



Response Landscape

SHAN STATE, MYANMAR

APRIL–MAY
2025

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Data in this report collected
through APRIL–MAY 2025

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KEY FINDINGS

■ 78% of respondents said that cash is a priority need, and 80% said that they prefer cash over in-kind support. 19% (50 of 267) of respondents said that their household has no monthly income, while only 18% of households (47 of 267) reported incomes above the Myanmar Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) of 665,534 MMK per month.

■ Of the 129 respondents who identified food as a priority need, 88% (113) expressed concern that their household would struggle to have enough food in future. Around one third (33%, 37 of 113) of these respondents — almost all of them displaced people — said that they did not know how they would cope in a situation where their household would not have enough food.

■ 34% (45) of the 133 displaced respondents said they were living in displacement camps at the time of interview. These respondents expressed needs for shelter (29%, 13 of 45), clean drinking water (20%,

9 of 45), and latrines (11%, 5 of 45) in particular at higher rates than other respondents.

■ 24% (63 of 267) of respondents said that they were aware of vulnerable individuals in their community being unable to access humanitarian support, as a result of poor transportation infrastructure, frequent communications shutdowns, and ongoing fighting.

■ 12% (32 of 267) of respondents expressed inclusion concerns, whether about vulnerable people being left off beneficiary lists or certain groups being deliberately excluded from receiving support.

■ Only one respondent made an allegation of corruption within the humanitarian response, although this referred to a case several years ago.

■ 8% (22 of 267) of respondents said they were aware of armed or governance actors' involvement in aid delivery, although few presented cases of possible aid diversion.

NEEDS OVERVIEW



48%
[129 of 267]

of respondents selected food as a priority need. However, the proportion was far higher among displaced respondents (68%, 90 of 133) than among non-displaced respondents (29%, 38 of 133).



36%
[97 of 267]

of respondents cited healthcare as a priority need.



7%
[20 of 267]

of respondents selected clean drinking water as a priority need.



18%
[45 of 267]

of respondents selected education as a priority need.



5%
[14 of 267]

selected latrines as a priority need.



6%
[16 of 267]

of respondents selected landmine education as a priority need.



11%
[30 of 267]

of respondents cited shelter as a priority need — though the proportion was higher among respondents displaced at the time of interview (15%, 20 of 133).



25%
[68 of 267]

of respondents said that livelihoods are a priority need for their household.

METHODOLOGY

The findings in this report are based primarily on 267 interviews with residents across 35 townships in Shan State conducted throughout April and May 2025. These in-depth, structured interviews each lasted 20–40 minutes and included both quantitative and qualitative questions focused on the respondents’ needs, resilience, experience of aid, and perceptions of assistance. Only respondents over the age of 18 were interviewed for this report and all provided their explicit consent to be interviewed.

In addition, this report is informed by interviews with staff at seven locally implementing organisations. These interviews provided insights into protection and inclusion concerns, including around beneficiary selection criteria, aid diversion, and fraud/corruption.

LIMITATIONS

This report, and the data that has gone into it, is not intended to replace comprehensive needs assessments. Rather, it presents a snapshot of a specific place and time (Shan State, April–May 2025). The specific areas sampled for interviews was determined by the priorities of the donor funding this analytical unit. Some respondents (124 of 267) were known to be beneficiaries receiving support, while others were selected because their communities are targeted for support. The sampling methodology therefore skews towards those who are in receipt of support; the sample is not representative of Shan State as a whole.

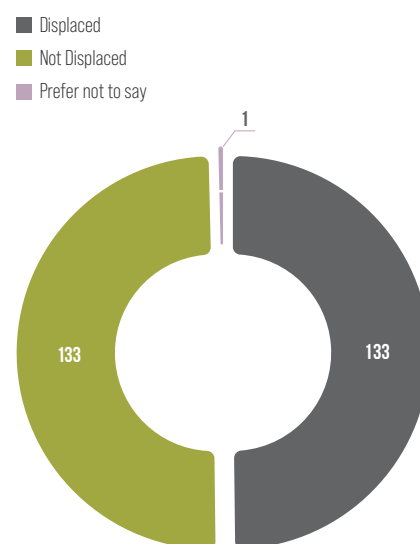
Within these constraints, this analytical unit sought to ensure balance in terms of gender, and diversity in terms of ethnic group, religion, and location within the sample. While findings should be considered indicative, the areas sampled tend to present significant accessibility challenges, so the data gathered also provides insights into particularly difficult-to-reach areas in Shan State.

Respondents had the opportunity to skip any questions that they were uncomfortable answering, and so there are some gaps in the data. While efforts were made to ensure that interview questionnaires were as clear as possible, respondents may have interpreted questions or understood their responses differently to how they have been interpreted here.

