Background

This update, which covers the period from 1 June to 31 August, aims to provide information on the implementation of the Plan of Action and other processes undertaken by the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF).

While the update captures as many details about the MHF activities as possible, it is not exhaustive and does not replace the Annual Report, which is the main reference document to report the outcomes of the Fund, including the results against the Common Performance Framework and the achievements per cluster and sector.

Situation Overview

The humanitarian situation across the country remains severe, with 3 million people targeted for humanitarian assistance and protection services. This includes 1 million people in need in conflict-affected areas previously identified as part of the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) at the start of 2021 and a further 2 million people identified since 1 February 2021 as part of the Interim Emergency Response Plan (ERP). The additional caseload includes around 200,000 internally displaced people, mostly in the south-eastern parts, particularly in Kayah and Kayin states, but also in Shan, Kachin and Chin states as well as vulnerable families in urban and peri-urban areas.

Humanitarian access to people in need across all areas continues to be hindered due to armed conflict, insecurity, new restrictions and the pre-existing travel authorization system. Access is further constrained across all areas due to ongoing operational and logistics challenges, which include limited cash availability, commodity price hikes, COVID-19 preventive measures, including imposition of "stay-at-home" orders and lockdowns.

Monsoon flash floods affected around 125,000 people in the regions and states of Kachin, Kayin, Mandalay, Mon, Rakhine, eastern Shan and Tanintharyi between late July and mid-August, have further aggravated people's access to services and access to communities by humanitarian workers.¹

Since June, COVID-19 positive cases have been on the rise, with 399,282 cases countrywide since the start of the pandemic, including 15,389 fatalities and 311,952 recoveries confirmed as of 31 August 2021. Cases have started to slowly decline in

¹ Further information on humanitarian developments in Myanmar: OCHA Humanitarian Update n. 10, covering from 28 July to 23 August 2021.
August, although the death rate has not shown a decline compared to July. Between 1 and 30 August, a total of 96,698 cases and 5,953 deaths were reported countrywide. The number of tests remains extremely limited, suggesting that the reported numbers could be less than actual number of cases. Vaccinations for those in the priority list, including senior citizens aged above 65, health care workers and volunteers, have reportedly resumed in many parts of the country since early August. The ongoing “stay-at-home” orders and school closures continue to be effective in a total of 119 townships across the country, while the public holiday period, which was first announced to be effective starting from 17 July, has been extended until 10 September. Overall, access to health facilities remains considerably challenging. Partners are working to support access to care for COVID-19 and other essential services, while sustaining lifesaving humanitarian operations.

Practical Approach

Since 1 February, partners funded through the MHF have seen worsening of the already challenging humanitarian context, which has been aggravated by the new wave of COVID-19 since June. During the reporting period, the MHF team continued to liaise with its partners and sub-partners to ensure that all safety and security measures were in place, including business continuity plans, and to identify the eventual impact of the crisis on MHF-funded activities.

From the operational point of view, the MHF have been applying a flexible approach, keeping assurance and compliance with internal regulations, including the guidance endorsed in March 2021 and building on practical solutions as per actual context and discussion with its partners and sub-partners. This has been regularly reported to the Advisory Board.

On 13 July, a summary note was distributed to the Advisory Board members with detailed information on the impact of the current situation, including the status of the funded activities, access issues, response provided to emerging situations, including activities, sub-partners and new/additional targeted and reached population and locations. A month later, on 13 August, a second note was distributed with information on the response already provided and ongoing between 1 June 2021 and 31 July to the current COVID-19 outbreak. The note also made reference to planned actions in the coming months, including type of activities, timeline, locations, targeted people and total funding allocated. Considering the volatile context and the best estimation, MHF funded projects have targeted above 400,000 people with COVID-19 related activities since 1 June 2021, for a total of US$1.3 million. Please see below a breakdown by geographical area, budget and target population.

Due to disruptions to the banking system, the MHF worked with OCHA HQ and partners on a case-by-case basis, allowing them to replace initial USD bank account with an MMK account to facilitate disbursement in the current context.

