



# Response Landscape

KACHIN STATE, MYANMAR

SEPTEMBER  
2025

CONFIDENTIAL - NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION

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Data in this report collected through MAY–JUNE 2025

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Disclaimer: This product is designed for information purposes only. This map may not show all topographical areas due to scale limitations. Base map data provided by MIMU and copyrighted to MIMU at <https://www.themimu.info/mimu-terms-conditions>. The accuracy of specific attributes and their geo-locations are manually added and cannot be confirmed.

# KEY FINDINGS

■ 63% (131 of 207) of respondents said that cash is a priority need for their household, and 54% (111 of 207) said that they prefer cash over in-kind support. 24% (49 of 207) of respondents said that their household has no monthly income, while only 11% of households (23 of 207) reported incomes above the Myanmar Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) of 665,534 MMK per month.

■ Of the 140 respondents who identified food as a priority need, 91% (128) expressed concern that their household would struggle to have enough food in future. 16% (21 of 127) of these respondents said that they did not know how they would cope in a situation where their household would not have enough food.

■ 86% (179 of 207) of respondents reported being displaced at the time of interview, 78% (139 of 179) of whom reported living in some kind of displacement camp. The respondents in displacement camps expressed needs for food (78%, 109 of 139) and shelter (36%, 50 of 139) support in particular at higher rates than other respondents.

■ 24% (50 of 207) of respondents said that they were aware of vulnerable individuals in their community being unable to access humanitarian support, due to a combination of communication blackouts, movement restrictions, and repeated displacement amid ongoing fighting.

■ 7% (14 of 207) of respondents expressed exclusion concerns, while 10% (20 of 207) of respondents expressed concerns about vulnerable people being left off beneficiary lists.

■ 1% (3 of 207) of respondents said that they are aware of cases of fraud, corruption, or favouritism among the volunteers or staff of camps or organisations providing support.

■ 10% (21 of 207) of respondents said they were aware of armed or governance actors' involvement in aid delivery, most of whom said such groups provide security or aid in distributions. However, three respondents said aid deliveries had been blocked or seized.

## NEEDS OVERVIEW



68%  
[140 of 207]

of respondents selected food as a priority need.



8%  
[16 of 207]

of respondents selected clean drinking water as a priority need.



1%  
[2 of 207]

of respondents selected latrines as a priority need.



33%  
[68 of 207]

of respondents cited shelter as a priority need.



39%  
[80 of 207]

of respondents cited healthcare as a priority need.



40%  
[82 of 207]

of respondents selected education as a priority need.



1%  
[2 of 207]

of respondents selected landmine education as a priority need.



29%  
[59 of 207]

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

# METHODOLOGY

The findings in this report are based primarily on 207 interviews with residents across 9 townships in Kachin State conducted throughout May and June 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 four 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 (Kachin State, May–June 2025). The specific areas sampled for interviews were determined by the priorities of the donor funding this analytical unit. Some respondents (64 of 207) were known to be beneficiaries receiving support, while others were selected because their communities are targeted for support. Notably, 83% (171 of 207) of the sample were displaced at the time of interview. The sampling methodology therefore skews towards those who are in receipt of support, and is not representative of Kachin State as a whole.

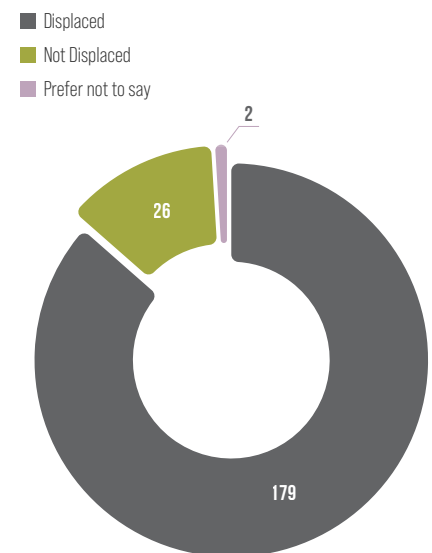
Within these constraints, this analytical unit sought to ensure balance in terms of gender, and diversity in terms of ethnic group, religion, and location within the sample. While findings should be considered indicative, the areas sampled tend to present significant accessibility challenges, so the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

