



This report is produced by OCHA on behalf of the Humanitarian Coordinator with information provided by humanitarian partner. It covers the period from 4 September to 5 October.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- The Government of Myanmar estimates that approximately 75,000 IDPs are accommodated in 40 camps and temporary locations in Sittwe and Kyauktaw Townships as of 2 October. However, most are in nine camps outside of Sittwe.
- A two-day workshop on Rakhine organized by the Ministry of Border Affairs and UN agencies concluded with recommendations/ways forward to address ongoing concerns as well as to achieve sustainable development for Rakhine State.

II. Situation Overview

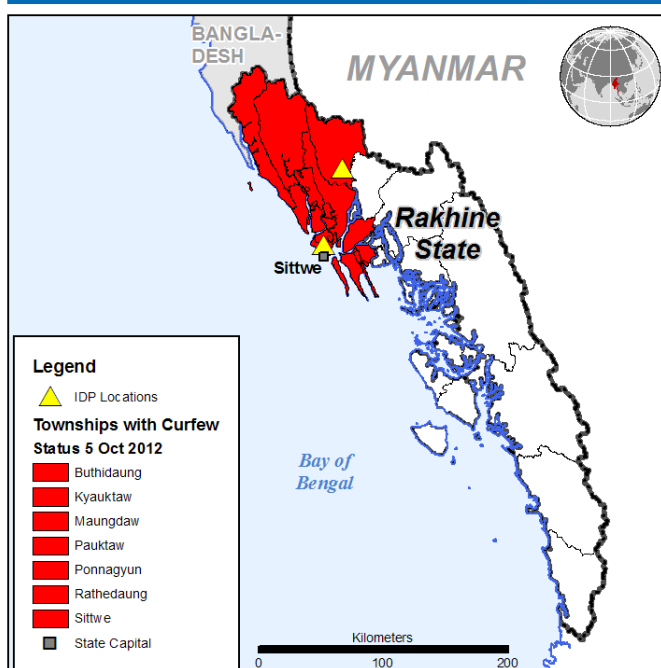
The Government estimates that the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) reached approximately 75,000. The IDPs are accommodated in 40 camps and temporary locations in Sittwe and Kyauktaw Townships with over 67,700 people in nine camps outside of Sittwe. Government sources informed that all temporary camps in Maungdaw were closed as the IDPs returned to their villages of origin, where shelters and tents are being set up. There are indications that some displacement may be taking place between villages. Partners are working with the authorities to identify these situations and possible humanitarian needs of this group.

Inter-communal tensions remain with reports of sporadic incidents in Sittwe and Kyauktaw Townships. On 28 September, rumours over the beating of a young man in Sittwe town prompted the gathering of a large number of people around Mingalar ward. Security forces cordoned off the area and eventually managed to disperse the crowd. The curfew between 7pm and 5am remains in place in seven townships.

Partners reported that humanitarian access is still limited to some affected areas and especially to villages outside Sittwe. Challenges also remain in resumption of regular activities which were in place before June 2012 and have been disrupted since the violence erupted.

In an effort to develop a road map to address the situation in Rakhine State, a two-day workshop (22-23 September) on *"the Process of Relief, Rehabilitation, Rule of Law and Sustainable Development in Rakhine State"* was jointly organised by the Ministry of Border Affairs and the United Nations in Myanmar in collaboration with the Myanmar Development Resources Institute with participation of over 370 people, including senior government officials, members of parliament, representatives from both communities, UN/NGO and diplomatic missions, and technical experts. The workshop proved to be an opportunity for open dialogue, where the participants exchanged ideas and opinions about the current challenges, and proposed ways forward to address ongoing concerns as well as to achieve sustainable development for Rakhine State. Through paper presentations and group discussions, the workshop came up with recommendations for various themes, including public safety and security, rule of law, national level interventions, communications, provision of assistance in accordance with humanitarian principles, temporary settlement and rehabilitation, reconciliation and social harmony as well as sustainable socio-economic development.

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Misperceptions about the impartiality and neutrality of the humanitarian and development partners continue to exist. The Government, community leaders and humanitarian and development partners, under the leadership of the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) have discussed possible measures to address these issues in the 22-23 September workshop.