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS

267

DISPLACEMENT STATUS

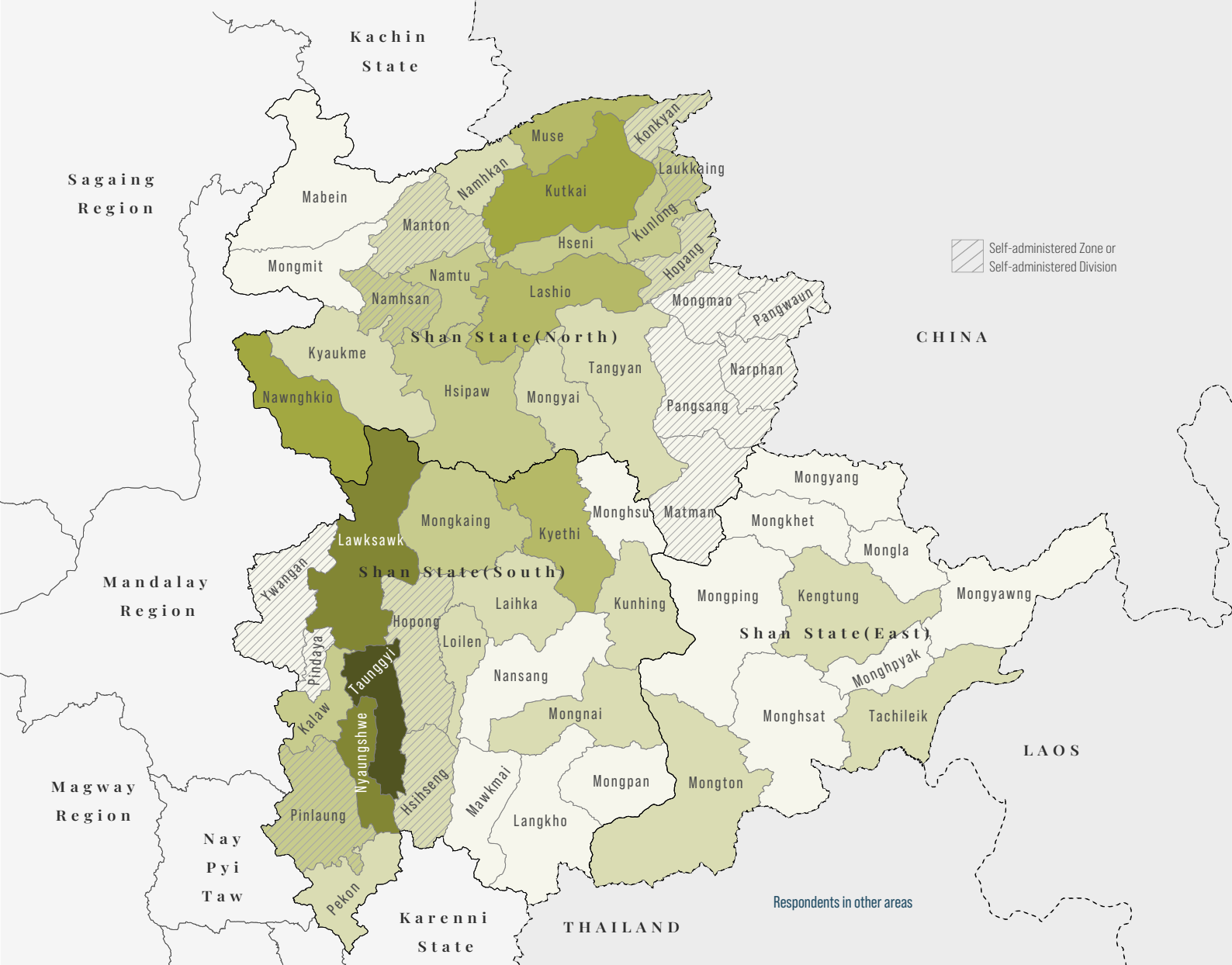


GENDER

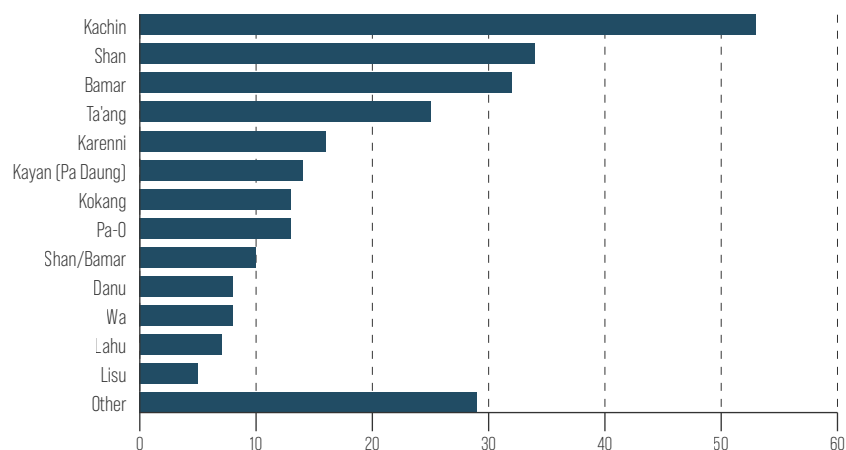


RESPONSE LANDSCAPE INTERVIEWS

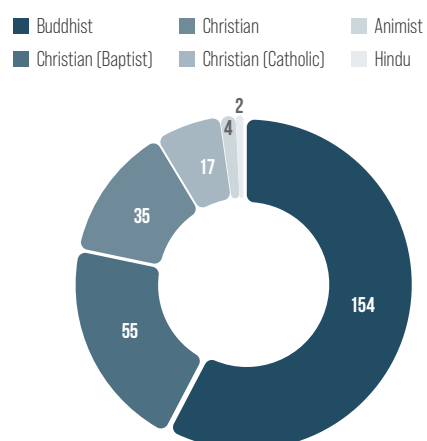
[April-May 2025]



ETHNIC GROUP



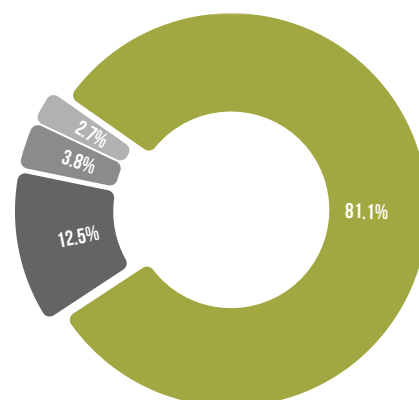
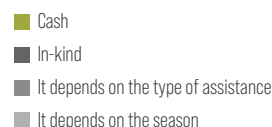
RELIGION



CASH

Cash payments are the dominant modality of support within the humanitarian response in Myanmar, and cash was the priority need most frequently identified by respondents in Shan State (78%, 208 of 267). Furthermore, when asked whether they prefer cash or in-kind support, a strong majority of respondents (81%, 214 of 267) expressed a preference for cash.

PREFERENCE FOR CASH OR IN-KIND SUPPORT



1 Interview, 33, male, Danu, Buddhist, displaced, Lawksawk Township.

“Any kind of aid is appreciated; it’s better than receiving nothing. However, cash assistance is more convenient as it allows us to purchase what we need”.¹

HOUSEHOLD FINANCES

2 As calculated by the Inter-Agency Cash and Markets Working Group Myanmar in November 2024.

19% (50 of 267) of respondents said that their household has no monthly income, 86% (43 of 50) of whom were displaced at the time of interview. The median monthly household income was 300,000 MMK, with only 18% of households (47 of 267) reporting incomes above the Myanmar Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) of 665,534 MMK per month.² Fewer than half of respondents (43%, 115 of 267) reported that their household had some debt. Of these, the median amount of debt was 1,500,000 MMK.

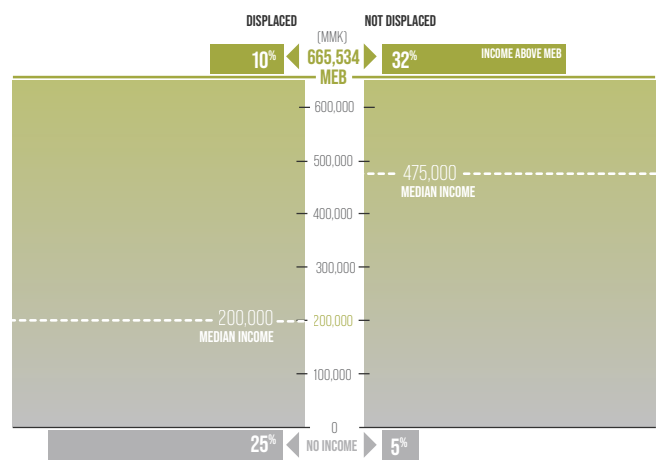
3 Interview, 41, female, Kokang, Animist, not displaced, Lawksawk Township.

