

HIGHLIGHTS

- Around 100,000 people were newly displaced in Kachin and Shan states in 2015; about 90 per cent have since returned home.
- Almost 2,000 people remain displaced following armed conflict in southern Shan.
- Six months on, humanitarian access to IDPs in the Sumprabum area of Kachin, remains restricted.
- Cash grants are helping flood affected families in Rakhine recover.
- Providing reproductive healthcare after the floods.
- 146 children released from Myanmar army in 2015.

FIGURES

# of IDPs in Kachin and Shan states	100,000
# of IDPs in Rakhine State	140,000

FUNDING

\$ 190 million

requested (US\$) for 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan

50% funded

\$67.5 million

Requested for Floods Response Plan

73 % funded

\$186.9 million

total humanitarian funding received for Myanmar



A displaced woman in Kachin, March 2015. Credit: OCHA

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100,000 temporarily displaced by conflict in Kachin and Shan in 2015

New displacement is often temporary and is difficult to monitor

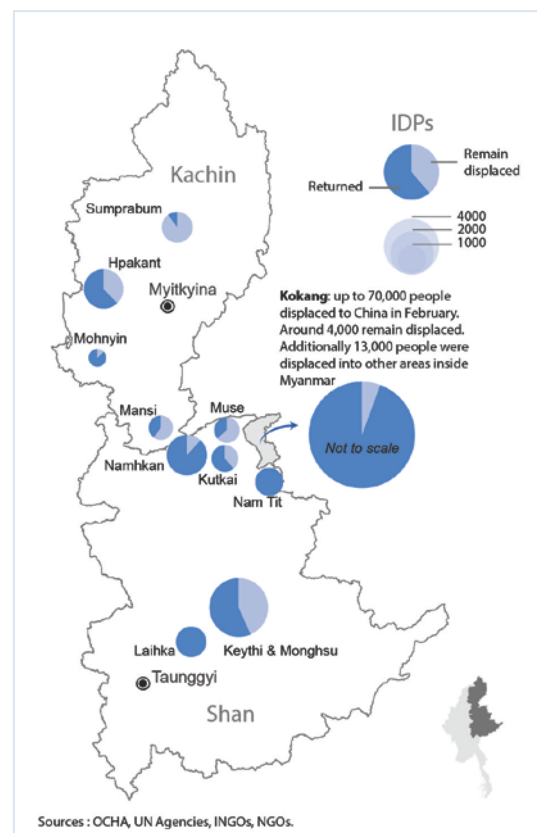
In addition to the 100,000 conflict-affected people who have been living in camps in Kachin and northern Shan since 2011, around 100,000 people were temporarily displaced as a result of armed conflict in the two states in 2015. This includes the conflict in the Kokang Self-Administered Zone that broke out in February 2015, which resulted in over 13,000 people, primarily migrant workers, fleeing to other areas within Myanmar and up to 70,000 fleeing across

the border into China. Most of these people subsequently returned, leaving only about 4,000 people still in China by the end of the year, according to local civil society estimates. It also includes over 10,000 people who were newly displaced in Kachin and northern Shan, in places like Hpakan, Sumprabum, Mohnyin, Mansi, Namhkan, Namtit, Muse and Kutkai, of whom over 6,000 subsequently returned to their places of origin, leaving over 4,000 still in displacement sites at the end of 2015. Over 6,000 people were also displaced in southern Shan as a result of fighting that broke out between the Myanmar Military and Shan State Army North (SSA-N) forces in Mongshu Township in early October. Most of these people subsequently returned, leaving less than 2,000 people still in IDP sites by the end of 2015.

