitarian access and freedom of movement are further impeded by rising use of antipersonnel landmines and explosive remnants of war; contamination near civilian infrastructure continues to restrict movement and impede assistance [231]. More than 400 aerial attacks during December 2025–January 2026 killed over 170 civilians, further limiting safe humanitarian access and protection [231]. Humanitarian actors report that access constraints and insecurity continue to limit the scale and reach of lifesaving assistance [231][229].

International Agreements Impacting the Crisis

On 30 January 2026, UN SecretaryGeneral António Guterres strongly condemned all forms of violence and urged parties to uphold international human rights law and international humanitarian law and to enable safe, sustained and unimpeded access for the United Nations and its partners to deliver humanitarian assistance and essential services to all those in need [231]. Humanitarian coordination documents state the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan calls for US\$890 million to reach 4.9 million people, while partners reached 6.3 million people at least once in 2025 and funding by end2025 covered only 28 percent of the \$1.4 billion required, constraining implementation of agreed humanitarian response frameworks [229][231]. UN experts have urged sustained international pressure, noting sanctions targeting militarycontrolled businesses and arms supply networks have disrupted the junta's ability to acquire weapons, while also warning that humanitarian funding is already declining and may fall further as global attention

shifts to the Middle East conflict [233][234]. Multiple civilsociety and victimsurvivor reports recommend referral to the International Criminal Court or creation of a special/adhoc tribunal without immunity for perpetrators, and note that Myanmar authorities have not cooperated with impartial truthseeking efforts [236][237]. Bangladesh has warned that repeated bilateral repatriation attempts have failed due to lack of security guarantees, citizenship recognition and basic rights for Rohingya, and has called for stronger international diplomatic engagement to create conditions for safe, voluntary and dignified returns [235].

Limitations of Current Policies

Humanitarian delivery is severely constrained by chronic underfunding and access restrictions. Humanitarian partners reached 6.3 million people in 2025 but had received only 28% of the \$1.4 billion required by end2025, and the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan requests US\$890 million to reach 4.9 million people in Myanmar [231][229]. Underfunding combined with security constraints has forced partners to prioritise only the most lifethreatened people and to reduce the frequency and coverage of assistance, pushing families into dangerous coping strategies such as skipping meals and risky movements [229][231]. Active policy and operational barriers, including widespread air operations, drone activity and aerial attacks, contributed to restrictions on humanitarian access and safe returns [231]. Escalating hostilities since late 2025 and early 2026 have driven large new displacements (more than 3.6 million displaced nationwide overall and over 28,000 newly displaced across Magway and Sagaing since the start of 2026), damaging shelter and further outstripping response capacity [231]. Systemic legal and administrative discrimination against the Rohingya, including denial and revocation of citizenship, coercive NVC registration, and restrictions on movement, marriage, employment and access to services, contradicts international human rights obligations and blocks safe, voluntary return and remedy. Civil society and survivor groups urge referral to the ICC or an ad hoc tribunal and legislative reforms to restore rights [237][236]. While temporary access arrangements enabled rapid earthquake response in 2025, overall policy mechanisms lack credible, sustained enforcement, impartial investigation pathways (domestic truthseeking has been obstructed) and adaptive modalities to ensure safe, sustained and unimpeded humanitarian access amid intensifying conflict [229][231][236].

Food Security and Livelihoods

Access to Food and Market Functionality

Blockades and armed clashes have directly disrupted food supplies across multiple regions. The MNDA has blocked shipments into Kutkai, Namtu, Namhsan and Mantong, inspecting vehicles and preventing crates of staples including rice and cooking oil from passing, reducing local availability in northern Shan State [248]. In southern Myawaddy Township road and village access have been cut (Wawlay, Sonseemyaing, Hpalu to Myawaddy Town), with displaced people reporting that food shortages were only averted because donors from Thailand and local aid groups provided supplies despite travel disruptions [244]. Middle East tensions and higher oil prices are straining Myanmar's fragile fuel supply, with regional export controls and cases of fuel smuggling highlighting crossborder disruptions, and a 6 March 2026 NUG directive restricting fuel transit to Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States risks creating black markets and sharp local fuel price rises that would further constrain transport of food and goods [247][265][263]. In Moebye gasoline was reported at 10,000–15,000 kyat per litre and hiring a vehicle 100,000–150,000 kyat, intensifying barriers to market access and relocation [258]. Landmines and explosive remnants continue to restrict movement and impede humanitarian and market access across conflict areas, limiting safe delivery and returns and exacerbating supply constraints [243]. High inflation and steady economic decline are eroding purchasing power: the World Bank estimated inflation to remain above 20% and a real GDP contraction of 2% for the fiscal year ending March 2026, forcing households into survival coping [242][245]. Targeted local distributions, such as Myanmar Humanitarian Fund dignitykit distributions, have helped some households redirect scarce income toward food and essentials, but these interventions are insufficient to offset wider market and access disruptions [243].

Coping Mechanisms

Families are skipping meals, taking dangerous journeys and exposing themselves to serious risks to survive as underfunding, inflation and access restrictions push households into impossible choices [242][243]. Households have resorted to selling assets and taking on debt to survive, including accounts of people handing over gold ornaments to pay boat guides and borrowing money that remains being repaid [254]. Women and caregivers report cutting back on essential items and their own health to keep families afloat, with Myanmar Humanitarian Fund-supported dignity kits described as helping households redirect limited income toward food, school fees and other essentials [243]. People are undertaking dangerous migration as a foodsecurity coping strategy: internal migration from conflict-affected areas to Yangon has risen, and UNHCR recorded 892 Rohingya who died or went missing in 2025 attempting sea crossings, warning that dwindling aid and desperation are driving such journeys and exploitation [245][261]. Displacement and camp settings show rising vulnerability to exploitation and recruitment of children by gangs and armed groups, increasing risks of child labour, trafficking and other harmful coping mechanisms [261].