“With many family members, our income is insufficient. We struggle every month to cover healthcare and education expenses. Though relatives occasionally help with food, over time they have become reluctant. The children’s father cannot earn any income. I rely solely on the money I make from selling in the market, but sales have been poor, so I’m considering moving to another town to sell”.³

Displaced respondents reported lower household incomes on average compared to non-displaced respondents, with a median household income of 200,000 MMK compared to 475,000 MMK. Only 10% (13 of 133) of displaced households reported incomes above the Myanmar MEB.

4 Interview, 50, female, Kokang, Buddhist, displaced, Laihka Township.

“It’s been two years since we were displaced, and we’ve used up all our savings. We’re borrowing money from various sources. Our household mainly consists of elderly and children, with only one person earning. We are extremely frugal. It’s a major challenge to decide whether to keep the children in school or have them work. If the situation gets worse, we’re thinking of letting our older child pause school this year to find a job”.⁴



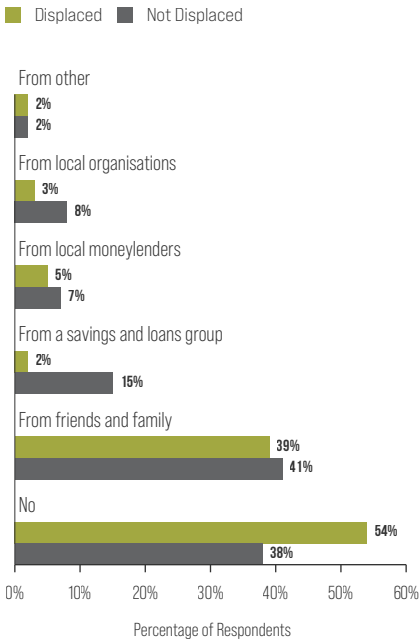
ACCESS TO CREDIT

Over half of respondents (52%, 140 of 267) said that they would be able to borrow money in an emergency situation — with most of these people saying that this would be from friends and family (76%, 104 of 140). While 61% (81 of 133) of non-displaced respondents said that they have the ability to borrow money, only 44% (59 of 133) of displaced respondents said they were able to — with the main difference in ability to borrow from local organisations (8% vs 3%) and from savings and loans groups (15% vs 2%), suggesting a gap for such services among displaced communities.

“In our village, we can’t really access loans, but in nearby towns, some groups do offer loans if you can put up something you own as collateral that matches the amount you want to borrow. The problem is, most people can’t afford to pay those loans back. So instead, what usually happens is that people just try to help each other out as much as they can”.⁵

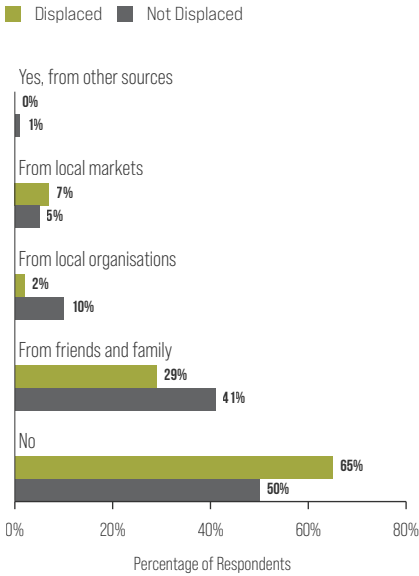
5 Interview, 69, male, Kachin, Christian (Baptist), not displaced, Kutkai Township

ABILITY TO BORROW MONEY



Fewer than half of respondents (42%, 111 of 267) said that they would be able to borrow food or non-food items (NFIs) in an emergency situation, most of whom said that this would be from friends and family (83%, 92 of 111). As with ability to borrow cash, ability to borrow food or NFIs was higher among non-displaced respondents, at 50% (66 of 133), compared to 34% (45 of 133) among displaced respondents. The main differences were in the ability to borrow from friends and family (41% vs 29%) and from local organisations (10% vs 2%).

ABILITY TO BORROW FOOD AND NFIS



MARKET ACCESS AND FUNCTIONALITY

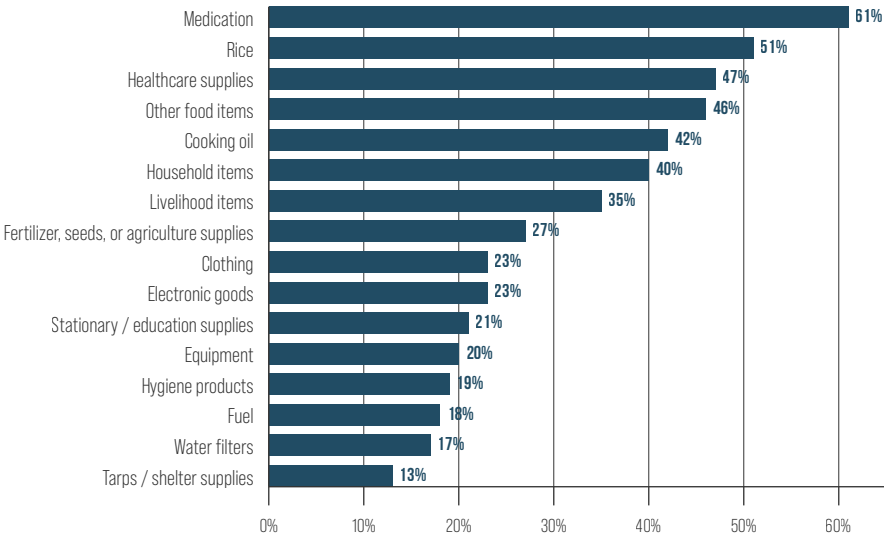
Three-quarters (75%, 201 of 267) of respondents said that they have a nearby market that they can access, though 13% (26 of 201)⁶ of these said that not all goods are available. The goods reported to be missing the most are medication (81%, 21 of 26) and healthcare supplies (81%, 21 of 26).

“There used to be a market, but now it's become a larger urban area, so the market no longer exists. That's why we have to go to another area to buy things. If traveling by motorbike, the round trip takes over four hours”.⁷

⁶ Respondents were asked “Are all types of goods/items available in the market?” and only those answering “No” were asked to specify the goods/items that are missing.
⁷ Interview, 41, male, Kachin, Christian (Baptist), displaced, Nawnghkio Township.

