

## MYANMAR | COVID-19 Response

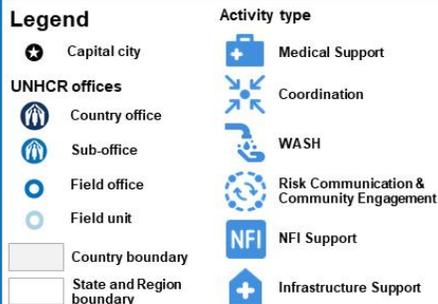
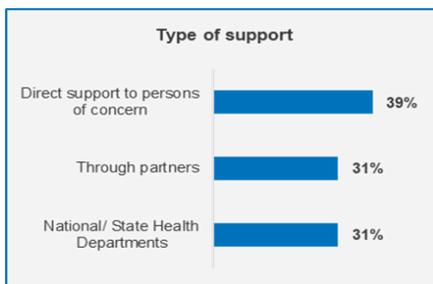
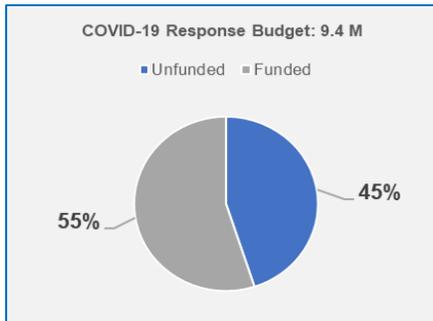
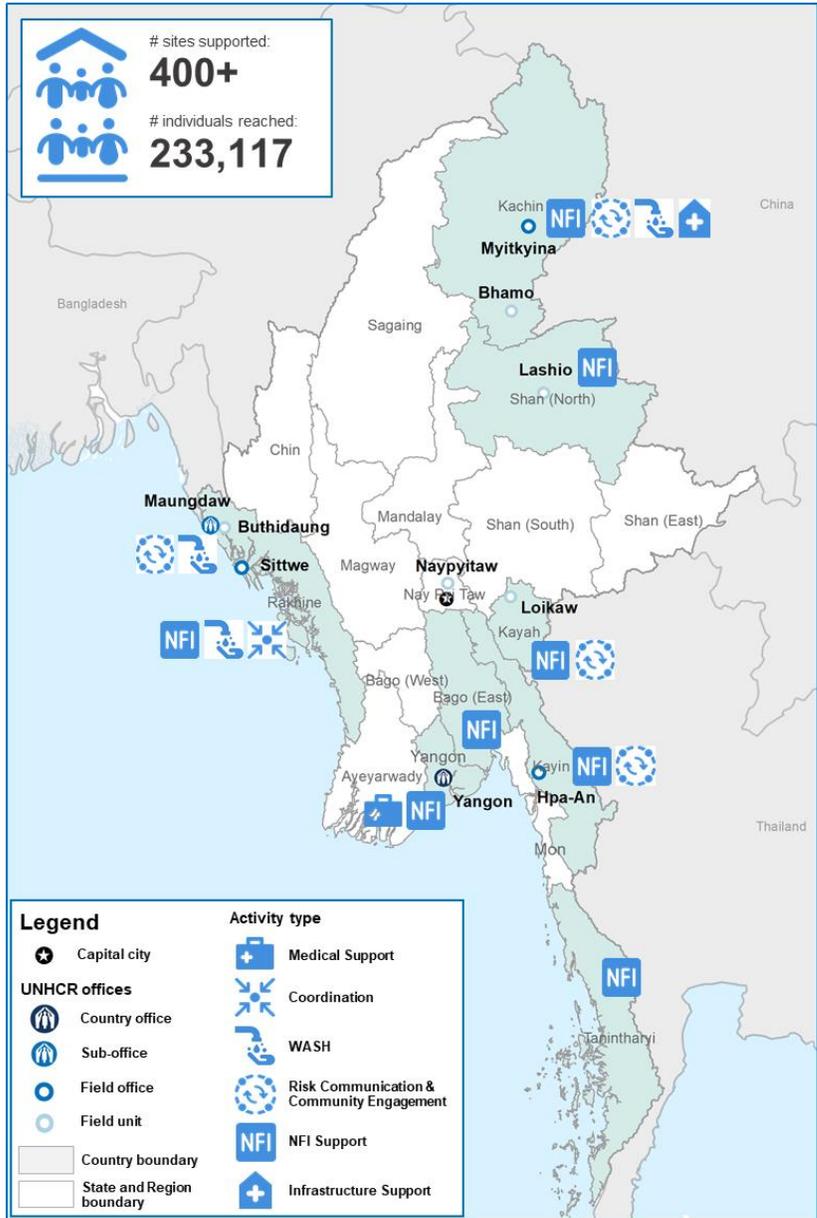
The COVID-19 global health crisis has placed the forcibly displaced and stateless populations at greater risk as the pandemic prolongs. This crisis is a reminder that to effectively combat any public health emergency, fair and equal access to health facilities and services is needed. To that effect, through the Global GHRP for COVID-19, UNHCR appealed for US \$9.4 million and mobilized \$4.2 million to ensure a strong contribution to Myanmar's COVID-19 national response and the inclusion of persons of concern.

To better respond to the unprecedented challenge, UNHCR declared COVID-19 a Level 2 Emergency globally as per its internal policy on 25 March, activating emergency procurement procedures, simplified partner selection processes and giving country teams maximum flexibility in providing assistance.