Regarding the use of local money transfer agents, subject to the payment of transaction fees, the MHF did not develop a specific policy, but tackled the situation on a case-by-case basis in discussion with relevant partners. In this case, partners were requested to include a specific budget with the following caveat: “bank fees and/or transaction fees related to the use of local money transfer agents”, as part of the budget category 7 (General Operating and Other Direct Costs). For the MHF to allow these expenditures, the partners should inform via email prior to using the service provider to get explicit MHF endorsement, ensuring that partners are applying their internal procurement processes, selection of agent(s) based on reputation, prior/current experience; and sign a written agreement with the service providers. Only on exceptional cases, when an agreement and invoice from the service provider cannot be possible, the partner will produce a note for the file or other supporting documents describing the service, providing details of the service provider and explaining the operation and expenditures, as per internal policy. This will be signed by the authorized persons within the organization, following the internal segregation of duties policy.

Ongoing Funding

By 31 August, the MHF is supporting the implementation of 56 projects funded in 2020 and 2021, for a total of US$24.4 million. These projects target almost 1.2 million people, of whom around 56 per cent are women and girls, 44 per cent children and a further 11 per cent being persons with disabilities. These projects directly involve 32 partners – 7 national NGOs, 21 INGOs and 4 UN agencies –, apart of other organizations acting as sub-partners, including civil society and community-based organizations. These interventions are located in several geographical areas, with Rakhine and Kachin states having the biggest share of projects (21 and 19 projects respectively), followed by Shan (8), Chin and Kayin (5 projects each), Bago (3), Kayah, Magway and Mon (2 projects each) and one project countrywide (PSEA).
$15.6M Contributions
- Australia: $3.9 million
- United Kingdom: $2.1 million
- Access to Health Fund: $2.0 million
- Germany: $1.8 million
- Sweden: $1.6 million
- New Zealand: $1.2 million
- United States: $1.0 million
- Canada: $0.8 million
- Switzerland: $0.5 million
- Luxembourg: $0.4 million
- Korea, Republic of: $0.3 million

$24.4M Allocations
- Kachin: $7.8 million
- Shan: $2 million
- Magway: $0.3 million
- Chin: $1.4 million
- Rakhine: $10.7 million
- Kayah: $0.6 million
- Kain: $1.1 million
- Mon: $0.3 million

1.2M People Targeted
- 78,000 people in Kachin
- 17,900 people in Shan
- 3,000 people in Magway
- 63,000 people in Chin
- 665,000 people in Rakhine
- 24,000 people in Kayah
- 97,000 people in Kain
- 5,000 people in Mon

Targeted people: 1.2M
Targeted persons with disabilities: 127K

- 243K boys: 22K boys with disability
- 389K women: 43K women with disability
- 281K girls: 27K girls with disability
- 283K men: 32K men with disability

Allocations by Cluster/sector
- Shelter/NFI/CCD: $4.8 million
- WASH: $4.2 million
- Protection: $4.2 million
- Food Security: $3.8 million
- EiE: $3.5 million
- Health: $2.7 million
- Nutrition: $0.8 million
- Common Services: $0.3 million
- COVID-19: $0.0 million

32 Partners
56 Projects

6.7M National NGOs
7 partners
18 projects

1.3M United Nations
4 partners
5 projects

16.4M INGOs
21 partners
36 Projects

$24.4M ongoing funding

As of 31 August 2021
**TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS**

*Between 1 June and 31 August*

- **Massive displacement** in Kayah State and other parts of Myanmar due to armed clashes and insecurity
- **Surge of COVID-19** positive cases (3rd wave)
- **HCT endorsement of the Interim Emergency Response Plan** for $108M
- **Public holidays and stay-at-home orders** implemented to contain COVID-19 outbreak
- **Heavy rains cause flooding** in several states across Myanmar
- **New MHF-funded projects start implementation**
- **Revised MHF Operational Manual** effective on 1 August

