

MEETING HUMANITARIAN NEEDS,
BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN

MYANMAR

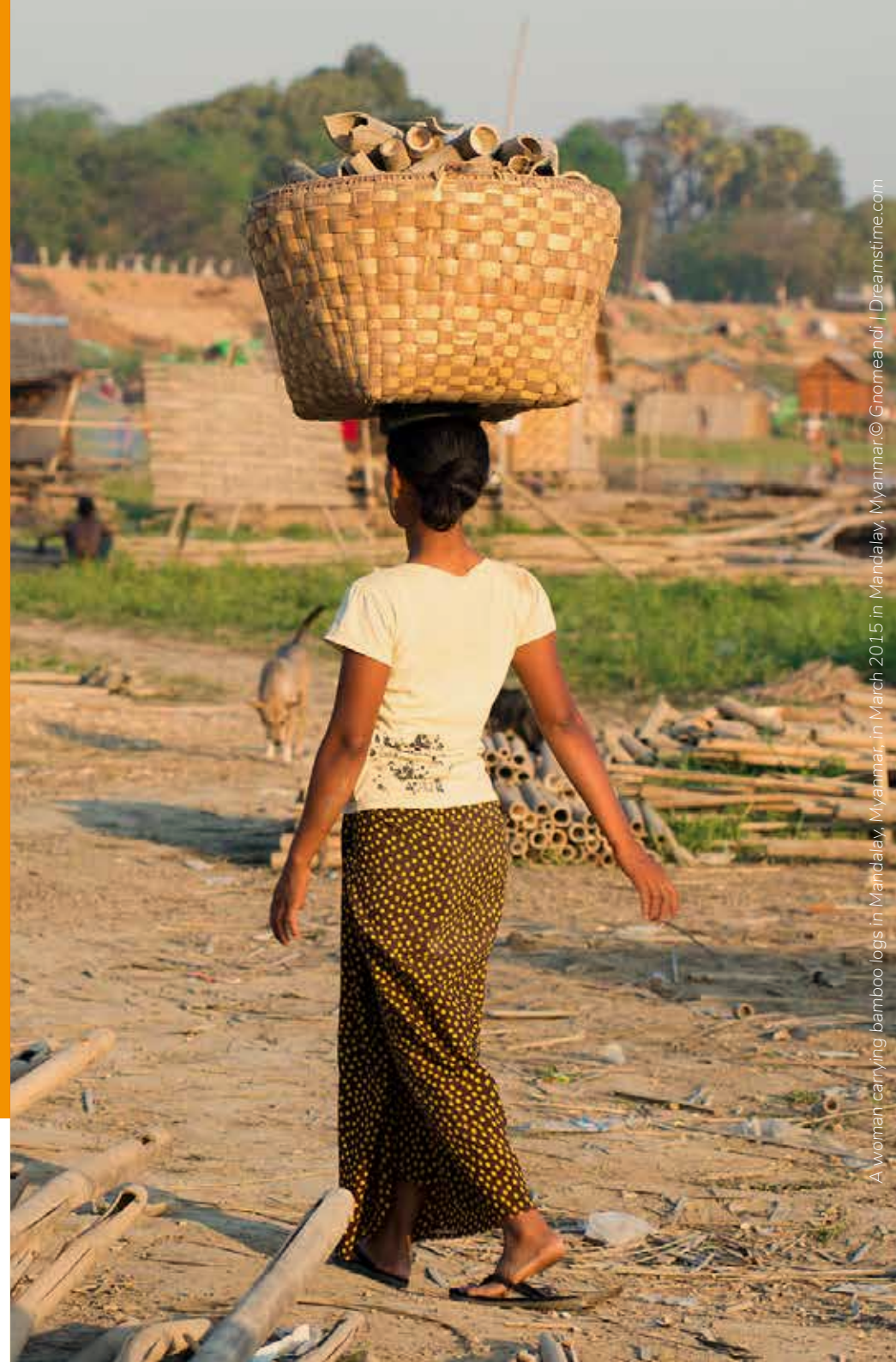
THE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND RESILIENCE PROGRAMME FACILITY (HARP-F)

www.harpfacility.com

HARP-F
Humanitarian Assistance and
Resilience Programme Facility



CROWN AGENTS
ACCELERATING SELF-SUFFICIENCY & PROSPERITY



A woman carrying bamboo logs in Mandalay, Myanmar, in March 2015 in Mandalay, Myanmar. © Gnomeandi | Dreamstime.com

