ACT Alliance

Appeal MMR232

Waves of Change: Assistance to the Cyclone Mocha affected people in Myanmar





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Project Sum	oject Summary Sheet						
Project Title	Waves of Change: Assistance to the Cyclone Mocha affected people in Myanmar						
Project ID	MMR	232					
Location	Myann	nar: Rakhine State, Chir	n State				
Project Period	End	Start Date 1 July 2023 End Date 30 June 2024 No. of months 12					
Requesting Forum		confirm) List all organisations' r	names: Christia	an Aid, I	ssion of this Sub-Appeal (tick box to CCO part of Cordaid, ACT CoS, LWF, Diakonia, Bread for the World		
Requesting members	Finn C	ian Aid (CA) hurch Aid (FCA) -leac ran World Federatior					
Contact	Name Henry Braun Email Henry.braun@kua.fi Other means of +4917643838834 contact (WhatsApp, Skype ID)				a.fi		
Local partners	-	mar Council of Churche. ı, Scholar Institute, Buil		_	hurch, Community Engagement and Resilience		
Thematic Area(s)	\boxtimes	Cash and Vouchers		\boxtimes	Shelter and household items		
		Camp Managemen	t	\boxtimes	Food and Nutrition		
		Disaster Risk Mana	gement		MHPSS and CBPS		
	\boxtimes	WASH			Gender		
		Livelihood		\boxtimes	Education		
		Health			Advocacy		
		Other:					





Project Outcome(s)	1.1 People affected by cyclone accessed shelter assistance for their dignified resettlement as emergency assistance.1.2 People affected by cyclone received immediate life-saving, multi-sectoral emergency support							
	2.1 School students affected by cyclone have better access to education through reconstruction temporary learning spaces							
	2.2 Rohingya school going children acquired learning kits for improvement of their							
	teaching and learning opportunities 2.3 People affected by Cyclone were able to avail of psychosocial support							
	3.1 Improve access and enhance short-term employment and income generation opportunities							
	4.1 Cyclone affected population has access to clean, hygienic drinking water							
	4.2 Affected population has access to essential hygiene items including dignity kits4.3 Affected population has access to clean drinking water							
Project	Objectives 1: To provide immediate lifesaving support to Mocha Cyclone affected							
Objectives	population in Myanmar							
	Objective 2: To improve better education opportunities to cyclone affected students in project locations							
	Objective 3. To enable access to and restoration of community infrastructures through							
	cash for work for cyclone affected people in Rakhine, Myanmar							
	Objective 4. To improve access to water, sanitation and hygiene facilities among cyclone							
	affected population"							
Target	Drafile							
Recipients	Profile							
	☐ Refugees ☒ IDPs ☒ host ☐ Returnees population							
	Non-displaced affected population Non-displaced affected population							
	No. of households (based on average HH size): 28,998							
	Sex and Age Disaggregated Data:							
	Sex and Age							
	0-5 6-12 13-17 18-49 50-59 60-69 70-79 80+							
	Male 13,911 20,992. 11,757 36,218 5,861 2,609 2,041 1,470							
	Female 14,156 22,415 11,891 39,334 6,805 3,778 2,628 1,916							
Budget-USD	USD 5,481,345							

Reporting Schedule

Type of Report	Due date
Situation report	Quarterly situational report October 2023
	January 2024 April 2024
Interim Report (narrative and financial)	31st January 2024
Final narrative and financial report (60 days after the ending date)	31 st August 2024





Audit report	30 th September 2024
(90 days after the ending date)	

Please kindly send your contributions to either of the following ACT bank accounts:

US dollar

Account Number - 240-432629.60A IBAN No: CH46 0024 0240 4326 2960A

Account Name: ACT Alliance
UBS AG
8, rue du Rhône
P.O. Box 2600
1211 Geneva 4, SWITZERLAND
Swift address: UBSWCHZH80A

Please note that as part of the revised ACT Humanitarian Mechanism, pledges/contributions are **encouraged** to be made through the consolidated budget of the country forum, and allocations will be made based on agreed criteria of the forum. For any possible earmarking, budget targets per member can be found in the "Summary Table" Annex, and detailed budgets per member are available upon request from the ACT Secretariat. Please send an email to Humanitarian Finance (humanitarianfinance@actalliance.org) if you want to know the funding levels. The secretariat provides a monthly update for an overview of existing pledges/contributions and associated earmarking for the appeal.

Please inform the Director of Operations, Nancy Ette and Head of Humanitarian Affairs, Niall O'Rourke to the following email address: humanitarianfinance@actalliance.org, of all pledges/contributions and transfers, including funds sent direct to the requesting members. Please also be sure to inform us at the time of your pledge of any back donor or other special requirements relevant to the donation. In line with Grand Bargain commitments to reduce the earmarking of humanitarian funding, if you have an earmarking request in relation to your pledge, a member of the Secretariat's Humanitarian team will contact you to discuss this request. We thank you in advance for your kind cooperation.

For further information, please contact:

Asia and the Pacific

ACT Regional Representative, Alwynn Javier (<u>alwynn.javier@actalliance.org</u>) Humanitarian Programme Officer, Muhammad Waqas (<u>waqas@actalliance.org</u>)

Visit the ACT website: https://actalliance.org/

Niall O'Rourke

Head of Humanitarian Affairs ACT Alliance Secretariat, Geneva





BACKGROUND

Context and Needs

Impact of Disaster and Unmet Needs: On May 14th 2023, the Cyclone Mocha had a profound impact on Myanmar and Bangladesh, leaving 5.4 million people in its path and causing severe damage. Among these, an estimated 3.2 million individuals are considered most vulnerable due to factors such as poor shelter quality, food insecurity, and reduced coping capacity. The cyclone, the most potent in over a decade, wreaked havoc on infrastructure, communication networks, and housing, particularly in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. The worst-affected areas include Sittwe, Rathedaung, and seven other townships, which urgently need shelter materials, food, clean water, latrines, and health services.