**Contributions**

- June: 0.3
- July: 3.6
- August: 0.6

**Allocations**

- 0.07
- 12
- 0.12

- The HC a.i. provided preliminary approval to 26 projects under the **First Standard Allocation**
- **Cost-Extension** in Chin
- MHF **Project Marketplace** launched including 20 projects ($9.4M)
- **Cost-Extension** in Kachin and Rakhine

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**TARGETED vs REACHED PEOPLE**

*Between 1 June and 31 August*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Targeted</th>
<th>Reached</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>386K</td>
<td>91K</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>283K</td>
<td>35K</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>281K</td>
<td>58K</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>243K</td>
<td>34K</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Targeted</th>
<th>Reached</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Displaced</td>
<td>790K</td>
<td>138K</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Host communities</td>
<td>373K</td>
<td>79K</td>
<td>21%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Returnees</td>
<td>3K</td>
<td>3K</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other crisis-affected</td>
<td>29K</td>
<td>0K</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Resource Mobilization

During the reporting period, the Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, New Zealand and the United States provided contributions to the MHF for a total of US$2.9 million. In addition, and for second consecutive year, the Access to Health Fund, managed by UNOPS in country and funded by Sweden, Switzerland, the United States and the United Kingdom (also MHF donors), has provided a contribution to the MHF - US$2 million.

This additional funding brings the level of contributions to $15.6 million by 31 August 2021. This represents 50.5 per cent of the target of US$30.9 million fixed for 2021, – 15 per cent of the total HRP funding received in 2020. Up to now, the MHF has already allocated $12.9 million, including $12 million to new projects under the First Standard Allocation, $330,000 to cost extension of ongoing projects and $600,000 to direct cost the MHF management through the OCHA Humanitarian Financing Unit. The available remaining funding is US$2.7 million, initially planned for a Second Standard Allocation in November or any unforeseen emergency that may happen.

Despite the contributions by eleven donors so far, more funding would be required to support to respond to pre-existing needs as per the 2021 HRP and the additional needs framed under the Interim ERP, which includes the humanitarian situation emerged since 1 February 2021.

Allocation Plan

Following the agreed timeline, on 8 June 2021, the MHF closed the deadline for the submission of project proposals under the First Standard Allocation. A total of 46 proposals were submitted, amounting US$23.9 million. After proposals were received, the MHF Review Committee, composed of clusters and sectors convened review committees at their level, ensuring transparency and inclusivity. The MHF also invited the sub-national coordination mechanisms - the Maungdaw Inter-Agency Group (MIAG) and the South-East Working Group (SEWG) – and two pooled funds - Access to Health Fund (ACCESS) and Livelihoods and Food Security Fund (LIFT), both managed by UNOPS, to join the review processes.

On 16 June 2021, the MHF Review Committee met to discuss and agree on the list of projects to be recommended for funding and submitted them to the Advisory Board, which provided their views on 23 June. The Humanitarian Coordinator a.i. provided preliminary approval on 26 June. Out of 46 submitted projects, 26 projects were pre-selected for a total of US$12 million. Project implementation started between 15 July to 1 September 2021 for a duration from 5 to 12 months. It includes lifesaving response, addressing the emerging needs since 1 February, supporting about 100,000 people in need (52 per cent are women and girls, and 41 per cent children) through 8 projects amounting US$3 million, which are planned for 5 to 9 months of duration and target priority needs of the Interim ERP in Chin, Magway, southern Shan, Kayah, Kayin, eastern
Bago and Mon (see above the graphics with the distribution of funding by sector and geographical area, both against the 2021 HRP and the Interim ERP).

Regarding the projects that were not prioritized for direct funding through the MHF under the First Standard Allocation, due to the limited available funding, the MHF supported a “Project Marketplace” initiative to help partners in liaising with donors and find an alternate source of funding. On 22 July, the MHF shared an extended list of 30 donors a summary of 20 project proposals which had been revised by the Review Committee and include the minimum requirements as per MHF standard and guidelines and enough quality to be implemented. Donors were requested to contact directly the partners in case of interest on a particular project.

