Background

This update, which covers the period from 1 September to 30 November 2021, aims to provide information on the implementation of the Plan of Action and other processes undertaken by the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF). Contextual information has been updated as of 16 December considering the delay of the publication due to the workload linked to the MHF Second Standard Allocation (2021).

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.

Situation Overview

The overall situation humanitarian situation across the country is deteriorating since the February military takeover. Civilians continue to bear the brunt of hostilities and insecurity with thousands displaced and homes and property destroyed or burnt down. As of 8 December, more than 1,300 unarmed individuals, including dozens of children, have been killed across Myanmar since 1 February.

Relentless clashes have continued in conflict areas of Kachin, Kayin, Mon and Shan states, as well as in other new areas in Chin, Kayah, Magway, Sagaing and Tanintharyi. Since 1 February, this resulted in hundreds of thousands of civilians being displaced, fatalities and the destruction of civilian property across the country. According to the latest UNHCR figures on 13 December, an estimated 295,700 people are currently internally displaced due to clashes and insecurity since 1 February 2021. In addition, about 370,000 people remain displaced due to earlier conflicts before 2021. This includes 106,900 people in protracted displacement camps (since 2011) in Kachin and northern Shan states; 144,000 people, mostly Rohingya people, in camps in Rakhine State (since 2012); and 75,870 people displaced due to the armed conflict from early 2019 and late 2020. In addition, forced evictions of people living in informal settlements or squatting along the side of the road in Mandalay and Yangon have been registered in November, displacing many thousands.1

Across the country, three million people need assistance and protection services in 2021. This includes one million people

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1 Further information on humanitarian developments in Myanmar: OCHA Humanitarian Update n. 13, covering from 1 November to 6 December 2021, and the OCHA Humanitarian Snapshot of 16 December 2021.
identified in the original 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and another two million people identified in the Myanmar Interim Emergency Response Plan (IERP) in the wake of 1 February. As of 17 December, a total of US$223.6 million have been funded, which is 58 per cent of the requested US$385.7 million required for the humanitarian needs.

In the face of escalating needs, a more ambitious programme of activities is planned for 2022 reaching 6.2 million people for urgent assistance for which humanitarian organizations require $826 million. This will only be possible with increased funding and improved access. The level of needs is escalating in conflict-affected areas, particularly in those with limited presence of humanitarian responders. Complex bureaucratic processes, the deteriorating security situation and COVID-19 related movement restrictions have combined to make humanitarian access more difficult. Delays and denials of travel authorizations as well as increased scrutiny of humanitarian supplies and personnel are hindering operations and prolonging suffering. Logistics issues around road blockages and access to cash supplies are also adding a further layer of complexity. Unmet needs in 2020 and 2021 are having a direct impact on the escalating needs projected for 2022.

Countrywide, COVID-19 cases and related deaths continue to decline from the peak in July. In total, 528,101 confirmed cases, including 19,213 fatalities, have been confirmed as of 18 December. 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. As of 29 November 2021, a total of 28,707,770 vaccine doses have been administered. Overall, access to health facilities remains challenging. Partners are working to support access to care for COVID-19 and other essential services, while sustaining lifesaving humanitarian operations.

**Strategic Approach**

On 30 September 2021, the regular meeting of MHF Advisory Board Meeting was held to provide a mid-year review of the activities and progress of the MHF in 2021 including level of contributions, allocations and achievement of performance indicators, update on the impact of the current crisis and COVID-19 on the ongoing MHF funded projects, and update of the 2021 Plan of Action. During the meeting the HC recognized donor support, encouraging them to keep prioritizing the pooled fund and further increase their contributions given the MHF’s critical role in terms of leveraging coordination and bringing partners together around common strategic objectives and programming.

National NGOs represented at the Advisory Board recognized the MHF effort to provide adequate representation and voice to local and national partners in the AB and strategic process, as well as enough flexibility, such as including civil society organizations (CSOs) in project implementation and the use of local money transfer agents due to the cash availability issues.