In country, UNHCR has redoubled efforts to support the Government of Myanmar to respond to the crisis, and activities have focused on continuing, adapting and increasing delivery of protection and assistance and ensuring access to essential services for persons of concern. UNHCR's COVID-19 response complements the work of other UN agencies, including the World Health Organisation. Operating across the North East, South East and Rakhine State, UNHCR has over 170 committed staff members, the majority of whom are in the field close to people in need.



### UNHCR Myanmar COVID-19 Response Activities



*Disclaimer: The names shown, the boundaries and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by UNHCR*

## Snapshot of activities

### Direct medical assistance to bolster national response

As part of a US \$4.0 million contribution for the Ministry of Health and Sports to bolster the national health response to COVID-19, UNHCR donated four COVID-19 commodity packages designed by WHO to support an outbreak of 40,000 people, comprising of 75 items including 18 ventilators, 20 ultrasound scanners, 720 thermometers and various medicines. The donation also included disinfectants, waste management and laboratory supplies. In addition, 635,200 PPE items such as gloves, masks, disposable gowns and face shields have been handed over to protect front-line workers and keep them safe.

*Handover of specialized medical equipment by UNHCR to Rakhine State Government, September 2020. Photo: UNHCR*



### Provision of COVID-19 testing kits

UNHCR procured 50,000 additional COVID-19 testing kits aimed at bolstering the Government's prevention efforts. The kits are expected to arrive in country early December. These kits are on top of the 20,000 COVID-19 test kits delivered to the Government in July by UNHCR and WFP, with procurement support from UNICEF, as part of a broader United Nations provision of over 95,000 test kits to the Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS).

*Stephen Anderson, WFP Country Director, Dr. Zaw Than Htun, Director General, Department of Medical Research, MoHS Yangon, Cecile Fradot, UNHCR Representative a.i. and June Kunugi, UNHCR Representative and UN RC/HC a.i. welcome the arrival of 20,000 COVID-19 test kits to Yangon. Photo: UNHCR & WFP/Hkun Lat*



### NFI Support for Quarantine Facilities

UNHCR has extended support to State Health Departments and local authorities across the country to equip more than 400 quarantine facilities. The provision of plastic sheeting in Sittwe, Rakhine State and galvanized iron sheeting in Momauk, Kachin State for example, provided privacy as well as protection from the monsoon rains. Contributions of beds, blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, hygiene kits with toothbrush, tooth paste and towels, helped to make the temporary stay of those quarantined more comfortable and safer for everyone, among them many returning migrants.

*Emergency NFI assistance was dispatched to all operational areas in support of quarantine centres for migrant returnees including in Kayah. Photo: UNHCR*



## Risk Communication and Community Engagement

Ensuring that persons of concern are reached with RCCE activities remains a priority, with awareness raising for IDPs in central Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan carried out by respective camp management agencies as well as humanitarian partners. In northern areas of Rakhine, RCCE activities took place under the tripartite UNHCR, UNDP, GoM MoU through in-person awareness sessions in communities (including stateless communities and IDPs) and donation of printed IEC materials to village, township, and district authorities.

A further 61,000 persons were reached in the South East including the camp population in Myaing Gyi Ngu IDP camp. UNHCR provided loudspeakers in Kayah and Kayin states and also bolstered awareness raising through an information campaign with MRCS in Kayin State.

*UNHCR partner, LWF, on site carrying out awareness raising for stateless communities in central Rakhine.*



## WASH and Infrastructure Support

The Operation scaled up health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services in camp settings as well as in busy market areas putting new sinks, soaps and hand sanitizer in place. In both Buthidaung and Maungdaw downtown markets, in coordination with township authorities, UNHCR constructed water points to provide additional hygiene support where most needed. WASH activities were also boosted in a number of new IDP locations in Rakhine State. In northern Shan State, UNHCR provided 627 packages of essential hygiene items, including towels, toothpaste and toothbrushes, reaching over 315 families in IDP camps.

Other activities include the provision of laundry facility for quarantine centers in Kachin State. In May, UNHCR handed over 18 heavy duty washing machines for both newly constructed laundry room, as well as a further nine facilities across the state to allow for the disinfection of clothes and linen.

UNHCR and Unilever worked together to enhance sanitation and hygiene for families in need through a donation of 608,000 bars of soap to prevent COVID-19. The soaps have been dispatched and distributed to all areas in need across the operation including IDP settings and quarantine centres.

*Water tanks and handwashing station in Buthidaung market; laundry facilities in Myitkyina quarantine center; handover of Unilever donated soaps for IDPs in Waimaw Township by partner Shalom. Photo: UNHCR*



 **Supporting Livelihoods & Distribution of PPE**

Working through partners including ACTED and DRC, UNHCR funded livelihoods programmes benefiting women and their families. Thus far, some 50,000 masks have been produced by participants providing both much needed income at a time of economic hardship, as well as essential protective equipment for communities in Rakhine State. The masks are distributed in IDP camps managed by the respective organisations, and also provided to quarantine centers.

*In progress:* An additional 160,000 N95 masks have been procured and will be handed over to the Government of Myanmar.

*A livelihoods project in Rakhine State run by ACTED targets tailors. Photo: UNHCR*



UNHCR Myanmar's programme is in partnership with:



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