On 17 August, a CERF Rapid Response application has been submitted to the CERF Secretariat for US$7.2 million to meet priority needs of 135,000 vulnerable people in key sectors—food security, livelihood, health and protection—in Chin, Shan and the South-Est of Myanmar as per the Interim ERP, including also emergency response to the recent flash floods, in complementarity to the funding already allocated by the MHF.

The MHF plans to launch a Second Standard Allocation in November, depending on the availability of funding or emergence of new humanitarian need.

Plan of Action

In reference to the Plan of Action for 2021, some activities were re-scheduled due to the increased workload of the First Standard Allocation and other issues related to the new operating environment and the surge of COVID-19 outbreak since June. The priority was given to urgent actions such as project modifications including budget revision, activation of contingency budget lines and cost/no-cost extensions.

With some delay, due to the complex situation since 1 February and the ongoing First Standard Allocation, the MHF Annual Report for 2020 was shared for comments with the Advisory Board on 2 June and published on 2 July. The report includes a specific chapter on COVID-19-related response and addressed questions related to the double counting, mainly referring to the reporting of targeted people versus reached people, including persons with disabilities and overachievement in some sector indicators, (mostly education, health, nutrition and protection). The report also included information on engagement with women-led organizations and women’s rights organizations and the support to women and girls, coordination with peace and development partners, including other sources of funding, lessons observed, key enablers and take-aways from 2020, the assessment of severity of needs and timeliness in responding to emerging situations, engagement with local and national partners and the linkages with ongoing peace activities - social cohesion, do no harm, conflict-sensitivity.

Donors shared positive feedback and demonstrating interest on the inclusive and transparent allocation process, the oversight and accountability mechanisms, and the Fund capacity to pursue an integrated approach with other sources of funding.

During the reporting period, the MHF moved forward with revising the prioritization and review processes by simplifying the steps and enhancing sub-national contributions and views. On 7 June, a virtual workshop was facilitated by the MHF team with active participation of cluster, sector and sub-national coordination mechanisms. In July, the MHF Operational Manual was revised with the support of the Advisory Board, which is effective since 1 August. The main changes are related to the inclusion of specific timelines for the allocation processes, the increase of the minimum threshold for projects under Standard Allocation up to US $200,000 the integration of a new annex on Assets Management and the update of annexes related to Fraud and PSEA protocols. The operational modalities also were updated reflecting the Partner Performance Index category instead of risk levels.

The revised MHF Operational Manual is effective since 1 August 2021. It enhances the focus on fraud, PSEA and AAP issues, which will be increased across monitoring activities, partner capacity building and due diligence process.

The MHF also continues to share real-time information and analysis on the implementation status of funded projects, particularly regarding the challenges faced by partners due to the political and security situation and COVID-19 outbreak, which have increased the protection concerns and access restrictions and made difficult logistics and operational arrangements, in part due to the disruption of the banking system and the lack of cash availability.

In addition, the MHF continues to support and collaborate with other key stakeholders. On 7 July, the MHF facilitated the participation on Karuna Mission Social Solidarity (KMSS) in the global launch of the CERF-CBPF Annual Reports, representing the views of the national partners, in particular the opportunity to participate in governance and decision-making processes, the flexible funding and the risk-sharing approach. On 12 August, the MHF participated at the second National Steering Committee meeting of the Women’s Peace & Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), managed by UN Women, which included the discussion and selection of project proposals aiming at reinforcing institutional and response capacity of women-led organizations and women’s rights organization through a rapid response window.

Important to mention that two MHF staff started on 30 August to remotely support the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund, responding to a global CBPF request due to the current crisis.
That said, other activities have been postponed for the last months of the year, particularly the annual stakeholders survey, the re-activation of the Efficiency Task Force, and discussions with relevant actors on working together to increase organizational and financial capacity of local and national partners.

Project Revisions

During the reporting period, 14 project revisions have been approved in line with the Flexibility Guidance in the context of the COVID-19 and the ongoing political crisis. Revisions include cost extension, no-cost extension, reprogramming of activities, budget revision, changing of bank information, and extension of projects to new locations. The revisions were undertaken through budget and activities reprogramming and the activation of the contingency budget line for unforeseen emergencies or the approval of cost-extensions.