On 1 October 2021, a deep dive session was organized by the OCHA Country-Based Pooled Fund Section (CBPFS) in New York upon request of the Pooled Fund Working Group (PFWG), which is composed of OCHA and CBPF donors at global level. The HC a.i. and OCHA provided the MHF strategic vision, including flexibility and accountability in the current context. Donors were interested in the way that the MHF included local and national NGOs in strategic and consultative processes, and, when possible, supported them through emergency capacity development activities across the funded projects, promoting equitable partnership as per their capacities, knowledge and mandates. Donors welcomed the flexibility measures that are being applied by the MHF in the current period, such as the inclusion of a contingency budget line (4 per cent of the subtotal of the project before program support costs) in the funded projects, as well as cost extension to support immediate life-saving activities to newly affected people by the emerging crisis. An internal note was shared to the Advisory Board on 19 October.

On 4 November, OCHA participated in a discussion panel on ‘The COVID-19 pandemic and issues of human capital in fragile contexts – Myanmar case study’, organized by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, at HQ level. The MHF shared its experience supporting staff duty of care, remote management and monitoring, flexibility measures and extensive localization approach.

**Ongoing Funding**

By 30 November, the MHF is supporting the implementation of 48 projects funded in 2020 and 2021, for a total of US$22 million. These projects target 502,000 people, of whom 58 per cent are women and girls, 42 per cent children and a further 11 per cent being persons with disabilities. These projects directly involve 32 partners – 5 national NGOs, 20 international NGOs and 3 UN agencies, as well as 8 additional sub-partners, including civil society and community-based organizations. These interventions are located in several geographical areas, with Rakhine and Kayin states having the largest share of projects (19 and 17 projects respectively), followed by Shan (8), Kachin (6), Chin (5), Bago (3), Kayah, Magway and Mon (2 projects each) and one project countrywide (PSEA).

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2 More details of humanitarian needs and response planning for 2022 can be found in the Global Humanitarian Overview.
OVERVIEW
As of 30 November 2021

$20.9M
CONTRIBUTIONS
Including additional contributions as of 16 December 2021

12
DONORS

502K
PEOPLE TARGETED

$22M
ALLOCATIONS

56K
Targeted persons with disabilities

502K
Targeted people

$22M
ONGOING FUNDING

174K women
20K women with disability

98K boys
11K boys with disability

115K girls
12K girls with disability

115K men
14K men with disability

15.4M
International NGOs
20 partners
33 Projects

5.7M
National NGOs
5 partners
12 projects

0.8M
United Nations
3 partners
3 projects

Shelter/NI/CCCM
WASH
Protection
Food Security
Education
Health
Nutrition

4.3
4.3
3.9
3.4
3.1
2.3
0.8

in US$ million

Allocations in US$ million

KACHIN
US$ 6.7M
116K people
17 projects

SHAN
US$ 1.7M
116K people
8 projects

MAGWAY
US$ 0.2M
2K people
2 projects

KAYAH
US$ 0.6M
10K people
2 projects

RAKHINE
US$ 9.9M
195K people
19 projects

KAYIN
US$ 1.1M
38K people
6 projects

BAGO
US$ 0.3M
3K people
2 projects

As of 30 November 2021

Including additional contributions as of 16 December 2021

Germany
Australia
United Kingdom
Access to Health Fund
Sweden
Switzerland
New Zealand
United States
Canada
Ireland
Luxembourg
Korea, Republic of

In US$ million
TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS
Between 1 September and 30 November 2021

- Decreasing trend of COVID-19 positive cases and fatalities
- Deterioration of humanitarian situation across Myanmar
- Regular meeting of the MHF Advisory Board
- Global Deep Dive Event on the MHF
- Increased protection issues and displacement across Myanmar, particularly in Chin, Magway, Sagin, Kachin and Kayah.
- OECD High Level Panel on COVID-19 and funding flexibility
- Upsurge of displacement in the northwestern and southeastern parts of Myanmar
- MHF Awareness Session with local CSOs and NGOs

TARGETED vs REACHED PEOPLE
Between 1 September and 30 November 2021

502K targeted people
183K reached people

*These figures are preliminary and consider the highest number of targeted/reached people by township, independently of the cluster, avoiding double counting.
Resource Mobilization

By 30 November, a total of $16.7 million were contributed by eleven donors to the MHF, including an additional contribution of CHF 1 million (approx. US$1.1 million) from Switzerland during the reporting period. This represents 54 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 $13 million, including $12 million to new projects under the First Standard Allocation, $0.4 million to cost extension of ongoing projects and $0.6 million to direct cost the MHF management through the OCHA Humanitarian Financing Unit. Considering available funding (including end-of-year allocations), US$8 million have been used for the Second Standard Allocation launched on 16 November.

