

# Alert

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## Myanmar

# Flooding & Cyclone Damage in Myanmar

Geneva, 5 August 2015

### 1. Brief description of the emergency and impact

On 30 July, Cyclone Komen made landfall in Bangladesh bringing about strong winds and additional heavy rains to Myanmar, resulting in wind damage, flooding, flash floods and landslides across the country.

As of 3 August, initial figures from the Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) of the Ministry of Social Welfare, reported that over 200,000 people have been affected, with a death toll of 47 across the affected states/regions. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, 524,895 acres of farmland have been inundated since June 2015. The loss of stored grains and livestock is expected to disrupt the planting season and impact long-term food security. **Chin:** Hakah is the worst affected Township where landslides have affected over 2,700 people, destroying 60 houses. Over 5,200 people are in evacuation centres in Mindat Township, where 12 bridges have been destroyed. In Samee Town, strong currents have washed away 40 houses. 250 houses in Paletwa Town were affected by floods and landslides. **Magway:** towns on the western banks of the Ayeyarwaddy River are severely affected. According to RRD, close to 25,600 people are affected by floods in Magway, Pwintbyu, Salin, Saw, Sidoktaya townships. In Pwintbyu Township, around 70 villages have been affected.

**Rakhine:** according to the State General Administration Department (GAD), 18 people have been killed. Over 33,800 people from ten townships have been evacuated and are taking shelter in 130 evacuation centres. 4,751 houses, 37 schools, three bridges and 53,225 acres of farmland have been destroyed. Flood-affected communities include previously displaced people in Rakhine State, where over 130,000 people remain displaced as a result of the violence that erupted in 2012. People have lost their livelihood assets, houses and rice stocks. In Kyauktaw, 1,800 people are sheltering in four evacuation centres. In Buthidaung Town, six evacuation centres have been established to host 1,500 people. In Maungdaw Township, over 970 people remain in evacuation centres. Mrauk-U Township remains severely affected by floods with 15 evacuation centres accommodating over 2,000 people. Shelters in IDP camps have sustained minimal damage, but the water level in some camps remains high.

**Sagaing:** In Kale Township, water levels remain high (about 3 metres above ground). According to RRD, over 8,000 people are being sheltered in 5 evacuation centres in Kale Town, and approximately 7,000 people are staying in temporary evacuation centres, monasteries, or with host families. (OCHA SitRep)

### 2. Why is an ACT response needed?

These are the worst floods seen in recent years and with continuous monsoon rains, the situation can worsen drastically. Many people require assistance with immediate needs including food, shelter, water and sanitation, as well as access to emergency healthcare. (OCHA SitRep) ACT Forum Members are operational in the flood stricken areas and well equipped to respond.

### **3. National and international response**

On 31 July, the President issued a statement, declaring a state of emergency in (1) Chin and (2) Rakhine states, as well as the (3) Sagaing and (4) Magway regions. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is leading the response. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) is in close communication with the Government at state and union level, and with authorities at state and regional level. Regular meetings of the HCT and the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group are taking place in Yangon and Sittwe.

UN agencies and INGOs are conducting assessments and scaling up emergency response, through the provision of food, emergency health services, water and sanitation assistance, shelter, mosquito nets, and other relief items. According to RRD, the Government has already provided food, building materials and essential relief items worth US\$74,200. WFP has commenced the provision of food rations to 47,800 people, UNICEF has supported the distribution of 400,000 water purification sachets in Sagaing and has dispatched hygiene kits for 20,000 people in coordination with the Ministry of Health and the Department of Rural Development. Hygiene kits and water purification tablets are also being distributed in Rakhine.

### **4. ACT Alliance response**

Christian Aid, Church World Service, DanChurchAid, Diakonia, Lutheran World Federation, Norwegian Church Aid, and ICCO are operational in the affected areas and are currently undertaking needs assessments themselves and/or through local partners.

### **5. Planned activities**

The next ACT Forum Meeting will take place on 7 August when assessments will be reviewed and decisions made on the best way forward on coordinated flood relief for the at least the next 4 months. ACT Myanmar Forum and partners plan to assist with shelter, food, potable water, non-food items, cash and DRR. An RRF or an ACT appeal will be requested depending on the needs assessment.

### **6. Constraints**

Transportation, electricity and communication have been disrupted in the affected areas. Access to these areas remains a major challenge. Flooding has spread from coastal to mountainous areas. Large amounts of debris floating in rivers pose a challenge to boat access. Landslides have blocked roads and transportation routes. (OCHA SitRep)

**Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel ([Line.Hempel@actalliance.org](mailto:Line.Hempel@actalliance.org)).**

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