# 207

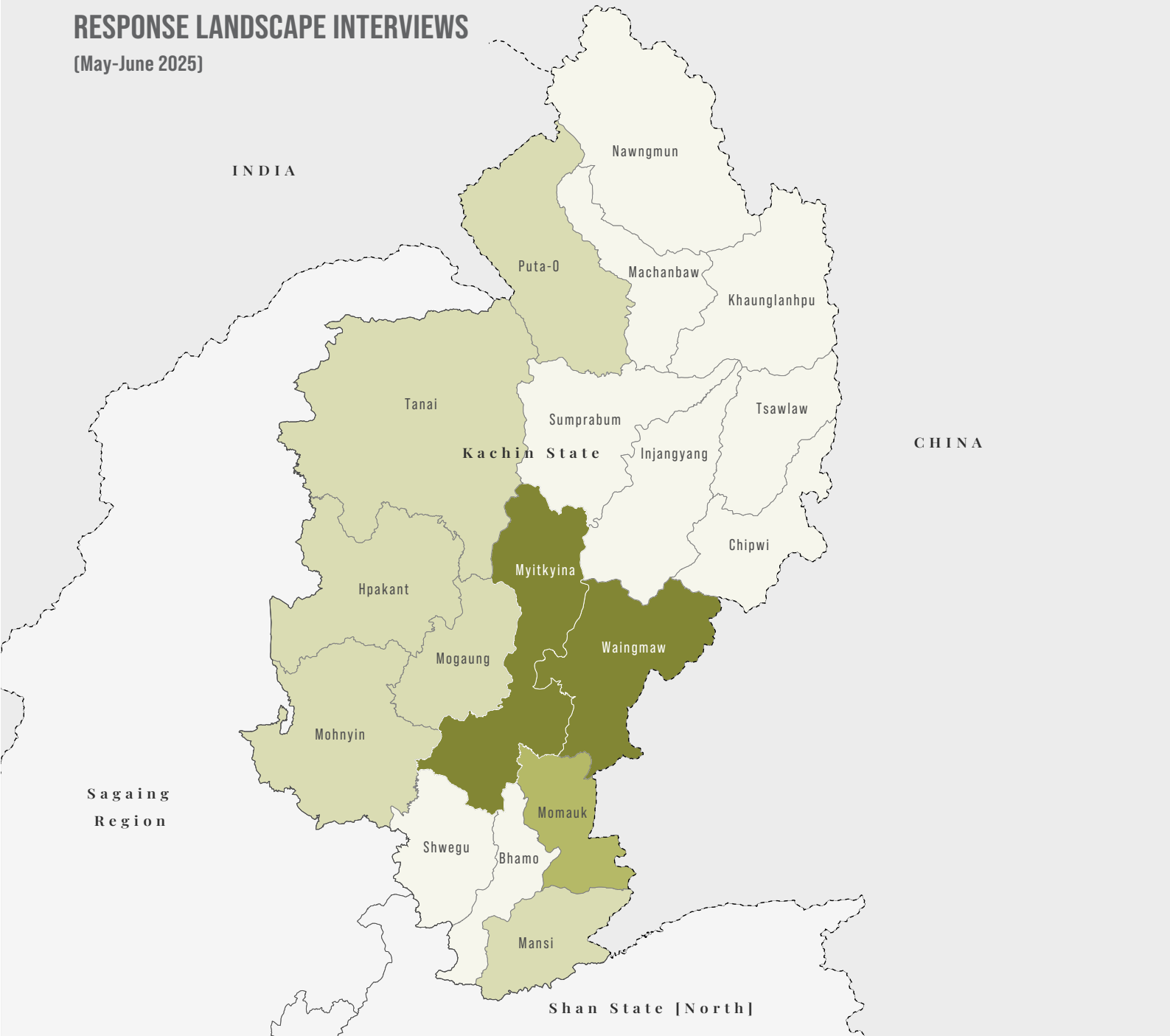
### DISPLACEMENT STATUS



### GENDER



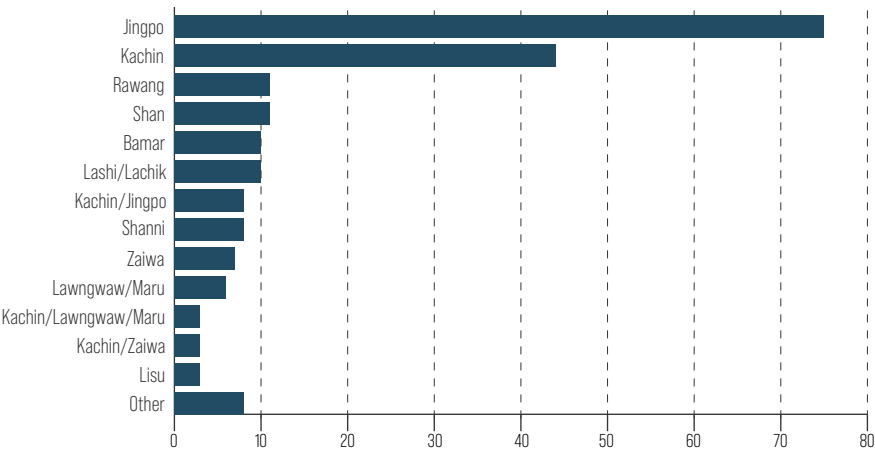
RESPONSE LANDSCAPE INTERVIEWS  
[May-June 2025]



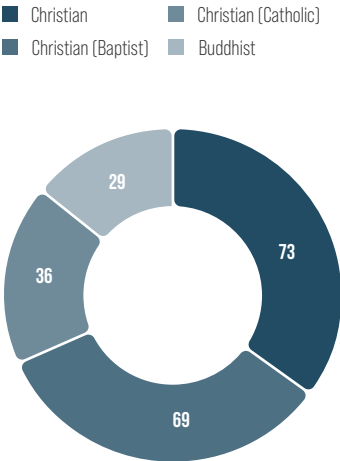
Number of Respondents per Township

0	1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75
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ETHNIC GROUP



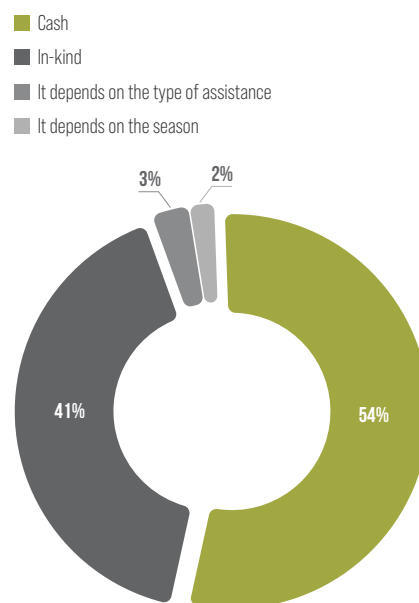
RELIGION



# CASH

Cash payments are the dominant modality of support within the humanitarian response in Myanmar, and cash was identified as a priority need by 63% (131 of 207) of respondents in Kachin State. When asked whether they prefer cash or in-kind support, a slight majority of respondents expressed a preference for cash (54%, 111 of 207).

## PREFERENCE FOR CASH OR IN-KIND SUPPORT



**1** Interview, 24, male, Jingpo, Christian, not displaced, Momauk Township.

“For some expenses, cash is more practical — for example, enrolling children in school. But for food, it’s better to receive in-kind support like rice, cooking oil, salt, and pulses”.<sup>1</sup>

**2** Interview, 21, female, Jingpo, Christian (Catholic), not displaced, Hpakant Township.

“During the rainy season, the roads to Hpakant get even more damaged. There’s already been a shortage of food supplies and prices have been high for a while. Now, with fighting breaking out again, the situation has gotten worse. That’s why food supplies are especially needed during the rainy season. At other times, just providing cash is usually okay”.<sup>2</sup>

**3** Interview, 26, male, Jingpo, Christian (Baptist), displaced, Momauk Township.

“Cash assistance is especially needed during health emergencies to buy medicine. Since the nearby public hospitals often run out of supplies, we have to buy from private pharmacies at high prices. As for in-kind support, it’s useful anytime depending on the items provided”.<sup>3</sup>

## HOUSEHOLD FINANCES

24% (49 of 207) of respondents said that their household has no monthly income, 90% (44 of 49) of whom were displaced at the time of interview. The median monthly household income was 200,000 MMK, with only 11% of households (23 of 207) reporting incomes above the Myanmar Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) of 665,534 MMK per month.<sup>4</sup> Just over a third of respondents (37%, 77 of 207) reported that their household had some debt. Of these, the median amount of debt was 800,000 MMK.

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

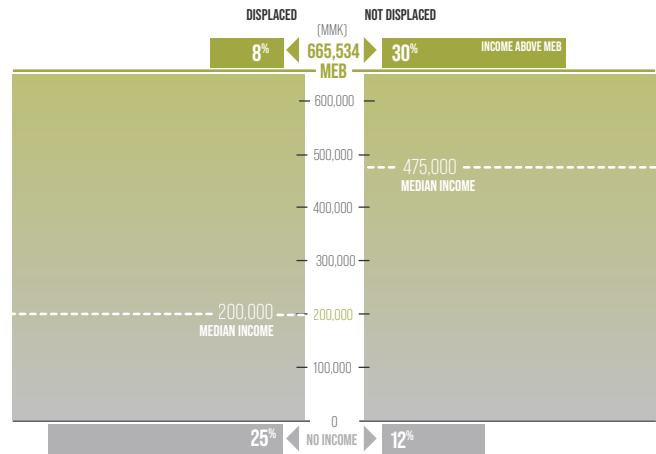
**5** Interview, 21, male, Jingpo, Christian (Baptist), displaced, Momauk Township.

