



# Myanmar

## Protection Analysis Update

Update on protections trends risks and protection situation.

September 2026

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The conflict in Myanmar has entered its sixth year, becoming among the top five countries with the most intense political violence in the world (ACLED Conflict Index). Active conflict continues across multiple fronts, marked by widespread violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, protracted displacement, economic decline, and natural disasters covering and deepening humanitarian needs. Adding to the crisis, a powerful 7.7 magnitude earthquake hit the country on 28 March 2025 dramatically intensifying the impacts of conflict and displacement. Notably, the earthquake impacted an area already hosting approximately 2.2 million of Myanmar's 3.7 million internally displaced persons, resulting in some 3,800 deaths, 5,100 injuries and causing widespread destruction of homes and infrastructure and placing additional strain on already overstretched response capacities. Floods in several states affected another one million people, killed some 500, displaced 80,000, and worsened outbreaks of cholera and dengue<sup>i</sup>.

The elections held in December/January and its aftermath was marked by further intensification of hostilities, sustained repression, and efforts to further restrict political and civic space. Rather than serving as a catalyst for dialogue and a negotiated political settlement, the elections have been followed by a hardening of positions by conflict actors making it increasingly difficult to establish the conditions necessary for de-escalation and dialogue.

By the end of 2025, an estimated 21.9 million people in Myanmar were in need of humanitarian assistance, including 15.4 in need of protection among whom 6.9 million children. Internal displacement rose to roughly to 3.7 million among whom around 40% are children, with nearly 200,000 more having fled to neighboring countries since the 2021. Communities continue to face overlapping crises: conflict, displacement, movement and humanitarian access restrictions, food insecurity, inflation, livelihood collapse, and eroding access to essential services. Women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups continued to experience disproportionate impacts across all protection risks.

The protection risks requiring immediate attention in the period covered by this analysis are:

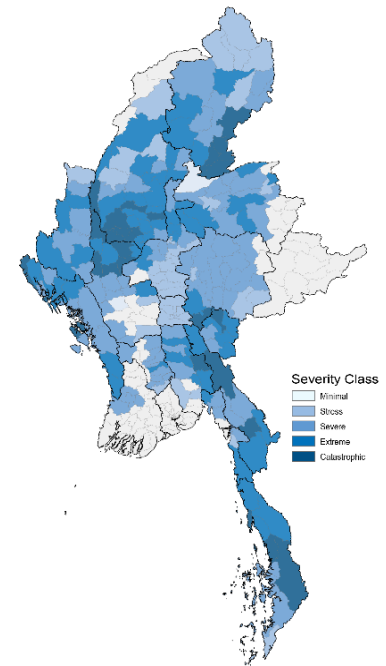
1. **Attacks on civilians and civilians objects**
2. **Siege, movement restrictions denying access to services and humanitarian assistance**
3. **Children and family separation**
4. **Gender based violence (GBV)**
5. **Indiscriminate and widespread use of explosive hazards causing civilian harm, restricting safe movement and access to services and livelihoods.**

### URGENT ACTIONS NEEDED

Immediate action by the international community and parties to the conflict is essential to stop grave human rights violations, prevent attacks on civilians, remove punitive restrictions, and reduce the devastating physical, social and psychological consequences of the conflict. Urgent steps are needed to address the acute human suffering and deteriorating humanitarian conditions, while safeguarding affected communities from being forced into harmful coping strategies.

The following actions are of paramount importance in the affected communities:

- International actors must urgently pressure all parties to stop violations of international human rights and humanitarian law and halt indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, and places of worship
- All parties should immediately lift punitive restrictions that hinder civilians' access to essential services and humanitarian assistance, and facilitate safe, timely, and unimpeded humanitarian access to conflict-affected communities.
- Urgent measures must be taken to restore civilians' dignity and ensure access to essential services, including protection, including family tracing and reunification, healthcare, clean water and sanitation, shelter, education, livelihoods, and communication services, while safeguarding civilians from violence, exploitation, abuse, and further displacement.



CONTEXT

| PEOPLE IN NEED<br>(PIN) PROTECTION | PEOPLE<br>REACHED AS Q1<br>2025- Q1 2026 | NUMBER OF IDPs | HNRP + EARTHQUAKE<br>REQUIREMENT 2025 | FUNDING 2025   |           |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|
|                                    |                                          |                |                                       | HNRP<br>27.6 M | EQ<br>30M |
| 15.4 M                             | 5.1 M                                    | 3.7 M          | 183.3 M                               | 57.6 ( 31%)    |           |

Myanmar's conflict remains in a state of a grinding impasse with deeply fragmented conflict environment characterized by competing armed actors and contested governance across multiple areas of control. In 2025, violence against civilians escalated sharply, driven by intensified aerial bombardments and the expanding use of armed drones, paramotors, mines and explosive ordinances, and gyrocopters. Armed conflict spread across to all the 14 states and regions of Myanmar<sup>ii</sup>. Civilians continued to face multiple, mutually reinforcing protection risks, including physical insecurity, recurrent displacement, restricted access to essential services and humanitarian assistance, and growing psychosocial distress.

Protection Cluster severity mapping conducted in July 2026 revealed a widespread and deepening protection crisis. Of the 227 townships covered under the HNRP, 34 were assessed as facing extreme protection risks, where protection systems and services were largely non-functional; 79 faced severe risks characterized by acute protection threats and major service gaps; and 94 experienced moderate risks requiring sustained humanitarian engagement. A further 13 townships were classified as stressed or borderline, while only seven township recorded minimal protection concerns. This overall highlights the severity of protection needs and the urgent requirement for sustained, coordinated, and adequately resourced protection responses.

Beyond the battlefield, economic downturn continued to drive economic hardship, food insecurity with inflation continuing to rise sharply. According to the World Bank's assessment of March 2026, year-on-year inflation reached 24.6 per cent, underscoring the scale of macroeconomic instability and its impact on vulnerable populations. The sustained increase in prices is placing significant pressure on households already struggling with declining incomes, disrupted livelihoods, and limited access to employment opportunities. For ordinary people, the economic crisis is being experienced most directly through the rising cost of basic necessities, including food, fuel, transport, medicines, housing, and other essential goods and services. Together, these interconnected shocks compound vulnerability, undermine coping capacities and exacerbate humanitarian needs. These interconnected challenges often converged within the same communities, exacerbating vulnerabilities and undermining coping capacities.

