

DEADLINE: Wednesday, 1 December 2021 (09:00 a.m. Yangon time)

Allocation Summary

This document lays the strategy to allocating funds from the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF) Second Standard Allocation to critical life-saving activities in priority geographical areas and clusters with extended requirements due to the emerging conflict and protracted crises in the country, in line with the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the Interim Emergency Response Plan (IERP). The allocation, based on a streamlined prioritization of humanitarian needs given the limited amount of funds and growing needs across the country, takes also in consideration the underfunded situation of humanitarian requirements. By 10 November 2021, only 50.6 per cent of the requirements of both plans had been met¹. The most underfunded clusters are Education, with 7 per cent of funding received; and Shelter, Non-Food Items and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (Shelter/NFI/CCCM), with 14 per cent. Other clusters, such as Health and Nutrition, are also highly underfunded, with 26 and 30 per cent of funding received respectively.

This standard allocation will make **US\$4 million** available to support coordinated humanitarian assistance and protection, covering displaced people and other vulnerable crisis-affected people across Myanmar. COVID-19 related actions will be mainstreamed throughout the response to the humanitarian needs. Emerging needs will be considered, as per needs assessment and analysis provided during the prioritization process.

Emerging needs in Yangon and other urban and peri-urban areas, as a consequence of the 1 February military takeover, will not be included under this allocation due to the limited funding, increased sensitivity and other available sources of funding.

Allocation Breakdown

Indicative Envelopes ²	Priority	TOTAL US\$ million	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
			Chin, Magway, Sagaing	Shan, Kayah	South-East, Kachin, Rakhine
Education	1	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.3
Shelter/NFI/CCCM	1	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.3
Health	2	0.6	0.2	0.15	0.25
Nutrition	2	0.5	0.15	0.2	0.15
WASH	3	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.2
Protection	3	0.6	0.25	0.15	0.2
Food Security	4	0.2			0.2
TOTAL		4.0	1.2	1.2	1.6

¹ As per data reported by donors and partners in the OCHA-managed Financial Tracking Service (FTS) and validation in country.

² Funding envelopes are only indicative and will depend on the quality of the proposals submitted by partners, the recommendations made by the MHF Review Committee, the comments provided by the MHF Advisory Board and the final decision of the HC.

Section 1: Humanitarian Context

1.1. Overview of the Humanitarian Situation³

The humanitarian situation in Myanmar is deteriorating across the country, where there are now more than 3 million people in need of life-saving humanitarian assistance because of growing conflict and insecurity, COVID-19 and a failing economy. Since the 1 February armed forces takeover, hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to flee their homes due to violence across the country, and 223,000 people remain internally displaced. This includes 165,600 in the south-east of the country – including southern Shan – and is on top of a significant population who were already displaced in Rakhine, Chin, Shan and Kachin states prior to the takeover. Long-term displacement remains unresolved, with 144,000 Rohingya people still confined to camps and camp-like settings in Rakhine since their displacement in 2012, and more than 105,000 people displaced in Kachin and Shan for years.

In recent weeks, the situation in the north-west of the country has become extremely concerning, with an escalation in hostilities. More than 48,000 people, including women and children, have been newly displaced, and reportedly more than 220 homes have been burned. Humanitarian workers and other infrastructure have been affected by those attacks.

Affected people are in need of urgent humanitarian support to address the current challenges being faced including shelters, physical and mental wellbeing. The intensified conflict increased the number of people being displaced thereby limiting their freedom of movement, access to protection, basic services and livelihoods. The current situation has heightened the existing vulnerabilities and protection risks, further exacerbating access challenges especially for women and girls, whose movement is restricted also due to repressive gendered social norms.

The humanitarian situation in Myanmar remains complex and volatile with escalating armed clashes. The humanitarian community continues to face challenges in accessing vulnerable people in need of critical relief assistance and protection services. Those challenges include growing insecurity, increased presence of checkpoints and roadblocks, COVID-19 related restrictions and limited mobility of humanitarian responders contributing to a constrained access situation while exacerbating people's vulnerability in conflict-affected areas. In addition, travel authorization (TA) and visa delays or denials, persistent banking challenges and limited availability of supplies in markets due to price upticks and import issues are severely impacting the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Humanitarian organizations stand ready to further scale up the response to people in need but require increased and sustained access and streamlined bureaucratic processes to do so. For now, services are mostly being delivered through local partners wherever possible, but a wider response is needed. In the current context, the humanitarian action requires different adaptations to reduce risks, including those related to frontline organizations, such as CSO and national NGOs; continuing COVID-19 protection protocols and ensuring a principled implementation with no (or minimum) engagement with the *de facto* authorities.