“In my family, many are still in school, and few are working, so income doesn’t cover expenses. I plan to work after I finish school to support my family”.<sup>5</sup>

6 Interview, 25, female, Lawngwaw/Maru, Christian (Baptist), not displaced, Myitkyina Township.

“Due to the bad political situation, the work I do and the income I get are not enough. There are other jobs to do, like private tuition for students — otherwise, it’s not easy. The prices of goods are high, so I have to manage carefully with what I have”.<sup>6</sup>

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 8% (15 of 179) of displaced households reported incomes above the Myanmar MEB.



ACCESS TO CREDIT

Nearly three-quarters of respondents (71%, 147 of 207) 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%, 111 of 140).

“The price of rice has gone up a lot, so it’s hard to buy rice with the income I earn. If necessary, I’ll borrow food first from someone who can help, then pay them back later”.<sup>7</sup>

“First, I’ll borrow from relatives to get by, and then look for a job that brings in income. I’ll handle things depending on the situation. Borrowing depends on personal relationships—it’s not the same for everyone”.<sup>8</sup>

Just over half of respondents (51%, 106 of 207) said that they would be able to borrow food or non-food items (NFIs) in an emergency situation, most of whom again said that this would be from friends and family (90%, 96 of 106).

7 Interview, 31, female, Jingpo, Christian (Catholic), displaced, Myitkyina Township.

8 Interview, 43, male, Jingpo, Christian (Baptist), displaced, Waingmaw Township.

ABILITY TO BORROW MONEY



ABILITY TO BORROW FOOD AND NFIS



MARKET ACCESS AND FUNCTIONALITY

86% (179 of 207) of respondents said that they have a nearby market that they can access, though 13% (23 of 179)<sup>9</sup> of these said that not all goods are available. The goods reported to be missing the most are healthcare supplies (47%, 11 of 23) and medication (43%, 10 of 23).

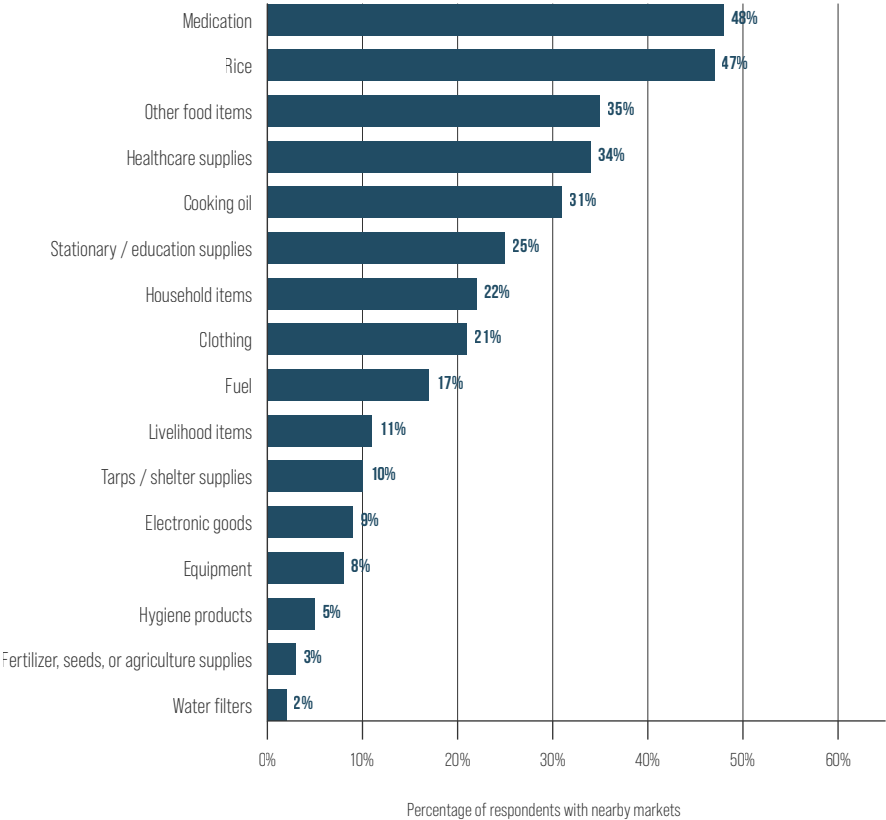
“When people with cars or motorbikes go to the market, we ask them to help bring things back for us. Sometimes, we give them fuel money or a small payment for their help”.<sup>10</sup>

Medication was the good that respondents most often said was unaffordable (48%, 86 of 179), followed by rice (47%, 84 of 179), and other food items (35%, 62 of 179).

<sup>9</sup> 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.

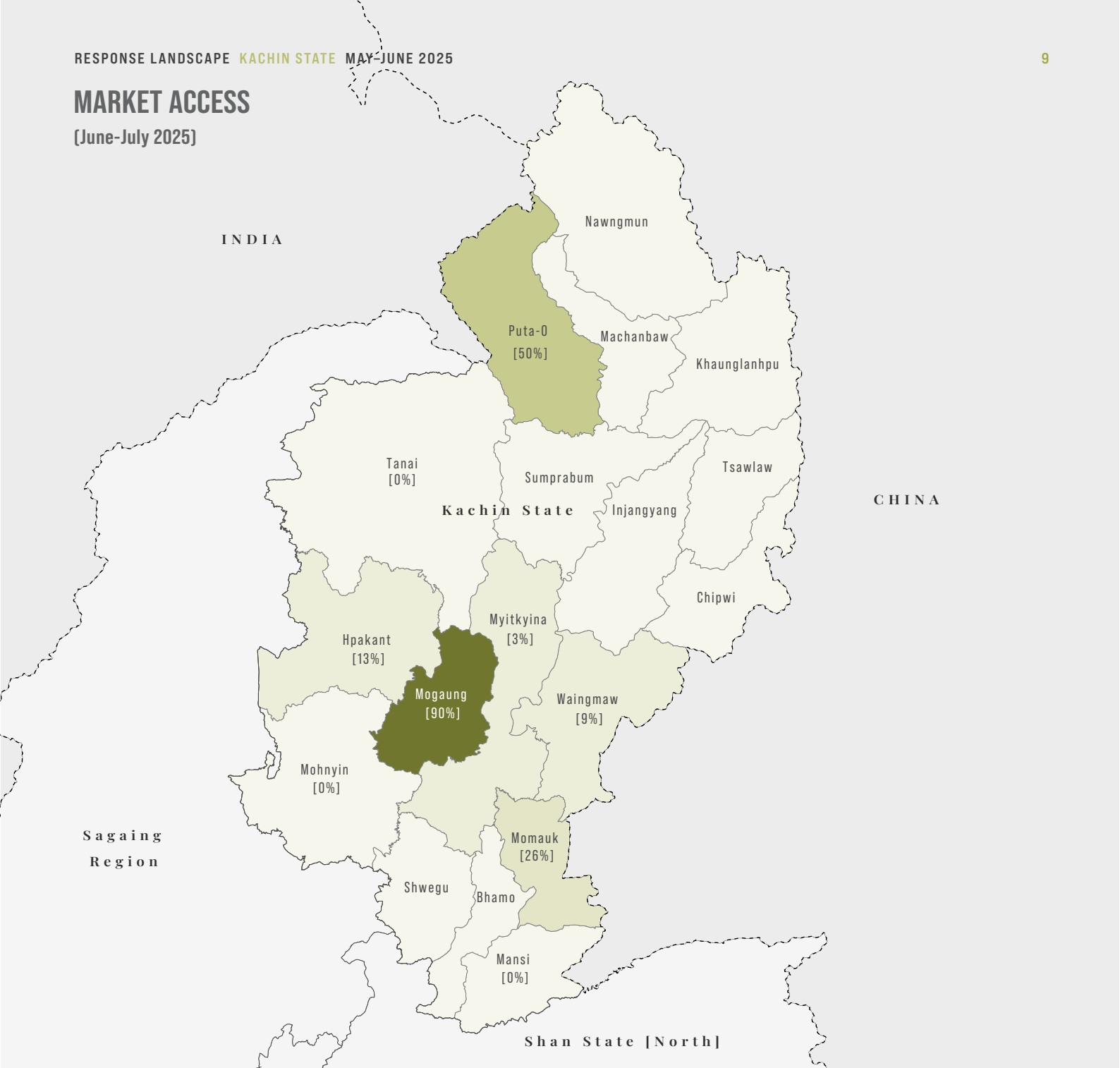
<sup>10</sup> Interview, 43, male, Jingpo, Christian (Baptist), displaced, Waingmaw Township.