Livelihood Disruption

Prolonged conflict, repeated displacement and reduced assistance have forced many households into trade-offs between safety, food, health care and livelihoods [243]. Nationwide displacement exceeds 3.6 million—roughly half in northwestern areas—concentrating livelihood losses in Sagaing, Magway, Chin, Bago and Kayah [243]. Since the start of 2026 more than 28,000 people were displaced across Magway and Sagaing and shelter damage since mid-January damaged or destroyed over 870 houses, disrupting incomes and market access for affected households [243]. Business closures in manufacturing and hospitality have been reported since the 2021 coup, with some proprietors shutting enterprises and channeling funds into real estate as a wealth hedge—reducing local employment opportunities and shifting economic activity toward speculation [245]. Conflict-related access constraints and explosive hazards (landmines/ERW) limit movement and impede farming and market access, contributing to loss of livelihoods; since early 2026 at least 4 civilians were killed and 17 injured in landmine/ERW incidents reported to date [243]. Actor-imposed blockades and checkpoints are disrupting supply chains and markets—MNDA blockades halted shipments of rice, cooking oil and other goods to TNLA-controlled towns, constraining food availability and trade [248]. Specific groups face structural exclusion: Rohingya testimonies report denial of government employment and repeated land confiscations that removed key agricultural assets and reduced household income, forcing precarious survival strategies [249].

Impact on Agricultural Activities and Production

Landmines and explosive remnants of war have caused civilian casualties during farming, foraging and accessing resources, contributing to loss of livelihoods, with at least 4 civilians killed and 17 injured in reported incidents since the start of 2026 [243]. More than 3.6 million people displaced nationwide (about half in northwestern Myanmar) and since the start of 2026 over 28,000 people were newly displaced across Magway and Sagaing, with additional displacements in Mandalay, Chin and other regions, reducing rural labor availability and disrupting agricultural cycles [243]. Airstrikes and ground hostilities have damaged plantations and agricultural property—for example in Mon State where aerial attacks and shelling damaged plantations and displaced more than 10,000 people since early February 2026 [243]. Armed-group blockades and fighting are disrupting transport and market access: the MNDA has blocked trucks carrying melons and other goods to TNLA-controlled towns (including restrictions on rice, cooking oil and bottled water), and roads linking villages to Myawaddy Town were severed by repeated airstrikes, forcing reliance on crossborder donors and local aid to avert food shortages [248][244]. Global energy pressures are threatening Myanmar's fragile fuel supply, risking constraints on mechanized irrigation and transport [247]. UNODC reported that opium production has more than doubled since the 2021 coup and that poppy was cultivated on over 53,000 hectares last year, indicating a conflict-driven shift toward illicit cash crops that undermines sustainable agricultural livelihoods [251].

Food and Livelihood Needs and Current Response

Humanitarian partners provided large-scale lifesaving assistance during 2025, including a dedicated earthquake response that reached 1.7 million people, and distributed dignity and hygiene kits through the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF) while CERF-funded interventions supported potable water and WASH systems to affected communities [242][243]. By 31 December 2025 partners had reached 6.3 million people (94 percent of a 6.7 million target), though the response was constrained by funding shortfalls and access limitations [243][242]. Funding gaps are acute: by end 2025 only 28 percent of a \$1.4 billion requirement had been received, forcing partners to prioritise and deliver reduced or less frequent assistance [243]. The 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan requests US\$890 million to reach 4.9 million people, with humanitarians focusing efforts on 2.6 million people with the very most severe needs [242]. New displacement and insecurity in northwestern areas since early 2026 left more than 28,000 people newly displaced across Magway and Sagaing with only limited lifesaving assistance initiated due to funding and access constraints [243]. Protection and basic needs gaps include shortages of menstrual supplies and medicines for IDP women in Chin and Sagaing (reported in February–March 2026), alongside inadequate gendersegregated WASH facilities and safety concerns in camps [252]. The expanding presence of landmines and explosive remnants of war continues to restrict movement, impede humanitarian access and livelihoods, and has caused civilian casualties (including at least 4 killed and 17 injured in reported incidents since the start of 2026) [243]. Humanitarian response has relied on temporary access arrangements and pooled funding mechanisms (MHF, CERF) to prioritise gendersensitive items and WASH services, while UN leadership and the Humanitarian Coordinator have repeatedly urged authorities to enable safe, sustained and unimpeded access for relief operations [243][242]. Local crossborder and community donors also stepped in in some areas—for example, Thai donors helped avert food shortages for displaced people around Myawaddy amid disrupted road access [244].

Education

Learning Environment and Facility Conditions

According to the UN Humanitarian Update No. 51 (9 March 2026), airstrikes, drone attacks and mortar shelling in Mon State damaged homes, schools, vehicles and plantations and displaced more than 10,000 people since early February 2026 [267]. The same update reported that mid-January air operations and drone activity in Kyauktaga Township damaged homes and temporarily disrupted movement and access to services, displacing over 1,000 people from several villages [267]. UN Humanitarian Update No. 51 also noted that air attacks in Rakhine State in 2025 destroyed homes, medical facilities, displacement camps and other civilian infrastructure, with aerial attacks continuing into the electoral period in December 2025–January 2026 [267]. Widespread conflict across Sagaing, Magway, Chin, Bago and Kayin continues to drive displacement and insecurity that impede school functionality and access to services, with more than 3.6 million people displaced nationwide [267]. Testimonies compiled in the report “We had nowhere to hide from the military.” document systemic denial of education for Rohingya, including classroom segregation, teacher discrimination, closure of madrasas and barriers to higher education and examinations [273][271]. A March 2026 assessment by Women for Justice reported that IDP camps in Chin State and Sagaing Region lack properly gendersegregated toilets and have insufficient sanitation and showers, creating safety and dignity concerns for displaced women and girls [269]. IDP sites in these areas also report shortages of medicines and menstrual products, further undermining girls’ safety, dignity and ability to attend school or learning activities [269][272].