Several high-level delegations visited Rakhine over the past weeks. Between 8 and 15 September, the members of the Investigation Commission visited 10 townships in Rakhine and met local authorities, religious/community leaders, academics, IDPs and representatives from UN/NGOs. During the meeting with the humanitarian partners, the Commission explained their mandate and requested meetings with the humanitarian community to discuss relief operations and challenges, highlighting that their goal is to come up with recommendation for peaceful coexistence with support from various stakeholders.

From 8-9 September, a US delegation led by Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asia and the Pacific Joe Yun and accompanied by US Ambassador Derek Mitchell and the Union Minister of Border Affairs met with the State Government, humanitarian partners, community leaders and representatives of local organizations. The team also visited several IDP camps/locations in Sittwe and Maungdaw. The delegation observed good collaboration with authorities and expressed concern over the situation.

On 11 September, a Turkish delegation led by the Ambassador and accompanied by representatives from the Turkish International Cooperation Agency (TICA) met the State Government and the affected communities. TICA is planning to provide assistance to the area.

On 9-10 September, a mission of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), led by OIC Permanent Observer to the UN Ufuk Gokcen and joined by the Secretary General of the Indonesian Red Cross Society and two delegates from the OIC Office in Indonesia, visited Rakhine. The mission met with Government officials, community leaders and community elders. The OIC Ambassador highlighted the importance of reconciliation after emergency relief and rehabilitation measures as well as the need for implementation of socioeconomic activities in the region. On 11 September, the OIC signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Ministry of Border Affairs on provision of humanitarian aid in Rakhine State.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

The Government continues to provide assistance to IDPs, including food, shelter, NFIs and medical supplies. At the request of the Government, humanitarian agencies support the response while operating in full respect of the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. Additional UN/NGO staff are being redeployed, and relief supplies are being dispatched.



Education

- Partners reported that although over 80 to 90% of schools in the affected townships have reopened, the attendance of teachers and students remains very low due to ongoing tensions. Among the 30 schools visited in September in the northern townships (Buthidaung, Rathedaung and Maungdaw), most of the schools had only half of the students who were attending schools prior to the conflict in June.
- In Sittwe, access to education for IDP children (45% of the camp population, according to the Government, are children under 12), particularly in camps outside of Sittwe remains limited due to lack of teachers and temporary learning spaces. In an effort to improve the attendance, some schools in the mixed communities operate in two shifts with different school hours for the two communities. The community teachers and some WFP-supported teachers who received CFS training from UNICEF are covering the gap but more resources are urgently needed for IDP children in the camps.
- Essential learning packages supported by UNICEF have been distributed to 60 schools in Maungdaw. Similar distribution in the remaining areas of Maungdaw Township will be carried out once the local transport becomes functional.



Food

- Since the beginning of the conflict, WFP has distributed over 4,000 metric tons (MT) of mixed food commodities to the affected people, including 782 MT to approximately 60,000 people in September. The needs are likely to be increasing as some vulnerable population from nearby villages arrived in IDP camps in Sittwe to access food assistance due to lack of livelihood opportunities in their villages.
- Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), in collaboration with Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), delivered 250 tons of rice packages to the IDPs in Sittwe Township.

- The food sector is setting up their coordination efforts to map the remaining gaps as well as to avoid overlapping as more actors have started their food distribution in the affected locations.
- The resumption of WFP regular activities in the three townships of northern Rakhine State remains crucial to avoid serious consequences of the nutritional status and food security of the affected population.