GOODS THAT ARE UNAFFORDABLE

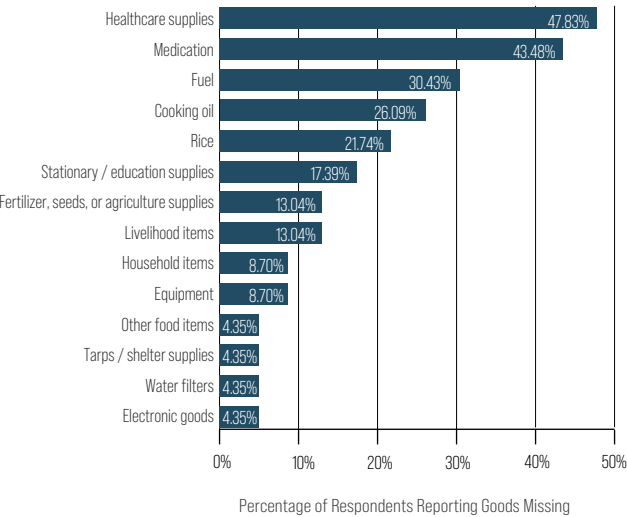




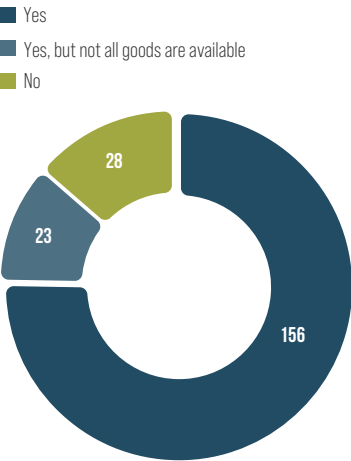
MARKET ACCESS  
[June-July 2025]



GOODS MISSING IN LOCAL MARKETS

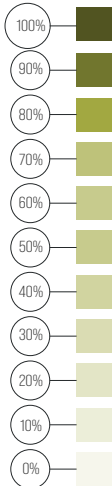


ACCESS TO NEARBY MARKET



NO MARKET ACCESS

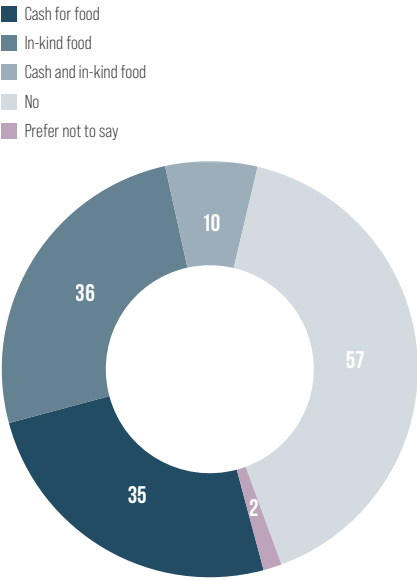
Percentage of respondents who say they do not have access to a nearby market



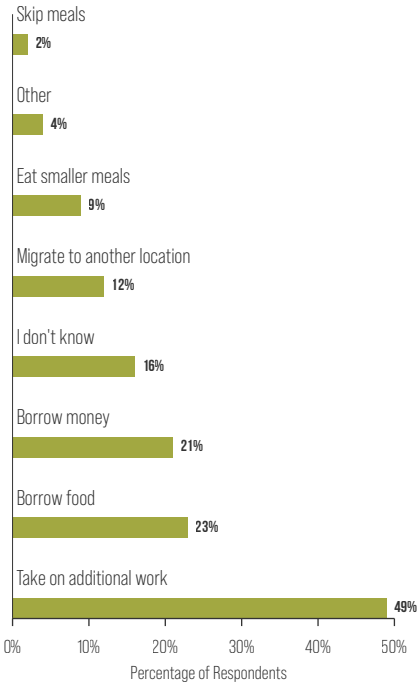
# FOOD SECURITY

68% (140 of 207) of respondents selected food as a priority need. This was higher among displaced respondents — 73% (131 of 179) — than non-displaced respondents (27%, 7 of 26) among non-displaced respondents. Of the 140 respondents who selected food as a priority need, 57% (81) said they are currently in receipt of food support, while 91% (128 of 140) expressed concern that their household would struggle to have enough food in future.

RECEIVING FOOD SUPPORT



COPING MECHANISMS



11 Interview, 57, female, Jingpo, Christian, not displaced, Hpakant Township.

“The area where we live is a liberated zone, so food is expensive. Even if I have money sometimes, I can’t buy enough because prices are so high. Storing food and using it wisely is the safest option, as otherwise, it can lead to problems”.<sup>11</sup>

The most common coping strategies respondents expected to employ in such a situation were to take on additional work (49%, 63 of 127), borrow food (23%, 29 of 127), borrow money (21%, 27 of 127), and migrate to another location (12%, 15 of 127). 16% (21 of 127) of these respondents said that they did not know how they would cope in a situation where their household would not have enough food.