New conflict-related displacement in Kachin and Shan states is often temporary, as the figures show. About 90 per cent of those reported to have been newly displaced in 2015 returned to their homes

within days, weeks or months of being displaced, leaving only around 10 per cent of these people still in displacement

Internal Displacement in Kachin and Shan states in 2015*



* The map shows only the top 11 townships in Kachin and Shan states where displacement occurred in 2015

2015 in Numbers

Affected People



1,020,000

People in need of humanitarian assistance. Including 460,000 flood affected people

240,000

Internally displaced people

9,200

People remain in temporary evacuation sites in Chin and Sagaing

Food Security



770,000

Internally displaced, other vulnerable and food insecure people provided with food or cash assistance

Shelter, water and sanitation, and access to healthcare remain urgent needs for IDPs in southern Shan state

sites at the end of 2015. New conflict-related displacement is difficult to monitor as it often occurs in areas where international organizations have limited access and sometimes it is the same people who are displaced multiple times. The figures reported here may therefore not reflect all displacements, returns and/or incidents in 2015, but provide a general overview of the situation.

After over four years, 100,000 people still displaced in Kachin and Shan states

In total, around 100,000 people have been displaced for more than four years across Kachin and northern Shan states. Some 50 per cent of those displaced in Kachin State are staying in areas beyond the Government's control. Local NGOs continue to play a critical role in ensuring humanitarian assistance is delivered across all areas. Access remains unpredictable and local NGOs have also faced challenges in accessing newly displaced populations in 2015, notably in Sumprabum Township in Kachin State where over 1,000 individuals remain displaced. Further funding is needed for the humanitarian response in 2016 to ensure adequate levels and quality of assistance. Additional advocacy remains essential with all parties to the conflict to ensure adequate protection of civilians during and after armed clashes, as well as to enable people to voluntarily return as quickly as possible in safety and with the necessary assistance to reestablish their lives.

Southern Shan: most displaced people return home as fighting stops

Almost 2,000 people still in camps and unable to return home

The majority of the 6,000 people displaced in Southern Shan in October as a result of fighting returned to their homes in late November and December after the fighting stopped. However, close to 2,000 people remained displaced in Kyethi and Monghsu townships at the end of December. Some attempted to return but reported that they were unable to do so given the continued presence of troops in the area and continued movements of armed State and non-State actors in and around their villages of origin. Landmines in villages of origin are also a concern, according to local organizations.



IDPs in Moghsu, southern Shan State, Dec. 2015. Credit: OCHA

Those who remain displaced are staying in monasteries and temporary sites in Monghsu town and Hai Pa village in Monghsu Township, and in Wan Wa village in Kyethi Township. Local civil society and national NGOs are leading the response and have provided initial relief items, with support from some INGOs and UN agencies, including food, non-food items, hygiene, family and shelter kits, as well as water and sanitation support. However, assessments have shown that urgent needs remain in terms of shelter and water and sanitation, and access to healthcare in some of the locations, in particular for the most vulnerable including women, children and the elderly. Due to the fighting, some of the IDPs' houses in their villages were burnt and many displaced have missed their harvest and their crops and livestock are likely to have been lost due to the conflict. Once the security situation allows, families will require recovery assistance in order to enable them to return home and rebuild their houses and resume their livelihoods. Many families who have already returned also require livelihoods support. Protection priorities include addressing needs of children, elderly people and other vulnerable groups, addressing concerns of gender-based violence, resumption of livelihoods, mine clearance and security.

2015 in Numbers

Nutrition



32,000+

Children received micronutrient supplementation in Rakhine and Kachin

11,000+

Pregnant and lactating women received micronutrient supplementation in Rakhine and Kachin

Water & Sanitation



288,000

People provided with access to safe drinking and domestic water during the floods*

68,000

People provided with access to safe sanitation facilities in Rakhine & Kachin*

* January to November 2015.

