

Kayah. GBV partners are piloting production of reusable sanitary pads to respond to the menstrual hygiene management needs of women and girls in Sittwe Township in Rakhine and in Loikaw Township in Kayah.

Health

- In Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan, cluster partners scaled up their efforts to address the growing needs of vulnerable and displaced people. They distributed 10,740 comprehensive hygiene kits, constructed more than 1,260 new school toilets with handwashing facilities and household latrines, improved access to drinking water and rehabilitated the community drainage system. Furthermore, they reached more than 47,530 vulnerable people with messages on COVID-19 preventive measures and 240 children under 5 years with healthy food packages.
- In Chin, partners are working to ensure life-saving assistance and health care services reach vulnerable families amid a severely restricted access situation. They were able to improve WASH facilities and provide nutritious food assistance to children under 5 years as well as COVID-19 preventive items, including 640 sets of personal protective equipment (PPE) and masks to health facilities in the state. In Rakhine, mobile clinics have started re-operating in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, Pauktaw and Sittwe townships. In Kayah, 83,340 cloth masks, 3,630 face shields, 2,170 bottles of liquid soap, 180 thermometers and loudspeakers were provided to 180 villages. In addition, they provided 50 oxygen cylinder sets, 460 sets of PPE, 50 oximeters, 90 bottles of chlorine and 80 bottles of hand sanitiser to an additional 46 villages. Information, education and communication (IEC) materials about COVID-19 prevention were delivered to 210 villages. A rapid needs assessment, which was conducted in Myaing Gyi Ngu and Hlaingbwe townships, identified that food and improved access to water and sanitation facilities as well as hygiene items as the priority needs of IDPs in relocation sites.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- Partners are trying to reach vulnerable families across Rakhine with essential WASH support. In October, close to 50,000 people in 110 displacement sites have received improved access to clean water, sanitation facilities and hygiene items. In addition, the cluster conducted Global Handwashing Day events in camps and new displacement sites as well as supporting trainings on solar powered water systems for 60 participants from partner agencies.
- In Kachin, cluster partners continued to respond to the needs of newly displaced people through scaled-up support for water and sanitation facilities in remote areas and in new displacement sites in Tanai and Waingmaw townships serving 1,500 people.
- In Chin State and Magway and Sagaing regions, WASH partners continued to respond to the needs of displaced people and those affected by conflict despite challenges related to access, insecurity and limited availability of supplies due to price rises. About 22,510 vulnerable people have received hygiene kits, tarpaulins, waste bins and toilets for the elderly, as well as COVID-related WASH support including the installation of water supply, washing stations, waste bins, soap and IEC materials. Support like this will be continued for a further 35,000 people in November. Hygiene promotion sessions in conflict-affected townships has been suspended due to active armed conflict, COVID-19 restrictions and shortages of hygiene items in the local markets.
- About 1,390 people sheltering in new displacement sites in Kyaukme Township received hygiene items and had their access to water and sanitation enhanced. Partners have installed 30 handwashing stations and distributed 900 soaps, 400 hygiene kits, 5,040 water purification materials to 14 new displacement sites. They will continue to support conflict-affected communities in northern Shan with 20 semi-permanent latrines, mobile emergency latrines, 5 wells and 20 handwashing stations.

Education in Emergencies

- Most of the 12 million school-aged children in Myanmar have not attended school since March due to the COVID-19 pandemic which forced the closure of schools and education spaces across the country. Some schools are scheduled to open on 1 November.
- Partners in the Education Cluster are increasing the reach of open learning resources to compensate for lost face-to-face learning. UNICEF has supported 14 partners to reach 18,950 children and materials are positioned at township level to reach another 40,000.
- The Education Cluster is consulting with partners on the 2022 Humanitarian Program Cycle. The cluster is also enhancing its coordination capacity, adding two staff at the national level and identifying how to move forward with dedicated coordinators at sub-national level.