12 Interview, 21, female, Jingpo, Christian (Baptist), displaced, Waingmaw Township.

“There are many people at home, but we don’t have land to farm for food. I’ll have to try hard to find work”.<sup>12</sup>

“I will move to a safer place to work and survive. Alternatively, if the situation improves, I will return to the village to work”.<sup>13</sup>

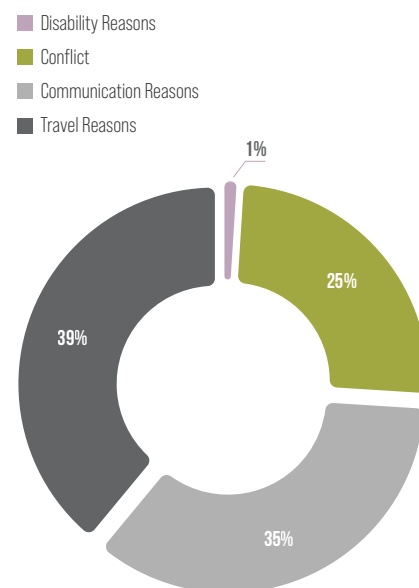
13 Interview, 25, male, Kachin, Christian (Catholic), displaced, Mogaung Township.

Of the 201 respondents with access to local markets, 47% (84) said that rice is unaffordable, 31% (55) said cooking oil is unaffordable, and 35% (62) said other food items are unaffordable. Five respondents (in Waingmaw Township) said that rice is unavailable in local markets, while six respondents (in Waingmaw and Hpakant townships) said cooking oil is unavailable.

# ACCESS: COMMUNICATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

24% (50 of 207) of respondents said that they were unable to access humanitarian support due to a combination of communication blackouts, movement restrictions, and repeated displacement. Many described missing aid distributions simply because they could not be contacted, were travelling for work, or had already returned to their villages.

## REASONS FOR INABILITY TO ACCESS SUPPORT



**14** Interview, 43, female, Jingpo, Christian (Baptist), displaced, Waingmaw Township.

“Some IDPs returned to their villages and missed assistance because they could not be contacted due to lack of phone signal”.<sup>14</sup>

**15** Interview, 41, female, Jingpo, Christian (Catholic), displaced, Myitkyina Township.

“I missed the deadline to apply for a cooking class because of poor phone reception”.<sup>15</sup>

Respondents also reported that strict eligibility rules, such as needing to be physically present in a camp on distribution days, meant that those temporarily absent lost their access entirely.

**16** Interview, 24, male, Jingpo, Christian, not displaced, Momauk Township.

“Some IDP families missed assistance because they either travelled away for three to four months or went to work without notifying the relevant camp authorities”.<sup>16</sup>

Security challenges further limit access. Clashes, checkpoints, and blocked roads made it difficult for organisations to reach remote areas, while some regions have no active NGOs at all.

**17** Interview, 21, female, Kachin, Christian, displaced, Hpakant Township.

“Because of the conflict, roads were blocked and phone lines cut. So when something happens, we can’t even reach out for help”.<sup>17</sup>

Frequent displacement compounds these issues. Families moving repeatedly to escape fighting or instability often ended up in areas with no aid coverage and no way to register.

**18** Interview, 42, male, Jingpo, Christian (Catholic), displaced, Mogaung Township.

“We’ve been moving from [place to place] in stages. I think we haven’t received support because we don’t have a fixed place to stay”.<sup>18</sup>

In addition, some local residents reported being excluded from assistance entirely because they were not officially registered as IDPs, despite facing similar hardships.

**19** Interview, 38, female, Kachin, Christian, displaced, Mansi Township.

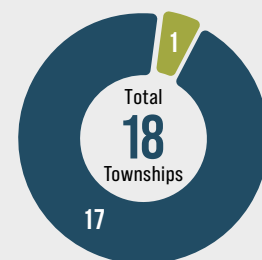
“I haven’t registered as an IDP yet, so I haven’t received any support”.<sup>19</sup>

# TOWNSHIPS UNDER MOBILE INTERNET RESTRICTIONS

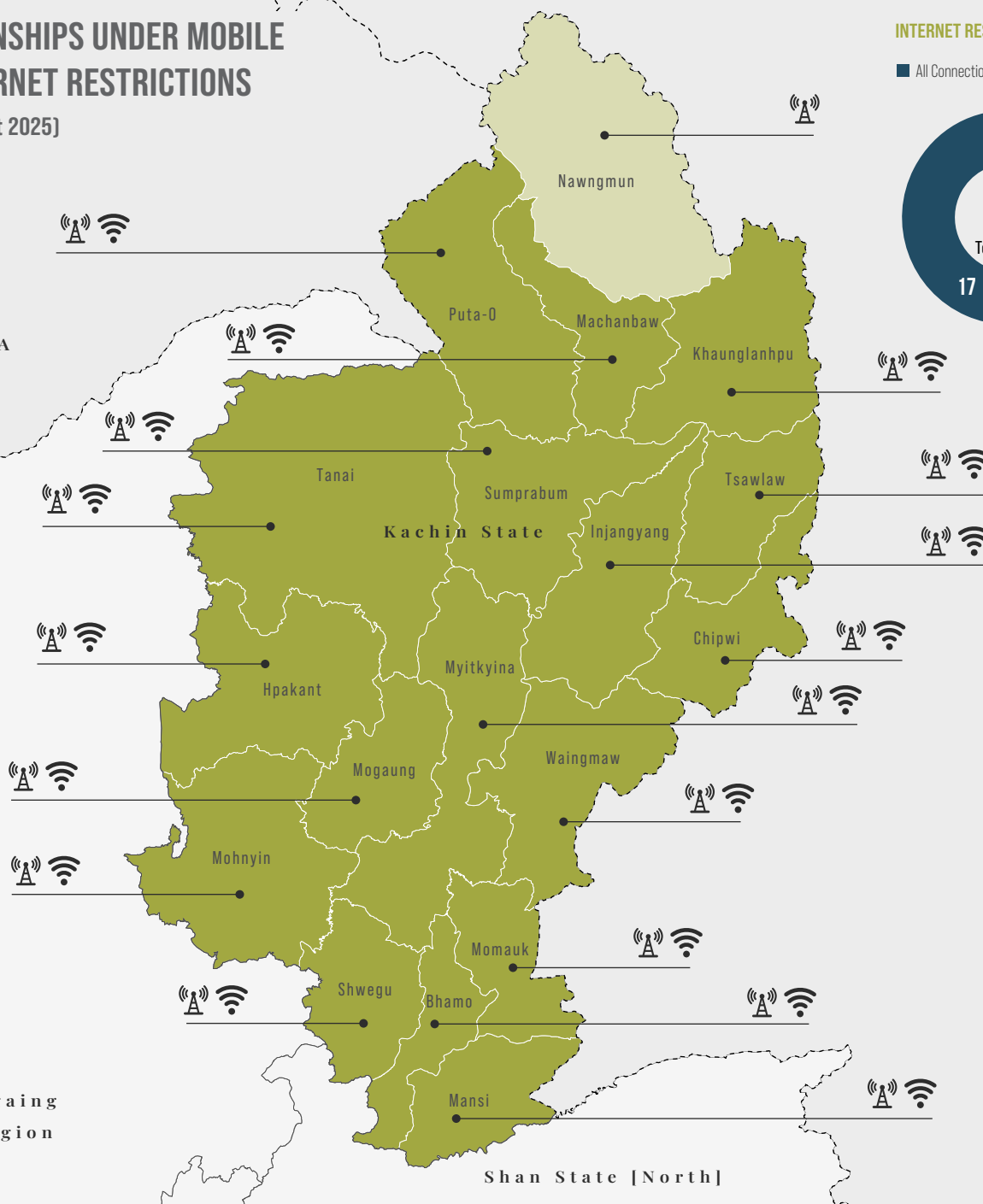
[August 2025]