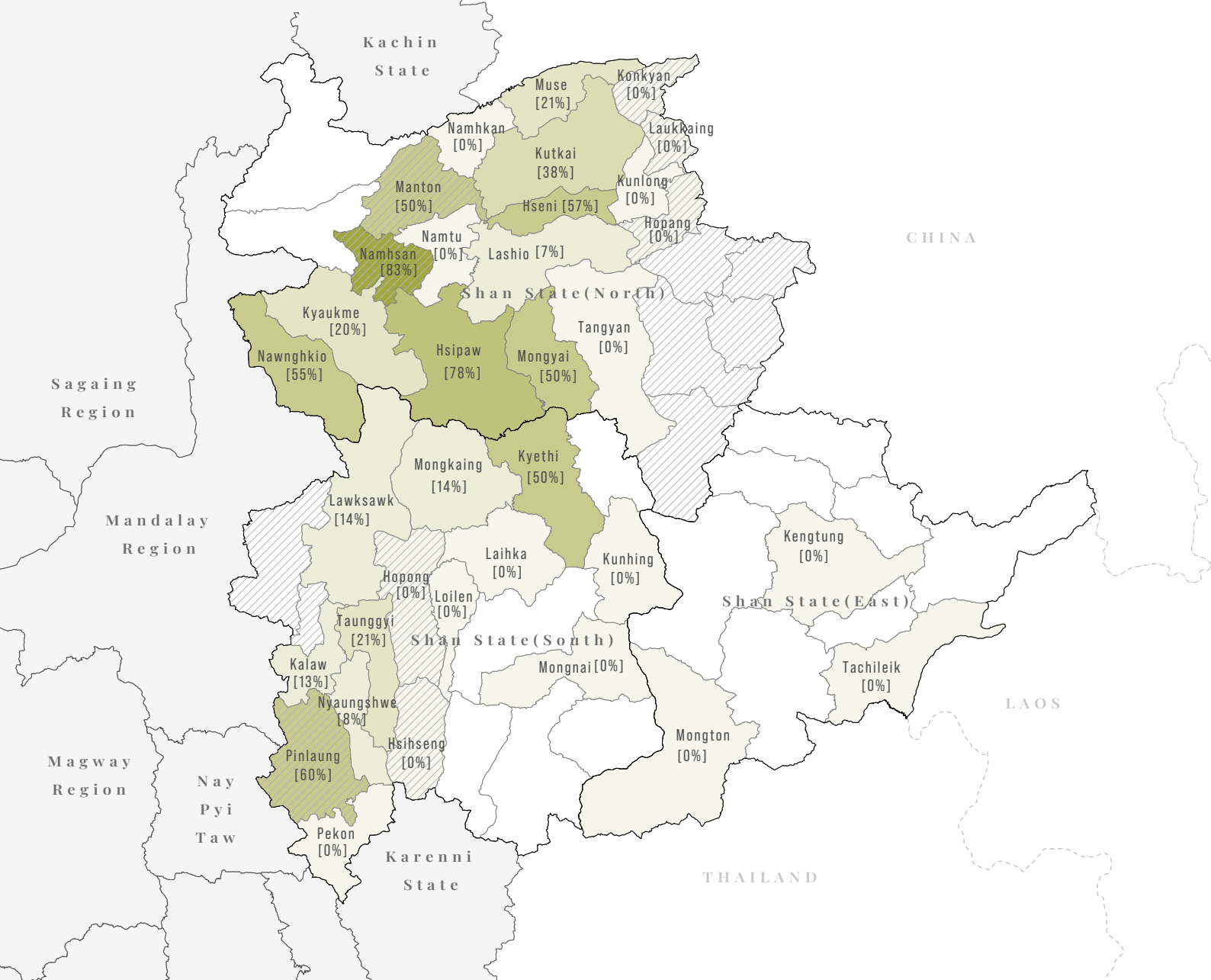
Medication was the good that respondents most often said was unaffordable (61%, 122 of 201), followed by rice (51%, 103 of 201), and healthcare supplies (47%, 95 of 201).

GOODS THAT ARE UNAFFORDABLE

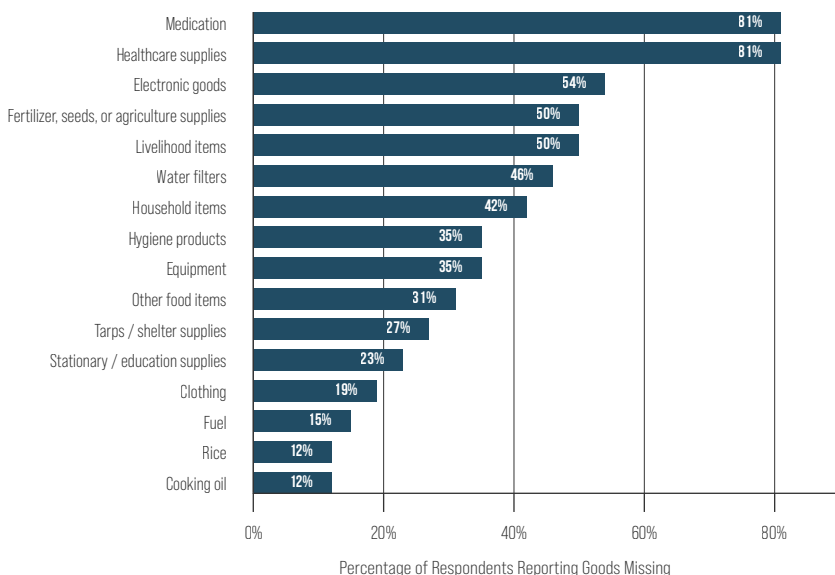


MARKET ACCESS

(April-May 2025)

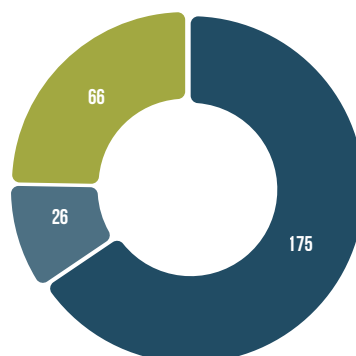


GOODS MISSING IN LOCAL MARKETS



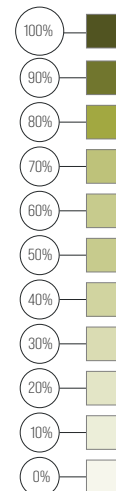
ACCESS TO NEARBY MARKET

■ Yes
■ Yes, but not all goods are available
■ No



NO MARKET ACCESS

Percentage of respondents who say they do not have access to a nearby market



FOOD SECURITY

48% (129 of 267) of respondents selected food as a priority need. However, this was far higher among displaced respondents — 68% (90 of 133) — than non-displaced respondents (29%, 38 of 133) among non-displaced respondents. Of the 129 respondents who selected food as a priority need, 35 (27%) said they are currently in receipt of food support, while 88% (113 of 129) expressed concern that their household would struggle to have enough food in future.