As a relevant note, during the first week of December, the MHF confirmed top-up contributions from Germany (EUR 2 million, approx. US$2.2 million) and the United Kingdom (GBP 1 million, approx. $1.3 million) and one allocation from Ireland, new donor to the MHF (EUR 0.5 million, approx. US$0.56 million). It made possible to increase the total amount of the Second Standard Allocation. This brings the total contributions to the MHF up to $20.9 million in 2021 - the highest figure since its inception in 2007. This total funding represents 68 per cent of the initial target for this year set at US$30.9 million.

Despite the announced contributions and the remnant funding, more funding would be required to respond to pre-existing needs as per the 2021 HRP and the additional needs framed under the IERP, which includes the humanitarian situation emerged since 1 February 2021.

On 30 October, a CERF Rapid Response application of US$10 million was approved by the USG/ERC.

This grant is supporting 139,000 vulnerable people in food security, livelihood, health and protection, in Chin, Shan and the South-East of Myanmar, in complementarity to MHF allocations.

Allocation Plan

In view of the escalating conflict in Myanmar which is causing further displacement of people and increased humanitarian needs, on 16 November 2021, the MHF launched its Second Standard Allocation. The allocation aims to provide timely resources for critical life-saving activities in priority geographical areas and clusters with extended requirements, in line with the 2021 HRP and the IERP, with focus in three main questions:

- 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.
- 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.

The initial funding analysis per cluster and geographical area facilitated the identification of priority funding envelopes, considering real-time needs and their severity according to the actual context. 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 geographical priority areas were established:

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

Considering the sectoral needs, four priorities were identified:

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

On 1 December, the Review Committee proceeded to assess the 38 submitted proposals and agreed to recommend to the Advisory Board a total of 19 projects amounting for a total amount of US$8.1 million, including 7 submitted by national NGOs. These proposals initially target 502,000 people. Out of them, 47 per cent are children, 52 per cent are girls and women and 11 per cent are persons with disabilities. The Advisory

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2 As explained above, the end-of-year contributions (US$4.1 million) have made possible to increase the allocation up to US$8 million.
Board provided positive feedback, noting that 63 per cent (US$5.1 million) of this allocation will go directly or indirectly to national NGOs. On 16 December, the Humanitarian Coordinator a.i. provided endorsement and preliminary approval of the recommended projects.

The MHF continues to monitor 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.

Monitoring activities continued remotely, with some field visits, when possible, e.g., MHF conducted a field monitoring visit to a WFP project in Sittwe. At the same time, remote calls monitoring and financial spot check are ongoing as per the revised monitoring plan. The MHF shared the updated monitoring plan for September and October with clusters, sub-national/regional coordination mechanisms, facilitating the coordination for their participation.

In addition, the MHF continued the support and collaboration with other key stakeholders. On 14 October, the MHF participated in a meeting of the National Steering Committee of the Women’s Peace & Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), managed by UN Women, related to the ongoing call for proposals aiming at reinforcing institutional and response capacity of women-led organizations and women’s rights organization through a rapid response window. As a follow-up action, on 16 November, MHF team participated in a session requested by UN Women to explain about the MHF registration process for local NGOs and CSOs and the use of local money transfer agents by funded partners.

On the other hand, MHF organized online workshops (in English and in Myanmar languages) for partners with the aim of facilitating the implementation of financial and sexual misconduct guidance notes which follow the SOPs on Fraud and PSEA mentioned in the revised MHF Operational Manual (2021 version) on 13 and 14 October 2021. Capacity building sessions on Project Design were also organized on 22-23 November, as part of the project submission process of the MHF Second Standard Allocation.

Regarding the e-surge to Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund which start early September in response to a global CBPF request due to the current crisis, the MHF staff finished its 8-week support by the end of October.

On the other hand, looking at the localization efforts done by the MHF, by the end of 2021, the MHF will have provided US$10.3 million directly or indirectly to national NGOs, 51 per cent of all the funding allocation throughout the year (US$20 million). This represents an increase when compared to 2020, where the amount allocated directly or indirectly to national NGOs was 42 per cent (US$7 million), exceeding the World Humanitarian Summit’s target of 25 per cent and the Grand Bargain commitments on localization.