## INTERNET RESTRICTIONS STATUS

■ All Connections ■ Internet/call



INDIA



CHINA

Sagaing  
Region

Shan State [North]

NO. OF DAYS UNDER RESTRICTIONS:



# 1,642,841

**TOTAL ESTIMATED POPULATION IN  
TOWNSHIPS UNDER RESTRICTIONS**

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

Staff working in the humanitarian response also explained how operations in Kachin State face major obstacles, from disrupted banking, fighting, roadblocks, and communication blackouts. Banking disruptions and weak financial services make cash transfers risky, as staff must carry large sums by hand. Ongoing fighting, roadblocks, and communication blackouts further disrupt transport, coordination, and emergency response, while rising prices and scarce supplies of essentials like shelter materials and WASH items place additional pressure on already limited budgets.

# PROTECTION AND INCLUSION

10% (20 of 207) of respondents said that they are aware of vulnerable people not receiving support due to not being included in beneficiary selection lists. Several pointed to challenges in the organisation of camps and beneficiary selection processes, with people missed off lists due to mistakes:

20 Interview, 39, female, Jingpo, Christian, displaced, Waingmaw Township.

“Due to the high population within the camp, the administrators may unintentionally overlook some individuals when compiling beneficiary lists”.<sup>20</sup>

Other respondents noted that beneficiary selection often focuses on displaced populations, particularly those living in camps, meaning that others feel excluded:

21 Interview, 33, female, Jingpo, Christian (Baptist), not displaced, Myitkyina Township.

“Ordinary town/ urban residents are often not considered in the support lists because they’re not seen as needing help”.<sup>21</sup>

Several respondents noted concerns with strict registration deadlines for accessing support, which pose particular difficulties for families that have been displaced and arrive late:

22 Interview, 56, female, Jingpo, Christian (Baptist), displaced, Momauk Township.

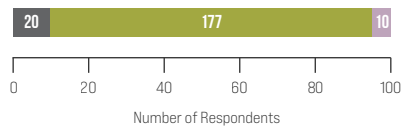
“To receive food assistance, household members must personally sign to update their records. If they fail to do so within the designated period, they are considered absent from the camp and become ineligible for any support. Due to various challenges preventing individuals from signing in person, some are excluded from the distribution list and no longer receive assistance, leading to food shortages”.<sup>22</sup>

6% (13 of 207) of respondents said that they are aware of groups that have been deliberately excluded from accessing support. 11 of these said that people are excluded due to preferential treatment, but did not give additional information. The two others noted that members of armed groups are excluded from support, although they noted that family members of such individuals continue to receive support:

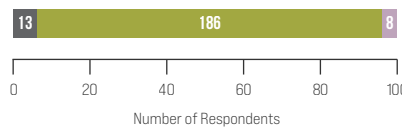
## AWARENESS OF INCLUSION AND ACCOUNTABILITY CONCERNS IN RESPONDENTS' COMMUNITIES

Yes No Prefer not to Say

### VULNERABLE PEOPLE NOT RECEIVING SUPPORT DUE TO BENEFICIARY LISTS



### CASES OF EXCLUSION



**23** Interview, 36, male, Jingpo, Christian (Baptist), displaced, Waingmaw Township.

“People who are currently serving in the military don't receive the support. But their family members do receive support. Everyone understands the situation, so it hasn't caused any problems. For example, if someone in the family is in the military, only that person doesn't get support — the rest of the family still does.”<sup>23</sup>

Three respondents said that they are aware of cases of fraud, corruption, or favouritism among the volunteers or staff of camps or organisations providing support:

**24** Interview, 22, female, Lisu, Christian (Baptist), displaced, Tanai Township.

“If you've got relatives working inside, then you get advance information — like which organisation is coming on which day, and what they're planning to do”.<sup>24</sup>

**25** Interview, 37, female, Lawngwaw/ Maru, Christian, not displaced, Puta-O Township.

“Yes, it happens. As the number of displaced people increases, sometimes there's favoritism and not enough items to go around — it causes issues when distributing”.<sup>25</sup>

10% (21 of 207) of respondents said that they are aware of armed or governance actors having some involvement in humanitarian activities, most of whom said such groups provide security or aid in distributions. However, three respondents said aid deliveries had been blocked or seized:

**26** Interview, 42, female, Jingpo, Christian, displaced, Waingmaw Township.

“Sometimes, the Chinese government doesn't allow rice trucks to cross the border checkpoint”.<sup>26</sup>

**27** Interview, 45, female, Jingpo, Christian (Baptist), displaced, Waingmaw Township.

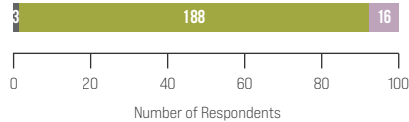
“Some unknown group on the Bhamo road side blocked humanitarian support activities”.<sup>27</sup>

**28** Interview, 56, male, Jingpo, Christian, displaced, Waingmaw Township.

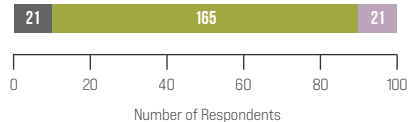
“While transporting medicine from Myitkyina to Lai Zar, SAC soldiers on the road sometimes took medical supplies like painkillers, bandages, or wound ointments, and in some cases, they completely blocked the delivery”.<sup>28</sup>

67% (137 of 207) of respondents said that they are aware of local organisations having feedback mechanisms to report concerns.

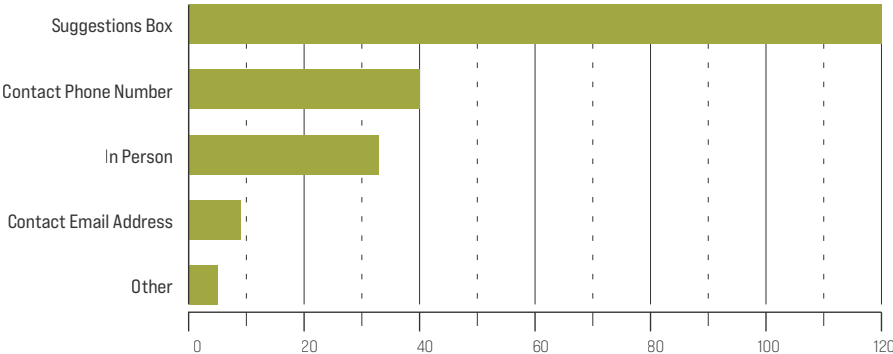
INCIDENTS OF FRAUD/CORRUPTION



INVOLVEMENT OF ARMED OR GOVERNANCE ACTORS IN AID DELIVERY



TYPES OF BENEFICIARY FEEDBACK MECHANISM



# CAMPS AND DISPLACEMENT

86% (179 of 207) of respondents reported being displaced at the time of interview, 78% (139 of 179) of whom reported living in some kind of displacement camp. The respondents in displacement camps expressed needs for food (78%, 109 of 139) and shelter (36%, 50 of 139) support in particular at higher rates than other respondents.