The security situation in **Chin State**, as well as in neighboring **Magway and Sagaing regions**, continues to deteriorate with further civilian displacement and increased humanitarian needs. Humanitarian partners are working to scale up coordination to assess needs and provide increased support to displaced people in these areas. However, no travel authorization has been granted to the UN or INGOs for Sagaing and Magway regions, nor in other townships in Chin, except to urban Mindat, since May. As of 8 November, about 22,600 people remain displaced in five townships in Chin State. This is in addition to some 6,335 people displaced in Paletwa Township since December 2019 by an earlier conflict between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and the Arakan Army (AA). Most displaced people across Chin State, including in Kanpetlet, Mindat, and Thantlang townships, are facing food shortages due to limited agricultural activity and disrupted supply chains, while humanitarian access remains extremely limited. In Sagaing Region, armed clashes were reported in various townships. About 14,500 people remain in the displacement sites in Kale, Kani, Khin-U and Mingin townships and are unable to return home due to insecurity. In Magway Region, there have been no major clashes in October; however, incidents of landmines have been reported in several locations. The road between Pakokkhu to Mindat was temporarily closed when

³ As per the latest [Myanmar Humanitarian Update n.12](#), published by OCHA on 5 November 2021; and the [Statement from ERC Martin Griffiths regarding the increasing violence and humanitarian need in Myanmar](#), published on 8 November 2021.

a bridge near Kyauktu Town was damaged by heavy rain on 18 October. As of 8 November, about 11,120 people remain displaced in Gangaw, Pauk and Saw townships.

In **Shan State**, since early 2021, about 44,600 people have been displaced by conflict and insecurity across 17 townships across Shan State. Of those, 18,400 people remain displaced in 9 townships – Hsipaw, Kyaukme, Lashio and Muse townships in the north and Kunhing, Kyethi, Laikha, Mongkaing and Mongpan townships in the south. Meanwhile, there has also been an increase in civilian casualties in Shan State due to hostilities. Humanitarian responders are working to deliver critical assistance and protection services amid access challenges and a fragile security situation. Prior 2021, about 9,100 people were still displaced in protracted camps and host families.

The security situation in **south-eastern Myanmar** remains fragile, with an overall increase in the number of people displaced compared to previous months. Verification of the exact number of displaced people and those returning to their homes remains challenging amid fluid population movements, a fragile security situation and heavily restricted humanitarian access. Movement restrictions continue to be imposed in many locations, with residents required to hold permission letters from village or ward administrators to move around. There has also been a marked increase in the number of checkpoints and patrols, particularly in Hpa-An town in Kayin State. As of 1 November, UNHCR estimates that 147,200 people remained displaced across south-eastern Myanmar; this includes 85,900 people in Kayah State; 51,500 people in Kayin State; 3,000 people in Mon States; and 6,800 people in Tanintharyi Region. About 16,000 people were also displaced in eastern Bago Region prior the current situation.

The security situation in **Kachin State** also remains volatile. More than 15,500 people have been newly displaced across Kachin due to the resurgence of armed clashes since mid-March following a two-and-a-half-year lull in major conflict and an absence of new displacement. Kachin State, where about 97,000 displaced people are hosted in protracted camps established in 2011, had not seen any major armed clashes since mid-2018. Of the newly displaced population, about 4,000 people remained displaced in Bhamo, Momauk, Myitkyina and Waingmaw.

In **Rakhine State**, over 203,000 people remain displaced across the state, some 126,000 of whom have been in protracted displacement in Rakhine in camps since 2012. Over 77,500 people are currently displaced in 143 sites and 25 host communities due to the conflict between the MAF and the AA. Statelessness continues to remain one of the key constraints in accessing basic services and ensuring the freedom of movement. A total of 600,000 Rohingya people continue to face institutionalized discrimination and a wide range of human rights abuses that increase their vulnerability and in many cases dependency on humanitarian aid. Of these, 144,000 Rohingya people are have been compelled to live in camps or camp-like settings in Rakhine. In addition, more than 740,000 Rohingya people also remain in refugee camps in Bangladesh having fled since 2016.

Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the positive cases countrywide and related deaths continue to decline from the peak in July. In total, 507,815 COVID-19 cases, including 18,839 fatalities and 479,422 recoveries have been confirmed as of 8 November. With the decrease in health service availability from the public sector following the current crisis, provision of life saving health care to displaced people and other vulnerable population in the overall context where risk for COVID-19 transmission remains has become more critical than before including alternative referral mechanisms where necessary.

1.2. Humanitarian Response Plan

Together, the Myanmar HRP and the IERP seek to mobilize assistance for about three million people in 2021, in support of the efforts to aid those affected by humanitarian crises and challenges across the country. These strategic planning documents place protection at the center of an inclusive response tailored to the particular needs of the most vulnerable women and men, girls and boys. This MHF allocation follows their strategic objectives, aiming to improve the overall health and wellbeing of people affected by conflict or disasters in the targeted areas, including the enhancement of the enjoyment of their rights; as well as to improve the living standards and strengthen their resilience.

The allocation is also in line with the [MHF Annual Strategy 2021](#), ensuring the application of minimum humanitarian standards, depending on the local context, the magnitude and relative severity of needs, underlying causes, anticipated trends and response capacities and access constraints in targeted locations. It has also considered the specific vulnerabilities of the population groups including those linked to age, gender, disabilities or other diversities such as ethnic background and sexual orientation and gender identity.