Access to Education and Barriers

Explosive hazards and landmines have increasingly restricted safe movement to schools and other services, with at least 4 civilians killed and 17 injured in reported landmine/ERW incidents since the start of 2026, including children [267]. Widespread displacement—more than 3.6 million people displaced nationwide, roughly half in northwestern Myanmar—has disrupted enrolment and regular attendance in conflict-affected areas [267]. Severe funding shortfalls for the humanitarian response have constrained services and support that could help maintain education access, with partners reporting underfunding through 2025 that limited assistance scale and frequency [267]. Humanitarian support such as Myanmar Humanitarian Fund dignity kits has been reported to free limited household resources, allowing families to redirect scarce income toward essentials including school fees, but such assistance is partial and targeted [267]. Systematic, long-standing discrimination against Rohingya—documented barriers including segregation in classrooms, teachers beating or neglecting Rohingya pupils, and prohibition from pursuing higher education—has driven dropouts and foreclosed educational progression for Rohingya children and youth [273][271]. Movement controls (Tawkenza, Form No.4, checkpoint bribes and curfews forbidding leaving homes between sunset and sunrise) and checkpoints have directly prevented children from reaching schools and madrasa, with arrests, fines or beatings reported for those who tried to travel without or despite permissions [273]. Forced fines and extortion tied to household registration and “additional” children (reported fines ranging widely per child) have reduced household resources and increased barriers to affording education-related costs [271]. Some Rohingya students reportedly ceased schooling after being beaten or persecuted en route to or at school, further increasing non-attendance and dropout risks [273].

Education Needs and Current Response

Humanitarian partners delivered lifesaving assistance at scale in 2025—reaching 6.3 million people—but received only 28% of the \$1.4 billion required, forcing prioritization and reduced assistance that constrained education and other services [267]. Partners have initiated limited lifesaving assistance for newly displaced populations, but funding shortfalls, access restrictions and insecurity continue to limit the scale and reach of education-related programming while shelter and recovery needs remain critical [267]. Explosive hazards and newly placed landmines have restricted movement and disproportionately affected children, impeding safe access to schools and community learning spaces [267]. Humanitarian coordination efforts included senior missions to assess needs and priorities, for example the Humanitarian Coordinator’s visit to Rakhine State in late January 2026 [267].

Health

Availability and Access to Healthcare Services

Air attacks in 2025 destroyed homes, medical facilities and IDP camps in Rakhine, reducing local service availability and causing civilian casualties that further strain health care provision [281]. Landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) and front-line shifts are restricting movement and impeding humanitarian and patient access to services, with at least 4 civilians killed and 17 injured in reported landmine/ERW incidents since the start of 2026 [281]. Humanitarian partners say funding shortfalls have curtailed the scale and frequency of assistance to health and other services, noting that by end2025 only 28% of the \$1.4 billion required had been received, forcing prioritization and reduced support to people with severe needs [281]. Rohingya testimonies and investigations document systematic barriers to care, including denial of treatment at clinics, requirements for travel permission (Tawkenza/Form No.4), extortion and forced bribes at checkpoints (reports include bribes and fines up to and exceeding 50,000 kyat), all of which have blocked access to medical treatment and maternal services for Rohingya populations [289][288]. A Women for Justice report (published 5 March 2026) found IDP women in Chin State and Sagaing Region face shortages of medicines, lack of menstrual products, insufficient gender-segregated WASH facilities and safety concerns that impede access to health care, including for pregnant and gynecological patients [283].

Disease Outbreaks

CERF-funded, UNICEF-documented solar water systems are providing potable water to households in northwestern Myanmar, improving WASH access in affected areas [281]. The Myanmar Humanitarian Fund supported distributions of dignity kits with sanitary products and hygiene items to displaced women and girls in Kayah and northern Shan to address menstrual health and hygiene needs [281][289].

Health System Challenges

Airstrikes and aerial attacks destroyed or damaged medical facilities, clinics and displacement sites in Rakhine State and elsewhere, reducing local health service capacity [281]. The hospital serving Tigyain township has been closed since the 2021 coup and recent airstrikes in early March 2026 killed and injured civilians in the area, further disrupting health services [295]. National and international health staff and frontline responders operate under the same insecurity as affected communities, constraining service continuity and outreach [281]. High numbers of landmine/ERW casualties in 2024–2025 (2,029 casualties in 2024 and 357 recorded in the first half of 2025) significantly increased demand for trauma and rehabilitation services [281]. Funding shortfalls have constrained health and humanitarian programming: by end2025 only 28% of the US\$1.4 billion required had been received, and the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan requests US\$890 million to reach 4.9 million people while humanitarians prioritise 2.6 million with the most severe needs [281][280]. Underfunding, access restrictions and repeated displacement have reduced the depth and frequency of assistance, forcing partners to prioritise lifesaving interventions and limiting routine health care and referrals [280][281].

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

Humanitarian partners reported that prolonged conflict, repeated displacement and reduced assistance have heightened vulnerability and increased psychosocial needs among affected households [281]. Since the start of 2026, at least 4 civilians were killed and 17 injured in reported landmine and explosive remnants of war incidents, with children among the casualties, exacerbating trauma and protection concerns [281]. A Women for Justice report released 5 March on Chin State and Sagaing Region found IDP women faced shortages of medicines and menstrual supplies, unsafe and nonsegregated WASH facilities, daily sexual harassment, and widespread psychological trauma linked to domestic violence and family problems [283]. With Myanmar Humanitarian Fund support, partners distributed dignity kits to displaced women and girls in Kayah and Shan states; humanitarian staff noted these distributions helped protect safety and dignity and signalled that women's needs were recognized [281]. Asian Dignity Initiative interviews noted survivors remained traumatized in followup interviews and the organization's reports call for remedies including restoration of rights and financial recompense for those who have suffered psychological harm [289]. Ongoing displacement, civilian harm and repeated shocks are elevating protection risks and likely increasing MHPSS needs across multiple states (including Sagaing, Magway, Chin, Bago and Kayin), with partners prioritizing the most severe needs in 2026 [281].