Myanmar's 2025-2026 elections, conducted in three phases between December 2025 and January 2026, were widely criticized by opposition groups, civil society, and the international community as lacking credibility and serving to consolidate military rule rather than restore democratic governance. The pre-election period was marked by intensified military operations, increased restrictions on civic and political freedoms, and legal reforms that effectively excluded many established and ethnic-based political parties. Voting took place in only about one-third of the country's townships, largely due to conflict and territorial control dynamics. Official results gave the military-backed USDP 72 per cent of the vote, based on a reported turnout of just over 50 per cent. The post-election period has seen continued violence and efforts by the incoming military led administration to consolidate military influence over governance structures and institutionalize its authority through legal and administrative measures. Emerging legislative initiatives point to further restrictions on civic and political freedoms, increased military oversight of civilian governance, and tighter controls on dissent, raising significant concerns for civilian protection and the humanitarian operating environment.

Thus, with no prospect of peace in the foreseeable future, communities across Myanmar continue to endure persistent violence and insecurity, severe restrictions on humanitarian access, the destruction of homes, schools, and health facilities, institutional collapse, and profound psychosocial distress. At the same time, conflict parties are increasingly hardening their positions, prioritizing military solutions over political dialogue and making the prospects for a negotiated resolution ever more remote.

## Regional Dimensions of Conflict Across Myanmar

### Kachin State

Kachin State remains one of the most active conflict fronts with sustained armed resistance led primarily by the Kachin Independence Army (KIA). Throughout 2025, intense clashes were reported across key townships including the townships of Bhamo, Mansi, Momauk, Waingmaw, Hpakant, Tanai, and Indawgyi. Despite mediation efforts by Chinese authorities, fighting has continued over strategic towns and border corridors. As of 30 March 2026, more than 228,300 people were displaced in Kachin State, including 68,400 IDPs displaced before February 2021<sup>iii</sup>. Civilians continued to face rights violations including airstrikes, shelling, arbitrary detention, forced recruitment (including underage recruitment and use), movement restrictions, landmines and explosive ordnance. Insecurity, numerous militarized checkpoints, damaged infrastructure and transport disruptions further limited humanitarian access and affected populations' access to basic needs, food, healthcare, MHPSS, education, livelihoods and protection services.

While some IDP returns have been reported across camps in both government-controlled and KIO-controlled areas, they remain limited, localized and often premature, driven by factors including forced camp closures, deteriorating living conditions, loss of access to land, properties and documentation, and encroachment by mining and agribusiness activities. Many IDPs have returned without adequate safety guarantees, amid continued territorial contestation, airstrikes and military operations.

### Shan and Kayah/Karenni

Shan State remains one of Myanmar's most fragmented conflict environments, with multiple actors competing for territorial control and influence. As Myanmar's main overland trade route to China, Shan has seen increased Chinese engagement as a mediator and actor seeking to prevent instability along its border. Through mediation efforts, at least three towns, Lashio, Mongmit and Mogoke have been transferred back to Myanmar military control, while the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) have also regained some previously lost areas through military operations including the towns of Nawngkhio, Kyaukme, Hsipaw and Mobyé.

Despite these developments, tensions among former allies of the Brotherhood Alliance notably the TNLA and MNDAA have introduced additional layer of instability, with sporadic clashes them raising concerns of further displacement. In one notable development, the MNDAA seized the town of Kuntai from former ally TNLA. In southern Shan State, the MAF and its allied Pa-O National Organization (PNO) continue military operations to consolidate control, with active fighting reported in Hsihseng, Nyaung Shwe, Pinlaung and Pekon townships, as well as areas bordering Kayah (Karenni) State.

Across the state civilians continue to suffer from ongoing hostilities, including airstrikes, shelling, arson, movement restrictions, disruption of transport and communication networks, and explosive ordnance contamination. As of 30 March 2026, approximately 263,100 IDPs were residing in Shan and Kayah States due to conflict and insecurity<sup>iv</sup>. Northern Shan remains one of the areas most affected by landmines and other explosive ordnance (EO), accounting for nearly 33 per cent of all reported incidents reported between January 2025 and March 2026<sup>v</sup>.

In Southern Shan and Kayah/Karenni, both involuntary and voluntary returns under premature conditions have continued to be reported since 2022. These returns have largely been driven by coercive pressures and deteriorating conditions in displacement areas, including limited access to livelihoods, essential household items, and adequate accommodation. Premature returns expose affected populations to renewed protection risks, particularly where insecurity, explosive ordnance contamination, limited services and weak community support systems persist. Furthermore, the expansion of a pervasive conflict economy driven by illicit drugs, cyber scam centers, Karaoke TV (KTV), illegal mining, gambling, and trafficking for sexual exploitation is severely eroding social cohesion and further fueling conflict dynamics across the region.

### In the South-East (Kayin, Mon, Bago, and Tanintharyi)

In Kayin, Mon, Bago, particularly eastern Bago, and Tanintharyi is punctuated notably involves a wide constellation of local armed actors, splinter groups, and shifting factional alliances. The security situation remains highly volatile, marked by recurrent airstrikes, ground offensives, counteroffensives, and the extensive use of stand-off weapons and landmines. This evolving conflict dynamics continue to drive cyclical displacement, forcing affected communities to repeatedly flee their homes and seek safety in forests, rubber plantations, informal settlements, and temporary displacement sites, including areas along the Thailand-Myanmar border.

Notably, Mon State and parts of Bago Region, which were previously considered relatively stable, have undergone a gradual but significant transformation into increasingly active conflict zones. The expansion of hostilities, coupled with growing insecurity along key transportation routes and rural communities, has heightened humanitarian needs and reduced access to essential services and livelihoods. Many displaced families continue to face significant protection risks, including restrictions on freedom of movement, exposure to explosive ordnance contamination, family separation, limited access to documentation, and barriers to accessing humanitarian assistance.

As of 30 March 2026, approximately 904,400 IDPs were residing in four states/regions after being displaced by conflict and hostilities<sup>vi</sup>. The humanitarian situation is further aggravated by recurring natural hazards including seasonal flooding which impacted more than 85,000<sup>vii</sup> and landslides damaging shelters and community infrastructure, disrupting livelihoods, and undermining access.

### In the North-West (Sagaing, Chin, Magway, and Mandalay)

The situation in North-West Myanmar remained highly volatile through March 2026, with active conflict continuing across Sagaing, Chin, Magway and Mandalay. The humanitarian situation was further compounded by the devastating 7.7-magnitude earthquake that struck central Myanmar on 28 March 2025, with its epicentre near Sagaing and Mandalay areas already heavily affected by conflict and displacement. The earthquake caused widespread destruction of homes, infrastructure and essential services, exacerbating vulnerabilities among conflict-affected populations, including an estimated 1.3 million IDPs already living in Sagaing at the time<sup>viii</sup>. Intensified military offensives, airstrikes, drone attacks and ground operations continued to cause civilian casualties, repeated displacement, and extensive destruction of property, livelihoods and essential services. By the end of March 2026, the region hosted an estimated 1,792,000 IDPs, with new displacement reported in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay as military operations expanded. Security conditions remained particularly concerning in Sagaing and northern Mandalay, while continued clashes in Chin State generated significant humanitarian and protection needs.