Section 2: Strategic Statement

In view of the escalating conflict in Myanmar which is causing further displacement of people and increased humanitarian needs, this allocation is launched to provide timely resources for critical life-saving activities in priority geographical areas and clusters with extended requirements due to the emerging conflict and protracted crises in the country.

This allocation will safeguard the most effective use of limited funds by ensuring that the most immediate needs are addressed by funding the top priority activities in the most affected areas; taking into consideration other sources of funding – including rapid response grants from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) – and reprogrammed activities; ensuring timely response through an integrated and simultaneous strategic prioritization and technical review, which will shorten the time required to identify priority activities and areas of implementation; assuring the greatest accountability and value-for-money for limited funds available and applying the MHF Accountability and Risk Management Framework.

Section 3: Operational Strategy

3.1 Operational priorities

In planning the response, it is thus important to consider the broader range of pre-existing vulnerabilities together with the next year monsoon season and their additional implications in terms of humanitarian needs and operational implementation, as well as ensuring the centrality of protection across interventions. Subject to the prioritization process and available funding, through this allocation the MHF aims to support life-saving activities, particularly:

- Urgent needs of **people displaced** and **people with specific vulnerabilities** including those linked to age, gender, disabilities or other diversities such as ethnic background and sexual orientation and gender identity. All planned activities should include considerations for participation and needs of women and girls and people with specific vulnerabilities and address access issues they might face.
- Priority given to displacement sites, surrounding communities, hard-to-reach locations including geographical areas with **new emerging humanitarian contexts**.
- Special consideration will be given to **support humanitarian response through civil society organizations (CSOs)** in areas with emerging needs, including sub-grants provided through an intermediary partner or network. This support may include emergency capacity development for these organizations. Active presence in priority areas and demonstrated access to affected population are required.

As mentioned above, the allocation will not include stand-alone interventions related to the COVID-19. Nevertheless, COVID-19 related actions will be mainstreamed throughout the response to the humanitarian needs.

While the funding from the MHF would provide much needed financial support to speed up the emergency response in support to the efforts done by community-based organizations, the Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement and other humanitarian partners, it is critical that additional contributions are received to immediately boost the response capacity to meet the needs of the people and avoid the deterioration of their situation, including the risk of loss of lives and livelihoods.

The core elements of the Second Standard Allocation are:

- Crisis-affected people in humanitarian settings.
- Needs-based approach and response.
- Focus on severity of needs and life-saving activities.
- Centrality of protection, considering it across all the humanitarian action.
- Focus on people displaced and people with specific vulnerabilities including those linked to age, gender, disabilities or other diversities such as ethnic background and sexual orientation and gender identity, including demonstrated planning for participation and access of people with specific vulnerabilities within activities and services.
- Accountability to affected populations, particularly adequate considerations for PSEA.

- Demonstrated humanitarian access to the affected population, including displaced and host communities.
- Increased role of local and national partners, including CSOs, as direct partners and/or sub-partners.
- Multi-clusters response approach.
- Duration of projects established at 12 months with a minimum funding of \$200,000 per project.

3.2 Underfunded Priorities

The strategy is also aligned to the underfunded priorities, as identified and communicated by the Emergency Relief Coordinator to the Humanitarian Coordinators on 29 January 2019, namely: (a) support for women and girls, including tackling gender-based violence, reproductive health and empowerment; (b) programmes targeting persons with disabilities; (c) education in protracted and emerging crises; and (d) other aspects of protection.

Women and girls	The MHF will work with different actors, including the Protection Cluster and the Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) work stream to ensure that gender aspects including gender-based violence are taken into account in the design and implementation of the projects. All proposals should demonstrate how they are integrating participation and leadership of women and girls in project design and implementation, addressing the different needs of women and girls within planned activities and ensuring access of women and girls to different services.
Persons with disabilities	The MHF will oversee that all selected project proposals include persons with disabilities among their target population (minimum of 12.8 per cent of total targeted people). A specific indicator related to the number of actions taken by partners to facilitate access of persons with disabilities to the humanitarian interventions will be mandatory for all the approved projects.
Education	As the most underfunded cluster, the MHF will support education partners and education in activities in protracted and emerging crises. Projects will be based on a real-time analysis of needs, considering the magnitude and severity of needs and including consideration for specific needs and access of girls and boys and children with specific vulnerabilities.
Protection	Promoting protection mainstreaming, including actions related to accountability to affected population, meaningful participation, age and gender equality, and disability inclusion as a mandatory requirement for every proposal submitted to the MHF. The MHF will ensure that actions related to protection to specific vulnerable groups including children, PSEA, GBV, complaint and feedback mechanisms and other protection concerns are included in the approved projects.

