



## Highlights

IOM working with partners to distribute family kits, donated by the Australian Government, reaching remote communities in Kyauktaw, Rakhine.

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- 500 family kits donated by the Australian government were delivered to partners for distribution in Rakhine state. 1,000 shelter kits have been dispatched from Yangon to Rakhine for distribution by partners.

- 200 dignity kits from UNFPA were distributed by IOM in Hpar Pu village and Kuu Seik Village of Hpa-An township and Shwe Gun village of Hlaing Bwe Township in Kayin State.

- IOM teams have completed assessments in Sagaing, Magway and Chin. IOM has completed and shared preliminary findings from the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in Rakhine.

## Situation Overview

The most recent figures from the National Natural Disaster Management Committee (NNDMC) estimate over 1.6 million people have been affected across Sagaing, Kachin, Shan, Mandalay, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin, Mon, Bago, Magway, Ayeyarwady, Tanintharyi and Yangon as of 15/8. Over 330,000 households have been displaced, 16,095 houses completely damaged and 110 people have died. Ayeyarwady (453,424), Sagaing (444,294) and Magway (308,046) have been identified as the states/regions with the largest number of affected people.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, more than 1.4 million acres of farmland has been inundated and over 910,000 acres damaged. The Ministry of Education reports that 466 schools have been damaged by flooding with a total of 1,200 schools affected across Rakhine, Chin, Sagaing and Magway, with some being used as evacuation centres. The Ministry of Health has warned that people returning to their homes are at risk of water-borne disease and have limited access to clean water. Most rivers are currently below danger levels, but transportation remains a challenge as many roads and bridges were damaged during the flooding or are covered in mud and debris.

Priority humanitarian needs identified by the NNDMC are food, water and sanitation services, shelter and access to emergency health care. Approximately 435,000 people are in need of food assistance across the affected areas and malnutrition was a major concern prior to the flood especially for the vulnerable groups such as children. Limited access to clean water and risk of waterborne diseases are major concern to the affected population and the clean up of drinking water sources and the repair of latrines are immediate priorities which will facilitate the return of displaced persons.

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## IOM RESPONSE

Five hundred family kits were donated by the Australian Government to IOM. In the week of 16th August, IOM distributed in Rakhine State:

- 200 Family kits in Mrauk U through Danish Refugee Council (DRC).
- 200 Family kits in Sittwe through Action Contre La Faim (ACF).
- 50 Family kits in Kyauk Taw through Rakhine Women Union; and
- 50 Family kits in Kyauk Taw through Wun Latt Foundation.



Family kits have been distributed through local NGOs in Rakhine State. © IOM 2015 (Photo: IOM)

1,000 Shelter kits have been procured locally funded by CERF (UN's Central Emergency Relief Fund). 500 Shelter kits were distributed to Buthidaung and the remaining 500 Shelter kits were distributed to Mrauk U. They have been sent to Rakhine by road transport on 18th and 19th August.

IOM has procured internationally an additional 9,825 shelter kits which will arrive on 26th August at Yangon International Airport. Following discussion and agreement with the Shelter Cluster and in line with IOM's direct assessment of the affected areas and shelter needs, the current distribution plan is for 5,459 of these kits to be sent to Rakhine and the remaining 4,366 to be sent to Chin, Sagaing and Magway and distributed through local partners, including World Vision International, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), ActionAid, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Action Contre La Faim (ACF), Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) and CARE Myanmar.

Two hundred dignity kits provided by UNFPA were distributed by IOM in Hpar Pu village and Kuu Seik Village of Hpa-An township and Shwe Gun village of Hlaing Bwe Township in Kayin State on 13th August. UNFPA have requested anti-trafficking brochures from IOM to be included in 14,000 dignity kits which will be distributed to women and girls in the coming weeks. Anti-trafficking brochures will also be included in the 10,000 shelter kits delivered by IOM to better link anti-trafficking effort to the humanitarian response.

Three IOM assessment teams were deployed from Yangon to Chin State, Sagaing Region and Magway Region to liaise with the state and regional level government authorities, including the Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD). IOM teams identified current needs, response and gaps as well as partners and target areas for the distribution of shelter kits.

Fifteen IOM staff were deployed to Rakhine to support on-going assessments of displacement sites including evacuation centres, collective centres and IDP camps.