8 Interview, 50, female, Kachin, Christian (Baptist), displaced, Nawngkhio Township.

“We’ve already started cutting back on how much we eat. People are saying the fighting might start again, and farmers nearby are thinking about selling their rice. But we don’t have the money to buy any. So, we’re trying to make the rice we have last and we’ve started planting vegetables and greens. Still, I don’t think things will go smoothly”.⁸

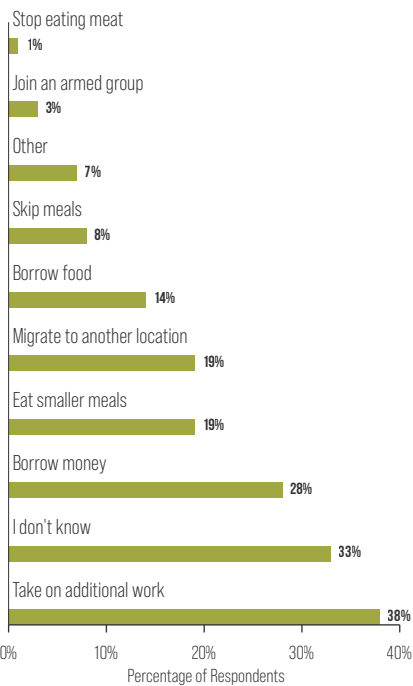
The most common coping strategies respondents expected to employ in such a situation were to take on additional work (38%, 43 of 113), borrow money (28%, 32 of 113), migrate to another location (19%, 22 of 113), and eat smaller amounts (19%, 21 of 113). Around a third (33%, 37 of 113) of these respondents — almost all of whom were displaced individuals (89%, 33 of 37 respondents) — said that they did not know how they would cope in a situation where their household would not have enough food. This highlights how food insecurity is a particular challenge for displaced people, who have limited recourse to the coping mechanisms that non-displaced communities have.

9 Interview, 52, female, Kachin, Christian (Baptist), displaced, Nawngkhio Township.

“How could we possibly borrow money? Even if there was somewhere to borrow from, we have no regular income or jobs, so there’s no way we could repay it. So we just try to stretch whatever little food we have — if one cup of rice is meant for three meals, we eat it however we can. I really want to move somewhere else, and it’s something I think about often. But in reality, it’s incredibly difficult. Unless things improve and we have enough money, relocating isn’t possible”.⁹

Of the 201 respondents with access to local markets, 51% (103) said that rice is unaffordable, 42% (85) said cooking oil is unaffordable, and 46% (92) said other food items are unaffordable. Three respondents (in Hsipaw, Kyaukme, and Namtu townships) said that rice and cooking oil are unavailable in local markets.

COPING MECHANISMS



ACCESS: COMMUNICATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

24% (63 of 267) of respondents said that they were aware of vulnerable individuals in their community being unable to access humanitarian support, and described the multi-layered barriers that exist in Shan State. Clashes between multiple armed groups and the SAC have created a volatile security environment that makes it extremely dangerous for aid organisations to operate. Many families have been forced to flee repeatedly to escape fighting, often to remote forest or mountain areas where they become even harder to reach.

10 Interview, 35, male, Karenni, Christian, displaced, Pekon Township.

“There are ongoing clashes and several airstrikes happening in our area, so it’s not safe and we can’t stay in one place for long. We have to keep moving around depending on the situation”.¹⁰

Frequent roadblocks, multiple armed checkpoints, and the threat of landmines have effectively sealed off entire villages. This instability means that even when aid groups attempt to help, they are frequently unable to deliver supplies or services safely.

11 Interview, 45, female, Pa-O, Buddhist, displaced, Pinlaung Township.

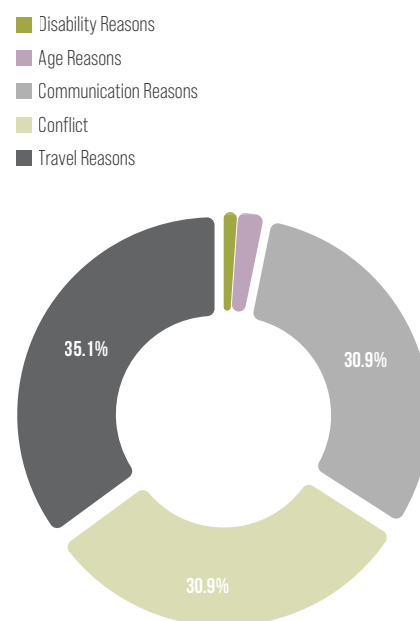
“We had to run from our homes and leave most of our stuff behind. The roads weren’t safe, and travel was often blocked, so no help or supplies could get through. Even aid groups weren’t allowed in because of security issues”.¹¹

Communication challenges further compound these risks, as communication networks are often deliberately cut, leaving communities isolated without reliable phone or internet service. Without the means to register needs or contact organisations, many people miss out on assistance simply because they cannot make their situation known.