*The March 28, 2025 earthquake caused widespread destruction to homes, property, and infrastructure, as seen by this bridge in Mandalay.*

Movement restrictions, forced recruitment (including underage recruitment and use), arbitrary detention, landmine and EO contamination, disrupted trade routes, and reduced access to essential services, including protection services, further increased vulnerabilities and constrained humanitarian access. Repeated displacement and insecurity heightened protection risks, including GBV, child protection concerns and psychological distress, particularly in Sagaing, Chin and Magway, as well as earthquake-affected areas of Mandalay. Children remained especially exposed to recruitment and use, killing and maiming, trafficking, exploitation, child labour, child, early and forced marriage, and increasing mental health and psychosocial support needs.

### Rakhine State

Rakhine remains a distinct and worsening sub-conflict. The protection situation in Rakhine State continued to deteriorate amid ongoing conflict between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and the Arakan Army/United League of Arakan (AA/ULA), changing territorial control, movement restrictions and a prolonged blockade. Recurrent airstrikes, shelling, drone attacks and armed clashes caused civilian casualties, repeated displacement, destruction of civilian infrastructure, disruption of livelihoods and heightened protection risks across multiple townships, particularly Kyaukpyu, Sittwe, Ponnagyun, Rathedaung, Pauktaw and Kyauktaw. The blockade, now exceeding two years, further worsened humanitarian conditions through shortages of food, fuel, medicines, cash, electricity and telecommunications, while restricting access to healthcare, education, protection services, MHPSS, livelihoods and humanitarian assistance.

The number of internally displaced persons increased from approximately 474,357 in October 2025 to over 503,000 by February 2026, before declining to 489,600 as of 30 March 2026, partly due to cross-border movements into Bangladesh. Displacement patterns remained highly fluid, with communities repeatedly relocating to escape airstrikes, shelling, insecurity, forced recruitment (including underage recruitment and use) and deteriorating living conditions.

According to humanitarian partners reports, restrictions on freedom of movement remained one of the most significant protection concerns. The territorial division between areas administered by the State Security and Peace Commission/DFA

and the AA/ULA resulted in complex movement controls, including checkpoints, curfews and documentation requirements. Protection monitoring documented persistent human rights violations throughout the reporting period, including forced labour, extortion, arbitrary arrest and detention, physical abuse, intimidation and discriminatory practices.

### **Situation of the Rohingya**

The Rohingya in Rakhine State continues to face a profound protection and solutions crisis. Living amidst competing authorities and shifting governance structures, they remain largely without clear pathways to safety, rights, legal recognition, and durable solutions amidst worsening humanitarian conditions in IDP camps, displacement sites and villages. Their vulnerability is compounded by severe restrictions and barriers that limit their freedom of movement, access to essential services, including healthcare, education, markets, livelihoods, and fishing grounds which contribute to the increased reliance on negative coping strategies, including debt accumulation, unsafe migration, and child labour<sup>ix</sup>.

Protection monitoring indicates the widespread use of coercive practices by AA/ULA forces across areas under their control including forced recruitment, forced labor such as portering, construction, and guard duties, and the confiscation of land, property, and livestock. These pressures are forcing a growing numbers of Rohingya to turn to irregular movement toward Malaysia, Bangladesh, and Indonesia via dangerous maritime routes, despite the well-documented risks involved, including trafficking, exploitation, detention, violence, family separation, and death during sea crossings.

### **In Ayeyarwady, Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw**

While Ayeyarwady, Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw were not among Myanmar's main conflict frontlines, the protection environment continued to be affected by broader conflict dynamics. Movement restrictions, heightened security measures, surveillance, arbitrary arrests and conscription policies generated protection concerns, particularly among young men and displaced populations. Reports from 2025 and early 2026 indicated increased incidents of forced recruitment, detention and restrictions on civic space, contributing to stress, psychosocial distress and heightened vulnerabilities. In Ayeyarwady Region, conflict spillover from Rakhine resulted in increased security incidents and armed clashes, particularly in townships bordering Magway and Rakhine. Resistance activities, military operations, security sweeps and arrests in areas including Ngapudaw, Yegyí, Kyangin, Lemyethna and Hinthada contributed to localized displacement, movement restrictions and protection risks.

In Nay Pyi Taw, intensified security measures following attacks on military and de facto authority facilities led to increased surveillance, arbitrary checks and movement restrictions. The area also continued to face recovery needs and vulnerabilities linked to the March 2025 earthquake. Yangon remained a key destination for people fleeing conflict-affected areas, including Rakhine, Sagaing and Mandalay. However, rising poverty, high living costs, limited livelihoods and documentation challenges continued to affect displaced and vulnerable populations. Across all three areas, concerns related to arbitrary arrest, recruitment pressures, labour exploitation and restricted civic space persisted, with young men and women particularly exposed to conscription-related risks. Despite lower levels of displacement compared with frontline areas, insecurity and socioeconomic pressures continued to undermine the coping capacities of vulnerable groups, including women, children, older persons and IDPs.

## PROTECTION RISKS

### RISK 1 Attacks on Civilians and Civilian Objects

Conflict in Myanmar has continued to generate grave harm to civilians throughout 2025 and early 2026 through sustained pattern of indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian objects reinforcing it as one of the most significant drivers of protection risks nationwide. The use of explosive weapons in populated areas continues to drive civilian casualties and to cause extensive damage to homes, schools, health facilities, religious sites, markets, and critical infrastructure. Protection severity risk analysis identified Attacks on civilians and civilian objects emerged as one of the most acute protection risks, with 55 townships (17%) classified as severity 5 (Catastrophic), 54 townships (16%) classified as severity 4 and 60 townships (18%) classified as severity 3 reflecting areas where civilians face extreme violence, widespread insecurity, and severely weakened protective environments.

Data collected through the Protection Incident Monitoring System (PIMS) demonstrates the scale and persistence of these attacks. Between January 2025 and March 2026, protection partners documented approximately 4,432 human rights violations affecting more than 200,000 individuals across Myanmar. Myanmar Armed Forces were reportedly responsible for 59 per cent of all documented incidents, while non-state armed groups accounted for 25 per cent. Unknown armed actors represented 8 per cent of incidents, with Myanmar police and community members responsible for the remaining 8 per cent. The impact of these violations fell disproportionately on civilian populations. Local residents constituted 56 per cent of affected individuals, followed by internally displaced persons (25 per cent), stateless populations (10 per cent), IDP returnees (6 per cent), and other groups (3 per cent). More than half of all incidents occurred in villages and rural communities (54 per cent), highlighting the increasing exposure of civilian populations outside urban centres. A further 22 per cent took place in homes, 9 per cent on roads, 9 per cent in urban areas, and 6 per cent within displacement sites. Women and girls accounted for 33 per cent of victims, while children represented approximately one-third of all affected individuals.