Government Actions and Health System Response: In response to the disaster, the Myanmar military has deployed additional troops in Rakhine state and assigned generals to oversee the response efforts and control humanitarian access. Discussions about the humanitarian response are ongoing in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, but formal permission for proposed relief plans is still pending. Detailed information on the health system's response is currently unavailable, although the primary hospital serving the camps has suffered extensive damage.

Needs Assessment and Potential Consequences: Finn Church Aid (FCA), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), and Christian Aid (CA), together with their partners, have conducted a rapid needs assessment and identified needs in shelter, water and sanitation, education, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). If these immediate needs remain unmet, the results could be devastating. The lack of shelter, clean water, and health services could lead to heightened disease risk, malnutrition, and other health-related complications. The cyclone has created an education emergency, with approximately 80% of schools and educational infrastructure reportedly sustaining damage ahead of the start of the new school term. Inadequate response and long-term implications may prevent the recovery of affected communities, exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, and perpetuate hardship.

Specific Needs: The response efforts must also focus on addressing the specific needs of vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, women, girls, and LGBTI communities. Although detailed information on these groups' needs is unavailable, ensuring their safety, well-being, and inclusivity remains paramount.

Examples of the needs and gaps identified in the Initial Need Assessment Report, as well as the emergency response efforts that will be implemented to address them:

Emergency shelters: ACT Forum
Myanmar will provide shelter materials
for families to construct temporary
shelters, ensuring they have a safe place
to stay amidst the devastation caused
by Cyclone Mocha.

Food aid: ACT Forum Myanmar recognizes the disruption of food supplies due to Cyclone Mocha and will distribute essential items such as rice, lentils, oil, and salt to affected communities.

Non-food items (NFIs): Alongside shelter and food, affected individuals require basic household items like blankets, mosquito nets, cooking utensils, and hygiene kits. ACT Forum Myanmar will distribute these NFIs to enhance their overall well-being.

Livelihood recovery: To support the recovery of livelihoods impacted by the cyclone, ACT Forum Myanmar will implement cash-for-work activities.

These initiatives will provide individuals with opportunities to earn income.

Accessible facilities for vulnerable populations: ACT Myanmar is committed to ensuring that facilities such as toilets and water points are accessible to vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities and children, who have faced difficulties accessing necessary amenities due to the cyclone's damage.

Community Consultation: To ensure a community-centered approach, consultations with affected communities are underway. Feedback from these consultations will inform the design and implementation of humanitarian assistance, aligning interventions with the specific needs and priorities of the affected populations.





Key Gaps and Statistics: Local organisations and organizations with new and existing Travel Authorisation (TAs) are expanding their efforts to provide shelter and food assistance to those affected by the cyclone. More than 95,240 people in the affected areas have received shelter and other relief items, and over 266,500 people have received food assistance. Approximately 3,380 metric tons of rice and high-energy biscuits have been distributed to cyclone-affected people in Rakhine. However, there are still gaps and constraints in the humanitarian response efforts. Excessive debris continues to be a significant problem in cyclone-impacted areas, slowing down the repair and reopening of schools. This issue is further exacerbated by flooding in certain areas and additional hazards such as unexploded ordnance (EO).

Capacity to respond

The ACT Forum has a strong collective capacity to respond to this emergency, bolstered by the rich expertise and resources of its member organizations including FCA, LWF, and CA. All these organizations have a substantial presence and long-standing operational experience in regions of conflict and disaster, as well as partnerships with local organizations and faith actors which we can leverage for a more comprehensive and effective response.

FCA, LWF, and CA all bring to the table substantial expertise in humanitarian response. Each organization's experience and capacity align closely with sectors most in need due to the cyclone, including food security, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and education.

For instance, FCA has been actively supporting the affected population, working hand in hand with local partners such as Community Engagement and Resilience Agency (CERA), Scholar Institute (SI), Mara Evangelical Church (MEC) and Myanmar Council of Churches (MCC). This has included the provision of essential food supplies, clean water, and hygiene kits, and will continue to do so. LWF has demonstrated its humanitarian commitment in Myanmar since Cyclone Nargis and has been assisting people across the country through various programs since 2008. CA, with its 30 years of experience in Myanmar, working with its partner Building Better Societies is well-geared towards local resilience and response, having pioneered localization and survivor-led approaches to humanitarian response in the region.

To raise funds for the current appeal, these organizations are exploring all available resources. For instance, FCA has already secured funding from UN Women for a project in Rakhine and is leveraging its own disaster fund. LWF continuously accesses funds from various donors including UNHCR and GIZ for ongoing projects which can complement the Mocha responses and preparing to apply for grants at MHF. CA has secured funds from ECHO FLER and UN Women for the emergency response in Rakhine and is planning to apply for grants from OCHA MHF SA1 2023.

FCA, LWF, and CA also have established relationships with faith actors and local churches in the affected regions. They plan to work closely with them to mitigate the challenges posed by the active conflict and presence of armed groups. Faith actors often play a vital role in community-level initiatives and are typically the first responders during emergencies, providing an essential capacity to be tapped.