1M

PEOPLE
IN NEED

£73.5M

COMMITTED
(JAN 2021)

54

PARTNERS
INCLUDING

36

LOCAL
PARTNERS

Since the military coup of 1 February 2021, the situation in Myanmar has further deteriorated, with humanitarian needs increasing. People in Myanmar were already facing COVID-19 and protracted and short-term displacement due to conflict and insecurity. Over 1 million people were already in need of humanitarian assistance, particularly in Rakhine state, where 470,000 non-displaced stateless Rohingya have extensive unmet needs. As the implications of the coup play out differently across the various regions of Myanmar, we must review and rethink assistance for Myanmar. What is certain is that humanitarian response, increasingly led by national partners, will be at the heart of any assistance strategy.

The Humanitarian Assistance and Resilience Programme Facility (HARP-F) is an innovative funding instrument for humanitarian assistance in Myanmar, designed to give local organisations a central role in responding to the needs of conflict-affected populations. Two-thirds of our partners are local and national local organisations which have a long established presence in the communities they serve and have gained their trust. They have the agency to continue delivering assistance, when larger, international organisations might struggle with access or legitimacy to mount a quick response.

They are also more immediately accountable to these communities. The international organisations that we are working with rely themselves on local partners to deliver aid. We leverage this network to gain a thorough understanding of the context in which we operate in Rakhine, Kachin, Northern Shan and the Thai border areas. We develop learning and advocacy materials to promote and support a stronger humanitarian response. Since 2016, we have channelled over £73 million of UK humanitarian funding to local, national and international partners to provide the most vulnerable people, primarily internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, with essential services. In 2020 alone, we were one of the first instruments to respond to COVID-19, providing an additional £4.3 million for prevention and control to our partners from April onwards. We are currently meeting the humanitarian needs following the military coup.





OUR RESPONSE TO THE FEBRUARY 2021 COUP

The military takeover is impacting the ability to deliver humanitarian assistance: the closure of banks, an increase in price of food and fuel, safety concerns for staff and even more restricted access to affected populations are challenging relief operations. This means that populations that were already extremely vulnerable and relying on humanitarian aid – IDPs in camps, people newly displaced by conflict, Rohingya, returnees and their host communities – are now facing increased difficulty in accessing food, health services, and water and sanitation services. Working with our existing partners, we are meeting immediate humanitarian needs in WaSH; Food and Cash; Shelter; Protection; and Nutrition.

With our collective expertise as HARP-F and partners, we have the experience to fill such immediate needs whilst working with the international community to develop longer-term aid modalities in the post-coup environment, including the delivery of basic services outside of government systems and without supporting organisations connected to, or supportive of, the military. HARP-F will respond to needs caused by the coup and mitigate the uncertainties in this context through the following approach:

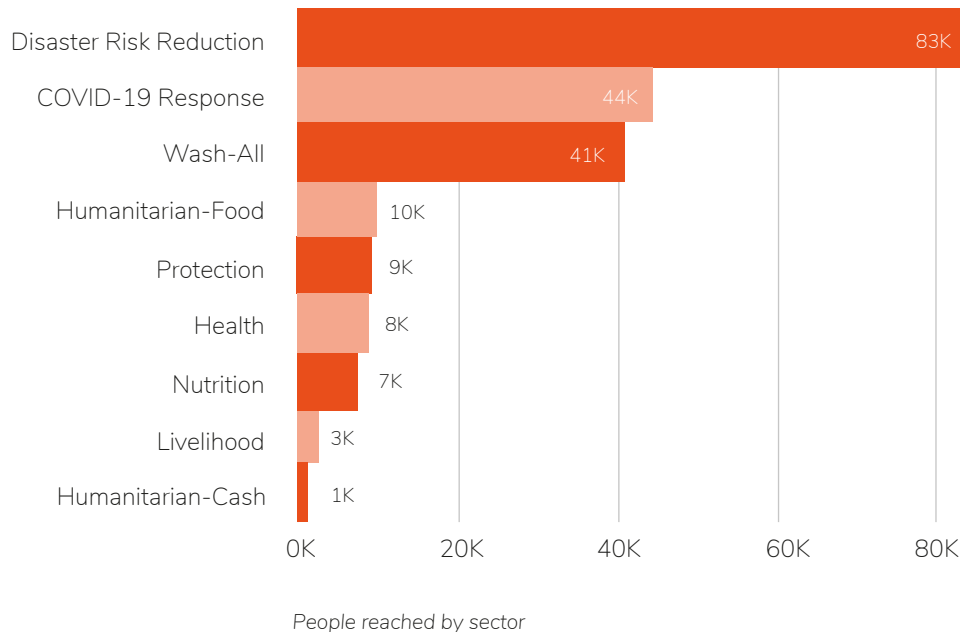
- Place national partners front and centre of humanitarian response for the people of Myanmar, and provide them with back-office support.
- Develop the necessary tools, systems and response modalities to scale up the humanitarian response
- Learn from the experience in other, comparable, situations around the world, to develop strategies for a new type of humanitarian assistance for Myanmar

HOW WE WORK

Myanmar is in a protracted, complex and evolving humanitarian crisis; it calls for a different response that is driven by humanitarian needs, led by national actors, and responsive to frequent changes in context. We work with our partners to:



©HARP-F partner



MEET THE IMMEDIATE, ACUTE HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OF THOSE NEWLY DISPLACED AND THOSE IN REMOTE OR HARD-TO-REACH AREAS

Our grants provide predictable, multi-year funding. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, or when the political circumstances change, they enable our partners to adapt their response and meet the immediate life-saving needs of those affected by crisis. This includes:

- Providing continued access to essential services - We have provided over 909,000 conflict-affected people with cash for food, non-food items, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH) services, and protection services. HARP-F is the largest funder of humanitarian WaSH, providing essential support to 70% of internally displaced people (IDPs) in camps in Rakhine state.
- Responding to how COVID-19 is impacting the most vulnerable populations in Myanmar - We granted over £5 million (of which £4.3 million additional funding) to enable our partners in Rakhine, Kachin, Northern Shan and the southeast to implement COVID-19 prevention and control activities. We have reached over 500,000 people COVID-19 services across camps, villages and schools, and over 196 IDP camps with COVID-19 food provisions, WaSH and hygiene services and cash assistance.

74
GRANTS

908,
628
CONFLICT-AFFECTED
PEOPLE REACHED
(DEC 2020)

ADDRESS THE LONG-TERM DRIVERS OF HUMANITARIAN NEEDS, AND INCREASE THE RESILIENCE OF AFFECTED POPULATIONS

Resilience building is at the core of everything we do. In an ongoing crisis, layering political, ethnic, economic, environmental and health factors, we are looking beyond immediate relief, and working to reduce the vulnerability of crisis-affected populations. Our 'Pathway to resilience' hinges on empowering local actors delivering humanitarian action. It includes:

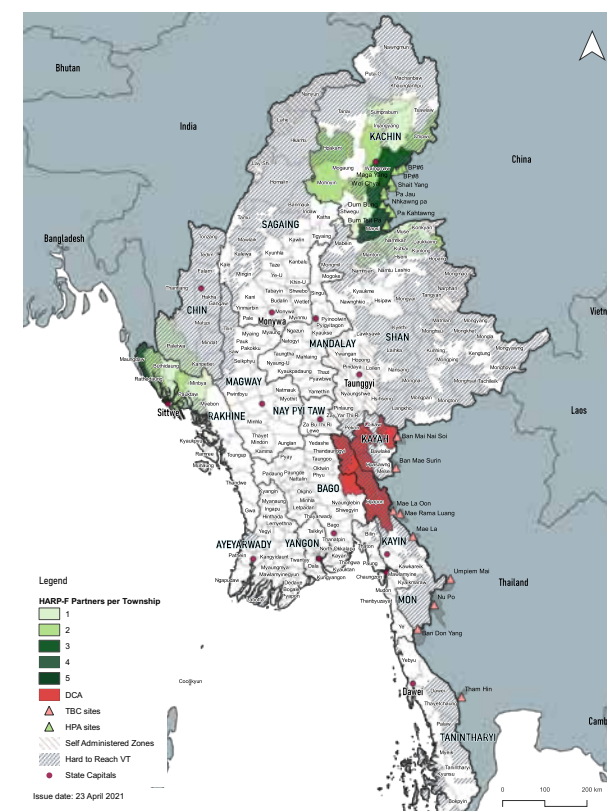
- Organisational strengthening training to ensure that local organisations are empowered to deliver effective, sustainable humanitarian assistance and have the necessary mechanisms to build a resilient Myanmar. These partners develop and implement their own organisational development strategies, with our support. This ensures they are driving projects, rather than just being passive recipients of support.
- Specialised humanitarian and resilience training to strengthen the technical humanitarian skills of local community bodies and boost their emergency response potential. When disaster strikes, local actors in Myanmar are the most appropriate first responders. When they choose to take our specialised resilience and humanitarian training,

they acquire skills on disaster preparedness and response, climate change programming, cash programming, nutrition, WaSH and protection.

- Inclusion of resilience building activities in all our work, even in projects that have a focus on meeting immediate, acute humanitarian needs. For example, we are progressively replacing food distributions with cash, to provide IDPs with greater flexibility and choice and increase self-reliance. We are also transferring the ownership and responsibility for some of the aid delivery to the affected communities.
- Promotion of community-led disaster risk reduction and climate change initiatives. Myanmar is considered one of the highest ranked countries in vulnerability to climate change, both when it comes to rapid onset disasters such as cyclones and floods but also for slow onset impacts such as drought, salinity and rising sea levels. In Rakhine, we have supported nine civil society grant partners who are implementing climate change initiatives in their communities as part of disaster risk reduction.

State/Region	Female	Male
Rakhine	276564	251257
Chin	4465	4589
Kachin	104572	92169
Northern Shan	25108	25910
Southeast	15342	12606
Thai Border	49944	46102
Total	475995	432633
	908628	

People reached by state/region (up to December 2020)



Project locations by township



SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION ON DELIVERING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN PROTRACTED CRISES

We think that local knowledge should inform global action. We have accrued in-depth knowledge of the Myanmar evolving context, thanks to our knowledge networks; extensive know-how on delivering aid in protracted crisis, through our grantees; and first-hand experience on building the capacity of national and local partners. In 2021, we will be disseminating this knowledge, to inform improved humanitarian programming in protracted crisis in Myanmar and elsewhere. This includes:

- Knowledge products – positions papers, research and evaluations covering topics such as: the COVID-19 response, localisation, nutrition and lessons learnt from operating in protracted crisis.
- Learning events – training and workshops on specific aspects of delivering humanitarian aid in a protracted crisis, informal seminars on relevant emerging topics in the Myanmar context.
- Contextual analysis – Because our work is rooted in an understanding of the local context, and our partners need to be able to adapt quickly to changing circumstances, we set up the Community Analysis Support System (CASS) - in Rakhine. The CASS complements the information we receive from our networks of partners by providing contextual knowledge and analysis in the locations we want to fund programs in for operational partners, HARP-F and donors.



The Humanitarian Assistance and Resilience Programme Facility is a UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) initiative launched in 2016. HARP-F is the grants funding mechanism and the largest component of the Humanitarian and Resilience Programme (HARP). It is managed by Crown Agents.

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