3.3 Cross-cutting Issues

Accountability to Affected Population	Two mandatory indicators on AAP are included to assess if communities felt sufficiently informed about the services provided and whether reliable feedback mechanisms are available, including in relation to sexual exploitation and abuse. Feedback mechanisms should always consider access constraints including those linked to age, gender, disabilities or other diversities such as ethnic background and sexual orientation and gender identity and how to ensure different media based on context.
Age, Gender and Diversity	Promoting approaches sensitive to age, gender and diversity through funding actions is a requirement for partners applying for MHF funding. The MHF is compliant with the Gender with Age Marker, the use of which is required for partners applying for funds since January 2019. Project design should include analysis of different needs linked to age, gender, disabilities or other diversities such as ethnic background and sexual orientation and gender identity, and activities should address those distinctive needs. Prevention and response to child protection risks will be a priority, including awareness raising on key child protection risks including mine risks and services as well as case management for children in urgent need of care and protection will be key priorities.

Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)	Despite the challenges with the banking sector, the MHF encourages the use of alternatives to in-kind programming as a response modality for partners with demonstrated technical capacity and strong knowledge and experience of cash transfer programmes. For the use of CVA, partners must conduct a protection risk analysis to ensure that cash can be used for its intended purpose and to mitigate any negative consequences including possible intra-household tensions contributing to GBV. The MHF will apply additional scrutiny to CVA programs to ensure partners can implement successfully within the grant validity period. Given the contextual nature of the cash liquidity challenges, partners must clearly identify what those challenges are for their programs and how they plan to overcome them. Proposals with CVA must document with evidence which markets the proposed beneficiaries will access, whether supply of basic need items are adequately available in the intervention market, and whether all beneficiaries can safely access those markets.
Conflict Sensitive (Do Not Harm) and Social Cohesion	The MHF requires partners to mainstream conflict sensitivity (do no harm) and social cohesion in the funded projects to minimise negative impact and maximise positive impact, and actively support social cohesion for sustainable peace. This involves assessing the situation using social cohesion lens and promoting/strengthening social cohesion through specific actions. All initiatives must have a conflict-sensitive approach from start to finish.
COVID-19	COVID-19 related actions will be mainstreamed throughout the response to the humanitarian needs. In addition, the MHF will support the partners to adapt themselves to a new way of working, where duty of care, including safety and security questions related to the prevention against the virus, needs to be complemented with flexible working arrangements, in the most cases through online platforms, remote management and monitoring and limited field visits.
Environmental Risks and Climate Change	The MHF is committed to systematically identify and act on environmental risks and climate change issues, as required by the Sphere Standards and the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability. Partners should demonstrate that environmental risk and climate change have been assessed and that mitigation measures have been included in the response.
Gender-based Violence	The MHF will pay particular attention to prevent and mitigate identified needs associated with GBV, ensuring inclusiveness and considering special needs and vulnerabilities of persons with disabilities, older persons, adolescents, female-headed households, ethnic minorities and persons with diverse sexual orientation and gender identities. All activities should aim to identify and mitigate GBV risks avoiding that humanitarian programming does not cause or increase harm to women and girls.
Localization	For this allocation, special consideration will be given to support humanitarian response through CSOs in areas with emerging needs, including sub-grants provided through an intermediary partner or network. This support may include emergency capacity development for these organizations. Active presence in priority areas and demonstrated access to affected population are required. The MHF encourages its partners to engage with local and national organizations on an equitable partnership basis, to ensure that all the partners and sub-partners involved in the implementation have bring added value to the design, implementation, management and monitoring of the activities. The MHF advocates to decentralise some processes at sub-national level, - e.g. prioritization process, strategic and technical reviews - to ensure greater participation of national partners and sub-partners. Partnerships with local women-led organisations and women rights organisations (WLO/WRO) and those working with different diversities such as disabilities and LGBTQI+ support organisations is encouraged.
Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	The MHF requires partners to have clear provisions and operational mechanisms on safeguarding including PSEA. The MHF reassures that all partners passed due diligence and have PSEA policies in place. The MHF will be willing to extend appropriate support as needed, including through the PSEA Network.

Section 4: Cluster Breakdown and Priorities

4.1 Cluster Breakdown

Cluster	Priority	TOTAL US\$ million	Targeted People		
			2021 HRP	IERP	Total
Education	1	0.7	14,300	18,700	33,000
Shelter/NFI/CCCM	1	0.8	20,400	26,800	47,200
Health	2	0.6	98,100	226,900	325,000
Nutrition	2	0.5	15,600	73,200	88,800
WASH	3	0.6	38,600	67,600	105,600
Protection	3	0.6	15,000	31,500	46,500
Food Security	4	0.2	8,200		8,200
TOTAL		4.0	98,100	226,900	325,000

4.2 Geographical and Cluster Priorities⁴

The initial funding analysis per cluster and geographical area has facilitated the identification of priority funding envelopes, considering real-time needs and their severity according to the actual context.⁵ Looking at the actual priority needs, available MHF funding, and funding received, including the MHF First Standard Allocation (July 2021), the CERF Rapid Response Allocation (October 2021) and other sources of funding, three priorities geographical areas have been established:

- **Priority 1:** Chin, Magway and Sagaing
- **Priority 2:** Shan and Kayah
- **Priority 3:** South-East, Kachin and Rakhine

As per priority cluster, four priority levels have been assigned:

- **Priority 1:** Education and Shelter/NFI/CCCM
- **Priority 2:** Health and Nutrition
- **Priority 3:** WASH and Protection
- **Priority 4:** Food Security

Justifications of the above-mentioned cluster priorities are included below. Further detailed exposition of priority activities, target population and locations by geographical area and cluster are included in [Annex 1](#). Additional support costs and human resources to enable community-based monitoring targeting households with added vulnerabilities such as older persons, single-headed households, persons with disabilities, etc. will be mainstreamed in all the actions as much as possible. All activities will be implemented in modalities that observe physical distancing and respect other preventive measures to avoid and minimize the spread of the COVID-19, recognizing the different population groups and their vulnerabilities to the virus. Activities aiming to contain the virus among vulnerable groups and conflict-affected populations, including provision of preventive material to health and humanitarian workers, strengthening of risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) and infection prevention and control (IPC) measures among communities will be mainstreamed across project proposals.

Priority 1: Education and Shelter/NFI/CCCM

The **education** cluster is the most underfunded in 2021, with only US\$2.6 million received as of 10 November, which represents 7 per cent of the requirements of both 2021 HRP and IERP. Most of children in Myanmar have been out of school for nearly two years. Many education spaces were closed for the entire 2020-2021 academic year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While the de facto authorities re-opened schools after the military takeover, many communities have significant safety concerns and less than half of the number enrolled prior to the

⁴ Please see [Annex 1](#), for further details of geographical and cluster priorities (activities, target population, locations) and funding envelopes.

⁵ An analysis on funding by cluster, geographical area and source of funding was shared with the MHF Advisory Board on 5 November.

pandemic returned. Despite the circumstances, children's right to education must still be respected and the life-saving benefits of education should be available to all children and youth.

Across all targeted locations, education support will focus on a return to learning for the most marginalized children and youth, and accompanying support to their educators, parents/caregivers, and community leaders to strengthen capacity to provide quality education that holistically promotes wellbeing, even in adverse circumstances. In Chin, Magway and Sagaing, as well as Kayah State, a focus will be on reaching displaced and other conflict-affected communities with the life-saving aspects of education that benefit children's mental and physical wellbeing. As much as possible across all locations, and especially in Kachin and Rakhine States, children and youth will be supported with learning resources for a return to education in safe education spaces, consulting closely with communities and aiming to increase their resilience to disruptions in education. While emphasis is placed on areas with more recent crises, children and youth in areas with longer-term armed conflict require emergency support to re-engage in education, and among those the most remote and left behind will be a priority. A final priority will be to keep education safe, both in regards to security concerns and COVID-19 prevention. In order to most effectively and sustainably reach children, youth and communities, proposals which work through and build capacity of local and national partners will receive higher consideration..

The **shelter, non-food items and camp coordination and camp management** (Shelter/NFI/CCCM) cluster has received US\$6.2 million, which represents 14 per cent of the requirements of both 2021 HRP and IERP, as reported in FTS as of 10 November. The humanitarian and security situations have been deteriorating in many locations throughout Myanmar, consequently leading to a growing number of displaced people. The scale of shelter, NFI and CCCM needs has increased in line with the intensifying conflicts that force increased displacement and destruction of shelters. Additionally, the country is faced with rising prices, as the Myanmar currency is rapidly depreciating, which affects populations in camps, villages, and displacement sites, but also the construction, repair and renovation of shelters, the distribution of NFI and CCCM.

In the current circumstances, displaced people are in need of new, emergency and/or temporary shelters and non-food items (including for shelter) to survive, which the identified priority activities aim to provide.

The security situation in the northwestern and southeastern parts of the country has rapidly worsened and needs are important, with some displaced people having no access to any form of assistance. Townships were identified keeping in mind the severity of the needs, but also the capacity to implement the identified activities and the accessibility of those areas.

Priority 2: Health and Nutrition

The **health** cluster has received US\$8.9 million, which represents 26 per cent of the requirements indicated in both 2021 HRP and IERP, as reported in FTS as of 10 November. With the decrease in health service availability from the public sector following the 1 February military takeover, provision of life saving health care to displaced people and other vulnerable population has become more critical than before. It is important to reinforce primary health care in partnership with CSOs, NGOs and ethnic health organizations (EHOs), all this in the overall context where risk for COVID-19 transmission remains. The targeted areas were already one of the most vulnerable ones in the country before February 2021.

Limited humanitarian health actors and funding are key challenges. It is crucial to support multi-cluster projects which includes essential health services provision through CSOs and NGOs to address the health gaps in affected people. In the current context, provision of essential health care and preparedness capacity for monsoon emergencies are likewise considered to be critical. The displaced people are relying on humanitarian assistance from EHO and NGOs. Life-saving health care, emergency referral support and provision of medical supplies are essential needs for affected people.