Immediate actions have already been taken to address the humanitarian needs of this disaster. For instance, FCA has carried out a rapid needs assessment with partners, provided emergency assistance in collaboration with relevant agencies and local partners, including food, clean water, and hygiene kits. LWF has carried out rapid need assessments and initiated relief efforts. CA has conducted a rapid needs assessment in its project locations, identified needs, developed response plans, and initiated coordination with UN organizations.

RESPONSE STRATEGY





The **Results Framework** is annexed to this appeal proposal

The ACT Response, a joint initiative by FCA, LWF, and CA, is geared to address the diverse sectors with unmet needs in the aftermath of Cyclone Mocha. Leveraging the combined strengths and resources of the three organizations, we aim to provide a multi-faceted response addressing key areas of need, including cash and voucher assistance, food and non-food items, shelter, and education in emergencies.

Our approach includes a Cash-for-Work component, employing the 'cash in envelope' model for activities such as improving community infrastructures in Rakhine IDP camps where cash transfer agents are unavailable. In areas where facilities are available (local communities in Rakhine and in Chin), we will provide multipurpose cash to beneficiaries. This approach aims to ensure that beneficiaries receive the appropriate type of assistance based on their location and needs. We will continue to monitor the availability of cash transfer agents and adjust our approach accordingly.

The project is set to be implemented in priority townships in Rakhine and Chin State, areas identified through rapid needs assessments conducted in collaboration with local partners and networks. Through FCA, we plan to focus our response on specific townships, allowing for targeted interventions designed to address the needs of the most vulnerable communities. We intend to distribute cash and voucher assistance to beneficiaries, a strategy that supports local market recovery while allowing the affected individuals the flexibility to address their specific needs.

Our partnership with local faith actors is integral to the design and implementation of the response. Through our collaboration with the MEC and MCC, we seek to utilize the capacities and resources of local faith actors, promoting cultural sensitivity and sustainable recovery. We believe this approach will foster trust within the affected communities and streamline the implementation of our response.

The LWF component of the response aims to alleviate suffering and promote protection for displaced individuals, reduce vulnerability, and improve access to protection services. LWF will primarily work with IDPs in five Rohingya camps in Rakhine State, prioritizing reconstruction of shelters, providing learning kits for children, and cash-for-work activities for community infrastructure rebuilding. In line with our commitment to humanitarian principles, LWF will continue to collaborate with religious leaders and camp management committees, acknowledging their essential role in the response.

CA will implement its part of the project in partnership with its long-term partner Building Better Society (BBS) based in Rakhine. BBS will support the affected communities in improving access to food through cash distribution, construction of new water sources, restoration of damaged water sources, provision of clean drinking water, provision of hygiene kits, shelter reconstruction assistance, and provision of shelter kits. CA's approach prioritizes the needs of the most vulnerable groups, particularly women-headed households, households with pregnant and lactating women, households with disabled/elderly individuals, and children below 5 years. CA will also collaborate with local faith actors, leveraging BBS's experience in working with such actors at the community level.

We're committed to fostering partnerships with local actors, leveraging their knowledge and resources for the best possible outcomes. The Results Framework provided in the annex of this proposal outlines the expected outcomes, outputs, and indicators that will guide our response.

Exit strategy

The project assures the sustainability of benefits derived from its actions through the combined expertise of FCA, LWF, and CA. Each organization brings a unique strength, and together we utilize the principles of Linking Relief, Rehabilitation, and Development (LRRD) and resilience. This comprehensive approach ensures smooth transitions and continuity of support beyond the project's lifespan.

In the immediate aftermath of a crisis such as Cyclone Mocha, providing relief to the most vulnerable populations is our priority. LWF's role as the leading Camp Management Agency and its ongoing presence in the affected areas will ensure that the immediate humanitarian needs of the IDPs are met. LWF will





continue its coordination role, monitoring community needs, seeking further funding sources for long-term needs, and aiding in the rehabilitation of the affected population. The reconstruction of shelters and community infrastructures, such as schools and health facilities, is a core part of this phase, allowing communities to resume their normal life.

As the project evolves from relief to rehabilitation, we will begin to focus more on capacity-building and resilience activities. Here, FCA's expertise in empowering local communities and strengthening local institutions comes into play. FCA's capacity-building initiatives, such as training and knowledge transfer, will equip community members and local partners with the skills and resources necessary to continue the initiatives started by the project.

Throughout this process, CA's long-term commitment to the target locations and its strong track record in implementing various programs aimed at building resilient communities will ensure that our efforts continue to bear fruit. By using a triple nexus approach, CA works to meet peoples' needs more effectively, mitigate risks and vulnerabilities, and move toward sustainable peace.

We understand that a context-specific exit/handover strategy is critical for the long-term success of the project. All three organizations will work closely with local stakeholders, community leaders, and local authorities to develop and implement such a strategy. This strategy will involve a gradual transition of project responsibilities and resources to local actors, ensuring their ownership and sustainability after the project. We will continue to support these communities through our various humanitarian and development initiatives, and with the assistance of our local partners.

As part of our exit strategy, we will also work to identify other national and international organizations that can commit resources for continued support to these communities. Furthermore, we will actively engage in knowledge sharing and collaboration with other development actors, both within the local context and internationally, to ensure the dissemination and incorporation of best practices and lessons learned into future programming.