The pending activities of the Plan of Action to be conducted in December are related to the annual survey on the MHF management and activities, the translation of key documents (already ongoing). Other activities, such as the support to

Technical and financial reviews of the pre-selected proposals are ongoing, in collaboration with clusters and thematic advisors. For projects not prioritized for funding, the MHF will support partners to find alternative sources of funding through its Project Marketplace initiative.

**Plan of Action**

In reference to the Plan of Action for 2021, some activities were re-scheduled due to the preparation of the Second Standard Allocation and other issues related to the current operating environment. The priority was given to urgent actions such as project modifications including budget revision, activation of contingency budget lines and cost/no-cost extensions.

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. For instance, on 24 November, a virtual workshop was facilitated by the MHF team with active participation of clusters and sub-national coordination mechanisms.

Previously, preparatory meetings were organized on 25 and 26 October 2021 with cluster and local/national NGOs respectively, to discuss about the prioritization process and define the scope of the Second Standard Allocation, in terms of sectors, targeted groups of crisis-affected people and geographical areas, including explicit support to the response through CSOs – including emergency capacity development - in areas with emerging needs, ensuring safety and security of frontline staff, and how better engage with national NGOs and networks throughout the allocation process. As a follow-up action of this consultation, a specific awareness session on the MHF for local CSOs and national NGOs was organized on 11 November.
women-led organizations and women’s rights organizations (WLO/WRO), the mainstreaming of an inclusive approach in reference to the older persons across the MHF activities, and the subsidiary role of the Fund in terms of addressing needs linked to the return and resettlement (durable solutions) will be part of the Plan of Action for 2022.

Project Revisions

During the reporting period, 18 project revisions (six for NNGO, eleven for INGO, one for UN) have been approved in line with the Flexibility Guidance in the context of the COVID-19 and the ongoing political crisis. Revisions include 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 reprogramming, the activation of the contingency budget line for unforeseen emergencies or the approval of no cost extensions.

Like the previous reporting period, about half of projects approved need no-cost extension. Many reasons were provided by partners, such as difficulties to access to funds transferred by MHF which were temporarily kept on hold as per Central Bank instruction, limited cash withdrawal from banks, procurement delays, COVID-19 upsurge, insecurity to the implementation sites and inaccessibility due to travel restrictions.

Regarding the contingency budget lines includes in the projects to address unforeseen humanitarian needs, the MHF supported the following interventions:

- basic health staff for COVID-19 vaccination programme in in Rakhine State;
- nutrition food distribution to children with developmental delay and impairment/disability in Rakhine State;
- cash for food assistance to COVID-19 patients in NGCA area in Kachin State;
- support to running costs of a COVID-19 treatment center in Myitkyina, Kachin State;
- emergency shelter and WASH needs, personal protective equipment, of the newly displaced people in Waingmaw township, Kachin State.

The MHF is also supporting the immediate food assistance to displaced communities in Thantlang township (Chin State) through a cost-extension of $0.1 million to an ongoing project implemented by Lutheran World Federation (LWF) with its sub-partner Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO).

Reporting Activities

Between 1 September and 30 November 2021, the MHF team has revised and approved 20 progress narrative reports and seven final narrative reports. In addition, four interim financial reports and five final financial reports were reviewed and approved.

Many partners reported significant delays or partial suspension of activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the February 2021 events. Stay-at-home announcement in some areas and long government holidays imposed to control COVID-19 cases made difficult to access cash. Moreover, there were some disruptions in procurement as suppliers claimed physical cash and did not accept mobile transfer payments. Additional risks were identified, such as partners’ staff who are using their individual personal bank account for transaction and who are carrying the huge amount of cash in remote/difficult areas due to lack of bank services. Besides this, partners had to keep cash which exceeded than the ceiling amount in the safe to avoid difficulties in physical cash availability in time. Those operational challenges led many activities hindered the provision of services to hard-to-reach areas. Because of the limited access to cash, some cash transfer activities could not be implemented and they had to be changed as in-kind support.
The participation and feedback of affected people in project implementation is being challenging. For instance, some partners reported that implementation of disability inclusion action, which is promoted by the MHF, could not be properly considered since there are some challenges on identifying persons with disabilities during this critical time. This question has been discussed with the Accountability to Affected Population and Community Engagement Working Group (AAP/CE WG) which provided some tips and advice to improve the engagement with affected population during this challenging period.