Airstrikes, drone and paramotor attacks emerged as the predominant methods of attack in 2025, alongside other forms of atrocities including artillery shelling, village burnings, extrajudicial killing and the widespread use of landmines and explosive ordnance. According to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 2025 was one of the deadliest year for civilians since the 2021 coup with at least 1,514 civilians were verified killed in 2025, including 287 children and 508 women OHCHR also cautioned that these figures understate the scale of harm, as more than 4,400 additional reported civilian fatalities remained under verification at year-end. Airstrikes alone caused 982 civilian deaths in

#### Incidents of Major Attacks on Civilians in 2025

- **8 Jan – military attack, Ramree Township, Rakhine**
  - Military bombed Kyauk Ni Maw village: 41 killed, 50+ injured, 500+ houses reported destroyed
- **31 Jan - airstrike on a Koke Ko IDP camp, Sagaing Region**
  - Airstrike on displaced persons camp: 11 killed, including at least 3 children
- **14 March, airstrike in Singu Township, Mandalay Region**
  - Let Pan Hla village market airstrike: 27 reported killed, including several children; 30 injured
- **March - April (earthquake period)**
  - Surge in airstrikes with some 800+ total attacks recorded (585 airstrikes, 200+ artillery strikes) 108+ airstrikes in Sagaing killing more than 100 civilians within two weeks period
- **12 May, bombing of school, Tabayin Township, Sagaing**
  - O Htein Twin village school bombed: **22 students and 2 teachers killed**; 40+ injured - deadliest single incident for children
- **17 August, airstrike in Mawchi, Hpasawng Township, Kayah**
  - Airstrike in Lol Law Htee Village: At least 23 civilians killed, including 5 children and preschool and homes destroyed
- **12 September, Bombing of schools in Kyauktaw, Rakhine State**
  - Military jets dropped bombs on two private boarding schools (Pyinnyar Pan Khinn and A Myin Thit) killing 22 students killed and wounding 26 others.
- **October, religious festival attack, Chaung-U Township, Sagaing Region**
  - Paramotor attack on religious festival in Bon To village: 23 civilians killed, including 4 children; more than 45 wounded
- **23 October, airstrike in Yegyi Township, Ayeyarwady Region**
  - Repeated airstrike targeting Sa Pyin village: 11 civilians reported killed
- **10 December Mrauk-U Hospital Attack**
  - Military jet dropped two 500-lb bombs on a hospital in Mrauk-U public hospital, killing 33 patients, caregivers, and hospital staff and injuring more than 70 persons

2025, a 53 per cent increase from the previous year, and almost half of verified civilian resulted from aerial attacks<sup>x</sup> Airstrikes, drones and landmines and UXOs were the cause of more than half of the 1,227 killing and maiming verified cases of grave violations on children, in 2024.

The devastating impact of these attacks on civilians is illustrated by several major incidents recorded during the year. Such attacks underscore the continued disregard for the principles of distinction and protection afforded to civilians and civilian objects under international humanitarian law.

Together, these trends show that the protection crisis in Myanmar is being driven by repeated attacks on civilians and civilian objects, the growing use of air-delivered explosive weapons in populated areas, and the erosion of safe civilian spaces, including homes, schools, hospitals, religious sites, markets, roads, and IDP camps. The cumulative impact of these attacks extends far beyond immediate physical harm. Repeated exposure to violence, displacement, destruction of civilian infrastructure, and loss of livelihoods continues to generate severe psychosocial distress, erode community coping capacities, and increase protection risks for women, men, girls, and boys. The persistence and scale of attacks against civilians and civilian objects underscore the urgent need for strengthened civilian protection measures, accountability for violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, and sustained humanitarian access to affected populations.

## RISK 2

### Siege, movement restrictions denying access to services and humanitarian assistance.

Conflict parties in Myanmar continue to impose a wide range of movement and access restrictions on civilians, significantly exacerbating humanitarian needs, particularly for populations in conflict-affected, contested or trapped in hard-to-reach areas. These measures include siege and the blockade of townships, villages, and transport corridors, enforced through an extensive network of checkpoints, roadblocks, travel authorization requirements, curfews, and other administrative barriers.

Discrimination, siege, and restrictions on movement and access to services is the most geographically widespread risks, with 50 townships assessed to be in severity 5, while 74 townships classified as severity 4 and 74 townships (classified as severity 3. Access mapping by the Access Working Group confirms this assessment and reveals significant humanitarian access constraints in 114 townships while a further 119 townships face moderate access constraints. Only 97 townships (29 per cent) are classified as accessible (Severity 1), concentrated primarily in Yangon and Ayeyarwady regions<sup>xi</sup>. Sagaing, Rakhine, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Magway, Bago and Sagaing account for most severely constrained areas, illustrating a clear correlation between access severity and active conflict.

Myanmar military has particularly employed what is known as the Four Cuts strategy or hpyat lay hpyat as a counterinsurgency tactic since the 1960s and remains widely used to date. The strategy aims to weaken armed opposition groups by cutting access to food, finances, intelligence, and recruits. While intended to weaken armed groups, the strategy has often had indiscriminate effects, collectively punishing communities, rendering contested areas increasingly uninhabitable, and leaving civilians to bear the greatest humanitarian and protection consequences<sup>xii</sup>.

Moreover, checkpoints and other movement-control mechanisms have increasingly become sites of protection violations. Beyond regulating civilian movement, they are used as instruments of extortion, intimidation, arbitrary arrest, sexual harassment and abuse. Civilians are frequently required to pay unofficial fees or surrender personal belongings in exchange for safe passage. Individuals are often discriminatory detained in checkpoints often based on perceived affiliation with opposing parties, or based on the place of origin/possession of particular documentation which are identifiable through the type of citizenship documentation held including Citizenship Scrutiny Cards (CSCs), National Verification Cards (NVCs), National Registration Cards (NRCs), and household registration documents.

Reports from local communities including IDPs indicates that essential goods, including food, medicines, fuel, and motorcycles and humanitarian assistance are routinely confiscated at checkpoints based on the perception that such goods will be diverted to, or otherwise benefit, opposing armed actors. Such incidents have been documented across the country including Kachin, Rakhine, Shan, Sagaing, Eastern Bago, Kayah and Kayin. Moreover, incidents involving threats or violence against humanitarian personnel and assets continued to be a serious concern. Parties to the conflict often conduct searches of vehicles and personal belongings, verification of identification documents, at checkpoints/ airports questioning regarding the purpose of travel, and requests for informal payments. While checkpoints are meant to regular movement, they are increasingly used as locations for arbitrary arrests and abductions, serving as a pipeline for forced recruitment. Young men and women travelling alone,

migrant workers, students, and internally displaced persons are particularly vulnerable to interception at checkpoints. Evidence suggests that poorer households face a significantly higher risk of forced recruitment, as they often lack the financial resources required to pay informal fees or bribes to secure the release of detained family members. As a result, self-imposed confinement is a growing protection concern, as civilians particularly men and youth of recruitment age increasingly limit their own movement to avoid exposure to forced recruitment. This form of restricted movement, while distinct from externally imposed checkpoints or administrative barriers, similarly curtails access to services and livelihoods, and warrants specific attention.

