



HI Alert - Myanmar

Flooding

05/08/2024

Overview

- Myanmar has been hit by **violent floods** since the beginning of July, adding to the already precarious humanitarian situation resulting from the armed conflict that has been affecting the country since 2021.
- According to the Myanmar Red Cross, over **100,000 people had been affected** by 2nd of August.
- Humanitarian needs are concentrated mainly in **WASH, shelter and basic needs**.
- The precarious conditions caused by the flooding are leading to a significant risk of epidemics, while **cases of cholera have been detected in the affected areas**.

Context

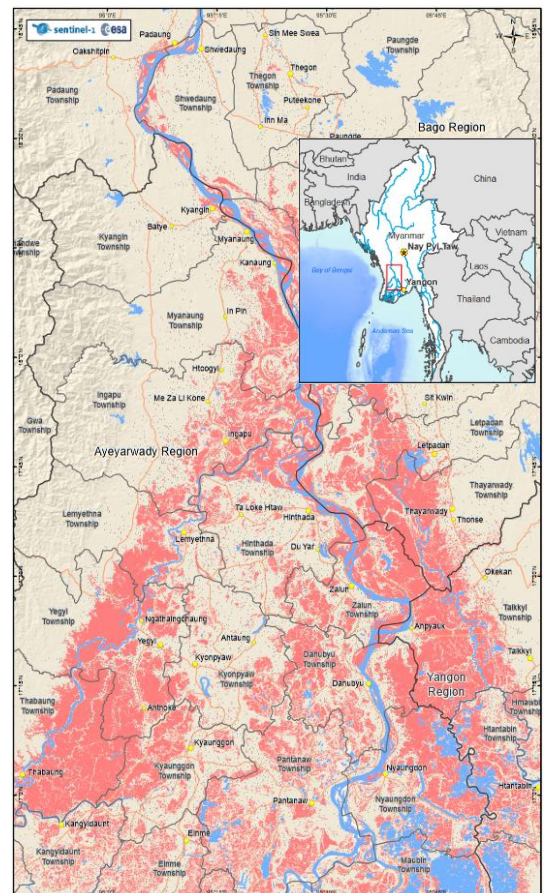
Myanmar has been hit by **torrential monsoon rains** since the **beginning of July**, causing **extensive floods**. Although floods affected the north of the country in the first half of July, the hardest-hit regions are today those located in the Ayeyarwady delta, including **Magway, Bago, Ayeyarwady and North Yangon**, as well as **Tanintharyi Region and Kayin and Mon States** in the South-East. The valleys of the country's main rivers, such as the Ayeyarwady, Sittang, Salouen, Patheingyi and Bago, were most severely affected.

In total, the Myanmar Red Cross estimates that **106,792 people were affected** by the floods as of 2nd of August. **One in two people affected are in the state of Kayin** (53,882), and there are also large numbers of people affected in the states and regions of Kachin (15,173), Magway (14,464) and Bago (20,000).

By August 2nd, the floods had killed at least 4 people, including a child swept away by the floodwaters in the region of Bago and three people in the Myawaddy township, on the border with Thailand. The death toll could quickly rise, as the rivers have not yet begun to recede.

The extent of the damage and humanitarian needs remains difficult to assess, given the lack of public information shared on the floods.

Sources: [MIMU/UNDP](#), [RFA](#), Myanmar Red Cross, [ACAPS](#)



Flooding in the regions of Bago, Ayeyarwady and Yangon on 30 July.

Humanitarian situation

The combined effects of floods and the armed conflict that has torn the country apart since the coup led by the military junta in 2021 has led to a significant deterioration in the humanitarian situation. In the region of Bago, people are facing **shortages of drinking water, medicines and food**.

Hygiene and sanitation infrastructures have also been badly damaged, leading to a significant risk of **water-borne diseases** developing. In mid-July, the military junta confirmed that **77 cases of cholera had been recorded** in Yangon Region, while local sources reported more than 240 cases in Rakhine, Chin and East Bago States. These figures suggest that there is a **significant risk of the cholera epidemic spreading**, due to the precarious conditions in the refugee camps caused by floods. According to a report by the Myanmar Red Cross, the needs mainly include Oral Rehydration Solutions (ORS), water purifiers, tarpaulins, blankets, mosquito nets and health services.

Sources: [ECHO](#), Myanmar Red Cross

Humanitarian response

In Bago Region, the junta has set up 27 camps for displaced persons and provided assistance to more than 18,000 disaster affected people. The Myanmar Red Cross is concentrating its activities in Magway Region, distributing tarpaulins, hygiene kits and Oral Rehydration Solutions.

Sources: [RFA](#), Myanmar Red Cross

Focus HI

For the time being, HI is adopting a strategy similar to that of the other humanitarian partners: the programme is focusing on its teams' safety and well-being, while the Burmese partner has closed its premises and adopted a work from home mode of operation until further notice.

HI teams on the field are closely monitoring the situation, although for the moment no intervention by HI has been requested. This lack of requests may be due to the fact that the floods have been gradual, giving local populations sufficient time to prepare, particularly in Hpa-An, the capital of Kayin State, where the situation seems to be back under control.

The limited amount of information on humanitarian needs, insecurity and recurrent intense fighting also makes it difficult to set up emergency operations.



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