In the longer term, we will ensure that our interventions are sustained even after the project ends. LWF, as the managing agency for the camps, will continue to oversee their management and ensure that the progress made through the project is maintained. FCA and CA will likewise continue their work in their respective target areas, ensuring that the benefits of our project extend far beyond its official end date. Our collaboration with multiple partners across separate target areas will further help in sustaining the impacts of our interventions.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Implementation Approach

The proposed emergency project, which targets the areas affected by Cyclone Mocha in Rakhine and Chin, uses a holistic, participatory approach. It is spearheaded by FCA, LWF, and CA, and involves the cooperation with local partners like BSS, CERA, SI, MEC and MCC, and particularly stresses the inclusion and active participation of local faith actors. These partners offer valuable expertise, especially regarding the empowerment of women and girls in similar contexts.

The project employs both cash-based transfers and in-kind distributions to deliver assistance promptly and effectively. Our team's local field teams, in close collaboration with beneficiaries, will directly implement most project activities. The project also adheres to the highest international standards, like the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability, INEE, and Sphere.





Furthermore, our project emphasizes the essential role of local faith actors, partnering with MEC and MCC to enhance cultural sensitivity, community engagement, and sustainable recovery. By involving local faith actors, we not only respect local traditions and beliefs but also tap into their networks and resources, contributing to the resilience and recovery of the affected communities. This cooperation ensures that local faith actors play a significant role in the project's design and implementation.

An important component of the implementation model involves a conflict-sensitive and 'Do-No-Harm' approach. Protection, gender, and disability are mainstreamed to ensure safety, dignity, and meaningful participation of diverse communities in the program cycle, thus enhancing the project's sustainability. To guarantee that the project's beneficiaries are informed, we will hold regular community consultation meetings, wherein all project-related information will be shared. Moreover, we will incorporate their feedback and suggestions into the project design.

Our approach also includes a Cash-for-Work component, employing the 'cash in envelope' model for activities such as improving community infrastructures. Due to the unavailability of cash transfer agents in Rohingya IDP camps, this model is the most viable solution.

To ensure gender mainstreaming throughout the project, we will prioritize women in beneficiary selection, address gender-specific needs such as providing dignity kits, and pay careful attention to the needs of other vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities, children, and the elderly. We will also prioritize the engagement of women-owned businesses in procurement processes.

Regarding cash and voucher assistance, multi-purpose cash response will be implemented through cash for food and cash for work. Our approach will be informed by lessons learned and best practices from our previous initiatives, promoting innovation and evidence-based programming. This project will complement our ongoing responses in the target areas, ensuring harmonization and avoiding duplication of efforts.

In terms of the project's exit strategy, it has been designed with an eye toward sustainability. We plan to gradually transfer project responsibilities and resources to local actors and institutions, thereby promoting their ownership and sustainability once the project concludes. This approach ensures the benefits derived from the project will continue to resonate within the community long after its completion.

Implementation Arrangements

The implementation arrangements for this emergency response project in Rakhine and Chin, Myanmar, involve close collaboration and coordination among the three International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), FCA, LWF, and CA, as well as with local actors and faith actors.

FCA is taking the lead agency role, with LWF and CA cooperating as sub-leads, each with specific implementation responsibilities. FCA, in partnership with local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), will be responsible for activities in both Rakhine and Chin. LWF will independently carry out interventions in Rakhine, while CA will collaborate with local CSOs in Northern Rakhine This division of roles ensures effective coverage and implementation in the targeted areas.

All three agencies, FCA, LWF, and CA, are co-located in the same office building in Yangon, enhancing their capacity for collaboration and coordination. This geographical proximity allows for consistent, real-time communication, streamlined decision-making, and efficient resource sharing.

As part of the ACT Forum Myanmar, the three agencies commit to promoting a culture of shared learning and best practice exchange. Regular meetings, workshops, and shared reports will be key to this joint learning initiative. This collaborative learning extends to their work in Rakhine, with learning sessions facilitated with local partners, authorities, and communities to encourage reflection and adaptation.





FCA has established robust coordination mechanisms at various levels, including engagement in diverse humanitarian sectors/clusters, such as Education, Protection, Food Security, Cash Working Group, Shelter/NFI/CCCM, WASH, and GBV Sub-Sector. They also maintain close coordination with UNOCHA for overall emergency response, including joint rapid needs assessments (RNA) to identify needs and address gaps.

LWF, on the other hand, manages field operations and coordinates with the government and other actors through their senior staff based in Sittwe. They are also very active in local clusters, working groups, and other humanitarian coordination forums, ensuring coordinated humanitarian responses and collective advocacy.

CA will implement this project through its local partner BBS, who are very actively present in the project location. CA's Humanitarian Programme Manager, under the guidance of the Country Director, will be primarily responsible for managing this project. Partners will liaise with local administration for necessary authorizations for project implementation and accessing the project locations.

Together, the three organizations are committed to fostering an environment that promotes shared learning, efficient resource utilization, and effective collaboration. This, in turn, increases the impact and enhances the resilience of the communities they serve in Myanmar.