It is crucial to continue humanitarian health assistance in Kachin and Rakhine states to prevent worsening health situation among the protracted displaced population as well as those non-displaced including stateless people. Disease surveillance and response through early warning, alert and response system is important to detect and respond to communicable diseases outbreaks particularly in displacement sites.

Recent armed conflicts are ongoing across different locations of Magway and Sagaing regions resulting in new displaced population. It is important to support the local and international organizations to provide essential health care services and medical supplies for the people in need of health assistance. Health in Chin State is also critical, with COVID-19 positive cases rising again.

The **nutrition** cluster has received US\$7.6 million, which represents 30 per cent of the 2021 requirements of both 2021 HRP and IERP, as reported in FTS as of 10 November. The humanitarian situation in Myanmar is deteriorating with the intensified armed clashes in 2021 with increasing the number of displacements across the country and the interruption of access to life-saving nutrition services for children and women. In some urban and peri-urban settings, vulnerabilities are dramatically increasing due to the effects of a collapse of food supply chains and basic nutrition services. Access and transportation challenges also affect to the humanitarian response. As a result, both displaced people and host communities in these areas are at an increased risk.

Children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) are eleven times more likely to die than their healthy counterparts as the malnourished children have been shown to increase the risk of death from common childhood illness. As a result, the children, pregnant and lactating mothers who are affected by conflict need essential nutrition support for their survival and growth during this critical situation, which has reduced availability and affordability of nutritious foods. The recent displacements are causing disruption of livelihoods, food insecurity and population overcrowding, which may in turn increase the risk of malnutrition and mortality in conflict affected populations.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to support vulnerable children and women (including displaced populations and host community) through continuation of essential nutrition services where the information to nutrition knowledge and services are limited. Additionally, it is more difficult to access nutrition services because of COVID-19 containment measures leading to partial or complete lock down of the camps. One of the mitigations for continuation of the nutrition services is through trained camp-based volunteers for nutrition and implement through volunteers under remote supervision and monitoring of medical doctor or nurse.

To overcome the challenges and ensure availability of critical nutrition services for most vulnerable conflict affected population, the funding allocation from MHF will focus mainly on the key interventions to support for the vulnerable communities especially to children under five, pregnant and lactating women in targeted states and regions. These actions will include the provision of integrated preventative and curative nutrition services including multiple micro-nutrient supplementations to children, pregnant and lactating women; activities related to reduce the incidence of malnutrition and to sustain positive outcomes, to promote optimal maternal infant and young child feeding (MIYCF) practices through volunteers; monitoring and reporting activities of the unsolicited distribution of breast milk substitute (BMS) in the communities; and rapid humanitarian nutrition response through active participation in the cluster. Cash transfers may be considered when possible.

Priority 3: WASH and Protection

The **water, sanitation and hygiene** (WASH) cluster has only received US\$13.5 million, which represents 32 per cent of the 2021 requirements of both 2021 HRP and IERP, as reported in FTS as of 10 November. The increasing armed conflict has caused new displacement in several parts of the country, with more sites hosting displaced people than those initially targeted. Most of affected people left host areas with minimal supports and do not have any income. Many markets are not supplied with vital WASH items and supplies. Material prices area also increased after the military takeover and the pandemic. Some sites are located in very hard-to-reach areas, with limited access to WASH services. In some areas, water supply is a problem during the dry season as ponds dry up and rain water can no longer be harvested. Poor sanitation systems including drainage or solid waste management are also a problem for vulnerable population particularly children, who can be more at risk of acute watery diseases (AWD). Displacement of persons with disabilities are required specific sanitation interventions.

Support from this allocation prioritizes interventions in WASH infrastructure not meeting Sphere standards, water sources and supplies, access to safe drinking water, drainage in sites, solid waste management, distribution of hygiene items particularly for female hygiene and soap to prevent COVID-19 transmission, household level water.

The **protection** cluster has received US\$18.9 million, which represents 41 per cent of the 2021 requirements of both 2021 HRP and IERP, as reported in FTS as of 10 November. The humanitarian and security situations have been deteriorating in many locations throughout Myanmar since 1 February. The security situation in the northwest

and southeastern parts of the country have rapidly worsened and needs are increasing every day. People are fleeing their places of origin and others who would like to return are unable to do so. The regions that the protection cluster will target are Chin, Sagaing, Magway, Kayah, Kayin and eastern Bago. Integrated protection activities, including the provision of services, will aim to reach people in locations where partners have access and capacity to operate. Specific groups, such as women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly will be taken into account. Other priorities identified are mine action awareness raising as the armed conflict has resulted in a growing number of landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) incidents, highlighting the need for explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, which is detrimental to the wellbeing of affected populations in the current circumstances. Given the uncertainty surrounding access, remote and mobile service delivery and community-based protections mechanisms (which ensure the participation of targeted people) have also been identified as priorities.

