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humanitarian assistance



Covid-19 cases have been confirmed in Myanmar. However, the actual number of cases is likely to be much higher than the official figure, due to the highly infectious nature of Covid-19, the fact that many cases are asymptomatic, the movement of people throughout Myanmar and neighbouring countries and the limitations of the detection and testing capacity within Myanmar.

Myanmar was already facing an acute humanitarian crisis before the Covid-19 pandemic; with 985,000 people needing humanitarian assistance and more than 273,000 people living in camp or camp-like settings across Kachin, Shan, Rakhine, Chin and Kayin states. The situation in many of these camps is dire, with overcrowding, inadequate WASH, health, protection, food and other key services not meeting core humanitarian and sphere standards.

Delivering humanitarian assistance in Myanmar is challenging with limitations in access caused by the political requirements for travel authorisation, the movement restrictions imposed on the Rohingya in Rakhine, the escalating conflict in Rakhine, Chin and Northern Shan states, and travel conditions during the rainy season. The Covid-19 movement restrictions will further limit humanitarian access.

The Covid-19 virus is likely to have significant impact on Myanmar, not only in relation to health consequences but also to the economy. Efforts to reduce the transmission of Covid-19 through movement restrictions have already impacted livelihoods across the country, with many businesses stopping or shutting down completely, many migrant workers returning to Myanmar due to shutdowns in China and Thailand and many people facing a reduced or total loss of income.

Over 400,000 IDPs and conflict-affected people remain dependent on humanitarian assistance from DFID via HARP-F to meet their basic needs, it's imperative that this continues whilst also ensuring that we are limiting the transmission of Covid-19 and responding to additional needs caused by the outbreak.

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HARP-F's COVID-19 RESPONSE WILL:

Continue essential humanitarian assistance

We will support partners to adapt their existing programming and mainstream Covid-19 prevention throughout their response. We will encourage partners to look at frontloading, stockpiling, procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE) and remote solutions to ensure their work can continue.

Additional Covid-19 programming

Where partners have capacity and access we will fund additional activities related to prevention and response to Covid-19. This will be carried out through top ups to existing grants or through our rapid response fund (RRF) grants. We will work mainly with our existing grant and RRF partners. See below for programming priorities.

Limit the spread

Respecting the humanitarian principle of Do No Harm, we will ensure that HARP-F and partners are working safely in line with the World Health Organization's (WHO) guidelines and other relevant guidance. For our lower capacity partners, we will ensure they have access to relevant guidance resources and technical assistance where necessary. We will support partners to pause any non-essential programming, that cannot be carried out remotely, utilising no-cost extensions where appropriate.

Coordination

HARP-Fs Covid-19 response is aligned with the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's (FCDO) priorities on Covid-19 and camps will be coordinated with other key humanitarian and development donors. HARP-F will support local coordination by supporting and engaging with the cluster systems, regional Covid-19 taskforces, and the Joint Strategy Team in Kachin.

Speed

The number of confirmed Covid-19 cases is rising every day and this is likely to be a gross underestimate of actual cases, it is therefore imperative that interventions to limit the transmission of Covid-19 are implemented as quickly as possible.

Additional Programming

For additional Covid-19 response programming HARP-F will target and prioritise the following populations as their existing vulnerabilities will be exacerbated by Covid-19:

1. Internally displaced people (IDPs) in camp and camp-like settings: in Rakhine, Chin, Kachin, Northern Shan, the South East border and those newly displaced/ stuck due to Covid-19 movement restrictions

2. Conflict affected people: Northern and Central Rakhine, Kachin, Northern Shan

3. Hard to reach populations: stateless non-displaced populations in Rakhine, marginalised groups



We will prioritise the most effective interventions [this list may change as situation develops/ lengthens]:

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions

Frequent and proper hand hygiene is one of the most important measures that can be used to prevent transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Improved WASH facilities, safe management of drinking water and waste, and disinfection will facilitate more rapid die-off of the COVID-19 virus.

- a. Distributing essential wash and hygiene items
- b. Stockpiling essential wash and hygiene items

c. Increasing the availability of hand washing facilities; particularly at key gathering points

- d. Hygiene promotion
- e. Improved water and sanitation facilities

f. Training WASH staff/volunteers, and key camp/community actors in Covid-19 prevention

Health

Supporting basic health care services, screening, testing and quarantine.