Assessment findings to date are as follows:

### RAKHINE

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) has been rolled out and data analyzed for 46 villages in Kyauk Taw, Minbya and Mrauk-U. Eighty percent of villages where DTM was rolled out were found to have had residents move away from their homes and relocate to safer areas including monasteries and neighbor's houses. The average length of displacement was less than 2 weeks for 61% of those surveyed, most of whom returned home after waters receded.

The primary impact reported by the communities assessed was the loss of crops and fields or paddies (35%) and fields being affected by mud intrusion (30%). This is likely to affect income, 75% of which was said to come from paddy farming or farming crops and vegetables.

A total of 929 houses (12%) were found to be damaged or fully destroyed in the areas DTM was rolled out in, with challenges to rebuilding including lack of funds and lack of building materials. The majority (52%) of respondents whose homes were damaged or destroyed have started repairing or rebuilding their homes themselves.

Initial DTM findings have been widely shared with partners. The second round of DTM assessments is being finalized for Maungdaw and Buthidaung with data currently being processed.

### CHIN

The IOM assessment team visited Hakka and Falam townships in Chin State. Data from the Chin State government indicated that as of 16th August, there were 9,228 IDPs residing in collective centres or with host families in Hakha, Falam, Ton Zang, Mindat, Matupi and Kanpelet townships.

Interviews with IDPs in camps in Hakka townships indicated the buildings (e.g. high schools, churches) are very crowded with inadequate drinking and bathing water and latrines.

Community members interviewed in Falam noted the destruction of pipelines in 40 villages was affecting water supply and that access to food was also a concern. The General Administrative Department (GAD) reported that 93 houses and 41 bridges had been destroyed.

Transport in Chin State remains a challenge as roads have been destroyed by landslides. The World Food Programme (WFP) has distributed food in 7 camps in Hakha township but has no plans for further distribution.

Recommendations from the assessment include:

- There is need for shelter, NFIs and food, with food the main challenge to provide due to difficulties in transporting to beneficiaries;
- Most IDPs cannot return to their original village and will need to be relocated.

**SAGAING**



Flood affected people sheltering in the monastery in Salingyi District, Sagaing. © IOM 2015 (Photo: IOM)

The assessment team visited 10 townships across Monywa, Shwebo, Katha, Yinmarbin and Sagaing districts of Sagaing region.

Although the assessed area has seen increased levels of flooding compared to previous years, the current 'water intrusion' is generally viewed by both authorities and affected persons alike as a 'manageable' seasonal phenomenon. The water level across many villages in township continues to rise and fall according to the amount of rainfall and being an annual occurrence most households are to some extent prepared and able to cope without leaving home.

The majority of those that do need to leave their homes stay with family/friends or at the local monastery. An estimated 300 households are settling on the main roads of Salingyi, Wetlet and Myaung townships, sleeping on or under carts with tarps. Restricted access to/movement in villages and dirty wells due to large deposits of mud threaten livelihoods due to damaged paddy fields of Salingyi, Wetlet and Myaung township.

Recommendations include:

- Distribution of Shelter, NFIs, WASH to displaced villagers living on main roads in Salingyi, Wetlet and Myaung and those repairing/rebuilding their houses across the region.

**MAGWAY**

The IOM team visited some of the affected areas in Sidoktaya Pwithbyu, Salin and Yenangyaung townships. Impact in Sidoktaya and Pwithbyu seems to be more severe than in

other townships, where mud left after water receded caused significant damage to farmlands, leaving many farmers without the means to restore their livelihood quickly. The majority of affected communities depend almost exclusively on agriculture for income.

In all townships visited, communities reported displacement for 1-2 weeks, many reaching safer areas such as religious and public buildings. Most have now returned but a few families remain displaced and unable to return to their place of origin due to stagnating water or presence of mud in their villages. Many now depend on donations provided by charities and authorities. Some sites are in dire need for additional support, facing overcrowding and limited access to basic services.



IOM team consult with flood affected villagers, Salin District, Magway © IOM 2015 (Photo: IOM)

Recommendations include:

- Localized distribution of emergency shelter and NFIs, particularly for families facing prolonged displacement;
- Increased communication with communities on the need for accurate reporting of damages to enable access assistance and compensation;
- Displacement/return tracking;
- Recovery shelter support including cash and building material; and
- Identification of high risk areas where return may not be possible, and facilitation of relocation for example through granting access to land.

**NATIONAL**

In addition to assessments, IOM continues advocacy at the central level, and developed and shared with the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Ministry of Home Affairs a policy paper on integrating migration concerns within the floods response, including through providing cash for work, multipurpose cash grants and information on safe migration.

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