12 Interview, 51, female, Kachin, Christian (Baptist), not displaced, Kutkai Township.

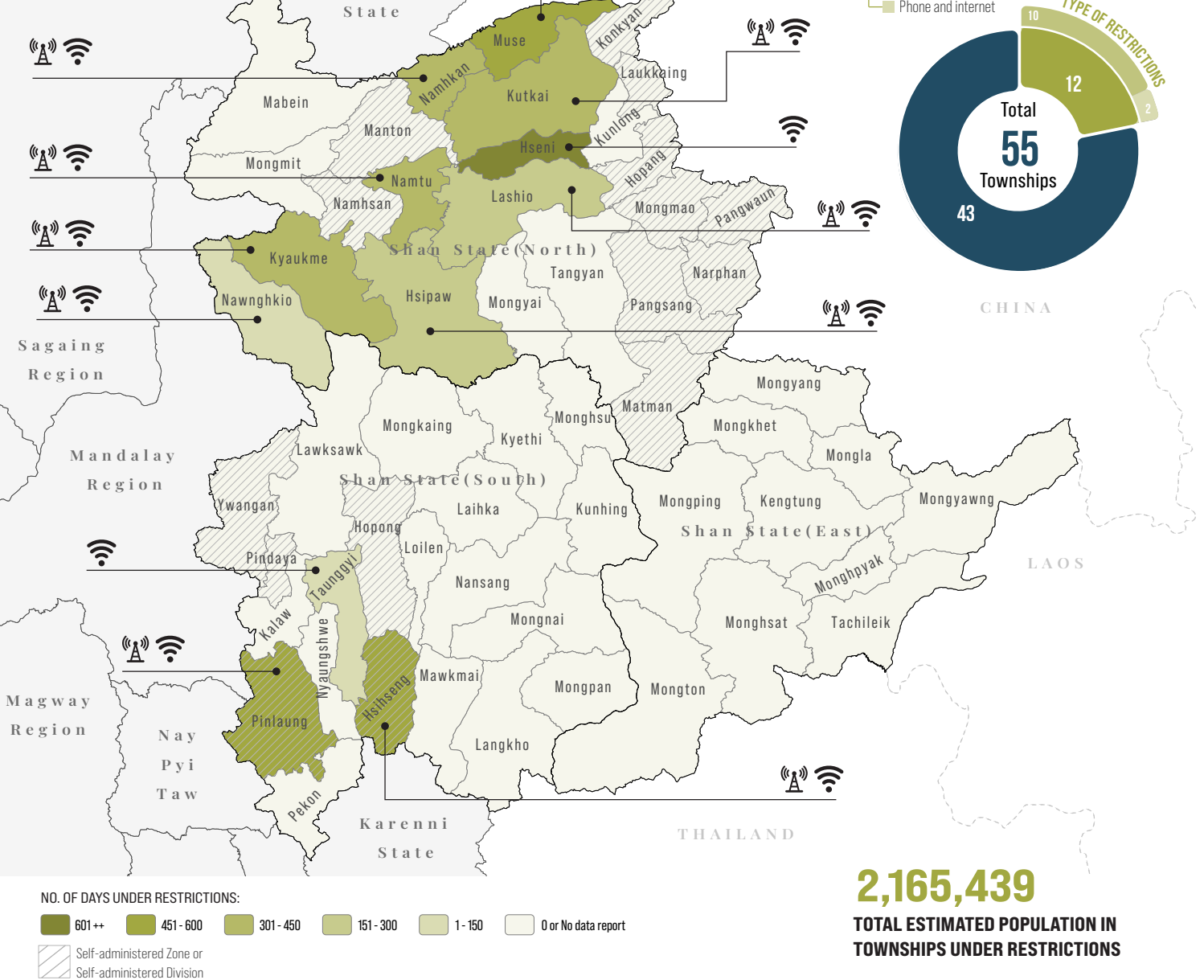
“Communication in our area is very difficult, so even when we’re in real need, we often can’t get support. Organisations probably don’t even know about our situation”.¹²

REASONS FOR INABILITY TO ACCESS SUPPORT



TOWNSHIPS UNDER MOBILE INTERNET RESTRICTIONS

(July 2025)



The information on this map is sourced from both traditional media and social media such as Facebook. The information should not be considered comprehensive.

These findings were echoed by interviews with staff working in the humanitarian response, who noted that logistical difficulties such as impassable roads, roadblocks, and limited communications continue to delay implementation. In particular, they noted that ongoing fighting, air-strikes, and bombing present heightened threats to field staff. Political instability and fear related to the conscription law further complicate operations, as well as the collection of beneficiary data, consent, and photographs. Phone and internet shutdowns significantly hamper communication and coordination with partners and communities, delaying emergency responses.

PROTECTION AND INCLUSION

10% (26 of 267) of respondents said that they are aware of vulnerable people not receiving support due to not being included in beneficiary selection lists. Many noted that displaced individuals often miss opportunities to register due to being repeatedly displaced or on the move at specific times:

13 Interview, 49, female, Kachin, Christian (Baptist), not displaced, Lashio Township.

“Displaced people fled on their own, and since they didn’t all arrive at the same time, sometimes the beneficiary lists couldn’t be submitted to donors in time”.¹³

Several also noted reluctance to register for support due to fear of conscription, highlighting a persistent challenge in delivering support in Myanmar, particularly to those of conscription age:

14 Interview, 28, female, Ta’ang, Buddhist, not displaced, Kyaukme Township.

“People were scared to sign up for support because they thought it might get them drafted. They only showed up when stuff was actually being handed out, so some missed out”.¹⁴

Others emphasised how aid had targeted specifically vulnerable groups, leaving them or others out of receiving support despite ongoing need:

15 Interview, 24, male, Shan, Buddhist, not displaced, Namtu Township.

“Back when I was living in a displacement camp, I didn’t get any support because I was considered a young adult — they didn’t include me on the list of people eligible for assistance”.¹⁵

“Some of the aid had really strict rules about who could get it, so I ended up being left out”.¹⁶

16 Interview, 25, female, Karenni, Christian, displaced, Taunggyi Township.

3% (9 of 267) of respondents said that they are aware of groups that have been deliberately excluded from accessing support. Some reported exclusion — based on ethnicity — by local authorities:

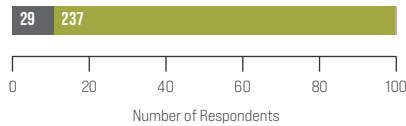
17 Interview, 41, male, Kokang, Buddhist, displaced, Hopang Township.

“There is preferential treatment. Burmese in the Kokang or Wa area are seen as not native to the area, so assistance to them is not prioritised by authorities”.¹⁷

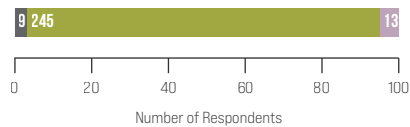
AWARENESS OF INCLUSION AND ACCOUNTABILITY CONCERNS IN RESPONDENTS' COMMUNITIES

■ Yes ■ No ■ Prefer not to Say

VULNERABLE PEOPLE NOT RECEIVING SUPPORT DUE TO BENEFICIARY LISTS



CASES OF EXCLUSION



Others explained that members of armed groups are often excluded:

18 Interview, 29, male, Kachin, Christian (Baptist), displaced, Muse Township.

“People who, for whatever reason, end up with one of the armed groups don’t get any kind of support at all”.¹⁸

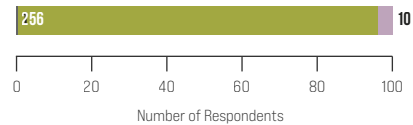
One respondent said that they are aware of an incident of fraud or corruption among the volunteers or staff of any organisation that is providing support, explaining that previously:

19 Interview, 41, male, Bamar, Buddhist, not displaced, Kutkai Township.

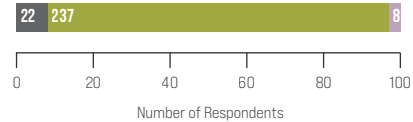
“[An organisation had] bought rice at discounted prices using funds donated by the public. But once the conflict started, [this organisation] turned around and sold that same rice at inflated prices in collaboration with the SAC”.¹⁹

8% (22 of 267) of respondents said that they are aware of armed or governance actors having some involvement in humanitarian activities. Most of these reports did not mention aid diversion; rather, respondents said that local groups assisted in aid distribution or provided security.