Ongoing access restrictions are making it difficult for organizations to assess and meet the needs of IDPs in Sumprabum, Kachin State

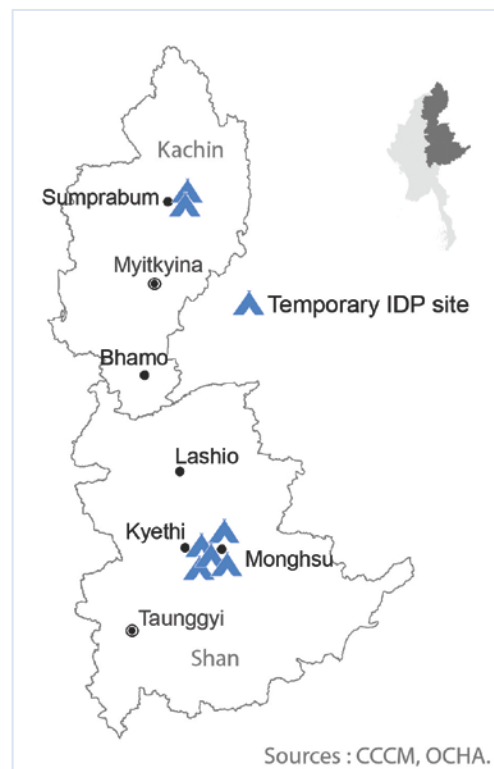
Onset of winter brings new needs for displaced people in Sumprabum, Kachin

Access to civilians remains restricted

Six months after an outbreak of fighting between the Myanmar Military and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) displaced more than 1,200 people in the Sumprabum area of Kachin, over 1,000 people remain displaced in temporary IDP sites in non-government areas. Close to 1,800 other civilians in the area have also been affected by the situation and remain vulnerable. The UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and international and national partners have advocated to access to assess the humanitarian situation and provide assistance. However, access to the area remains restricted and the UN has still not been able reach the IDPs to independently verify figures and information on the situation.

Those displaced have had little access to humanitarian assistance during the past six months. As the winter season has started, where temperatures can drop to freezing point, there are likely to be increased needs, including warm clothes for children, blankets and better shelters. Displaced people are reportedly staying under tarpaulins and in improvised shelters and were unable to take belongings with them when they first fled their homes. Those displaced include vulnerable individuals such as people with disabilities or serious/chronic illnesses, children, the elderly and women. While some local churches have been able to provide very limited food and medical supplies to the displaced, the situation is not sustainable and poses serious risks to humanitarian personnel. Urgent needs remain in the areas of shelter, healthcare and basic personal and household items. After six months of displacement, access to livelihoods is also needed for displaced families. The ongoing restrictions on access are making it difficult for humanitarian organizations to assess and meet the needs of displaced people and other civilians in the area. As the situation continues, protection of civilians remains a serious concern.

New IDP sites in Sumprabum, Kachin and Kyethi and Monghsu, Shan states



Cash grants help flood affected people recover

Cash grants give people more choice

Rakhine State was one of the areas most severely affected by the floods and effects of Cyclone Komen in July and August 2015. In support of the Government's efforts, the UN, INGOs, Red Cross and other national and international partners continue humanitarian and recovery efforts to help all affected communities recover and rebuild. One means of helping communities in Rakhine, both in the immediate aftermath of the floods and during the recovery period, is by providing cash grants to affected families. The use of cash grants gives people more choice and enables them to be more active agents of their own recovery, provided that people have access to well-functioning markets, which is not the case in many parts of Myanmar, and that no major protection issues are identified. Providing cash instead of relief items is also often more cost-effective.

2015 in Numbers

Key Figures



46,000

Registered Myanmar Red Cross volunteers

59

Organizations undertaking humanitarian response work in Kachin, Rakhine and Chin (NGOs, INGOs, UN, CBOs)

2

The rank of Myanmar in the Global Climate Risk Index

150 of 187

The position of Myanmar in the UNDP Human Development Index

251

Mine casualties (45 killed, 206 injured) in 2014*

2

Humanitarian workers killed while undertaking their work

* According to Landmine Monitor. 2015 figures not yet available.