Health Needs and Current Response

The most urgent healthcare needs are trauma and emergency surgical care for casualties from airstrikes and landmines, maternal and reproductive health services (including obstetric care and menstrual supplies), provision of essential medicines, and continuity of care and rehabilitation for people with chronic conditions and conflict-related injuries [281][283][288]. Key recent figures illustrate the scale and risks: More than 3.6 million people are displaced nationwide, increasing pressure on health services and camps [281]. Airstrikes attributed to Myanmar Armed Forces killed at least 982 civilians in 2025, including 287 children, and destroyed medical facilities in Rakhine State [281]. Myanmar recorded 2,029 landmine and explosive ordnance casualties in 2024, with 357 casualties in the first half of 2025, and since the start of 2026 at least 4 civilians killed and 17 injured in reported incidents, exacerbating urgent surgical and rehabilitation needs [281]. More than 28,000 people were displaced across Magway and Sagaing since the start of 2026, with only limited lifesaving assistance reached in some areas due to insecurity and funding gaps [281]. Current health and protection-focused interventions include distribution of dignity and hygiene packages (sanitary products and related items) to displaced women and girls funded by the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund and delivered by local partners in Kayah and Shan States, and CERF/UNICEF-supported solar water systems improving potable water access in affected areas [281]. Humanitarian partners reported initiating limited lifesaving assistance to newly displaced populations, while humanitarian reporting and coordination is led by OCHA in collaboration with the InterCluster Coordination Group and UN agencies [281]. Humanitarian partners reached 6.3 million people at least once in 2025 (94% of a 6.7 million target) but significant underfunding remains—by end2025 only 28% of \$1.4 billion required had been received—and the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan requests US\$890 million to reach 4.9 million people, constraining the scale and frequency of health services [281].

Major health system gaps include destroyed or damaged medical facilities (notably in Rakhine), critical shortages of medicines and menstrual and reproductive health supplies in IDP sites (Chin and Sagaing reported), explosive hazard contamination and ongoing insecurity that impede access and safe delivery of services, and funding shortfalls that force prioritization of lifesaving interventions over routine and chronic care [281][283]. OCHA, the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group, and UN agencies lead reporting and planning; the Humanitarian Coordinator conducted field visits to Rakhine in January 2026 to assess priorities; response delivery involves UN agencies (e.g., UNICEF), the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund, CERF, and local partners for distributions and WASH support [281].

Nutrition

Availability and Access to Nutrition Services

Humanitarian partners report that underfunding, inflation and access restrictions have forced many households to skip meals, take dangerous journeys and expose themselves to serious risks to survive, reducing household food consumption and coping capacity [298]. Funding shortfalls significantly constrained the scale, coverage and frequency of assistance in 2025, with only 28% of the \$1.4 billion required received, limiting delivery of nutrition and other lifesaving services [298]. Localized food shortages were reported in southern Myawaddy Township due to disrupted roads and access, with food scarcity averted only after donors from Thailand and local aid organisations provided assistance [299]. Response scale and access are further limited by insecurity, repeated displacement, and explosive hazard contamination, with landmine and ERW incidents causing civilian casualties and impeding humanitarian access and returns in 2024–2026 [298][297]. Critical gaps affecting nutrition outcomes include shortages of medicines and menstrual supplies and inadequate gendersegregated WASH and sanitation in IDP sites in Chin State and Sagaing Region, undermining maternal and child care [300]. Reductions in international funding have already affected food rations, education and health programmes in Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar, heightening risks to refugee nutrition and services for children and pregnant women [303].

Nutrition Needs and Current Response

Food insecurity and negative coping are widespread, with more than 12 million people facing acute hunger and displaced households reported skipping meals to survive [301][297]. Humanitarian partners continued to deliver lifesaving assistance at scale, reaching 6.3 million people in 2025 (94% of a 6.7 million target), although support was often insufficient in depth and frequency [298][297]. The 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan requests US\$890 million to reach 4.9 million people, with 2.6 million people prioritised for the most severe needs in 2026 [297]. Documented assistance relevant to nutrition and household food security includes emergency lifesaving distributions in 2025, dignity kit distributions for displaced women and girls funded by the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund in Kayah and Shan, and a CERF-supported solar potable water system in northwestern Myanmar implemented with UNICEF support [297][298].

WASH

Availability of Water Sources

According to the Myanmar Humanitarian Update No. 51 (9 March 2026), CERF-supported solar-powered systems now supply potable water directly to household taps in northwestern Myanmar, replacing prior reliance on diesel-powered pumps [307]. However, access remains severely constrained in many displacement sites. A Women for Justice report released 5 March 2026 found that IDP camps in Chin State and Sagaing Region have a limited number of toilets and showers, indicating broader water and sanitation infrastructure deficits in those sites [309]. Additionally, explosive hazards and landmines are restricting freedom of movement and impeding access to essential resources, including water sources, further constraining safe access in multiple conflict-affected areas [307].

Access to Sanitation Facilities and Hygiene Practices

The Women for Justice report covering conditions in February found that IDP camps in Chin State and Sagaing Region face critical sanitation and hygiene gaps. Toilets are rarely properly gender-segregated, and the limited number of toilets and showers leaves women feeling unsafe [309]. These camps also face shortages of menstrual supplies and medicines [309]. In response, the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF) funded distribution of dignity kits containing sanitary products and hygiene supplies to displaced women and girls in Kayah and Shan states; recipients reported improved safety and dignity in daily living as a result of these distributions [307].

Waste Management and Vector-Borne Disease Risks

No specific information on waste management systems or vector-borne disease risks was reported in the available data for this period.

Main WASH Needs and Humanitarian Response

Key WASH needs identified across northwestern Myanmar include restoration of safe water supply, rehabilitation of sanitation infrastructure with proper gender segregation, and distribution of hygiene and menstrual health supplies to displaced populations. The humanitarian response has included UNICEF and CERF-supported installation of solar-powered water systems delivering potable water to families in northwestern Myanmar, and MHF-funded distribution of dignity kits to displaced women and girls in Kayah and Shan states [307]. However, significant gaps persist. Humanitarian partners reached 6.3 million people by 31 December 2025, achieving 94% of the 6.7 million target [307]. By end-2025 only 28% of the \$1.4 billion required was received, creating shortfalls that reduced the scale, coverage and frequency of assistance [307]. The 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan requests US\$890 million to reach 4.9 million people, while humanitarian partners are prioritizing 2.6 million people with the most severe needs in 2026 [308]. Funding gaps, ongoing insecurity and access constraints are explicitly reported as limiting the scale, frequency and geographic reach of WASH and other life-saving services [307][308].