Many projects requested no-cost extension due to delays in activities implementation, such as staff recruitment or procurement processes, mostly due to the problems in accessing MHF transferred funds disbursed in local bank accounts, due to Central Bank’s new instructions, the spread of cases from the third wave of COVID-19, and travel restrictions.

Cost-extensions of about US$200,000 have been approved for three ongoing projects to address the immediate humanitarian needs for conflict-affected people as a result of the current political crisis and bank disruption including increase of unexpected cash transfer/withdrawal fee due to limited cash withdrawal from banks and commodity price rise. The assistance included shelter and education assistance in Kachin; emergency response in Mindat township in Chin State and additional COVID-19 test kits for humanitarian workers and affected communities in Rakhine.

Reporting Activities

Between 1 June and 31 August 2021, the MHF team has revised and approved 15 progress narrative reports and 8 final narrative reports. Reporting activities also include two interim financial reports and seven final financial reports.

Similar to the previous updates, many partners reported significant delays or partial suspension of activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the February 2021 events. Quarantine regulations in different states, including areas controlled by non-state armed actors, caused severe operational challenges for health, protection, shelter activities and hindered the provision of services to hard-to-reach areas. Limited access to mobile phones and communication networks in implementation areas complicated mitigation efforts. Although some partners innovated telecommunication-based medical care and remote case management, the operationalizing referrals support remains challenging. Increase of commodity prices, high rate of local money transfer fees and suspension of activities by technical departments required the re-programming of some projects and, in some cases, cost-extension due to the urgency of the interventions. Partners revised their cash policy at field level and requested the use of local money transfer agents for cash flow smoothness.

Road to Ta’ang

The Ta’ang community is located in a hard-to-reach area in the mountains of Shan State. Roads functionality is seasonal and there is no route during the rainy season. Logistic and medical staff from the Community Partners International (CPI) travel long journeys by using different means to deliver emergency primary health assistance and distribute medicines and other key medical supplies.

The project is currently under revision, including budget and activities reprogramming and no-cost extension, due to the challenges caused by the security situation in the area of intervention, access issues and COVID-19.

This intervention is part of the project “Emergency humanitarian assistance for displaced people and conflict-affected communities in northern Shan State”, funded with US$275,000. The project has already reached 6,583 people, including 1,768 girls, 910 boys, 2,856 women and 6 persons with disabilities.
The MHF team continued to see the effectiveness of the contingency budget line to respond urgent and unforeseen emergency needs. During the reporting period, the use of this budget line allowed partner to provide urgent humanitarian assistance for the newly displaced people and personal protective equipment (PPE) for humanitarian workers and affected communities. As reported in previous updates, partners, especially local and national NGOs, have faced challenges in data collection and reporting of two mandatory indicators related to accountability to affected populations (AAP). MHF is working with them looking at alternative ways for data collection considering confidentiality and protection concerns due to the sensitive context.

**Monitoring Activities**

Although MHF had planned to conduct the field visit monitoring to Kachin in the second week of July 2021, the visit was canceled due to new wave of COVID-19 cases. MHF replaced field visits with remote methodologies, such as remote call monitoring by using phone or available digital platforms and offsite desk reviews of scanned copies for the financial spot checks.

Despite these efforts, monitoring activities have seen some delays, mostly due to impact of the COVID-19 wave among MHF and partners’ staff capacity. Between 1 June and 31 August 2021, the MHF monitoring team, including representatives from clusters, sectors and sub-national coordination mechanisms conducted remote call monitoring to nine projects in Kachin, Shan and the south-eastern part of Myanmar, followed by offsite financial sport checks of eight projects.

Challenges identified are similar to the previous reporting period, and include access restrictions due to COVID-19, security situation in targeted areas and limitation to withdraw cash from local bank accounts. Implementation of health and protection activities in areas controlled by non-state armed actors in Kachin were partially suspended due to the security situation and COVID-19-related travel restrictions. Some projects were found weak in terms of monitoring activities and follow-up activities through remote management needs to be enhanced.