One key means of helping flood affected families recover is by providing cash grants

ICRC using cash programming to help flood affected families in Rakhine

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in close partnership with the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), is implementing cash programmes in villages in Mrauk-U and Minbya, as well as one village in Kyauktaw that suffered severe losses due to the floods. During September, ICRC provided unconditional cash grants of 50,000 MMK (approximately \$ 38) to almost 4,500 families to cover their immediate food needs and to help replace lost or damaged essential household items. An additional 7,500 families received the equivalent in kind assistance.

To help vulnerable families recover, ICRC and MRCS also provided cash for work opportunities to almost 2,500 labourers, as well as conditional cash grants to some 3,300 fishing and farming families and day labourers in 10 village tracts in Mrauk-U and Minbya townships from October to December. The conditional cash grants of 180,000 MMK (approximately \$137) were provided to help families restart their livelihoods by buying winter-crop seeds for replanting or livestock to replace animals that perished in the floods or to replace boats and fishing nets lost during the floods. Cash for work activities, including clearing roads, renovating bridges, fencing of ponds, helped participants increase their monthly income.



An elderly woman close to Mrauk-U explains that her family lost their fishing nets in the floods. Credit: ICRC

ICRC and MRCS worked with village leaders to identify the most vulnerable families to take part in the programmes, among them those with low income or those whose livelihoods were badly affected by the floods.

Assistance to flood affected families in the northern part of Rakhine

The INGO CARE provided unconditional cash grants to households in flood affected communities in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships in the northern part of Rakhine State. The project, which was funded by the UN's Emergency Response Fund, prioritized landless households, who had experienced significant damage to their housing or livelihoods, and households with vulnerable groups including women-headed households and those with elderly people and people with disabilities. Households with a combination of these vulnerabilities were the highest priority. The cash grants were distributed between September and November with monitoring of the project being carried out in December. Recipients were able to decide for themselves how to use the cash grants; for example, payments allowed households to meet basic needs, including food, and repair of housing and/or re-starting livelihoods activities.

Cash response activities in other areas

Other organizations are also using cash-based assistance to support flood affected families in Rakhine as well as in other states and regions. This includes WFP, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Save the Children International, World Vision and the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust (LIFT) Fund which is managed by UNOPS, who have implemented cash response activities in Sagaing, Chin, Rakhine and Magwe, Bago and Ayeyarwady. As part of their floods response, WFP transferred more than \$793,000 equivalent in cash to some 63,000 flood affected people in Ayeyarwaddy, Magway and Sagaing for both relief and post-flood recovery during November and December.

Reproductive healthcare helps 45,000 people

Medical and reproductive healthcare services for flood affected people

From September 2015 to February 2016, UNFPA and its partners the Myanmar Medical Association, Marie Stopes International and Malteser, are supporting health authorities with a programme to provide basic life-saving medical and reproductive healthcare to people affected by floods in Myanmar's Magway and Sagaing regions and Rakhine State. These were three of the areas worst affected by the recent floods and Cyclone Komen in July and August 2015. The project is funded by the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which in total provided \$10.4 million to jump start critical aid programmes in Myanmar for people in the worst affected states and regions, providing food, emergency healthcare, water and sanitation, shelter and protection services. The UNFPA project received approximately \$380,000 in CERF funding.



A midwife explains the contents of a Clean Delivery Kit at a clinic in Kale town, Sagaing. Credit: Daw Toe Toe Swe/Kale General Hospital

According to humanitarian organizations, a lack clean and safe delivery options and antenatal care due to lack of access to health facilities, damaged health centres and/or shortage of trained medical staff, particularly female health personnel, pose an increased danger to pregnant women and women about to give birth.