Health and Nutrition

- WHO reported that no major disease outbreak has so far been recorded. In Maungdaw, IDPs who returned to their villages of origin are provided with medical care through nine mobile clinics and a sub-health centre supported by Maungdaw Hospital and an INGO.
- UNFPA continues to support maternal and reproductive health care services in Rathedaung and Sittwe Townships. To date, over 2,700 people have been covered by their mobile and static clinics.
- In Sittwe, MRCS continues to facilitate a 24-hour health referral service for all IDP locations in urban areas. The referral system also covers the rural camps during non-curfew hours. To date, some 40 patients were benefited by MRCS's referral service.
- Myanmar Health Assistants Association (MHAA) with support from UNICEF provided life-saving health services to over 7,100 people, including some 870 children under 5 in September. Over 600 people have been tested with Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDTs) with provision of anti-malaria treatment to 230 confirmed cases. MHAA reached 2,800 people with health promotion activities that include awareness raising on prevention of the most common diseases such as diarrhea, pneumonia and malaria.
- With the support from UNICEF and in collaboration with the State Health Department, MHAA provided over 1,200 children under 5 with micro-nutrient sprinkles in September. Over 340 moderate malnourished children received supplementary feeding and some 260 severe acute malnourished children received therapeutic feeding. ACF and Save the Children, with support from UNICEF, will implement nutrition programme for children with moderate/severe acute malnutrition (MAM and SAM) in Sittwe.



Shelter and NFIs

- Shelter partners estimated that at least 375 shelter units remain needed for the IDPs in Sittwe. The Government has completed the construction of 210 shelter units for 2,100 families. UNHCR completed the construction of 15 barrack-style shelters at Ma Gyi Mya in Sittwe. An additional 150 shelter are currently being constructed in Ong Taw Gyi in Sittwe.
- Since the beginning of the conflict, UNHCR distributed over 9,000 basic and complementary non-food item kits in all IDP sites in Rakhine State. An additional 8,170 sets have been distributed by a number of agencies including CARE, Malteser, Save the Children and UNICEF, through local NGOs. Partners reported that over 24,000 NFIs remains required and that there is a need for enhancing coordination of the distribution activities to avoid overlapping.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

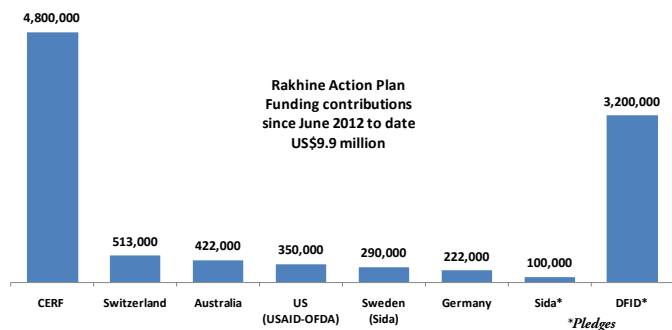
- Water, sanitation and hygiene conditions are of critical concern with reports of inadequate latrines and lack of access to safe and clean water in most IDP locations. Given the fact that the knowledge of hygiene practices was very limited in the areas prior to the displacement, the need for hygiene promotion activities and provision of hygiene kits is critical. The Department of Rural Development and WASH partners are stepping up their efforts to respond to the immediate needs in the camps.
- UNICEF, through local partners, completed the construction of six latrines and 16 bathing facilities in Mingan camp in Sittwe. An additional 19 latrines will be constructed in October. Malteser will construct 140 latrines in Ohn Taw Gyi in Sittwe Township. MHAA conducted hygiene promotion sessions in nine IDP camps in the affected locations.
- UNICEF will deploy its WASH experts to the affected locations in the first week of October to assess the situation and formulate appropriate intervention. Additional partners are being identified to respond to the immediate needs of the people.

IV. Coordination

- Coordination meetings, including the government-led coordination meeting and sector meetings continue to be held on a regular basis in Sittwe.
- OCHA has organized a number of inter-agency coordination meetings, in support of the Government efforts in Yangon and Sittwe. Different sectors in Yangon continue to carry out sectoral coordination, based on the arrangements at Sittwe level.

V. Funding

- As of 1 October, donations from the Government, private companies, religious groups and individuals amounted to approximately US\$2.7 million. In the initial stage of the emergency, UN agencies mobilized some \$823,000 from their core funds to start operations.
- The Rakhine Response Plan launched in July called for \$32.5million. A total of \$9.9million have been disbursed or pledged against the plan.



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

VI. Contact

Please contact: (Yangon) - Ashok Nigam, Humanitarian Coordinator or Barbara Manzi, Head of Office, UN-OCHA, Email: manzi@un.org
To be added or deleted from this Sit Rep mailing list, please e-mail: ochamyanmar@un.org