Public holidays declared countrywide and additional stay-at-home orders in some areas imposed to control COVID-19 cases made difficult to access cash. Moreover, there were some disruption in procurement as suppliers claimed physical cash and not accept mobile transfer payments. The MHF recommended partners to review their cash handling procedures to ensure all practices are in place for the protection of staff.

The MHF monitoring team recommended partners to closely coordinate with clusters and sectors including sharing updated 5Ws information. Other recommendations were linked to reinforce the capacity of newly recruited volunteers by trainings, hands-on, coaching, follow-up action plans, etc. so that they gradually become reliable and effectively perform their functions since they are likely to play more and more crucially in longer-term. Finally, the MHF recommended partners to find alternative plans for implementing the suspended activities considering that the current context will last in the time.

Regarding the countrywide project on PSEA, all activities have been delayed. However, an interim PSEA Coordinator has been recruited to fill the gap until the staff member is recruited. Calls for proposals for technical assistance for AAP/PSEA mechanisms and awareness raising research have been launched in early July. The delays have been due to the need to reformulate the activities in line with the current context and identify what is feasible. For instance, the community-based research on PSEA awareness raising materials was delayed due to concerns particularly between February and April in terms of how it would be feasible and safe to proceed. The PSEA Survivor Fund was launched in late June. The provision of technical assistance to Government actors has been suspended indefinitely. A monitoring activity on this intervention is expected by the end of September.

**Auditing Services**

Due to COVID-19 pandemic and the 1 February 2021 events, auditing activities were delayed and conducted using a mixed approach with offsite desk review of samples and financial processes and on-site verification of original documents with local auditors, when possible.
Eleven audits have started during the reporting period. Three final audit reports were approved, and related refund of ineligible costs initiated.

Other 10 audits have been postponed due to the impact of COVID-19 third wave among partner staff and will start in September. A preparatory meeting for a new group of audit was conducted on 31 August to explain partners the scope of audit work, timeline, partner’s responsibilities and other requirements.

Among the concluded audits, auditors raised some ineligible costs, mostly because expenditures not used as per approved budget and insufficient supporting documents. Other minor questions are related to lack of insurance coverage for assets (fixed assets, cash), lack of segregation of duties, weakness in budget preparation, excessive use of cash payments, and not using separate bank account for payment.

Following the approval of final audit reports, the MHF requested partners to establish a plan of action to implement the main audit observations and ensures the refund of ineligible costs. This is regularly monitored by the MHF team, particularly any new allocation of funds. Partners with compliance issues regarding these observations will not be considered and will be excluded of the strategic review.

### Oversight and Compliance

- **Reported incidents closed without compliance measures**: 4
- **Ongoing incidents from 2020**: 2

**Reported incidents**: # of incidents (allegation, suspected fraud, confirmed fraud, theft, diversion, looting, destruction, etc.), either open or closed.

**Ongoing incidents**: # of incidents for which measures (inquiry, assurance, measures, settlement etc.) were still on going as of 31 May 2021.

Between June and August, four incidents were reported by partners and closed under the guidance of CBPF Oversight and Compliance (OCU) at OCHA HQ level since no further investigations were needed. Other two incidents are still active from the previous year and are now under audit process.

Regarding the type of partners, all the incidents are related to fraud practices from local sub-partner and it may require reimbursement of ineligible amounts, as per final audit reports.

The incidents have been managed in accordance with the CBPFs standard operating procedures (SOPs) related to fraud cases and managed in collaboration with the concerned partner in close collaboration with CBPF Oversight and Compliance Unit at OCHA HQ level.

The MHF will continue to advocate with partners on fraud and corruption reporting and prevention, including specific training sessions with the MHF team, partners and sub-partners. It includes regularly oversight of operational mechanisms on safeguarding, including PSEA, in collaboration with the inter-agency PSEA Network.

### Learning Opportunities

On 10 and 11 August, the MHF team organized two refresher sessions on Project Management, with the purpose of improving the in-project management including narrative and budget issues. All the learning activities were conducted online and were attended by 202 participants, coming from national NGOs, INGOs, UN agencies and donors. Partners were distributed in two sessions (English and Myanmar language).