INCIDENTS OF FRAUD/CORRUPTION



INVOLVEMENT OF ARMED OR GOVERNANCE ACTORS IN AID DELIVERY

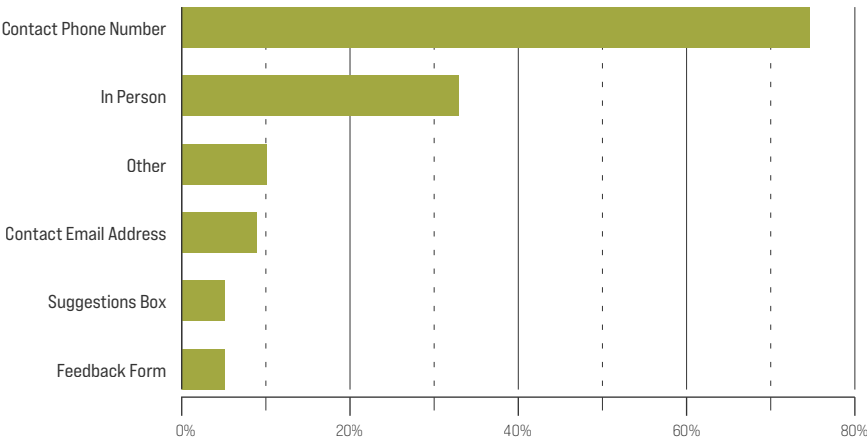


“The money that was supposed to be distributed by the government didn’t reach us properly because the village administrators were taking bribes and misusing the funds”.²⁰

20 Interview, 24, male, Ta’ang, Buddhist, not displaced, Manton Township.

30% (79 of 267) of respondents said that they are aware of local organisations having feedback mechanisms to report concerns.

TYPES OF BENEFICIARY FEEDBACK MECHANISM



CAMPS AND DISPLACEMENT

Half of respondents (133 of 267) reported being displaced at the time of interview, 34% (45 of 133) of whom reported living in some kind of displacement camp. The respondents in displacement camps expressed needs for shelter (29%, 13 of 45), clean drinking water (20%, 9 of 45), and latrines (11%, 5 of 45) in particular at higher rates than other respondents.

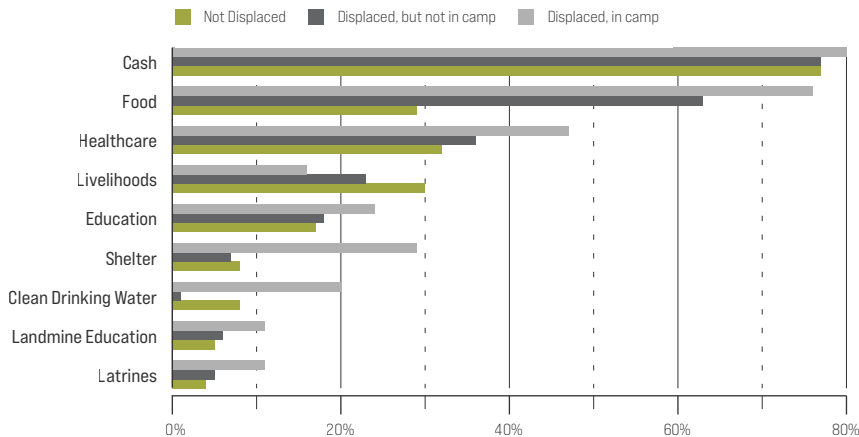
“In times like this, when a country is facing an emergency, it’s very difficult for displaced persons like us to wait three months or more before a place is officially recognized as an IDP camp”.²¹

²¹ Interview, 41, male, Kachin, Christian (Baptist), displaced, Nawngkhio Township.

“Currently, we are staying in the camp, but the situation is very difficult. There is no source of income, and we are under a lot of stress. So far, no support from any organization has arrived within six months as donors or people are focused on flooding and now the earthquake. Although we have a place to stay, it is not sufficient or suitable, especially with the rainy season approaching — it will become even more difficult”.²²

²² Interview, 39, male, Inn Thar/Bamar, Buddhist, displaced, Nyaung Shwe Township.

NEEDS BY DISPLACEMENT STATUS



WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

7% (20 of 267) of respondents selected clean drinking water as a priority need — though the proportion was higher among respondents living in IDP camps at the time of interview, at 20% (9 of 45). 5% (14 of 267) of respondents — and 11% (5 of 45) of respondents living in IDP camps at the time of interview — selected latrines as a priority need.

23 Interview, 21, female, Shan, Buddhist, not displaced, Mong Kong Township.

“We really need health awareness training and clean drinking water—some areas don’t even have safe water”.²³

Of those who said that certain goods are unavailable in local markets, 46% (12 of 26) said water filters are missing, while 35% (9 of 26) said that hygiene products are unavailable. Of respondents with access to a nearby market, 19% (39 of 201) said that hygiene products are unaffordable, while 17% (35 of 201) said that water filters are unaffordable.

24 Interview, 45, male, Ta’ang, Buddhist, not displaced, Kunhing Township.

“A few years ago, a water supply system was supported by [organisation]. However, the current supply is insufficient. Therefore, I would like to request the installation of a new water supply system with additional water sources”.²⁴

25 Interview, 35, male, Pa-O, Buddhist, not displaced, Pinlaung Township.

“Access to clean water and proper sanitation facilities is a concern, especially for families with children and elderly members. If possible, we would appreciate continued support for more durable shelter solutions and basic WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) needs”.²⁵

HEALTH (NUTRITION)

36% (97 of 267) of respondents cited healthcare as a priority need, rising to 40% (53 of 133) of those displaced at the time of interview. Of those living in IDP camps, 47% (21 of 45) cited healthcare as a priority need.