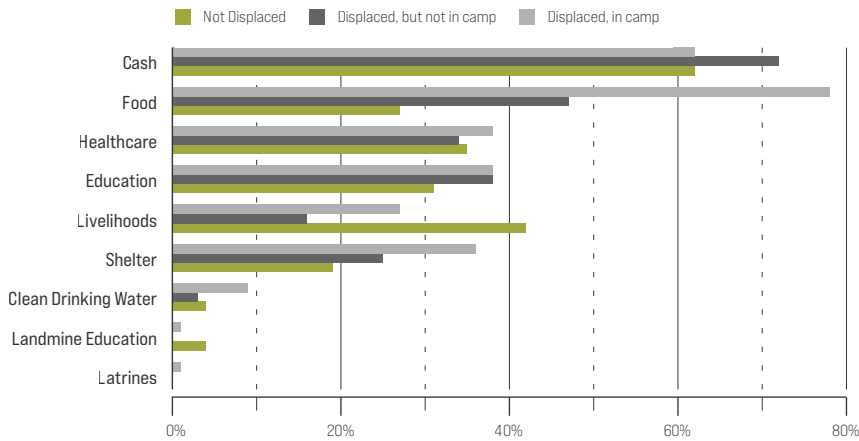
“In times like this, when a country is facing an emergency, it’s very difficult for displaced persons like us to wait three months or more before a place is officially recognised as an IDP camp”.<sup>29</sup>

“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 organisation 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”.<sup>30</sup>

**29** Interview, 41, male, Kachin, Christian (Baptist), displaced, Nawnghkio Township.

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

NEEDS BY DISPLACEMENT STATUS



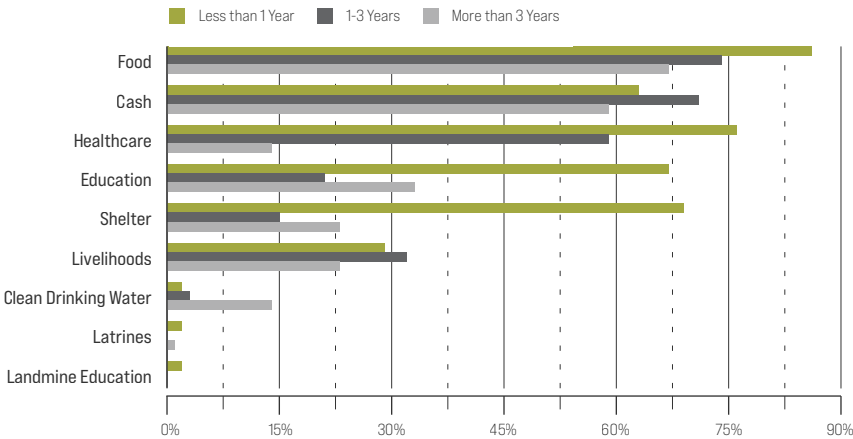
Just over half of displaced respondents (51%, 92 of 179) reported being displaced for more than three years, pointing to the enduring displacement crisis in Kachin State. Kachin State has a long and unique history with displacement; some communities have been displaced since conflict re-ignited in 2011 or the years following, and the long-term IDP camps where they live often more closely resemble settlements, as distinct from sites providing humanitarian aid to more recently displaced communities.

These long-term displaced communities have specific needs, often related to the lengthy alienation from their land and livelihoods, and years of top-down and incomplete ‘return and resettlement’ plans and processes that have left communities in limbo, unable to properly plan for their futures.

31 Interview, 42, male, Kachin, Christian, displaced, Waingmaw Township.

“It’s been a long time since we became displaced, and we don’t receive much aid anymore. Right now, there are many new IDP camps, and they are prioritising those. Some families in this camp are doing okay because they can find work, but not all of us are the same. Some families are still struggling. Initially, the camp had sewing training programs, but the jobs didn’t materialise, and we don’t know if donors are unwilling to help. We are struggling because the kids don’t have steady work, and no support has come”.<sup>31</sup>

NEEDS BY DURATION OF DISPLACEMENT



Those who had been displaced more recently, however, expressed higher levels of need, particularly in health-care, shelter, and education. 76% (37 of 49) of respondents who had been displaced less than one year ago, and 59% (20 of 24) of respondents displaced within the last one to three years, described healthcare as a priority need, compared to 14% (13 of 92) of respondents displaced more than three years ago. Similarly, 47% (39 of 83) of respondents displaced within the last three years expressed a need for shelter, compared to 23% (21 of 92) of those displaced more than three years ago.

32 Interview, 32, female, Kachin, Christian (Baptist), not displaced, Myitkyina Township.

“It seems like the newly arrived displaced people aren’t getting enough help right now”.<sup>32</sup>

Similarly, reported incomes varied significantly by duration of displacement, with a much greater proportion of respondents displaced within the past year reporting no income (63%, 31 of 49) than those displaced more than 3 years ago (7%, 6 of 92). Median incomes are also higher among households displaced more than three years ago, although still only 11% (10 of 92) reported incomes above the Myanmar MEB.

INCOMES BY DURATION OF DISPLACEMENT





# WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

8% (16 of 207) of respondents selected clean drinking water as a priority need, and 1% (2 of 207) of respondents selected latrines as a priority need.

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**33** Interview, 18, male, Jingpo, Christian, not displaced, Momauk Township.

“Students are getting skin infections due to unsafe water. They also lack basic hygiene items like soap or toothpaste, so they borrow money from friends to manage. We need regular supplies and treatment”.<sup>33</sup>

Of those who said that certain goods are unavailable in local markets, one said that water filters are missing, and none said that hygiene products are unavailable. Of the 179 respondents with access to a nearby market, 34% (61 of 179) said that hygiene products are unaffordable, while 2% (3 of 179) said that water filters are unaffordable.

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**34** Interview, 44, male, Jingpo, Christian, displaced, Momauk Township.

“We’re really worried about health because of the lack of clean water. We also don’t have enough medicine or food. Fixing the water pipeline is urgent”.<sup>34</sup>

**35** Interview, 25, female, Jingpo, Christian (Baptist), displaced, Momauk Township.

“Besides livelihood support and a secure community, there are cases where women get pregnant unintentionally after sexual activity and end up getting married against their will. So, reproductive health education is needed. Monthly hygiene products are also needed due to their high cost”.<sup>35</sup>

# HEALTH (NUTRITION)

39% (80 of 207) of respondents cited healthcare as a priority need, rising to 67% (57 of 83) of those displaced within the past three years, 75% (37 of 49) of those displaced within the past year, and 94% (17 of 18) of those displaced within the last six months.