- a. Stockpiling basic health care supplies
- b. Supporting the establishment of quarantine sites
- c. Testing/ screening where this is possible
- d. Provision of PPE
- e. Training of health workers/ volunteers on Covid-19 prevention

Shelter intervention

Limit the transmission by reducing overcrowding in camps and support any shielding initiatives (isolation of the most vulnerable within camps).

a. Shelter kit distribution/ construction

b. Stockpiling shelter kits in anticipation of further displacement/ monsoons

Food

Ensuring that safe access to food is maintained or improved.

a. Stockpiling/ frontloading food distributions

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Risk Communication and Community Engagement [RCCE]

Risk communication and community engagement are essential for any disease outbreak response. Ensure communities, especially those that are hard to reach, have access to accurate information on Covid-19 risk and mitigation measures.

a. Initiatives to communicate critical risk and information to all communities, counter misinformation, and reduce fear and stigma

b. Particularly interventions targeting people with reduced access to information sources; e.g. people affected by internet blackouts/ movement restrictions in Rakhine.

Cash

Where markets are functioning and can be accessed safely cash or voucher schemes will enable people to buy essential food and hygiene items and can help reduce the impact of job/income loss. The value of the cash/voucher will need take price inflations into account.

a. Increased cash/voucher distribution

Protection

Ensure protection monitoring and response continue as risks and violations are likely to be exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and many of the usual support systems and services will be disrupted.

a. Focusing on remote management and alternate modalities for protection monitoring, delivering case management, referrals, MHPSS

HARP-F will work with key partners to deliver our response to Covid-19, see the table for details.

Funding and Grants

As set out in the table below, HARP-F has a pipeline of £4,649,105 funding for Covid programming including £4,382,522 of additional funding. This is to fund the initial response to Covid. Additional funding may be required as the situation develops.

The funding amounts in the partner table are estimate allocations and may change as the grants go through the approval process.

KEY PARTNERS COVID RESPONSE

REGION	LOCATIONS	TARGETING	COVID SECTOR	COVID ACTIVITIES	EXISTING GRANT BUDGET	COVID BUDGET	BENEFICIARY*	TIMELINE
South East	Thai Border Camps and Kayak, Kayin, Bago	IDPs in camps	CASH, RCCE	3 month food and fuel stockpile in all camps Increase food vouchers value for April - June for all HH Public awareness campaign about preventative measures	£3,000,000	£400,00 - Thai £157,745 - Myanmar	93,637	Apr 20 - Jun 20
N Shan / South East	NSS: Hopang, Lashio, Kutkai, Namhkan, Namtsan, Namtu, Kyaukme, Hseni, Hsipaw, Manton, Magok, Kunlong, Laukkaing, Tangyan, South East:	IDPs in camps	WASH, RCCE	Hand washing facilities built in critical areas Soap, bucket, sanitiser distribution Distribution of PPE Awareness raising on hand washing and sanitation, as well as anti-disinformation campaigns Training of key partner facilitators	£1,288,605	£373,642	35,680	Apr 20 - Dec 20
Kachin & N Shan	Kachin: Bhamo, Myitkyina, Mohnyin Northern Shan: Muse, Kyaukme	IDPs in camps / conflict affected communities	Food, WASH, RCCE	Front loading food distribution Additional soap distribution to 42 camps Hand washing station installation at the camp entrance areas PPE provision RCCE in coordination with MOHs	£4,355,149	£76,861	16,802	Apr 20 - Dec 20
Kachin & N Shan	Kachin: Ban Maw, Moe Gu, Myitkyina, Wai Maw, Moe Gaung, Ta Nai, Hpakant Northern Shan: Kuthai, Nam Kham, Nam Tu, Man Si, Muse, Hsenwi	IDPs in camps / conflict affected communities	WASH, Shelter, Health, Food	WASH infrastructure - hand washing facilities, latrines, hygiene NFI distribution	N/A	£400,000	49,864	Apr 20 - Dec 20
Kachin & N Shan	KSR2, Kokang, SR4	IDPs in camps / conflict affected communities	Health, Food	Food distribution Support set up of quarantine sites, and testing and screening points Support health care centres Health promotion activities	£3,976,945	£590,000 for Kachin, Kokang and SR4 and £33,194K	83,876	Apr 20 - Dec 20
Rakhine	Central Rakhine: Sittwe camps	IDPs in camps	WASH	Additional handwashing stations, soap distribution, handwashing awareness / promotion 3 months hygiene kit contingency stock in Sittwe camps / warehouse Contingency stock of chlorine and aqua tab IEC & communication project	£9,107,615	£50,932	116,773	Apr 20 - Dec 20

*Beneficiary numbers are estimates based on current grant figures or initial estimates from partners. HARP-F will be updating beneficiary figures as more information becomes available.