Minority groups including the Rohingya in Rakhine State face the harshest forms of movement restrictions, with travel requirements often imposed by multiple, overlapping authorities each controlling different pockets of territory. They often risk arbitrary detention and fines for failing to produce identification documents, even though many are unable to obtain that documentation in the first place. These movement restrictions have had devastating consequences, particularly in access to healthcare, household resilience, and contribute to worsening food insecurity. People requiring urgent medical attention, including GBV survivors in need of clinical management of rape (CMR) services, pregnant women in need of emergency obstetric care and patients requiring life-saving surgery or other critical treatment, are often prevented from reaching health facilities or staying overnight in hospitals. In many cases, these delays or denials of movement have resulted in preventable illness and death.

The widespread and systematic movement restrictions have increasingly cut civilians off from life-saving humanitarian assistance, leading to the gradual erosion of their coping strategies. As the humanitarian situation has continued to deteriorate, affected populations are increasingly relying on irregular and other hazardous forms of movement to access safety, essential services, or means of survival. Civilians are increasingly relying on informal routes and the services of smugglers or brokers to circumvent movement restrictions and avoid military checkpoints. While these arrangements may provide one of the few available means of mobility, they also expose individuals to heightened protection risks, including extortion, arbitrary detention, trafficking, other forms of abuse. Women and girls are at increased risk of gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation, harassment, and trafficking for the purposes of forced labour or sexual exploitation.

As a result of conflict-related blockades humanitarian assistance remains sporadic and insufficient. At the same time, CSOs are being forced to operate more discreetly, further limiting their ability to mobilize resources and deliver assistance. Communities in hard-to-reach areas are therefore increasingly having to depend on their own limited local resources, informal support networks, and and deparate coping strategies.

### **RISK 3** Children and Family Separation

The ongoing conflict and recurrent displacement, compounded by the effects of the 2025 earthquake have resulted in unprecedented impacts on the family unity. Protection severity mapping conducted by the protection cluster indicates that child and forced family separation is reported as prevalent in 15 townships classified at severity level 5. The 28 March 2025 earthquake, which struck central Myanmar and affected over 17 million people including 5.6 million children, added a further, sudden layer of separation on top of an already protracted conflict-driven caseload, as children lost parents and caregivers under collapsed buildings or were separated in the chaos of search-and-rescue and mass evacuation. Many children who are unaccompanied or separated, end up in informal institutional or community-based care rather than family-based alternatives, a pattern that case management data continues to flag as one of the major child protection concerns in the country. Irregular migration is an additional driver of family separation insofar as one or both parents or children themselves seek to find better lives either elsewhere in Myanmar or across borders, thus disrupting family unity and causing further threats.

Past Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) found already concerning patterns of surveyed households at national level that had at least one child under 18 no longer living in the household, with higher prevalence among IDP and returnee households — evidence that displacement sharply increases the risk of separation. Separation is often underreported in MSNA due to the sensitivities associated with separation, households' data collection modalities, and the reluctance to respond if separation is related to recruitment or marriage.

Beyond physical risk, unaccompanied and separated children separation causes acute psychosocial distress and disrupts children's access to essential services — health care, education, and humanitarian assistance — since these are frequently only accessible through an adult caregiver. Girls separated from family networks are additionally exposed to heightened risks of gender-based violence, and reports from Rakhine indicate that separation and family breakdown are also linked to

early/child marriage as a negative coping strategy. The possible effects of family separation to children's may include: physical safety and psychosocial well-being, being widespread and increased for children who are separated from their families, with 55 townships (16 %) classified at severity level 4 and 79 townships (24 %) at severity level 3.

With the loss of one or both caregivers, children experience increased psychosocial distress<sup>xiii</sup>. According to the case management data Jun-June 2026, the second highest reported cases were those of psychosocial distress. Whilst all children experiencing displacement and the impacts of conflict and natural disasters such as the 2025 earthquake, experience psychological distress, without the support of functional caregivers, this is yet again exacerbated. Inadequate care due to family separation often leads to increased risks of emotional abuse and violence (10% of the case management data), as well as physical abuse and violence (9%).

According to partners' observation, where families are separated, the remaining caregiver often engage in negative coping mechanisms with a view of protecting their children. In Myanmar there are high numbers of children residing in monasteries or other informal "boarding schools". Whilst these may be established with good intentions, institutions such as these have no child safeguarding policies in place, may be overcrowded, lead to denying children of adequate education and makes it extremely difficult for humanitarian actors to undertake family tracing and reunification of Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) within these institutions.

Irregular migration while being a driver is as well a product of family separation. In Myanmar, the irregular migration exposes parents and children to further risks such as detention by MAF for illegal migration or trafficking. Adults and children have been reported to have been detained for illegal migration for extended periods of time with little to support. Furthermore, trafficking, whilst largely undocumented Myanmar, is nonetheless prolific, especially in hot spots near borders. Children or adolescents who are separated from caregivers are more susceptible to irregular migration.

Life-saving interventions such as family tracing and reunification (FTR) reached only around 10 percent of planned coverage by end of 2025. Following the March 2025 earthquake, child protection partners scaled up identification and registration of separated and unaccompanied children, family tracing and reunification, alternative care arrangements, and psychosocial support, including through new child-friendly spaces in Mandalay and other affected areas — but partners have repeatedly flagged an urgent need to further scale up FTR and interim/alternative family-based care where parents cannot be traced or have died, given continued restrictions on humanitarian access, movement, and communications across conflict-affected states and regions

**Child Recruitment** and use by armed forces and armed groups is a risk identified on its own but it is an extreme form of family separation. The practice is utilized by all parties to the conflict. The Report of the Secretary General (16 June 2025) calls upon all parties to stop the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict. The Secretary General calls "upon the Myanmar armed forces to continue to engage with the United Nations for the full implementation of the 2012 joint action plan on ending child recruitment and use, and to ensure that no child is recruited."

Abduction of children has also been reported. Whilst underreported, the Secretary General report confirmed 343 children (231 boys and 112 girls) having been abducted, primarily for the purposes of recruitment and use in conflict.