Project Consolidated Budget

		Appeal Total	LWF	Finn Church Aid	Christian Aid
Dire	ect Costs	4,847,760	1,312,411	2,497,620	1,037,729
1	Project Staff	254,472	57,686	106,887	89,898
1.1	Appeal Lead	1	_	2	2
1.2	International Staff	- 1	-		-
1.3	National Staff	254,472	57,686	106,887	89,898
2	Project Activities	4,394,602	1,209,234	2,298,270	887,099
2.1	Public Health		-		-
2.2	Community Engagement	-	-	-	-
2.3	Preparedness and Prevention	38,000	38,000	<u>.</u>	
2.4	WASH	208,751	2		208,751
2.5	Livelihood	-	-	- 1	
2.6	Education	594,871	594,871		
2.7	Shelter and Household items	2,211,549	576,363	1,074,686	560,500
2.8	Food Security	1,321,693	-	1,203,846	117,848
2.9	MHPSS and Community Psycho-social	19,738		19,738	-
2.10	Gender				
2.11	Engagement with Faith Leaders		-		-
2.12	Advocacy		540	9	-
3	Project Implementation	23,835	9,500	8,777	5,558
3.1.	Forum Coordination	8,777		8,777	
3.2.	Capacity Development	15,058	9,500		5,558
4	Quality and Accountability	63,527	4,513	47,920	11,094
5	Logistics	77,096	25,137	18,518	33,440
6	Assets and Equipment	34,229	6,341	17,248	10,640
Indi	rect Costs	422,764	198,135	155,603	69,026
Staff	Salaries	262.960	148,811	61,862	52,286
Office	Operations	159,804	49,324	93,741	16,739
Tota	I Expenditure	5,270,524	1,510,546	2,653,223	1,106,755
ACT	Secretariat monitoring cost SMC	52,705			
ACT	Secretariat management and coordination cost SMC 3	158,116			
Tota	I Expenditure + SMC	5,481,345	1,510,546	2,653,223	1,106,755





Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

Our strategy/plan for monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) aligns with our commitment to delivering effective and accountable emergency response programs in Rakhine and Chin, Myanmar. Given the current and future challenges related to mobility and operational limitations, we have incorporated mechanisms for remote management and participatory monitoring to ensure our interventions remain responsive and effective.

Monitoring Implementation and Frequency

FCA, LWF, and CA, along with their local implementing partners, will jointly monitor the project implementation. A project monitoring plan will be developed before the project commences, which will be periodically reviewed during its lifetime. Project progress will be monitored frequently, with FCA's technical and grant management staff receiving monthly updates on activity and expenditure tracking from the Project Manager. LWF will prepare periodic narrative and financial reports, while CA will have its MEAL officer and Programme focal with partner-BBS monitor the project implementation, activity progress, and quality outputs.

Performance Tracking

All three agencies will utilize specific monitoring tools and systems to track performance in terms of achieving targets and results. FCA will use a project tracker, along with remote monitoring systems developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, for real-time monitoring. LWF will apply its existing monitoring system to routinely collect project data. CA, on the other hand, will employ its MEAL system focusing on activity, output, immediate outcomes, and long-term impact monitoring.

Beneficiary Involvement

Beneficiary involvement is central to our participatory monitoring and evaluation approach. We will engage local community leaders, project volunteers, camp management committees, village administrative committees, and community leaders in monitoring activities. Their insights and feedback will be incorporated to improve project implementation and ensure it meets their needs and expectations effectively.

Adjustments and Corrections

Adjustments and corrections to programming will be made based on project monitoring findings and feedback from beneficiaries. Regular project review meetings will be held to discuss problems, challenges, and lessons learned for improvements. A complaint and feedback mechanism will be established, ensuring beneficiary voices are heard and their concerns are addressed promptly.

Remote Management

In situations of remote management, local implementing partners will monitor field activities through phone communication with IDP camp management committees, village administrative committees, and community leaders. FCA will also use third-party enumerators for remote monitoring, and LWF will intensify remote support and monitoring through its camp-based staff, leveraging communication channels like Viber, phone, Skype, and Messenger for daily follow-ups.

Capturing Lessons and Good Practices





A learning approach will be applied throughout the project to capture experiences, challenges, and successes. Regular internal sharing meetings will be facilitated, and post-distribution monitoring will be conducted to assess the impact of the project. These measures will help to identify and document good practices and lessons learned for future improvement.

Dissemination of Learning

Learning and good practices will be shared within the ACT Forum and the broader humanitarian community to improve future responses. This will be done through workshops, forums, reports, and other relevant platforms. Additionally, CA will organize initial consultations to identify the most appropriate feedback mechanisms, ensuring the purpose of these mechanisms is understood by everyone involved, thus fostering an environment conducive to continuous learning and improvement.

Safety and Security plans

The security of our staff, partner organizations, and beneficiaries is of utmost importance to us. We have conducted a thorough security risk assessment (Annex 2) to identify potential risks related to the implementation of our programs. This assessment takes into consideration the current complex security situation in Myanmar, including ongoing political instability, military operations, natural disasters, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Based on our assessments, we have identified several potential risks. These include loss of access to implementing sites, scrutiny and detention of staff and volunteers by the State Administration Council (SAC), landmine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) threats, and increased protection risks such as sexual and gender-based violence, exploitation, and abuse. Additionally, restrictions imposed on cash withdrawal and funds transfer might impact the timely delivery of assistance.

To address these challenges, we have designed a comprehensive security management strategy that includes the following:

Regular Risk Assessment and Review: Our security team will review and update our risk analysis and mitigation plan on a monthly basis during project implementation. This will allow us to respond to any changes in the security environment promptly and effectively.

Staff Training and Support: We will ensure that all staff and volunteers are trained in security considerations and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). This includes training in landmine and UXO risk education. We will also provide continuous support to our staff, addressing their concerns and ensuring their safety.

Low-Profile and Remote Management Approach: Considering the risks involved, we aim to maintain a low-profile approach and, where necessary, manage projects remotely with the help of camp-based staff. This strategy will help minimize exposure to potential threats and ensure uninterrupted service delivery.

Community Engagement: Our strategy includes active engagement with community leaders and beneficiaries. They will be involved in planning, implementing, and monitoring our programs, thus ensuring local ownership and acceptance.

Partnership and Collaboration: We will work closely with our partner organizations, local authorities, and other humanitarian actors to share information and coordinate our efforts. We will also engage with financial institutions to ensure timely fund transfers.