Priority 4: Food Security

The less underfunded cluster is **food security**, which has received US\$77.2 million, that represents 51 per cent of the requirements indicated in both HRP 2021 and IERP, as reported in FTS as of 10 November. However, some urgent needs and funding gaps have been identified in Kachin State. With this allocation, the cluster will support emergency food assistance to 8,200 targeted people among IDPS living in 17 displacement camps⁶ in five townships (Waingmaw, Chipwi, Sumprabum, Shwegu and Injangyang) on areas controlled by Kachin Independent Army (KIA) in Kachin State, where a funding gap has been identified from December 2021 onwards. Although there are many challenges in access issue (TA and COVID-19 movement restriction) to reach displacement camps in areas cluster members strive to provide food assistance to displaced people in this area since February 2021.

Other emergency food security activities may be supported in other geographical areas, but only considered as part of a multi-cluster project and not as main sector of intervention. This support could include food assistance, but also emergency agriculture support, e.g. homestead gardening package for vulnerable household, small-scale crop production and/or livestock production package for landless and small holder farmers including cash assistance, small-scale fish production for small-scale aquaculture farmer and cash-for-work activities for landless and marginal/smallholder farmers.

Section 5: Eligibility Parameters/Guidance to Applicants

Allocation size	US\$4 million distributed as per indicative funding envelopes.
Scope	This allocation strategy is limited in time, scale and scope to the prioritized activities and clusters indicated in the document. Any project proposal beyond this scope will not be considered.
Eligible partners	Open to the partners best placed to immediately deliver assistance in at-risk locations. Partnership agreements among humanitarian partners are welcome. Special consideration will be given to support humanitarian response through CSOs in areas with emerging needs, including sub-grants provided through an intermediary partner or network. This support may include emergency capacity development for these organizations. Active presence in priority areas and demonstrated access to affected population are required.
Allocation per project	A minimum of US\$ 200,000 and a ceiling as per indicative funding envelope per cluster. Multi-cluster projects will be prioritized.
Duration of projects ⁷	12 months.
Pre-requisites for applicant organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of the due diligence process on GMS. • Capacity assessment conducted by OCHA, including anti-fraud and PSEA policies. • MHF requests on previous and ongoing projects have been addressed. • Active participation in coordination at national and/or sub-national level.

⁶ There are 19 displacement camps in areas controlled by Kachin Independent Army (KIA) in Kachin State, but two of them (Woi Chyai and Hpun Lum Yang) will have food gaps after June 2022 only, so they are not considered for this allocation.

⁷ The MHF Standard Allocation looks for projects of 12-month duration. The MHF may consider shorter projects for some time-bound interventions (e.g. food assistance to cover specific gaps, mobile clinics, shelter construction, etc.) when there is strong justification. Partners are suggested to complement MHF funding with other sources to ensure sustainability of intervention and a holistic response.

Section 6: Process and Timeline

6.1 Allocation Strategy Development Process:

This allocation has been designed with the support of the existing coordination mechanisms, including the clusters. It has been presented to the MHF Advisory Board and also submitted to the OCHA Country-Based Pooled Fund (CBPF) Section for comments. Upon receiving feedback, the consolidated document was finalized by OCHA and reviewed and endorsed by the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) on 16 November 2021.

The underfunded scenario against existing humanitarian needs in crisis-affected populations demands rapid decision-making and immediate scale-up of life-saving response. This will entail strong commitment and enhanced efforts from all stakeholders to do everything in their power to expedite the process leading to emergency response that will be supported through this integrated approach. Stakeholders involved in this Standard Allocation will strive to expedite the allocation process to the extent possible and ensure maximum possible responsiveness.

The submission of project proposals for this MHF Second Standard Allocation will be open **from 16 November to 1 December 2021 (09:00 a.m. Yangon time)** via the online MHF Grant Management System (GMS) at <https://cbpf.unocha.org>. Applications must be submitted in English due to auditing requirements. The allocation will be implemented as per the MHF Operational Manual and the revised Operational Handbook for CBPFs that can be found (together with additional information on CBPFs) at <http://www.unocha.org/myanmar/about-mhf>.

Depending on the context, humanitarian responses would comprise either direct provision of humanitarian supplies, contributing to overheads⁸ and / or direct cash transfers. Partners are encouraged to submit multi-cluster proposals. Proposals targeting one cluster only may be considered case-by-case. Stand-alone proposals for multi-purpose cash or voucher programmes that will fit within the multiple cluster priorities will be accepted.⁹

The Review Committee could recommend, after initial strategic review, splitting the proposed funding envelopes areas among several proposals, preferably with a multi-cluster approach, with a strong justification for the added value of this recommendation.

The allocation is open to all the eligible partners best placed to immediately deliver assistance in at-risk locations. Partnership agreements among humanitarian partners are welcome through consortium modality. For this allocation, special consideration will be given to support humanitarian response through CSOs in areas with emerging needs, including sub-grants provided through an intermediary partner or network. This support may include emergency capacity development for these organizations. Active presence in priority areas and demonstrated access to affected population are required.