The report also highlighted that 34 children (29 boys, 5 girls) as young as 14 years were detained for alleged association with armed groups in 2025. These risks related to the armed conflict, have made children in Myanmar more prone to family separation, which also results in their increased vulnerability

## RISK 4 Gender Based Violence

Between January 2025 and March 2026, gender-based violence (GBV) across Myanmar remained a profound protection risk with long-lasting impact across Myanmar, as escalating conflict, repeated displacement, economic deterioration, forced conscription and the March 2025 earthquake simultaneously increased exposure to GBV and weakened access to life-saving services. The situation deteriorated further during the December 2025–January 2026 election period, when intensified fighting and localized operational disruptions further restricted movement and humanitarian access. Women and girls, particularly those affected by displacement, conflict, earthquake and other natural disasters, faced heightened GBV risks while damage to infrastructure, transportation barriers, movement restrictions and the reduced presence of humanitarian actors increasingly constrained confidential disclosure, safe referrals and access to GBV, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services. The protection cluster's severity mapping identified gender-based violence (GBV) as the most prevalent concern, with six townships classified at Severity Level 5. Significant threats to physical and psychological

safety and well-being were also recorded, with 57 townships (17%) classified at Severity Level 4 and 175 townships (53%) at Severity Level 3.

Throughout 2025 and the first quarter of 2026, intimate partner violence (IPV) remained the most reported GBV incident types in the GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS), alongside physical assault, psychological abuse, rape, and sexual assault. Food insecurity, repeated displacement, substance use, gambling, and increasing household economic pressures contributed to conditions that heightened GBV risks. To cope with escalating economic hardship, women increasingly shouldered household survival, unpaid care, and income generation — often without greater decision-making power or control over resources. A national survey found that women earned substantially less than men and were far more likely to have no personal income - with 42 per cent of women reporting zero income compared to 23 per cent of men - systematically tying them to abusive environments in high-conflict areas due to economic dependence<sup>xiv</sup>.

Conflict and earthquake-driven displacement pushed populations into overcrowded, mixed-gender shelters, informal settlements, forests, and religious compounds where physical spaces were inherently unsafe. A post-earthquake gender analysis revealed a critical lack of basic protection infrastructure: Women and Girls' Safe Spaces (WGSS) existed in a mere two per cent of assessed sites, fewer than one in five shelters had internal locks, and 30 per cent of respondents reported that women and girls completely lacked safe sleeping spaces<sup>xv</sup>. More than half of the surveyed women avoided public latrines out of fear of assault, while over half lacked a safe reporting option or did not know how to access one. These conditions increased exposure to GBV while simultaneously limiting opportunities for safe disclosure and access to services.

Female-headed households faced distinct economic and protection risks following the recruitment, detention, death, or migration of male family members. These vulnerabilities were further intensified by movement restriction, insecurity, and the continued enforcement of the national conscription law against young men and women, triggering widespread panic and irregular cross-border migration<sup>xvi</sup>. To secure food, fuel, or income, women increasingly traveled further along isolated routes and through militarized checkpoints, exposing them to pervasive harassment, exploitation, and violence by armed actors. Displaced women and adolescent girls seeking employment or safety across borders were exposed to deceptive recruitment practices, forced labour and sexual exploitation, including in KTV centers and cyber-scam compounds<sup>xvii</sup>. In NGO partner consultations in Rakhine, indicated that single women lacking secure accommodation faced heightened risk of coercion, and were reportedly forced into survival sex and sexual exploitation with powerful local actors in exchange for basic shelter and protection.

These vulnerabilities intersected severely across diverse demographics women and girls with disabilities faced additional barriers because facilities, information and referral systems were not consistently accessible, while reduced mobility and dependence on caregivers further restricted confidential access to services. LGBTQI+ individuals faced targeted discrimination, harassment and sexual violence, forcing them to avoid health facilities and displacement sites perceived as unsafe, discriminatory, or unsafe. Widows, older women, gender-diverse persons, ethnic and religious minorities, and Rohingya women and girls faced further intersecting risks linked to discrimination, displacement, economic dependency, movement restrictions and exclusion from services.

Conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) was systematically deployed as a weapon of war and remained as an underreported protection concern in conflict-affected areas. As documented in the UN Secretary-General's report, armed actors used rape, gang rape, and sexual slavery during village raids, military operations, and arbitrary detentions to terrorize communities<sup>xviii</sup>. Survivors faced severe retaliation, social stigma, unwanted pregnancies, STIs, and profound psychological trauma, while the collapse of formal justice mechanisms guaranteed systemic impunity. GBV also extended into the digital sphere, where women activists and human rights defenders and LGBTQI+ rights activists were targeted with coordinated, technology-facilitated gender-based violence and gender-based hate speech including surveillance, doxxing and sexualized threats intended to intimidate and silence them<sup>xix</sup>. According to a recent report of Burma Human Rights Network (BHRN) in 2025 alone, there were a total of 943 documented cases of gender-based hate speech targeting Muslims, Rohingya, ethnic minorities, women's rights activists, and LGBTQI+ activists<sup>xx</sup>.

As GBV risks increased, access to survivor-centered care deteriorated across many conflict- and disaster-affected areas. Facility closures, aid blockages, movement restrictions, telecommunications outages, and transportation barriers severely constrained GBV case management, maternal healthcare, legal assistance, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Concurrent supply chain collapses halted the distribution of Dignity and Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) kits denying survivors time-sensitive post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and emergency contraception. Simultaneously, safe houses faced

extreme funding shortages, poor geographic coverage, and confidentiality concerns, forcing survivors to rely on overstretched informal community networks. These barriers also place child survivors at increased risk of prolonged harm and reduce access to comprehensive care, including health, psychosocial, legal, and protection services.

The physical and mental toll on the population was immense. Severe food insecurity further endangered pregnant and lactating women; 14 per cent of assessed households reported that women ate less to prioritize their families, leading to high rates of maternal malnutrition<sup>xxi</sup>. Psychological distress manifested as widespread anxiety and isolation, with 33 per cent of surveyed women in earthquake-affected zones experiencing severe distress compared to 29 per cent of men. Yet only 15 per cent of respondents had access to specialized MHPSS services, which remained concentrated in urban centers and poorly integrated into primary healthcare<sup>xxii</sup>.

## RISK 5

## Indiscriminate use of Explosive Hazards Causing Civilian Harm, Restricting Safe Movement and Access To Services and Livelihoods.

Landmines and other explosive ordnance remained among the most severe and widespread protection threats nationwide. Myanmar has recorded some of the highest numbers of EO casualties globally for several consecutive years<sup>xxiii</sup>. Continued conflict and territorial contestation expanded contamination into new geographic areas, affecting villages, agricultural land, transportation routes, and areas of displacement and return. Landmines and unexploded ordnance caused death, injury, disability, psychological trauma, and loss of livelihoods while restricting freedom of movement and access to services. Damage to infrastructure including schools, health facilities, roads, agricultural land, further compound protection risks by reducing access to education, healthcare, markets and livelihoods. All states and regions in Myanmar are suspected to be contaminated with reports from 211 of the 330 townships, given the lack of an enabling environment for demarcation, nor systematic survey and clearance, evolving conflict dynamics, and severe access constraints, the extent of contamination remains difficult to quantify.