Nevertheless, partners looked for any feasible alternative ways to continue the services to affected people. Some partners reported that, by close coordination with relevant clusters and key agencies, partners could fill the gap of essential basic needs in the critical time. For example, KBC received Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) - each kit contains supply enough for 1,000 people for three months - from the WHO. While medical supplies procurement was delayed, these kits were very helpful to those affected populations in NGCA area. Partner also benefited from close relationship with local ethnic authorities for the transportation of COVID-19 preventive materials together with the students/teacher kit during complex security situations and was able to distribute to each student of NGCA schools.

As one of best practices, a local partner reported to be developing remote monitoring and management guidelines for ‘inaccessible conflict setting and during COVID-19’, to improve their work on the ground, so that the emerging issues and needs can be addressed in a timely manner.

Monitoring Activities

During the reporting period, the MHF team conducted one field monitoring visit only, to Sittwe in September. Furthermore, the MHF monitoring team, including representatives from clusters, working groups, sub-national coordination mechanisms and donors, could conduct remote call monitoring to 16 projects implemented in Chin, Rakhine, Kachin, Shan and the south-eastern part of Myanmar, followed by ofsite financial spot checks to 19 projects as per the revised monitoring plan. Representatives from Access to Health Fund and the Embassies of Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom took part in remote call monitoring.

As per monitoring findings, many projects still faced challenges on access restrictions, security situation, COVID-19, limited cash available, and transportation constraints. Even if MHF has granted cost-extension and no-cost extension, some project activities, especially shelter activities in NGCAs, are behind the schedules due to the very fluid situations, such as lack of service providers in NGCA because the closure of border trade; less stock in hand of suppliers and increasing prices; and challenges in transportation due to the security situation. Shelter renovation using locally available materials are also in delayed, due to the local movement restrictions because of the pandemic.

Partners on the ground have faced serious security risks. Some local staff have been detained by the de facto authorities, including offices being registered. In one case, random shells fell close to a partner forcing to relocate staff and key material outside of the affected area. In areas where tension of armed conflict is high, partners faced tight inspection by security forces for the storage of commodity such as medicine. High staff turnover rate in the field has resulted in lack of proper planning and implementation of the project activities.

It should be noted that continuous communication with the MHF has allowed to consider the context and support the partner in relation to emerging challenges due to the current operating context. Flexibility Guidance endorsed by the AB in March 2021 and context-based analysis have facilitated the adequation of the initial intervention to the specific situation, keeping the main goal of the approved projects.

The MHF monitoring team recommended partners to closely coordinate with clusters as well as MHF to re-prioritize some of the project activities given the changing work environment, to strengthen remote management and remote monitoring, with the aim of continuing operations in support of people and need, including the participation of the most vulnerable groups, and ensure project implementation.

Auditing Services

Due to COVID-19 pandemic and the current political and security crisis, auditing activities have been 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.

During the reporting period, 13 audits started. Other 3 audits have been postponed due to the situation concern and will start in December. Auditors and MHF are trying their best to complete the remaining audit reports. Six final audit reports were approved and related refund of ineligible costs initiated.

Auditors raised some ineligible costs, mostly because of expenditures not used as per approved budget, losing track of severance amounts 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 payments.

Following the approval of final audit report, 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

Between September and November, five incidents were reported by partners. Three of them were closed under the guidance of CBPF Oversight and Compliance (OCU) at OCHA HQ level since no further investigations were needed. Two of them are under the review of OCU. Other two incidents are still active from the previous year and are now under audit process. Regarding the type of partners, four incidents are related to grants signed with INGOs and the remaining one is related to its sub-partner. The two ongoing cases from 2020 also involve local sub-partner within INGOs projects.

Alleged incidents are related to the request of payment from the targeted people to the village leader, damage to original documents, security concerns, and different signatures in document related to service providers. These incidents were found during the remote call monitoring and financial sport checks conducted to the projects.

Regarding the opened cases from 2020, both are related to fraud practices from local sub-partners and it may require reimbursement of ineligible amounts, as per final audit reports.