The MHF does not establish a limitation of the number of projects per partner and will target a unique state or region. When response activities, operational arrangements and logistics are similar and contribute to a more cost-efficient proposals, proposals covering totally or partially neighboring states and regions may be accepted, as follows: a) Rakhine and southern Chin; b) Chin, Magway and Sagaing; c) Kachin and northern Shan; d) southern Shan, Kayah, eastern Bago, Kayin, Mon and Tanintharyi. For any question in this regard, partners are requested to contact the MHF prior to the submission of the proposals.

Project proposals from eligible partners that are involved in a compliance matter or subject to an inquiry; did not demonstrate to have specific provisions on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and anti-fraud and conflict of interest; and/or did not address key questions requested by the MHF during current or previous projects' implementation (e.g. monitoring and audit recommendations) **will not be considered and will be excluded** from the strategic review. Any technical questions with regards to eligibility and/or partnership arrangements can be directed at OCHA: MHF-Myanmar@un.org.

The precise distribution of available funding will be determined following a consultation process with relevant partners and clusters, focused on identifying the most urgent needs and gaps, complemented by an analysis of ongoing response by cluster and geographic area. Consultations with humanitarian donors, funding facilities and

⁸ If direct material support is available from other sources, partners may use the funds to cover transport and delivery overheads.

⁹ In the case of stand-alone proposals for multi-purpose cash or voucher programmes, the partner will select "multi-cluster" when uploading the proposal in GMS.

pooled funds, such as Access to Health Fund (ACCESS), Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT), Joint Peace Fund (JPF), Paung Sie Facility (PSF), Nexus Response Mechanism (NRM), and the recently established Myanmar Chapter of the Women, Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), will be also conducted.

6.2 Allocation Timeline

Phase	Step	What	Who	Key Date
Preparation	1. HC endorsement of the concept note	Concept paper	HC	5 November 2021
	2. Development of the draft of the allocation strategy	Allocation Strategy	OCHA Clusters	5-10 November 2021
	3. Comments from the Advisory Board and HC endorsement of the allocation strategy	Allocation Strategy	Advisory Board HC	10-15 November 2021
	4. Launch of allocation strategy	Allocation Strategy	OCHA	16 November 2021
Proposal Development	5. Proposal submission deadline	Proposal preparation	Partners	1 December 2021
Proposal Review	6. Strategic, technical and financial review	Project prioritization Proposal review	Review Committee OCHA	8 December 2021
	7. HC/Advisory Board proposals endorsement	AB comments and HC endorses project prioritization	HC AB	15 December 2021
	8. Proposal revision and adjustments	Partners address feedback	Partners OCHA	21 December 2021
Approval & Disbursement	9. Final budget clearance	OCHA final clearance	OCHA HQ	28 December 2021
	10. Grant Agreement preparation and signature	GA prepared/start date agreed with partner and signature	OCHA HC Partners	29-30 December 2021
	11. Project start date	Project implementation	Partners	1 January 2022 <i>(if pre-financed, as soon as the budget is cleared by OCHA HQ)</i>
	12. Grant Agreement final clearance	GA cleared and signed	OCHA	5 January 2022
	13. First disbursement	Payment request processed	OCHA	12 January 2022

Section 7: Contacts and Complaint Mechanism

7.1 Key Contacts

Name	Position	E-mail
Narciso Rosa-Berlanga	MHF Manager	rosa-berlanga@un.org
Wai Wai Moe	Senior Humanitarian Financing Officer	moe2@un.org
Thet Mon Soe	Senior Humanitarian Programme Officer	soe4@un.org
Poe Ei Phyu	Grants Management and Programme Officer	poe.phyu@un.org
Yin Min Htike	Grants Management and Programme Officer	yin.htike@un.org
Zoe Zoe	Grants Management and Programme Officer	zoe.zoe@un.org
Ei Kalayar Lwin	Programme Associate	lwine@un.org



MHF

MHF-Myanmar@un.org
www.unocha.org/Myanmar/about-MHF

7.2 Complaint and Feedback Mechanism

MHF implementing partners with insufficiently addressed concerns or complaints regarding MHF processes or decisions can at any point in time send an email to MHFComplaints@un.org. Communications can also include reports on fraud and malfeasance. Complaints will be compiled, reviewed and raised to the HC, who will then take a decision on necessary action(s). When relevant, the HC will share with the Advisory Board any concerns or complaints and actions taken thereof.

Section 8: Annexes

- Annex 1.** Prioritization Matrix
- Annex 2.** MHF Operating Principles and Strategic Review
- Annex 3.** Cross-cutting issues when developing a project proposal
- Annex 4.** Mandatory and Standard Indicators
- Annex 5.** MHF Budget Guidance
- Annex 6.** Cluster contacts
- Annex 7.** List of acronyms