REGION	LOCATIONS	TARGETING	COVID SECTOR	COVID ACTIVITIES	EXISTING GRANT BUDGET	COVID BUDGET	BENEFICIARY*	TIMELINE
Rakhine	Sittwe	IDPs in camps / conflict affected communities	WASH	Handwashing installation & distributions Sittwe	£1,232,960	£178,004	14,216	Apr 20 - Nov 20
Rakhine	Mrauk-U, Kyauktaw, Pauktaw, Maungdaw, Minbya, Sittwe	IDPs in camps / conflict affected communities	CASH	Hygiene promotion, IEC materials and soap distribution E-voucher distribution	£987,063	£339,871 £100,000 market analysis	28,980	Apr 20 - Dec 20
Chin	Palatwa Township, Chin State	IDPs in camps / conflict affected communities	Food, Shelter, WASH	Food, NFI, Shelter, soap distributions, IEC	£400,224	£185,567	4607	Apr 20 - Jul 20
Rakhine	Maungdaw, Buthidaung, Rathedaung Townships	Conflict affected communities / Hard to reach	Food, WASH, RCCE	Food distribution, hygiene item and extra soap distribution IEC / promotion-hygiene awareness	£1,507,212	£98,711 £5,000	16,934 for additional funding	Apr 20 - Nov 20
Rakhine	Sittwe, Maungdaw	IDPs in camps / conflict affected communities	Protection	National community hotline to reach and be reached by displaced and conflict-affected communities	£274,975	£220,000	30,157	Apr 20 - Sep 20
Kachin	Countrywide with an operational focus in Kachin	Hard to reach groups	WASH, Protection, Health	Installation of accessible handwashing points with WASH partners Support to make quarantine sites accessible and identify needs of people with disabilities Dissemination of accessible awareness material (such as mobile application with Sign language material / audio / simple and plain language IEC]	£718,541	TBD	1,477	Apr 20 - Jul 20
Kachin / NSS	N Shan: Namkham, Namtu, Namhsan Kachin: Myitkyina, Waingmaw, Bhamo, Momauk and Mansi	IDPs in camps / conflict affected communities	Protection	Remote protection monitoring and remote case management	£650,000	TBD	6,240	Apr 20 - Dec 20
Rakhine	TBD	IDPs in camps / conflict affected communities	Food, WASH, RCCE	WASH - kits and additional infrastructure in IDP camps. CASH - support to households in self isolation / quarantine. Protection - remote MHPSS support for children in IDP camps. RCCE - child focused	N/A	£500,000	TBD	Apr 20 - Dec 20

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REGION	LOCATIONS	TARGETING	COVID SECTOR	COVID ACTIVITIES	EXISTING GRANT BUDGET	COVID BUDGET	BENEFICIARY*	TIMELINE
Rakhine	Moemauk Townships, Mansi Township	IDPs	WASH, Shelter	Installing additional latrines and shelters	£294,586	£67,370	12,790	Apr 20 - Jul 20
Kachin	TBD	IDPs in camps / conflict affected communities	Protection, CASH, WASH	Responding to increased GBV and protection concerns due to Covid	-	£400,000	-	Apr 20 - Dec 20
Rakhine	TBD	-	-	Stockpiling ahead of increased conflict and rainy season	-	£400,000	-	-
Kachin	Bamaw District, Bamaw Township, Kachin State	IDPs in camps / conflict affected communities	WASH, Health	Support for returnees and community quarantine centres	£182,358	£458 £52,000	-	Apr 20 - Jun 20
Kachin	Moemauk and Mansi Townships	IDPs in camps / conflict affected communities	Health	Support for returnees and community health centres	£235,177	£17,000	-	Apr 20 - Nov 20
Kachin / NSS	Kachin: Bhamo, Myitkyina, Mohnyin N Shan: Muse, Kyaukme	-	-	Technical support to local Kachin partners on Covid response	£289,087	£2,800	N/A	Apr 20 - Dec 20
Kachin	Hpakant, Chipwi, Myitkyina and Waing Maw Townships	IDPs in camps / conflict affected communities	WASH	WASH activities to prevent spread of Covid	£327,228	TBD	-	Apr 20 - Jul 20

*Beneficiary numbers are estimates based on current grant figures or initial estimates from partners. HARP-F will be updating beneficiary figures as more information becomes available.