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

Damage to Housing and Shelter Needs

Conflict and aerial operations have produced widespread housing destruction and urgent shelter needs across multiple regions in early 2026, with critical pressure on available safe housing and communal services [318]. More than 3.6 million people are estimated to be displaced nationwide, with roughly half located in northwestern Myanmar [318]. Since the beginning of 2026, over 28,000 people were displaced across Magway and Sagaing regions [318]. More than 30,000 people remain displaced in Nattalin Township, Bago Region (displacement ongoing since late 2025) [318]. Air operations and drone activity in mid-January damaged homes and displaced over 1,000 people in Kyauktaga Township, Bago Region [318]. Mon State hostilities (airstrikes, drone attacks, mortar shelling) have damaged homes, schools and plantations and displaced more than 10,000 people since early February [318]. Since mid-January, more than 870 houses were reported damaged or destroyed across multiple locations, including heavy losses in Myingyan (Mandalay Region) and in Myaing and Pakokku (Magway Region) [318]. The March 2025 earthquake previously damaged or destroyed over 55,000 homes across Mandalay, Sagaing and Naypyitaw areas [322]. Entire communities are sheltering in collective sites—for example, more than 2,500 people displaced to Hpakant Town are sheltering in a church compound and with host families—and large numbers remain in town-based displacement sites such as Thandwe (an estimated 20,000 displaced in early January) and Nattalin [318]. Airstrikes around Myawaddy (8–12 March) destroyed numerous houses and other civilian buildings including monasteries, pagodas, schools and clinics, further reducing local shelter capacity and damaging community infrastructure [323]. Explosive hazards and landmine contamination are impeding safe returns and reconstruction and have caused civilian casualties since the start of 2026 (at least four killed and 17 injured), complicating shelter and recovery efforts [318]. Shelter needs remain labelled critical by humanitarian partners, with priority areas for shelter interventions in northwestern Myanmar (Sagaing, Magway, Chin), southeastern fronts (Bago, Kayin, Mon) and parts of Rakhine, where ongoing hostilities continue to drive new displacement [318].

Living Conditions in Camps or Settlements

Living conditions in displacement sites and informal settlements remain severely inadequate, with high population density driven by the approximately 1.8 million displaced people located in northwestern Myanmar alone [318]. IDP camps in Chin State and Sagaing Region face shortages of medicines and menstrual products, limited and poorly gendersegregated toilets and showers that leave women feeling unsafe, and reports of daily sexual harassment and verbal abuse against women, according to a Women for Justice report released on 5 March 2026 [320]. Displacement sites and camps show gaps in basic services and dignity needs, indicating that many shelter locations remain inadequate for longterm habitation [320]. CERF-supported solarpowered potable water systems have been installed and now provide tap water to families in northwestern Myanmar, improving access to clean water in some sites [318]. Humanitarian partners have distributed dignity kits (sanitary items, hygiene supplies and lights) to displaced women and girls with support from the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund, while insecurity and significant funding shortfalls continue to constrain the scale and frequency of assistance [318]. Explosive hazards and landmines continue to threaten displaced civilians, restrict movement and impede safe returns, with Myanmar recording high landmine casualties (2,029 in 2024; 357 in the first half of 2025) and at least 4 civilians killed and 17 injured in landmine/ERW incidents since the start of 2026 [318].

NFI and Shelter Needs and Current Response

More than 3.6 million people are estimated to be internally displaced nationwide, with new displacement since early 2026 concentrated in Magway and Sagaing (over 28,000), ChaungU and YeU (about 17,000), Ngazun (nearly 5,000), Mindat (850+), and with large displacements in Rakhine (~20,000 in Thandwe), Mon (10,000+), southern ShanKayah border (6,000+), and Kachin (2,500+) [318]. Nonfood item (NFI) distributions reported include Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF)funded dignity kits—containing sanitary products, hygiene supplies and handcrank/flashlights—distributed to displaced women and girls in Kayah and Shan, and CERF-supported solarpowered potable water systems installed in northwestern Myanmar [318]. Humanitarian partners reached 6.3 million people at least once in 2025 but noted that the depth and frequency of assistance has often been insufficient, while the earthquake response reached 1.7 million people using temporary access arrangements [318][319]. Severe funding shortfalls are constraining NFI and shelter responses: by end2025 only 28% of the \$1.4 billion required had been received, and the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan requests US\$890 million to reach 4.9 million people while humanitarians are prioritizing 2.6 million people with the most severe needs [318][319]. Access, insecurity and explosive hazards (landmines/ERW) are major logistical impediments that restrict movement and impede humanitarian access and returns [318]. Consequently, partners report only limited lifesaving assistance for some affected groups and have been forced to prioritize who receives NFIs and shelter support, often delivering reduced or less frequent assistance due to insecurity and funding constraints [318][319].

Protection

Impact on civilians

Widespread armed conflict and intensified aerial attacks continue to drive civilian harm, displacement and elevated protection risks across Myanmar. Nationwide, more than 3.6 million people are estimated to be displaced [335]. Conflict has driven large-scale displacement and shelter loss in multiple regions: more than 30,000 people remain displaced in Nattalin Township (Bago) since late 2025, and hostilities in Bago Region have caused civilian casualties and movement disruptions along the Yangon–Mandalay highway [335]. In Mon State, airstrikes, drone attacks and mortar shelling have displaced more than 10,000 people since early February and damaged homes, schools, vehicles and plantations [335]. In Rakhine State, an estimated 20,000 displaced people remained in Thandwe Town in early January following intense fighting in Kyaukpyu Township and surrounding areas [335]. Since the start of 2026, more than 28,000 people were displaced across Magway and Sagaing regions and more than 870 houses were reported damaged or destroyed following escalations in mid-January, constraining shelter needs and response capacity [335].

Airstrikes and aerial activity have caused mounting civilian deaths and infrastructure damage. UN sources report at least 982 civilians killed by airstrikes in 2025, including 287 children, more than 190 deaths in Rakhine from air attacks, and over 400 aerial attacks between December 2025 and January 2026 that killed more than 170 civilians [335][344]. Protection incidents include targeted damage to civilian infrastructure such as homes, schools, medical facilities and IDP camps, mid-January air and drone operations that reportedly damaged homes and displaced over 1,000 people in Kyauktaga Township, and recurring attacks across Bago, Kayin, Mon, Tanintharyi, Shan, Kayah and Kachin that have caused civilian casualties and property loss [335].