The cases 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 OCU 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 13 and 14 October, HFU organized a workshop on Fraud and SEA Guidance for MHF partners. The purpose of the workshop is to facilitate the implementation of the guidance notes on financial and sexual misconduct, which follow the SOPs on Fraud and PSEA mentioned in the revised MHF Operational Manual (2021 version).

On 11 November, OCHA organized a virtual MHF awareness session for local CSOs and national NGOs that are interested in becoming eligible MHF partners or sub-partners, aiming at increasing the number of local partners directly or indirectly engaged in the MHF Second Standard Allocation. Following the MHF awareness session conducted in Myanmar language with local CSO and local and national NGOs on 11 November 2021, which was attended by 240 participants from 191 organizations, MHF has received many registration requests. MHF team also updated the list of the current eligible partners, including the clusters and geographical areas of intervention, and contacts details, to facilitate the partnership of local partners with the eligible partners in their area of intervention.

On 22 and 23 November, MHF organized refresher workshops on Project Design in English and Myanmar languages for eligible partners who were planning to submit projects for the MHF Second Standard Allocation.

On 24 November, a refresher session for cluster coordinators was organized to ensure a smooth strategic and technical review process for the MHF Second Standard Allocation. It included the review of the strategic scorecard and discussion on the simplification of the process.

All the learning activities were conducted online and were attended by 520 people, coming from national NGOs, Red Cross, INGOs, UN agencies, donors and others. Partners were distributed in two sessions (English and Myanmar language). In total, 235 different organizations were represented in these activities, including 173 local and national NGOs (74 per cent of the total). Regarding the profile of the participants, 49 per cent were women and 89 per cent were national staff from national and international organizations.

Learning activities were also extended to the MHF team staff. Staff took part in data visualizing and storytelling training sessions, professional writing courses and online learning courses on cross-cutting issues such as disability inclusion.
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.
“I cultivate paddy and groundnut in my two-acre farm. Before the flood in 2017, our family used to harvest 300 tins (6,900 Kg) of paddy in our farm yearly. My family (6 people) and I had enough paddy for both the consumption and as main income”, says U Phyo Aung (real name omitted for protection purposes), a 75-year-old farmer in a small village in Bhamo Township, Kachin State.

“However, in 2017, floods during monsoon season brought sand and alluvium to the farming lands. That year, I could not harvest anything. Later, I tried to removed sand with a small machine but could not clean completely because I did not have enough capacity, also the flood did not stop. Following these floods, my farm was not no longer suitable to cultivate crops. Therefore, I was hopeless and food insecure.”

U Phyo Aung and his family realized the whole community had the same problem. His family had to reduce daily expenses to be able to save money for health and education fees.

“When in 2020, Solidarités International proposed some members of my community to support field cleaning, he was really worried because he did not have money, but they reassured him. “They cleaned all sand and drainage, and constructed dike wall before the farming season. Then, I received a cash grant (MMK 314,000) for paddy cultivation for my farm”, confirmed U Phyo Aung.

After that, I come back to the same level of harvest in my farm. We keep some harvest for consumption, some for seed and others for sell to generate income. Now, my family has enough paddy for consumption and the soil in my farm is very good to cultivate staple food crops. Today, with my family, we feel safe for our food security. I am certain to get increased yield in coming planting seasons. Now, I am 75 years old and I cannot put physical effort to grow paddy but I can handover my paddy field to my son and daughter for their life”, concluded U Phyo Aung.

This intervention was part of the project “Emergency WASH assistance and livelihoods support for vulnerable populations affected by conflicts in Kachin State”, implemented by the international NGO Solidarités International (SI) and funded through the MHF with $420,000. In addition to the emergency livelihood support to flood affected people, displaced people in Bhamo and Momauk townships were supported with hygiene services, safe/improved drinking and domestic water, strengthened solid waste collection and transportation, and fecal sludge management. SI and its partner Kachin Baptiste Convention (KBC) also supported the global effort to reduce COVID-19 impact by providing key material such as hand-washing stations, soaps or personal protective equipment (PPE) to affected population and to quarantine centers, as well as promoted good hygiene practices and behavior change. Overall, the project reached 28,076 people, including 6,659 girls, 5,908 boys, 7,948 women, 7,561 men, and 197 persons with disabilities.
DONORS

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 in early March 2022. 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 cbpf.data.unocha.org.

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