Close to 12,000 women and men helped so far

The UNFPA programme provides equal access to basic reproductive health services for women, men, boys and girls. It also provides Basic Emergency Obstetric Care and referral to Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Care for pregnant women. The project has also provided management of sexual violence cases. The services provided help to prevent unwanted pregnancies, unsafe delivery, maternal death, trauma, sexually transmitted diseases and other consequences for survivors of sexual violence during emergencies. To date, over 9,000 women and almost 2,800 men have benefited from the programme, including more than 800 pregnant women from ante-natal care services. More than 2,400 Clean Delivery Kits were distributed to pregnant women across flood affected areas. In total, the project aims to reach 45,000 men, women, boys and girls.

Ending recruitment of child soldiers

146 children released by the Myanmar Army in 2015

On 30 November, the Government of Myanmar released 53 children and young people who had been recruited and used by the Armed Forces. With this latest release, the total number of children discharged in 2015 reached 146. Since June 2012, when the Myanmar Government signed a Joint Action Plan aimed at ending the recruitment and use of children with the United Nations, 699 children have been released by the army. The Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting on Grave Violations against Children (CTFMR) and the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Myanmar, co-chair of the CTFMR, [welcomed the release](#).

Visit of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict

From 11 to 17 June, Leila Zerrougui, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Children and Armed Conflict, visited Myanmar. The purpose of the visit was to assess the situation of children affected by conflict and the progress made towards implementing the Action Plan signed by the Government in June 2012. During her visit,

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Since June 2012, 699 children have been released from the Myanmar army

New OCHA Resources

[Myanmar: Humanitarian Needs Overview 2016](#)

[Myanmar: Humanitarian Response Plan 2016](#)

[Myanmar Snapshot of Humanitarian Issues \(11 December\)](#)

[The Road to Hakha: Thousands remain displaced since monsoon floods in Chin State, Myanmar \(1 December\)](#)

[Myanmar: Internal Displacement in Kachin and northern Shan States \(October 2015\)](#)

[Myanmar: Internal Displacement Rakhine State \(November 2015\)](#)

(Click to access documents)

Despite progress, children continue to be recruited by the Myanmar Army and armed groups.

the SRSG met with government officials, representatives of ethnic armed groups, humanitarian partners and former child soldiers.

In her meetings with the Government, Ms. Zerrougui commended efforts to end the use of child soldiers within the military's ranks. However, she also noted that ["it is critical to close the remaining gaps to protect children and ensure that no one can recruit them."](#) The SRSG underlined the importance of criminalizing the recruitment and use of children and improving age verification at the level of military recruitment centres, and expressed concern about the ongoing practice of detention of children who have allegedly 'deserted' the army. Discussions with ethnic armed groups focused on action plans to end and prevent child recruitment and use, and other grave violations.

In meetings with children formerly associated with armed forces, the SRSG noted the importance of addressing the root causes that foster child recruitment, including increasing access to education and civilian documentation, including birth registration.

More children released from armed forces but children remain vulnerable

The UN Secretary General's [2014 Annual Report on Children in Armed Conflict](#), issued on 12 June 2015, highlighted the positive steps that have been taken by the Government to advance the implementation of its Action Plan to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children. This includes the regular discharge of children from the Tatmadaw (Myanmar Army), regular case review meetings with the UN to expedite discharges, strengthened training efforts to sensitize military troops on the Joint Action Plan, and the endorsement of a work plan for full implementation of the Action Plan. Children released received reintegration assistance from the UN and national and international partners, in collaboration with the Myanmar Department of Social Welfare.



Business card for the phone line for reporting of under-age recruitment in the armed forces. The text reads: "The Tatmadaw is currently working with the U N and its team to discharge those recruited under 18. If you know anyone who was recruited or used under 18 in the Tatmadaw, please contact the UN and its team on emergency number 09421166701, 09421166702 or write to PO box 679."

Despite progress made, with the ongoing conflict in Kachin and northern Shan states, children continue to be recruited and used by the Myanmar Army and armed groups. A network of civil society organizations and a hotline for reporting underage recruitment are critical to timely prevention and response. The CTFMR continues to work in partnership with the Government to completely end the involvement of children in armed conflict.

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