Protection severity mapping indicates that indiscriminate and widespread explosive hazards reached severity 5 in 51 townships (15%), while 68 townships (21%) classified as severity 4 and 49 townships (25%) classified as severity 3, highlighting the extensive impact of explosive ordnance on civilian safety, freedom of movement, and humanitarian access.

The widespread presence of landmines and other explosive ordnance impact most facades of daily life, with contamination extending in villages, near homes, critical infrastructure which heighten the risk for civilians and continues to prevent safe return, recovery, reconstruction, and durable solutions for displaced populations. Natural hazards such as the 2025 earthquake and widespread flooding increase the risks as land mines and explosive ordinances move, often to domestic dwellings and/or widely used livelihoods locations. With limited demarcation opportunities and virtually no clearance, mine risks remain one of the greatest risks across the country.

Whist the presence of landmines and UXOs affect all people, it has particular risks for certain members of communities. Young men engaging in livelihoods are at a heightened risks due to lack of knowledge of contaminated areas. Women and girls face risks as they often need to travel long distances to collect food, firewood and water. Children's routes to schools have also been known to be contaminated, limiting access to education, as well as children playing in areas unknown to be contaminated.

Furthermore, those who survive these blasts with life-changing physical impairments, such as amputations, face severe secondary protection threats. A missing limb has increasingly become a source of suspicions among authorities of affiliation with resistance groups, exposing survivors to targeted harassment, profiling and arbitrary arrests. To evade these threats, many amputees are forced into active hiding, a state of structural isolation that deeply reinforces social stigma and undermines their long-term recovery and psychosocial wellbeing. Furthermore, in some cases, civilians affected by mine incidents are required to pay for the device as well as health care costs, reducing the numbers reported.

Between Q2 and Q4 of 2025, 501 casualties (including 92 child casualties) were reported nationwide while in the first quarter of 2026, 253 casualties (including 74 child casualties) were reported. Over the 12-month period, children accounted for 22 percent of the overall reported casualties. Children remain disproportionately affected because of their mobility, limited awareness of explosive hazards, and tendency to interact with unfamiliar objects. The Secretary General in Security Council Report on Children and Armed conflict in 2025 stated "I call upon all parties to immediately cease the use of landmines and other explosive weapons, and urge them to implement explosive ordnance clearance, mine risk education and victim

assistance programmes<sup>xxiii</sup>. The highest number of civilian casualties were reported from five townships in Shan (North), Kayah, Mandalay and Magway, accounting for 33 percent of the overall civilian casualties over the 12 month period (April 2025-March 2026). The PIMS data further illustrates the impact on children with the second highest protection risk for children.

According to monitoring of landmine and other Explosive Ordnance (EO) incidents during the first three months of 2026, a total of 169 incidents were recorded nationwide, resulting in 253 civilian casualties and 28 killed. Shan State recorded the highest number of casualties, accounting for 28 incidents (16.57%) and 49 casualties (19.37%) of the national total. This was followed by Mandalay Region, which reported 28 incidents (16.57%) and 46 casualties (18.18%). Magway Region ranked third, with 28 incidents (16.57%) and 41 casualties (16.21%). The remaining States and Regions collectively accounted for 85 incidents and 117 casualties, representing 46% of total casualties nationwide. A total of 74 child casualties were reported, representing 29.25% of all casualties across the country. It is important to note that these figures only reflect civilian casualties.

Beyond the civilian impact, the 2025 Landmine Monitor Report reported that for the second consecutive year, Myanmar had the highest number of landmine and explosive ordnance casualties worldwide in 2024 (2,029 casualties),<sup>xxiv</sup> again surpassing Syria. There was over a 102% increase in casualties between 2023 and 2024. With very limited demarcation permitted, clearance and virtually no humanitarian mine clearance, the number of casualties can be expected to remain high in the coming years until systematic clearance is conducted to remove landmines and other explosive ordnance. This underscores the need for an urgent and sustained response, including continued high level advocacy for clearance efforts while expanding current mine action activities.

## RESPONSE

### PROGRESS MADE ON PROTECTION

Despite escalating conflict, humanitarian access constraints, and the impacts of funding cuts, Protection Cluster partners delivered assistance in 293 of 330 townships across all 18 states and reached some 4.4 million people against a target of 4.6 million (95%) from original HNRP target of 4.02 million people. Of those reached, 3.4 million received assistance through the regular HNRP response, while an additional 957,000 people were supported through the earthquake response. Additional 720,910 people (21%) of people have been reached annual target to date. While these figures demonstrate a strong overall reach, they do not necessarily reflect direct geographical for individuals facing the most acute protection risks. **A significant proportion of these activities were delivered remotely, particularly in opposition-controlled and hard-to-reach areas, including Rakhine, Sagaing, Magway, Chin, Kachin, Shan, Tanintharyi, Kayah, and Kayin.** An analysis of activities implemented by partners indicates over 53% of those reached were supported through information awareness. By contrast significant gaps remained in critical protection interventions including case management, legal assistance, psychosocial support, and individual protection assistance. Beyond operational response, the Protection Cluster continues to be a strategic and technical enabler of collective accountability to protection through its support to, and engagement with, the HCT's Centrality of Protection agenda. Based on Protection Cluster recommendations, the HCT initiated a review of its Centrality of Protection Strategy in 2025, leading to the development of the 2026-2028 strategy. Informed by Protection Cluster analysis, the strategy establishes a shared vision, coherent approach, and collective commitment to improving protection outcomes. The strategy focuses on three systemic risks: (1) attacks on civilians, (2) restrictions on movement and access, and (3) discrimination and stigmatization of minority groups. The Cluster priority has been to ensure that protection risks identified through analysis, and programme implementation are elevated where necessary into collective advocacy, dialogue, problem-solving, and leadership action.