Landmines and explosive remnants of war continue to cause high civilian harm and restrict movement. Myanmar recorded 2,029 landmine/ERW casualties in 2024 and 357 casualties in the first half of 2025, and since the start of 2026 at least 4 civilians have been killed and 17 injured in reported landmine/ERW incidents, with devices reported near civilian infrastructure and mobile towers [335].

Women and girls face heightened protection risks. A March statement reported more than 60 women, including a pregnant woman, killed in February and 66 women injured, and documented conflict-related sexual violence with nearly 1,000 cases recorded over recent years [338]. Additional acute protection risks documented include use of civilians as human shields and mass detentions or killings during operations: over 300 people were reported rescued from detention or use as human shields in Nyaunglebin operations, and separate reports documented civilians captured and killed in Bago, exacerbating fear, restricted movement and barriers to safe return [343][349].

Humanitarian access and essential services are severely constrained by insecurity and underfunding. Partners reached 6.3 million people in 2025 but funding shortfalls left only 28% of the \$1.4 billion requirement funded, limiting consistent lifesaving assistance and contributing to gaps in health, shelter, WASH and menstrual supplies reported in Chin and Sagaing IDP sites [335][336][337]. Longstanding loss of documentation and movement restrictions continue to impede protection and durable solutions. Rohingya communities have been denied citizenship, subjected to forced NVC registration and sweeping curfews, travel permissions and checkpoint controls that block access to services and freedom of movement [341].

Factors Driving protection risks

Widespread armed conflict and intensified aerial attacks continue to drive civilian harm, displacement and elevated protection risks across the country. Hotspots of intensified hostilities and protection risks include Sagaing, Magway, Chin, Bago, Kayin, Rakhine, Shan, Kayah and Kachin, with localized large displacements reported in early 2026 [335].

Landmines and explosive remnants of war are reported to restrict freedom of movement, impede safe returns and humanitarian access, and disproportionately affect children and routine livelihoods. The 2025 Landmine Monitor reported Myanmar recorded 2,029 landmine/ERW casualties in 2024 and 357 casualties in the first half of 2025, and since the start of 2026 at least 4 civilians have been killed and 17 injured in reported landmine/ERW incidents [335].

Arbitrary arrests, unlawful detention and forced labour have been documented, and systematic denial of citizenship, movement controls and discriminatory administrative measures against Rohingya create legal protection gaps and extreme vulnerability for that population [341][339].

Economic deprivation and severe funding shortfalls are forcing households into "impossible choices" such as skipping meals and risky movements, increasing risks of exploitation while insecurity and access constraints limit the scale and reach of humanitarian response. Humanitarian partners reached 6.3 million people in 2025, but by end-2025 only 28% of the \$1.4 billion required had been received, constraining assistance [336][335].

Psychological and mental health impacts

Since early 2026, recurrent fighting, mass displacement and explosive-hazard incidents have contributed to widespread trauma, heightened anxiety and other mental-health burdens among affected communities [335]. Children, displaced mothers, women survivors of sexual violence and injured landmine survivors face compounded psychological impacts. Displaced mothers report having to sacrifice their own health and dignity amid chronic stress despite dignity-kit distributions intended to alleviate some pressures [335].

Rohingya survivors consistently report severe, enduring psychological harm from mass killings, torture, rape and forced displacement, with documentation teams noting persistent trauma among interviewees and accounts of chronic pain and mental-health sequelae following injuries and sexual violence [341][339].

People are increasingly resorting to harmful coping mechanisms—skipping meals, taking dangerous irregular sea journeys and relying on smugglers—fueling exploitation, despair and additional trauma. UNHCR recorded 892 Rohingya dead or missing at sea in 2025 [335][346].

Availability of psychosocial support and protection services is constrained. Funding shortfalls, with only 28% of 2025 requirements received, and access restrictions limit the scale, frequency and coverage of services included in the 2026 response plan that seeks US\$890 million to reach 4.9 million people [335][336]. Key barriers to accessing care include pervasive insecurity and mobility constraints, shrinking funding and fear of retaliation or unsafe travel that deter survivors—particularly of sexual violence—and other vulnerable people from reporting or seeking services [335][337].

Protection Needs and Current Response

Humanitarian partners continue lifesaving assistance but scale and frequency are constrained by funding shortfalls and insecurity. Partners reached 6.3 million people in 2025, yet by end-2025 only 28% of the \$1.4 billion required had been received, forcing prioritization of the most severe needs and reduced or less frequent support for many [335].

Protection-focused activities reported include Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF) partner distributions of dignity kits and hygiene/safety items to displaced women and girls in Kayah and Shan, and limited lifesaving and shelter assistance initiated for some newly displaced populations, although coverage remains limited by access and funding [335].

IDP women in Chin State and Sagaing Region face acute shortages of menstrual supplies and essential medicines, inadequate gender-segregated sanitation and safety concerns including daily harassment, which undermine reporting and access to services according to a Women for Justice report from February–March 2026 [337].

Humanitarian leadership has engaged in field assessment and advocacy, with UN Humanitarian Coordinator Gwyn Lewis visiting displacement sites in Sittwe on 27 January and the UN Secretary-General urging all parties to enable safe, sustained and unimpeded humanitarian access on 30 January, but operational constraints continue to limit protection monitoring, case management and referrals at scale [335].

Child Protection concerns

Airstrikes and aerial attacks in 2025 killed at least 287 children, making 2025 the deadliest year for children since 2021 [335]. Since the beginning of 2026, at least 4 civilians have been killed and 17 injured in reported landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) incidents, with children among the casualties [335]. Myanmar recorded the highest reported number of landmine and explosive ordnance casualties globally in 2024 (2,029 casualties) and reported 357 casualties in the first half of 2025, with the highest numbers in Shan State followed by Rakhine State and Magway Region [335]. Explosive hazards reported near military bases and civilian infrastructure continue to restrict freedom of movement, impede safe returns and disproportionately affect children [335].