Protection Measures: Protection risks will be proactively addressed by identifying and reducing threats, vulnerabilities, and barriers. We will mainstream protection considerations into all our project activities, ensuring safety, dignity, and harm prevention.





In the Annex 2 we have identified 5 main risks and designed mitigation measures to address them:

Existing tensions between the Arakan Army/PDF and other Ethnic Armies with the Tatmadaw may lead to increased armed conflict in the region, affecting access and population movement.

Ambiguous approach, administrative hurdles, and restricted access to target areas by de facto authorities and/or Arakan Army/PDF other Ethnic Armies.

Deterioration of the political situation leading to increased humanitarian needs and caseload. Mismanagement or diversion of funding for activities unrelated to humanitarian purposes. National staff and partners are exposed to security risks due to clashes, checkpoints, roadblocks, and mass protests.

PROJECT ACCOUNTABILITY

Does the proposed response honour ACT's commitment to safeguarding including PSEA?
All staff and volunteers of requesting members, particularly those involved with the
response, will be required to sign the requesting members' Code of Conduct. If you don't
have one, members can use ACT's Code of Conduct.

As ACT Alliance secretariat is CHS certified, ACT appeals will be implemented with adherence to CHS commitments.

Code of Conduct

The Code of Conducts (CoC) of FCA, LWF and CA serve as a cornerstone for our project operations, outlining the expected ethical behavior and standards of professionalism for all staff and volunteers involved. Here's how we plan to ensure its effective application:

Staff and Volunteer Commitment: Prior to beginning work, every staff member and volunteer involved in the project is required to read, understand, and sign the Code of Conduct. To guarantee thorough comprehension, we conduct comprehensive training on the CoC and various accountability-related topics including Child Safeguarding, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Disability Inclusion, Communication with Communities, and Complaints Response Mechanisms (CRM).

Integration within the Project: The CoC is integrated into every aspect of our project through various measures. To foster adherence, we provide capacity building support to local partners, comprising both financial and in-kind contributions. This support includes training and guidance on abiding by the CoC. Additionally, we communicate the importance of the CoC through a robust strategy, which emphasizes community engagement and ensures all community members, including women and marginalized groups, are active participants in decision-making processes.

Protocols for CoC Violations: We have established clear protocols and plans to address any CoC violations. Incidents are swiftly reported and thoroughly investigated, leading to appropriate remedial actions. These actions range from disciplinary measures to awareness-raising campaigns, reinforced by continuous monitoring to avert future violations.

Communicating the CoC: Clear and transparent communication of the CoC to affected communities is essential. We use various Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials, group orientations, and targeted communication initiatives to disseminate the CoC effectively. For instance, we provide women and girls with specific information regarding expected behavior and the CoC of our staff members.





Community Engagement and Feedback: We place significant emphasis on regular feedback mechanisms and community engagement sessions. This approach allows us to gather inputs, ensuring that all community voices are heard and considered. A crucial element of this process is the identification of concerns or violations related to the CoC and undertaking necessary actions to address them.

Handling CoC Violations: In the event of a CoC violation, a dedicated CRM channel and staff are prepared to handle any cases swiftly. Complaints are reported to the country management team, and an immediate investigation ensues. Based on the investigation findings, actions are taken in accordance with our policies and guidelines.

We are committed to maintaining confidentiality when handling such cases and communicate these issues, including the submission of brief investigation reports, to our funding partner in a timely manner.

Our continued commitment to the enforcement of the CoC ensures the quality and accountability of our work, thereby enhancing trust with our staff, partners, and beneficiary communities.

Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding commitments, particularly Child Safeguarding and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), are integral to our project. We are devoted to ensuring the safety, well-being, and protection of all individuals involved. Here is how we will operationalize these commitments:

Integration within the Project: Our safeguarding measures are fully integrated into the project's design and implementation. Adherence to the IASC Policy on the Centrality of Protection and the IASC Policy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls is ensured. We actively encourage participation from all groups, especially women and girls, facilitating their meaningful participation without overburdening them. We use gender-disaggregated data to design tailored project activities, recognizing the different needs and vulnerabilities of distinct groups.

Additionally, understanding that women are more likely to prioritize health, education, and nutrition expenditures, we encourage women to manage cash. Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) allows us to closely observe this aspect.

Safeguarding Training: All staff must read and sign the Code of Conduct on Sexual Exploitation, Abuse of Power and Corruption, along with their contract before beginning work. We conduct regular training on safeguarding, GBV, PSEA, and the Code of Conduct to ensure professional, conflict-sensitive behavior that adheres to PSEA policies.

PSEA Measures: We maintain a zero-tolerance policy towards PSEA and expect the same commitment from all our co-implementation partners. We conduct regular PSEA training sessions to ensure understanding and adherence to these principles. In each project office, we assign PSEA focal points, one male and one female, equipped with a clear ToR to respond to any PSEA complaints received through reporting mechanisms.

Protocols for Safeguarding-Related Incidents: Well-established protocols and plans are in place to address any safeguarding-related incidents. These protocols ensure incidents are promptly reported, thoroughly investigated, and appropriate actions are taken to protect individuals involved. This includes providing support and care to survivors, disciplinary measures against perpetrators, and strengthening preventive measures continuously.

Anonymous Complaints: Both staff and beneficiaries can submit anonymous complaints regarding SEA or other safeguarding matters, which we closely monitor and respond to. Our focus remains on handling and





managing cases of GBV and child safeguarding using a survivor-centered approach in coordination with relevant service providers.