In total, 59 different organizations were represented in these activities, including 25 local and national NGOs (42 per cent of the total). Regarding the profile of the participants, 53 per cent were women and 87 per cent were national staff from national and international organizations.

The MHF also supported external learning activities. For example, on 15 July, the MHF team supported a learning activity with the ASEAN AHA Centre in collaboration with the OCHA Liaison Office in Jakarta. OCHA presented the MHF as an effective coordinated humanitarian financing tool, including strategic added value regarding equitable partnership, localization agenda and coordination with other funds. Indeed, the Access to Health Fund was also invited to join the activity.

Finally, learning activities were also extended to the MHF team staff, for instance the Senior Humanitarian Finance Officer participated in oversight and compliance webinar organized at HQ level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training type</th>
<th>Org. type</th>
<th>Org. trained</th>
<th>People trained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refresher session on project implementation (August, English)</td>
<td>UN</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>INGO</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NNGO</td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refresher session on project implementation (August, Myanmar)</td>
<td>UN</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>INGO</td>
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<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NNGO</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MHF 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 also can 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.

Empowering women through livelihood aid

Daw Oo Than is 38 years old and is one of the women supported by FAO with urgent food security and livelihood in Maungdaw township in Rakhine State. Through this intervention, funded by MHF project, her family received paddy seed, vegetable seed, compound fertilizer and some hygiene items including soap bars and masks. This action have allowed her family to resort to negative coping strategies including borrowing money at high repayment interest rates. Now, she expects to harvest enough paddy for home consumption to last the family for at least four months whilst the vegetables harvest is expected to last the whole monsoon season.

This intervention is part of the project “Farming and livelihood support to 1,200 landless and most vulnerable farmers in Rakhine State”, funded with $250,000. The project has already reached 3,087 people, including 776 girls, 713 boys, 869 women and 56 persons with disabilities.
Legal identity to access basic rights

“None of my family members have attempted to obtain a citizenship card, they label us as Bengali but we prefer Rohingya,” says Aye Nu Tun (real name omitted for protection purposes), a 55-year old widower in Thet Kay Pyin (TKP) Camp. Aye Nu Tun and her family moved into TKP Camp in August 2012. She is currently the head-of-household, after her husband’s passing.

As a result of the lack of documentation, Aye Nu Tun’s family faces multiple issues related to freedom of movement, access to health, access to employment, and access to higher education. “I can leave the camp and go around Sittwe Township, but I cannot leave Sittwe if I want to.”

The majority of members from Rohingya communities face similar issues just like Aye Nu Tun’s. The discriminatory labelling as “Bengali” instead of Rohingya, in addition to language and financial challenges remain the main barriers to accessing citizenship procedures for Rohingya.

“We cannot afford to obtain citizenship cards”, says Tin Tin Naw (real name omitted for protection purposes), a 50-year old Rohingya living in TKP Camp. “This is the main barrier, none of my family members is able to work, and we are in extreme debt. We are receiving cash support from a humanitarian organisation but we mainly use it to pay back some of our debts, not to buy things we need.” Tin Tin Naw also mentioned that due to their vulnerabilities, her family had been extorted by some Camp Management Committee members when they added an extension to their shelter inside the camp. “They know we are afraid to go to the police, so they usually threaten us if we do not pay them.”

Since February 2020, with the support of the MHF, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has been providing support to displaced people in Rakhine through its Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) program. This intervention was part of the project “Improving protection conditions and access to services for displaced people and host communities in Rakhine State”, funded with $101,000. The project reached 960 people, including 592 women and 53 persons with disabilities.
The MHF thanks all the donors for their generous support in 2020 and 2021

CREDITS
This document was produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Myanmar.

The next update will be issued on 30 November 2021. Reference documents are available on the MHF website at

www.unocha.org/Myanmar/about-MHF

Full project details, financial updates, real-time allocation data and indicator achievements against targets are available at

cbf.data.unocha.org

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