### ACCESS-RELATED CHALLENGES AND ACTION

Humanitarian access in Myanmar remained severely constrained throughout 2025 and into the first quarter of 2026, primarily due to intensified armed conflict, insecurity, administrative restrictions, and interference by conflict actors, significantly limiting the ability of humanitarian organizations to deliver timely and predictable assistance to crisis-affected populations. Conflict-related insecurity, including airstrikes, artillery shelling, drone attacks, and ground clashes, repeatedly disrupted humanitarian operations, resulting in the suspension, postponement, relocation, or reduction of activities and increasing risks to humanitarian personnel and affected communities. The impact was particularly acute in conflict-affected areas including Sagaing, Rakhine, Shan, Magway, Chin, Kayah, and Eastern Bago, where active hostilities restricted movement, damaged civil infrastructure, disrupted essential services, and delayed life-saving assistance. During the reporting period, humanitarian access remained severely constrained by increasingly institutionalized bureaucratic and administrative barriers, including delays in travel authorizations, checkpoint inspections, movement approvals, transportation of essential supplies, and restrictions on humanitarian and medical materials, which compounded conflict-related access challenges. Physical access was further disrupted by damage to transport infrastructure following the 28 March 2025 earthquake, particularly in Sagaing and Mandalay, where conflict dynamics and earthquake-related destruction created overlapping barriers to reaching affected populations. Humanitarian personnel continued to face significant protection risks, including detention, threats, intimidation, interference, and forced relocation, resulting in reduced operational capacity, temporary suspension of activities, and increased reliance on low key and remote implementation measure. While fewer access incidents were reported in some months, this trend should not be interpreted as improved humanitarian access; rather, it reflected declining operational presence due to reduced capacity, funding constraints, and the scaling back of humanitarian activities, which also limited the ability of organizations to monitor, report, and respond to access constraints effectively. Maintaining humanitarian access in Myanmar will require sustained advocacy with all relevant actors, improved predictability of administrative procedures, and continued investment in flexible operational approaches. Strengthening access analysis, information sharing, and coordinated advocacy will remain critical to ensuring humanitarian actors can continue reaching populations affected by conflict, displacement, and disaster.

### CRITICAL GAPS IN FUNDING AND POPULATION REACHED

Funding levels continue to decline across the humanitarian spectrum. The Cluster received approximately US\$55.3 million in 2025 compared with US\$61 million in 2024, marking a 9.3 per cent decrease, falling short of the US\$185.4 million required to meet both HNRP and earthquake response needs. Funding outlook for 2026 and beyond remains increasingly concerning driven by negative earmarking particularly on gender, GBV, SRH and inclusive programming alongside a shift by some donors from dedicated protection funding towards multisectoral support.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Myanmar's ongoing crisis requires stronger and more coordinated action from the international community, donors, conflict actors, and humanitarian organizations. Continued conflict, widespread displacement, and restricted humanitarian access have left millions without adequate protection and essential services. Limited international attention and response have allowed the crisis to persist, exacerbating human rights violations and humanitarian needs. This underscores the urgent need for sustained advocacy, increased international pressure, and accountability measures to protect affected populations, expand humanitarian access, and support a peaceful and lasting resolution.

### PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT AND RELEVANT AUTHORITIES

- All parties to the conflict should take concrete measures to uphold international humanitarian and human rights law<sup>xxiv</sup>, prevent attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, refrain from using landmines and EOs, recruitment and use of children, stop the use of conflict-related sexual violence (CSRV) and protect humanitarian personnel and essential services, particularly in conflict-affected areas. This should include practical measures such as:
  - Issue clear command orders to refrain from extrajudicial killings, sexual violence, child recruitment and other violations
  - ensure that violations and abuses, when they do occur, are transparently addressed through fair and credible accountability mechanisms and that victims can obtain remedy and reparations;
- Conflict actors should immediately remove administrative, operational, and movement restrictions that impede humanitarian operations, including delays in travel authorizations, checkpoint restrictions, movement approvals, and restrictions on humanitarian supplies, while ensuring safe, timely, predictable, and unhindered access to affected populations.
- Parties to the conflict must guarantee the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and supplies and take concrete measures to prevent and respond to harassment, intimidation, extortion, arbitrary detention, confiscation and other forms of interference and blockages affecting humanitarian personnel and supplies, including by ensuring safe passage, investigating incidents, holding perpetrators accountable, and establishing mechanisms for rapid resolution of access constraints, particularly in high-risk and contested areas.
- Discriminatory restrictions affecting Rohingya communities should be removed, including barriers to citizenship and civil documentation, freedom of movement, livelihoods, and access to essential services such as health, education, food, water, and electricity. Priority action is needed to ensure equitable and non-discriminatory access to assistance and basic services in affected areas.

### Member State and DONORS COMMUNITY

- Reflecting the obligations of third party states under IHL, strengthen sustained diplomatic engagement on civilian protection risks in Myanmar by prioritizing dialogue and action with Member States, diplomatic missions, ASEAN, and other relevant regional bodies to raise documented protection concerns and promote concrete measures to prevent and respond to violations affecting civilians.
- Strengthen engagement with parties to the conflict on civilian protection by using diplomatic and regional channels to press all parties to uphold their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, prevent attacks and other violations against civilians, and facilitate safe, timely, and unimpeded humanitarian access. Close monitoring, clear benchmarks and related accountability should be pursued.
- Provide quality humanitarian funding at levels commensurate to the needs to enable humanitarian actors to maintain and scale life-saving protection, GBV, child protection, MHPSS, and Mine Action services, particularly in areas affected by conflict, displacement, and limited access to essential service.

### HUMANITARIAN COUNTRY TEAM (HCT)

- Strengthen high-level advocacy and diplomatic engagement with national, regional, and international stakeholders to promote protection of civilians, respect for humanitarian principles, improved humanitarian access, and accountability for violations.
- Ensure protection priorities remain central in humanitarian strategies and decision-making processes, including through consistent integration of protection analysis into humanitarian planning, advocacy, and resource mobilization efforts.

- Promote/undertake coordinated approaches to humanitarian access negotiations and advocacy, ensuring that barriers affecting humanitarian operations are systematically documented, analyzed, and addressed through collective action.

#### HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS

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- Strengthen protection monitoring and early warning systems by establishing more systematic community-based monitoring mechanisms, expanding safe channels for communities and frontline responders to share protection concerns, and improving information-sharing and analysis to identify emerging risks early and inform timely response.
- Expand integrated protection programming by strengthening coordination and referral pathways across protection streams including, GBV, child protection, family tracing and reunification, Mine Action and MHPSS services, ensuring that individuals and families receive coordinated, comprehensive, and survivor- and child-centred support based on their specific needs.
- Prioritize flexible, locally led protection responses by directing resources and technical support towards community-level initiatives that can adapt quickly to changing protection risks, particularly in areas where formal protection services and referral mechanisms are limited or disrupted.

## Endnotes

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- <sup>v</sup> UNICEF: Myanmar Landmine and Explosive Ordnance Incident Factsheet (2025)
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- <sup>vii</sup> Floods and conflict Collide: UN News
- <sup>viii</sup> UNOPS: Initial Situation Report: Earthquake in Central Myanmar 28 March 2025
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- <sup>xxiii</sup> <https://docs.un.org/en/A/80/723>
- <sup>xxiii</sup> UNSC resolution 2669 on Myanmar



For further information please contact: Isaac OPOLOT - [opolot@unhcr.org](mailto:opolot@unhcr.org)