“My son got really sick, and we spent a lot of money on treatment, his symptoms were so strange, we were going to different clinics. Some visits cost me 200,000–300,000 MMK. When I ran out of money, I had to borrow just to pay for his treatment. He’s feeling better now, but it was a struggle”.<sup>36</sup>

“I have diabetes and gout, so we spend about 100,000 MMK a month on his medication. My wife’s medication costs at least 50,000 MMK. When we go to the public hospital, they only give us prescriptions, but we have to buy all the medicine from outside. On top of that, we have to pay a 5,000 MMK donation at the hospital, or the doctors won’t treat us. The medicine alone costs nearly 200,000 MMK”.<sup>37</sup>

Among respondents with access to a nearby market, 34% (61 of 179) said that healthcare supplies are unaffordable, while 48% (86 of 179) said that medication is unaffordable. Of those who said that there are goods missing in local markets, 48% (11 of 23) said that healthcare supplies are unavailable, and 43% (10 of 23) said that medication is unavailable.

“My health isn’t good, so I have to buy medicine. We have a person with a disability (PWD) in the family, and money is tight. Because of this, I’ll borrow money and try to find work to deal with these difficulties”.<sup>38</sup>

“Because of strict checkpoints, we can’t get access to medicines”.<sup>39</sup>

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**36** Interview, 42, female, Shan, Buddhist, displaced, Waingmaw Township.

**37** Interview, 52, male, Bamar, Buddhist, displaced, Waingmaw Township.

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**38** Interview, 65, female, Jingpo, Christian (Catholic), displaced, Myitkyina Township.

**39** Interview, 25, male, Kachin, Christian (Catholic), displaced, Mogaung Township.

# SHELTER

33% (68 of 207) of respondents cited shelter as a priority need, almost three-quarters of whom (74%, 50 of 68) were displaced and living in an IDP camp at the time of interview.

“Now that the rainy season is here, we really need proper roofing. The current roof is falling apart. It would be so much better if we had a solid, waterproof shelter”.<sup>40</sup>

“The shelters we have are leaking and have become inadequate since we’ve been displaced for so long”.<sup>41</sup>

10% (18 of 179) of respondents with access to a nearby market said that tarps/shelter supplies are unaffordable. One respondent who said not all goods are available at local markets said that tarps/shelter supplies are missing.

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**40** Interview, 38, female, Kachin, Christian, displaced, Momauk Township.

**41** Interview, 40, male, Lashi/Lachik, Christian, displaced, Myitkyina Township.

# EDUCATION

40% (82 of 207) of respondents selected education as a priority need, and 1% (2 of 207) selected landmine education as a priority need.

“We need awareness training to help reduce gender-based violence, along with health, safety, and family planning education”.<sup>42</sup>

“School is about to start, and the expenses for our kids’ education are piling up—uniforms, books, pencils. I have no idea how I’m going to afford it. We really need all the support we can get”.<sup>43</sup>

25% (44 of 179) of respondents with access to a nearby market reported that stationary/education supplies are unaffordable, while 17% (4 of 23) of respondents reporting that there are goods missing in local markets said that stationary/education supplies are missing.

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**42** Interview, 47, female, Jingpo, Christian (Catholic), displaced, Mansi Township.

**43** Interview, 28, female, Shan, Buddhist, displaced, Waingmaw Township.

## EARLY RECOVERY (LIVELIHOODS)

29% (59 of 207) of respondents said that livelihoods are a priority need for their household. These respondents reported slightly lower incomes on average (150,000 MMK) than respondents who did not select livelihoods as a priority need (200,000 MMK); however, few in both groups had household incomes above the Myanmar MEB. As explored in the Cash section above, few household incomes among respondents in Kachin state exceed the Myanmar MEB, highlighting the need for additional income-generating activities.

“We’re struggling mostly with food and education. If we could get some sort of income-generating work, that would help a lot”.<sup>44</sup>

**44** Interview, 40, male, Lashi/Lachik, Christian, displaced, Myitkyina Township.

“I’d like to see small-scale livelihood support for women — something they can do from home while taking care of kids. Also, I would like some business advice or guidance. I especially hope for more assistance in the livestock sector”.<sup>45</sup>

**45** Interview, 50, male, Kachin, Christian (Catholic), displaced, Myitkyina Township.

Of respondents with access to a nearby market, 11% (20 of 179) said that livelihoods items are unaffordable, 3% (5 of 179) said fertiliser, seeds, or agriculture supplies are unaffordable, and 17% (31 of 179) said that fuel is unaffordable. 13% (3 of 23) of respondents who said some goods are unavailable in local markets said livelihood items and fertiliser, seeds, or agriculture supplies are missing, while 30% (7 of 23) said fuel is missing.

“When we return to our village, we’d really appreciate farming support — things like fertilizer and seeds”.

# RESPONSE IMPLICATIONS

■ Displacement is a defining feature of the humanitarian landscape in Kachin State, but it does not provide a clear picture of vulnerability on its own, as there are distinct populations of recently and long-term displaced. Newly displaced households face a more acute set of needs, particularly around healthcare, and shelter, while long-term displaced communities contend with chronic vulnerabilities after years of protracted displacement.

- Treating IDPs as a single category risks overlooking these distinctions. A more nuanced approach is needed, recognising the different realities of new and long-established displacement.

■ Cash assistance remains an important modality, with 63% of respondents identifying it as a priority need. However, preferences are mixed, with just over half preferring cash to in-kind aid. Many respondents emphasised the importance of food distributions, particularly during periods of shortage and rising prices, such as the rainy season.

- This underlines the need for a blended approach: cash to provide flexibility where markets are functional, and in-kind food support where access and affordability are constrained.

■ Household finances remain fragile across Kachin. Nearly nine in ten households reported incomes below the Minimum Expenditure Basket, and one in four reported having no income at all. Many households rely on borrowing from friends or relatives to cope with daily expenses.

- Alongside investing in long-term livelihoods programmes, expanding safe and accessible borrowing mechanisms, such as savings groups or community lending initiatives, could strengthen resilience. However, such mechanisms must be designed to ensure inclusivity and build trust among communities already struggling with exclusion from other forms of support.

■ Food insecurity stands out as one of the most pressing risks. More than two-thirds of respondents identified food as a priority need, and over 90% expressed concern about future shortages. Notably, 16% of respondents who feared not having enough food said they had no coping strategy at all.

- Strengthening food assistance remains urgent, but this must be paired with efforts to stabilise food supply chains and support local agricultural production, reducing reliance on emergency distributions.

■ Communication blackouts, road-blocks, and security restrictions have left many households unable to register for or receive aid. Rigid beneficiary registration systems exacerbate these problems, often excluding households that are temporarily absent, newly displaced, or not formally registered as IDPs.

– Indeed, confusion and mistrust around targeting processes persist. Communities reported inconsistent beneficiary criteria across organisations, which has led to uncertainty and, in some cases, perceptions of exclusion or favouritism. Strengthening communication around targeting, and ensuring transparency in how beneficiaries are selected, would reduce misunderstandings and build confidence in the fairness of assistance.

■ Data collection in Kachin 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.

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## Landscape Responses

### KACHIN STATE

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