

displaced population, about 4,000 people remained displaced in Bhamo, Momauk, Myitkyina and Waingmaw townships as of 28 October.

YANGON SEES FRESH DISPLACEMENT

Humanitarian organisations have serious concerns about the situation facing an estimated 1,600 households (approx. 7,700 people), who have reportedly been evicted from a settlement along the Yangon-Pathein road in Hlaingtharya Township, Yangon Region since 28 October. Most people had been squatting in empty hostels previously occupied by factory workers in the industrial township and those evicted are now in need of cash and food support.

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

Despite the complex and volatile humanitarian situation in Myanmar – with escalating armed clashes particularly in Kachin, Chin and Kayah states as well as Sagaing and Magway regions – the humanitarian community continues to face challenges in accessing vulnerable people in need of critical humanitarian assistance and protection services.

Various challenges, including growing insecurity, increased presence of checkpoints and roadblocks, COVID-19 related restrictions and limited mobility of humanitarian responders are contributing to a constrained access situation while exacerbating people's vulnerability in conflict-affected areas. In addition, Travel Authorisation (TA) and visa delays or denials, persistent banking challenges and limited availability of supplies in markets due to price upticks and import issues are severely impacting the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian organisations stand ready to further scale up the response to people in need but require increased and sustained access to people in need and streamlined bureaucratic processes to do so. For now, services are being delivered through local partners wherever possible, but a wider response is needed.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

Protection

- Nationwide, child protection partners reached 18,930 people with support in October. Over 420 children and 640 adolescents who had been arrested and detained received assistance. Meanwhile partners have observed that public health and legal services are increasingly resuming. One of the women and girls centres in Kachin secured a new hotline number, increasing access to services for survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV).
- Almost 120 children, 50 of whom are from the Rohingya community, as well as 60 adolescents were assisted with legal aid services. In addition, about 1,090 people in Rakhine, Kachin, northern Shan and Kayah benefited from outreach activities by social workers, health workers and justice/law enforcement service providers. The 5th Lawyers Community of Practice Forum was held online in October and explored ways to protect fundamental rights under the State of Emergency, as well as strategies for enhancing referral linkages with other protection actors.
- An estimated 10,800 people in Loikaw Township in Kayah received Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE). Partners provided support to two adolescent survivors of explosive ordnance in southern and eastern Shan.
- Partners provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services to more than 7,000 people across the country, including in Rakhine, Chin, Kachin, Shan, Kayin. In addition, 550 people have accessed GBV awareness-raising and MHPSS sessions in central Rakhine. In Kachin, awareness messages on how to cope with stress were disseminated while providing COVID-19 prevention items, such as masks, hand sanitisers and thermometers to vulnerable people in 27 camps.
- The provision of life-saving GBV interventions continued and a further 570 people received response interventions relating to GBV risk mitigation and prevention. Partners have been gradually resuming prevention and community engagement activities while observing COVID-19 preventive measures. In Rakhine, partners were able to deliver GBV services in an additional six IDP sites that have recently been re-classified accessible. A virtual GBV orientation session was conducted for more than 130 GBV focal points at agencies operating in different townships in Rakhine. A new temporary safe house for GBV survivors became operational in early October in Taunggyi.
- GBV partners reached out to women and girls affected by flood, displacement, conflict and COVID-19. More than 200 clean delivery kits and 3,870 dignity kits were distributed to newly displaced people in Rakhine, Kachin, northern Shan, Kayin and Kayah. Delivery of dignity kits is ongoing in Mon, southern Shan and the areas bordering