Safe Behaviors Towards Children: Field staff who work closely with children are trained on appropriate behaviors towards children and identification and reporting of any suspected child abuse case. Specific measures, such as ensuring staff are not alone with children, obtaining parental or guardian permission before using a child's photograph or interview for communication purposes, and seeking feedback from youth beneficiaries regarding programming, are fully employed in our programming.

By operationalizing our Safeguarding commitments, we aim to create a safe and protective environment for all individuals, particularly children, preventing any form of exploitation, abuse, or harm. We remain vigilant and proactive in addressing safeguarding concerns and continuously improving our practices to ensure the highest standards of protection and accountability.

Conflict sensitivity / do no harm

The principle of "do no harm" is fundamental to the proposed project, and we have analyzed and established measures to ensure its enforcement throughout the project cycle. We recognize that aid can inadvertently become part of the conflict dynamics and exacerbate situations. To minimize harm, we will focus on several key areas.

Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP): Aligned with the AAP guidance, our project is designed and implemented in a way that is responsive to the needs and priorities of affected populations. We will establish mechanisms for feedback, complaints, and participation to empower communities, ensuring their voices are heard and incorporated in the decision-making processes.

Conflict-Sensitivity Analysis: We will conduct an inclusion-sensitive conflict-sensitivity analysis and social cohesion mainstreaming throughout the project. This ensures that our aid efforts do not exacerbate the existing situation in targeted communities. Our long-standing presence in these areas and our ongoing nexus work will help enhance the project's conflict sensitivity and adherence to do-no-harm principles.

Comprehensive Staff Training: All staff will receive training on humanitarian principles, the "do no harm" principle, code of conduct, safeguarding, and accountability. The training will stress the importance of delivering aid based on need, following principles of impartiality, neutrality, independence, and humanity. We will also train our staff on the rights-based empowerment approach using the PANEL approach (Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination and equality, Empowerment, Link to human rights standards). This will underscore the importance of avoiding harm that could arise from causing dependency or jealousy.

Community-Led Approach: We are committed to a fully localized and community-led approach. The affected population will make decisions related to the project design and delivery. Beneficiary selection will be done by the communities themselves, based on criteria set by the community. This approach ensures that the most deserving households are selected as project beneficiaries and reduces potential conflicts.

Vulnerable Groups: We prioritize the most vulnerable individuals and groups for assistance, including women-led households, households with people with disabilities, and child-led households. This approach addresses gender disparities and aims to reduce inequalities by reaching those in greatest need.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Throughout the project, we will continuously monitor and evaluate the impact and unintended consequences of the assistance provided. This involves feedback mechanisms and community engagement sessions to gather inputs, ensuring any emerging conflict dynamics or potential harm are identified and addressed promptly.





Complaints mechanism and feedback

Ensuring the voices of our target groups and stakeholders are heard and adequately addressed is of utmost importance in our proposed project. To ensure this, we will institute mechanisms that encourage and facilitate the expression of concerns, suggestions, and feedback throughout all stages of the project cycle.

Complaints Response Mechanism (CRM): Both FCA and LWF have established CRMs, which will be applied to this project. These mechanisms provide platforms for target groups and stakeholders to raise complaints, share suggestions, and provide feedback regarding the project and the behavior of project staff. CA has a similar mechanism in place, known as COMPASS, which also helps gather and systematically track and address feedback and complaints. These mechanisms will involve multiple communication channels including phone hotlines, suggestion boxes at project locations, informal conversations with project staff, formal interviews, and focused group discussions.

Community Involvement: A strong emphasis is placed on the meaningful participation and leadership of affected people in our project. Their perspectives and inputs will be sought at every stage, from the design and planning phase to the project implementation. We'll promote active participation from both genders and ensure representation from diverse backgrounds, with considerations for age, gender, and inclusion of the most vulnerable.

Transparency and Timeliness: Feedback and complaints will be managed in a transparent and timely manner. The project will maintain open and consistent communication throughout the project, making efforts to establish and strengthen trust relationships with the target groups and stakeholders. Dedicated staff will collect and ensure complaints and feedback are properly addressed during the project implementation.

Accountability and Monitoring: All staff and partner communities will be oriented in the complaints and response mechanism to ensure a trusting relationship and enable accountability in all activities. Frequent monitoring visits will be undertaken by project management staff with an explicit goal of gaining community feedback and managing solutions. The global accountability team of CA will monitor the registration and redressal of complaints, as well as the incorporation of feedback into project implementation.

Ensuring "Do No Harm": All these mechanisms are in place not just to ensure effective communication and feedback, but also to enforce the principle of "do no harm" throughout the project cycle. By facilitating open dialogue and feedback, we aim to identify and address any emerging conflicts or potential harm promptly. Staff training on the "do no harm" principle will further ensure that our project minimizes any potential for conflict or harm, thereby aligning our efforts with our overarching goal of providing aid while fostering social cohesion and supporting long-term recovery and development.

Communication and visibility

Our proposed project is committed to ensuring appropriate branding of ACT Alliance and effective communication and visibility of donor funding in a manner that respects the sensitivity of the context in which we operate while at the same time recognising that the safety of beneficiaries, partner and staff will have higher priority.

Communication and Visibility: FCA, LWF, and CA will adhere to the branding guidelines and standards set forth by ACT Alliance. This includes using ACT Alliance logos, visual identity, and messaging in all internal and external project communication materials. These actions will demonstrate our project's affiliation with ACT Alliance and our commitment to humanitarian and development work. Although in-country communication and visibility will be limited due to the political sensitivity in Myanmar, we have strategies tailored to the Myanmar context to reach the target audience using appropriate and contextually sensitive communication channels. For international communication and visibility, we will follow ACT Alliance's guidelines, ensuring





consistent and coherent messaging across ACT Alliance members and enhancing our visibility among the international community, donors, and stakeholders.