26 Interview, 47, female, Karen, Christian (Baptist), displaced, Hsihseng Township.

“My dad’s getting old and he’s receiving medical treatment. We just can’t cover the health costs. On top of that, there aren’t many jobs right now and we’re barely making anything. Feeding the family is a struggle, and honestly, I haven’t figured out what to do next.”²⁶

27 Interview, 30, female, Shan, Buddhist, not displaced, Hsipaw Township.

“There are still many people in need of help. One thing I’d really like support for is healthcare. We don’t have clinics or trained personnel, and we have to go to Nam Lan for treatment, even for minor issues.”²⁷

6% (17 of 267) of respondents said that they are living with a disability. Within this group, 59% (10 of 17) cited healthcare as a priority need.

28 Interview, 40, male, Wa-O, Christian, displaced, Muse Township.

“I’m paralyzed on one side and can barely sit or move. I’m also undergoing medical treatment, and the money my wife earns is not enough. As a result, we can’t even send our young child to school. I hope to find work and help out if I recover, but for now, I have no way to make plans.”²⁸

Among respondents with access to a nearby market, 47% (95 of 201) said that healthcare supplies are unaffordable, while 61% (122 of 201) said that medication is unaffordable. Of those who said that there are goods missing in local markets, 81% (21 of 26) said that both healthcare supplies and medication are unavailable.

29 Interview, 60, male, Lahu, Christian, not displaced, Mong Ton Township.

“Medicine has become expensive, especially for those with diabetes. It would be very helpful if support could be provided for such essential medications. In the past, these medicines were available for free, but now people have to pay for them, making access more difficult.”²⁹

SHELTER

Only 11% (30 of 267) of respondents cited shelter as a priority need, but the proportion was higher (15%, 20 of 133) among respondents displaced at the time of interview, and higher still (29%, 13 of 45) among those living in an IDP camp.

“I’m worried about the rainy season because we are living in a temporary shelter”.³⁰

“With the rainy season, roofing is needed. We also fear being asked to relocate from our current place, although the village chief is kind and hasn’t said anything. We’re just worried”.³¹

13% (26 of 201) of respondents with access to a nearby market said that tarps/shelter supplies are unaffordable. 27% (7 of 26) of respondents who said not all goods are available at local markets said that tarps/shelter supplies are missing.

30 Interview, 55, female, Kayan (Pa Daung), Christian (Catholic), displaced, Kalaw Township.

31 Interview, 50, male, Kayan (Pa Daung), Christian (Baptist), displaced, Taunggyi Township.

EDUCATION

18% (45 of 267) of respondents selected education as a priority need, and 6% (16 of 267) selected landmine education as a priority need.

“We’re very worried about our children’s education; our local schools have been closed for a long time. We can’t afford to send our kids elsewhere due to financial issues”.³²

21% (43 of 201) of respondents with access to a nearby market reported that stationary/education supplies are unaffordable, while 23% (6 of 26) of respondents reporting that there are goods missing in local markets said that stationary/education supplies are missing.

32 Interview, 31, male, Kachin, Christian (Baptist), displaced, Nawngkhio Township.

EARLY RECOVERY (LIVELIHOODS)

25% (68 of 267) of respondents said that livelihoods are a priority need for their household.

33 Interview, 29, male, Kachin, Christian (Baptist), displaced, Muse Township.

“We’d really appreciate it if people could come and share livelihood skills with us”.³³

34 Interview, 44, male, Kachin, Christian (Baptist), not displaced, Kutkai Township.

“Even though armed groups in other areas didn’t provide any help, their heavy extraction of natural resources has seriously damaged the land and water that people rely on for farming. I’d recommend supporting local rebuilding projects—especially around saving and managing water”.³⁴

Of respondents with access to a nearby market, 35% (71 of 201) said that livelihoods items are unaffordable, 27% (54 of 201) said fertiliser, seeds, or agriculture supplies are unaffordable, and 18% (37 of 201) said that fuel is unaffordable. 50% (13 of 26) of respondents who said some goods are unavailable in local markets said livelihood items and fertiliser, seeds, or agriculture supplies are missing, while 15% (4 of 26) said fuel is missing.

35 Interview, 56, male, Kachin, Christian (Baptist), not displaced, Muse Township.

“We can’t get essential items like fertilizers, pesticides, or seeds. Those who don’t have land are struggling even more with basic needs because they have to purchase everything”.³⁵

RESPONSE IMPLICATIONS

■ While displaced respondents indicated slightly different needs profiles (namely a greater expressed need for food and shelter support), lower incomes, and weaker access to credit and other forms of mutual aid, needs also remain very high for non-displaced respondents.

- Targeting support only, or primarily, towards displaced populations risks not only inflaming social tensions but also failing to meet the needs of other groups. Displacement status should be understood as a contributing element to, and not the sole determinant of, need.

■ Cash remains a preferred modality of support for populations within Shan State, suggesting that flexible, cash-based modalities should remain central to the humanitarian response where markets are functional.

- With nearly half of respondents reporting no access to credit, exploring safe borrowing programming opportunities (e.g., community savings and loans groups) could help households cope — particularly displaced households lacking access to other coping mechanisms.

■ Notwithstanding many goods being considered expensive or unaffordable, markets in Shan State appear incredibly resilient, in that very few respondents reported goods missing from the market entirely.

- Understanding the factors that contribute to supply chain functionality and working to strengthen them is a central concern for ensuring the continued effectiveness of cash-based assistance.

■ Respondents pointed to various forms of mutual aid and local support systems, such as borrowing money or

food/non-food items from friends or relatives, or from local organisations and savings and loans groups.

- Mutual aid systems appear to be key contributors to resiliency in the Myanmar context; humanitarian actors must find ways to reinforce and support existing mutual aid systems where possible.

■ Food (in)security is a growing risk. Only a quarter of those respondents identifying food as a priority need currently receive food assistance; 88% worry about having enough food; and a third do not know how they would cope in future shortages.

- Strengthening food assistance alongside cash, especially for displaced households and those in camps, and looking to support agricultural production and supply chains, would further promote resilience in the face of food insecurity.

■ Data collection in Shan State, and across Myanmar as a whole, presents ongoing challenges in terms of accessibility, consistency, and robustness. In particular, questions asked in this — and other — research may not be understood by respondents in the same way as intended, and responses may be unclear or inconsistent. As noted above, the data presented here is limited and should be understood alongside other needs assessment and contextual reporting.

- This highlights the need for the humanitarian response to leverage multiple sources of data for decision-making, using blended methodologies, to build as comprehensive and nuanced an understanding of the needs of local communities as possible.

Landscape Responses

SHAN STATE

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Contact: analyst.myanmar2020@gmail.com