Recent hostilities have displaced tens of thousands in specific areas—more than 30,000 in Nattalin Township (Bago), over 10,000 in parts of Mon State since early February, and an estimated 20,000 displaced in Thandwe Town (Rakhine)—disrupting education, health and protection services for children in those locations [335]. Schools and other civilian infrastructure have been damaged or destroyed by air/drone strikes and shelling, further reducing children's access to education and safe learning spaces [335].

Rohingya refugees and displaced communities face growing risks of child exploitation and recruitment. Camps are reported to have gangs preying on children for ransom or recruitment into the conflict, and increasing desperation is driving harmful coping mechanisms including irregular migration and trafficking attempts by sea [346]. The Myanmar Humanitarian Fund and partners have provided gender- and dignity-focused items to displaced women and girls, including distributions in Kayah and Shan, but the documents do not detail dedicated child-friendly spaces or the scale of specialized child protection services in the reporting period [335].

Violence against women and girls

A March 5, 2026 report by Women for Justice found IDP women in Chin State and Sagaing Region face shortages of menstrual supplies and essential medicines, have limited and poorly gender-segregated WASH facilities, report daily sexual harassment and verbal abuse in camps, suffer psychological trauma related to domestic violence, and are often reluctant to pursue legal action because of unsafe travel, lack of law and order and fear of retaliation [337]. The Burmese Women's Union reported on 10 March 2026 that more than 60 women, including one pregnant woman and 18 girls under 18, were killed across Myanmar in February 2026 and that 66 women were injured that month by airstrikes, mortar shelling, landmines and conflict-related sexual violence, noting that nearly 1,000 cases of sexual violence against women have been documented over the past five years and that ethnic women and underage girls were particularly targeted according to the Women's League of Burma (2025) [338].

Historical investigations and survivor testimony document widespread rape and other forms of sexual violence against Rohingya women during the 2016–2017 operations and massacres, including multiple survivor reports of rape and sexual assault in 2017 [339].

Humanitarian partners distributed Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF)-funded dignity kits containing sanitary products, hygiene supplies and items such as hand-crank flashlights to displaced women and girls in Kayah and Shan, and MHF is reported to be prioritizing the distinct vulnerabilities of women and girls in the 2026 response [335]. Key gaps identified in March 2026 include shortages of menstrual and reproductive health supplies and medicines, lack of safe gender-segregated sanitation and privacy in IDP sites, limited reference to comprehensive GBV response services beyond dignitykit distributions, and significant barriers to reporting and accessing justice—stigma, insecurity, unsafe travel and weak legal enforcement—that constrain survivors' access to medical, psychosocial or legal support [337][335].

Vulnerable Groups / Special Needs Groups

Unaccompanied and Separated Children

UN Human Rights Office reported that at least 287 children were killed in 2025, making it the deadliest year for children since 2021 [351]. An initial survey of Done Paik survivors documented that of 158 people killed on 26–27 August 2017, 56 were under 18 years of age [357]. In Cox's Bazar refugee camps, agencies warned that gangs prowl settlements to hold children for ransom or recruit young men for the civil war, and UNHCR recorded 892 Rohingya died or went missing in 2025 while attempting sea crossings, underscoring heightened risks of trafficking and exploitation [355].

Pregnant and Lactating Women

The UN/OCHA Myanmar Humanitarian Update No.51 highlighted that displaced mothers are making "impossible choices"—skipping meals, taking dangerous journeys and exposing themselves to protection risks—and noted that the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF) supported local partners to distribute dignity kits (sanitary products, hygiene supplies and items such as handcrank flashlights) to displaced women and girls in Kayah and northern Shan to help preserve safety and dignity [351].

Independent reporting documented recent airstrike incidents beginning 8 March that killed 14 civilians, including a pregnant woman, and injured others in Karen State and Tanintharyi Region, underscoring immediate threats to maternal health in conflict-affected areas [364]. A March 2026 Women for Justice (WJ) report covering IDP camps in Chin State and Sagaing Region found shortages of medicines for pregnant women and those with gynecological needs, widespread lack of menstrual supplies, inadequate gender-segregated sanitation, and reports of daily sexual harassment and domestic violence that constrain women's safety and health access [354]. The Burmese Women's Union reported in March that 63 women were killed in February by airstrikes, mortar fire and other attacks—including one pregnant woman—and that 66 women were injured, with conflict-related sexual violence documented among the harms suffered by women and girls [350]. Air attacks and other hostilities have damaged or destroyed medical facilities (notably in Rakhine), limiting availability of maternal and reproductive health services, while longstanding discrimination, extortion at checkpoints and denial of care have historically constrained Rohingya women's access to healthcare [351][359]. Humanitarian partners continue to provide targeted dignity, WASH and some health support for women and girls, but severe underfunding and access constraints have reduced the scale, coverage and frequency of assistance, limiting consistent prenatal, postnatal and maternal nutrition services for displaced populations [351].

Adolescents and Youth

Documentation of Rohingya communities records systemic denial and disruption of education (segregation, physical punishment, barriers to progression and higher education) that drove school dropouts and curtailed adolescent learning opportunities in the period documented (2012–2016) and in survivor testimonies collected thereafter [357][359]. Rohingya youth face severely constrained economic opportunities as communities were barred from public employment and suffered land confiscation, undermining prospects for vocational pathways and formal jobs [359]. Reports describe heightened protection risks for young people, including gangs and traffickers targeting camp populations for ransom and irregular migration and increased recruitment of young men into the civil war, while male community members have also been conscripted into forced labour by security forces [355][357]. Displacement-affected populations are reported to suffer widespread psychological trauma and advocates call for remedies including financial compensation for psychological harm, with assessments noting needs among displaced women and communities that imply parallel risks for adolescents and youth [354][357].

People with Disabilities

Landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) are causing injuries that result in disability, while contamination and newly placed devices continue to restrict freedom of movement and impede humanitarian access and safe returns [351]. Myanmar recorded 2,029 landmine and explosive ordnance casualties nationwide in 2024, while the first half of 2025 saw 357 casualties recorded nationwide [351]. Since the beginning of 2026, at least 4 civilians have been killed and 17 injured in reported landmine and ERW incidents, with children among the casualties [351]. A UNICEF-documented landmine survivor (15 years old) was shown using crutches, illustrating conflict-related mobility impairment among children and adolescents [351]. IDP sites in Chin State and Sagaing Region face shortages of medicines and lack adequate WASH facilities (toilets and showers are rarely properly segregated), undermining access to essential health care and dignity supplies for displaced women and people with health or mobility needs [354]. Longer-term conflict injuries have produced lasting disability and reduced mobility for some survivors; one testimony describes a gunshot wound causing chronic pain and limited movement [359].