Visibility of Donor Funding: Transparent communication of donor funding will be prioritized. We will use various communication channels, such as project reports, newsletters, websites, and social media platforms, to make visible the donor funding received. Regular updates on the utilization of donor funds, highlighting the impact and outcomes achieved through the support, will be provided. Human interest stories gathered from project locations will acknowledge the contribution of ACT Alliance and back donors. We will also present periodic reports on the progress of our work to the funding partners and update the project's progress in relevant clusters to reflect the contribution from ACT Alliance.

Low-Profile Implementation: Keeping the sensitivity of the context in Rakhine State in mind and our commitment to a conflict-sensitive approach, the project will maintain a low profile while implementing activities on the ground. No direct advocacy will be conducted as part of this project. However, we will endeavor to maximize our service efforts to reach the population most in need and ensure ACT visibility on the ground.

Ensuring "Do No Harm": All these mechanisms are designed to facilitate effective communication and visibility while enforcing the principle of "do no harm" throughout the project cycle. We aim to identify and address any potential conflicts or harm promptly. Staff training on the "do no harm" principle will further ensure our project minimizes any potential for conflict or harm, aligning our efforts with our overarching goal of providing aid and fostering social cohesion.

In terms of making visible and communicating back donor funding, the Forum/requesting members will prioritize transparency and accountability. The project will provide regular updates on the utilization of donor funds through various communication channels such as project reports, newsletters, websites, and social media platforms. These updates will highlight the impact and outcomes achieved through the donor funding support. Collaboration with other ACT Alliance members will ensure effective communication and visibility, leveraging the collective resources and reach of the alliance. The aim is to transparently communicate the utilization of donor funds, showcase the achievements of the project, and demonstrate the value and impact of the support received. However, in sensitive contexts like Rakhine State, the project will maintain a low-profile implementation approach to ensure the safety and security of beneficiaries and project staff. Direct advocacy activities will not be conducted as part of this project.





Annexes

Annex 1 – Summary Table

		Finn Chu	rch Aid	Myanmar		Lutheran	World	Federation		Christia	n Aid N	Nyanmar	
Start Date	1 Jul	y 2023			1 Jul	y 2023			1 Jul	y 2023			
End Date	30 Ju	une 2024			30 Ju	ine 2024			30 Ju	30 June 2024			
Project Period (in months)	12				12				12				
Response Locations		Rakhine, Chin				Rakhine				Rakhine			
Sectors of response		Public Health		Shelter and household items		Public Health	×	Shelter and household items		Public Health	×	Shelter and household items	
		Community Engagement	X	Food Security		Community Engagement		Food Security		Community Engagement		Food Security	
		Preparedness and Prevention		MHPSS and Community Psycho-social		Preparedness and Prevention		MHPSS and Community Psycho-social		Preparedness and Prevention		MHPSS and Community Psycho-social	
		WASH		Gender		WASH		Gender		WASH		Gender	
		Livelihood		Engagement with Faith and Religious leaders and institutions		Livelihood		Engagement with Faith and Religious leaders and institutions		Livelihood		Engagement with Faith and Religious leaders and institutions	
		Education		Advocacy	\boxtimes	Education		Advocacy		Education		Advocacy	
	1				<u> </u>			•	I L		<u>I</u>		
Targeted Recipients (per sector)	Food	ter: 15,245 hous I Security: 70,14 PSS: 6,000 perso	1 perso		Shelter: 3,098 individuals Education: 5,967 students (3,245 boys, 2,722 girls) Cash and Vouchers: 4,800 individuals			Shelt	H - 72570 perso er – 12,210 pers Security– 1117	sons	ns		





Requested	2,653,223	1,510,546	1,106,755
budget (USD)	, ,		





Annex 2 – Security Risk Assessment

Principal Threats:

Threat 1: Worsening of armed conflict in the implementation areas

Threat 2: Implementation challenges, e.g., TA & Access

Threat 3: Deterioration of political situation

Threat 4: Unintended negative effects

Threat 5: Increased exposure to security risks

Place the above listed threats in the appropriate corresponding box in the table below. For more information on how to fill out this table please see the ACT Alliance Security Risk Assessment Tool (http://actalliance.org/documents/act-al liance-security-risk-assessment-tool/)

Impact	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Severe	Critical
Probability					
Very likely	Low	Medium	High	Very high	Very high
	Click here to	Click here to	Click here to	Worsening of	Click here to
	enter text.	enter text.	enter text.	armed conflict	enter text.
				in the	
				implementatio	
				n areas	
Likely	Low	Medium	High	High	Very high
	Click here to	Click here to	Deterioration	Implementatio	Click here to
	enter text.	enter text.	of political	n challenges	enter text.
			situation		
Moderately	Very low	Low	Medium	High	High
likely	Click here to	Click here to	Click here to	Increased	Click here to
	enter text.	enter text.	enter text.	exposure to	enter text.
				security risks.	
Unlikely	Very low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium
	Click here to	Click here to	Click here to	Click here to	Unintended
	enter text.	enter text.	enter text.	enter text.	negative
					effects
Very unlikely	Very low	Very low	Very low	Low	Low
	Click here to	Click here to	Click here to	Click here to	Click here to
	enter text.	enter text.	enter text.	enter text.	enter text.