Elderly

According to the Asian Dignity Initiative's survey of Done Paik refugee households (initial survey of 779 people), 48 people were in their 60s, 17 in their 70s and 1 in their 80s, and the survey recorded 158 people killed on 26–27 August 2017, including one person in their 60s and one in their 80s [357]. Survivors reported that security forces killed elderly persons (reported by 38.5% of survivors) and that elderly were arrested (reported by 19.2% of survivors) and subjected to severe physical abuse and torture in the 2016–2017 atrocities [359]. Multiple survivor accounts and report findings document systematic denial of healthcare access for Rohingya — including checkpoints, forced bribes, travel restrictions and clinic refusals that prevented or delayed medical treatment for vulnerable people [357][359]. UN humanitarian reporting notes that ongoing conflict, access restrictions and severe funding shortfalls have continued to limit delivery of health services and lifesaving assistance to displaced populations into 2026, compounding risks for older people who face mobility and healthcare barriers amid displacement and shelter loss [353][351].

Displaced

According to OCHA Humanitarian Update No.51 (9 March 2026), more than 3.6 million people are estimated to be displaced nationwide, with approximately half located in northwestern Myanmar [351]. Region- and event-specific displacement figures include more than 30,000 people displaced in Nattalin Township (Bago Region) since late 2025, more than 10,000 people displaced in Mon State since early February 2026 linked to airstrikes and shelling in Bilin and Kyaikto townships, an estimated 20,000 displaced people remaining in Thandwe Town (Rakhine) in early January 2026, over 6,000 people displaced along the southern Shan–Kayah border (Mawmai and Pekon townships), and more than 2,500 people displaced to Hpakant Town (Kachin) since early February 2026 [351]. Since the beginning of 2026, more than 28,000 people have been displaced across Magway and Sagaing regions, including large displacements in Kamma, Pauk, Pwintphyu, Salin and Seikphyu (Magway) and Bamauk, Indaw, Katha and Tigyaing (Sagaing) [351]. Escalation in January–February 2026 displaced more than 17,000 people in ChaungU and YeU (Sagaing), nearly 5,000 in Ngazun (Mandalay), and over 850 in Mindat (Chin) [351]. Mid-January air operations and drone activity displaced over 1,000 people in Kyauktaga Township (Bago) [351]. Shelter needs remain acute after extensive housing destruction, with more than 870 houses reported damaged or destroyed across multiple locations since mid-January 2026 [351]. Explosive hazards and landmines continue to impede movement, humanitarian access and safe returns [351].

Humanitarian partners reached 6.3 million people in 2025 but persistent access limitations and funding shortfalls reduced coverage — by end-2025 only 28% of the \$1.4 billion required had been received — and the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan requests

US\$890 million to reach 4.9 million people with lifesaving assistance [351][353]. CERF-supported solar water systems now provide potable water in parts of northwestern Myanmar [351]. Protracted conflict, repeated displacement and reduced assistance are forcing families to skip meals, take dangerous journeys and expose themselves to protection risks, undermining livelihood options and prompting irregular movement by some displaced people [351]. Rohingya refugees have been denied citizenship, subjected to forced registration with NVC/receipt cards and systematic restrictions on movement, education, healthcare and employment, and many Rohingya state they will only consider return if citizenship, security guarantees and restoration of rights are ensured [359]. Bangladeshi officials warn repeated repatriation attempts have failed owing to lack of security guarantees, citizenship recognition and basic rights in Myanmar [358]. Protection risks for displaced populations include airstrikes, arbitrary detention and forced conscription reported historically and during recent hostilities, continued use of landmines and ERW that block safe return and livelihoods, and gender-based safety concerns in camps and IDP sites [351][359][354]. Overall, active hostilities, explosive hazard contamination, constrained humanitarian access and persistent documentation and rights deficits make safe, voluntary and dignified return or sustainable local integration infeasible for large groups of displaced people at present [351][359].

Minorities

Rohingya people have faced systemic and institutionalised discrimination and persecution—denial of citizenship, movement restrictions and curfews, bans on religious practice, marriage and birth controls, forced labour, exclusion from education and healthcare, extortion and arbitrary arrest—leaving the population in extreme vulnerability and driving repeated displacement [357][359]. Mass atrocities and so-called “clearance operations” by Myanmar security forces and allied actors in 2016–2017—including killings, rape, arson and looting—forced hundreds of thousands of Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh, with reports citing roughly 800,000–900,000 displaced [357][359]. Asian Dignity Initiative and other investigations have documented these patterns and recommended accountability through referral to the ICC or an ad hoc tribunal, restoration of citizenship rights, an end to registration with NVC cards, and active inclusion of Rohingya in repatriation and remedy discussions [357][359]. The UN Humanitarian Update No.51 (9 March 2026) reports continued hostilities in Rakhine and other states that compound protection risks for minorities, noting intense fighting around Kyaukpyu and Thandwe with an estimated 20,000 displaced in Thandwe in early January, and highlights persistent threats from landmines and explosive remnants of war which impede safe movement, returns and humanitarian access [351]. Funding shortfalls and access constraints curtailed coverage, and the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan requests US\$890 million to reach 4.9 million people—conditions that limit sustained, culturally appropriate assistance and durable solutions for affected minority communities [351][353]. Reported targeted protection measures include prioritised assistance for women and girls (e.g., dignitykit distributions funded by the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund) and repeated UN appeals for safe, sustained, unimpeded access to deliver protection and essential services to all affected communities [351]. Survivors’ testimony and civil society recommendations stress the need for remedies aligned with community preferences, legal redress, and legislative and administrative reforms to remove discriminatory systems before voluntary, safe returns or reintegration can proceed [357][359].

Operational Environment

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