



Response Landscape

SOUTHEAST MYANMAR

NOVEMBER
2025

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through JUNE–JULY 2025

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KEY FINDINGS

■ 69% (222 of 322) of respondents said that cash is a priority need for their household, and 56% (179 of 322) said that they prefer cash over in-kind support. Preference for cash was strongest in respondents from Karenni State (70%, 38 of 54 respondents) and Tanintharyi region (66%, 25 of 38 respondents), and weakest in respondents from Bago Region (43%, 31 of 72 respondents).

■ 44% (143 of 322) of respondents said that their household has no monthly income, while only 12% of households (39 of 322) reported incomes above the Myanmar Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) of 665,534 MMK per month.

■ Of the 225 respondents who identified food as a priority need, 79% (177) expressed concern that their household would struggle to have enough food in future. 10% (17 of 177) of these respondents said that they did not know how they would cope in a situation where their household would not have enough food.

■ 34% (111 of 322) of respondents reported being displaced at the time of interview, 39% (43 of 111) of whom reported living in some kind of displacement camp. Needs profiles across non-displaced, displaced, and

displaced in-camp respondents did not vary significantly.

■ 36% (116 of 322) of respondents said that they were unable to access humanitarian support due to a combination of poor transportation infrastructure leading to villages being isolated, communication barriers, and movement restrictions amid ongoing fighting.

■ 3% (11 of 322) of respondents expressed exclusion concerns, while 13% (41 of 322) of respondents expressed concerns about vulnerable people being left off beneficiary lists.

■ 3% (10 of 322) of respondents said that they are aware of cases of fraud, corruption, or favouritism among local village administration or volunteers and staff of camps or organisations providing support.

■ 30% (97 of 322) of respondents said they were aware of armed or governance actors' involvement in aid delivery, most of whom said such groups provide security or support for distributions. However, several noted that permissions are required from local armed and governance actors to safely deliver humanitarian support, while some respondents highlighted the risk of the SAC (SSPC) in particular confiscating portions of aid at checkpoints.

NEEDS OVERVIEW



70%
[225 of 322] of respondents selected food as a priority need.



12%
[40 of 322] of respondents selected clean drinking water as a priority need.



14%
[45 of 322] of respondents selected latrines as a priority need.



28%
[90 of 322] of respondents cited shelter as a priority need.



67%
[215 of 322] of respondents cited healthcare as a priority need.



45%
[146 of 322] of respondents selected education as a priority need.



10%
[32 of 322] of respondents selected landmine education as a priority need.



32%
[104 of 322] of respondents said that livelihoods as a priority need for their household.

METHODOLOGY

The findings in this report are based primarily on 322 interviews with residents across 41 townships in Southeast Myanmar conducted throughout June and July 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 16 locally implementing organisations. These interviews provided insights into protection and inclusion concerns, including around beneficiary selection criteria, aid diversion, and fraud/corruption.

LIMITATIONS

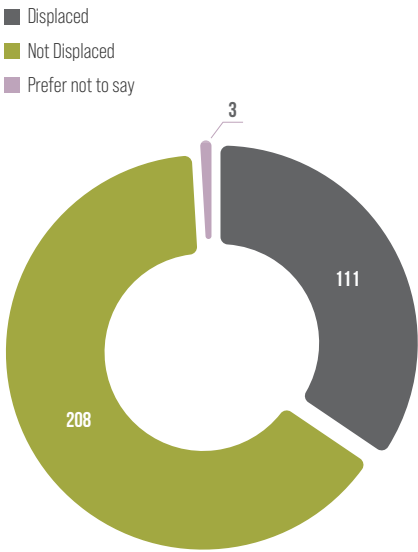
This report, and the data that has gone into it, is not intended to replace comprehensive needs assessments. Rather, it presents a snapshot of a specific place and time (Southeast Myanmar, June–July 2025). The specific areas sampled for interviews were determined by the priorities of the donor funding this analytical unit. Some respondents (159 of 322) were known to be beneficiaries receiving support, while others were selected because their communities are targeted for support. Notably, 34% (111 of 322) 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 Southeast Myanmar 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 Southeast Myanmar.

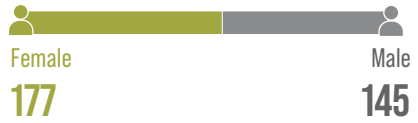
Respondents had the opportunity to skip any questions that they were uncomfortable answering, and so there are some gaps in the data. While efforts were made to ensure that interview questionnaires were as clear as possible, respondents may have interpreted questions or understood their responses differently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

TOTAL NUMBER OF
RESPONDENTS
322

DISPLACEMENT STATUS

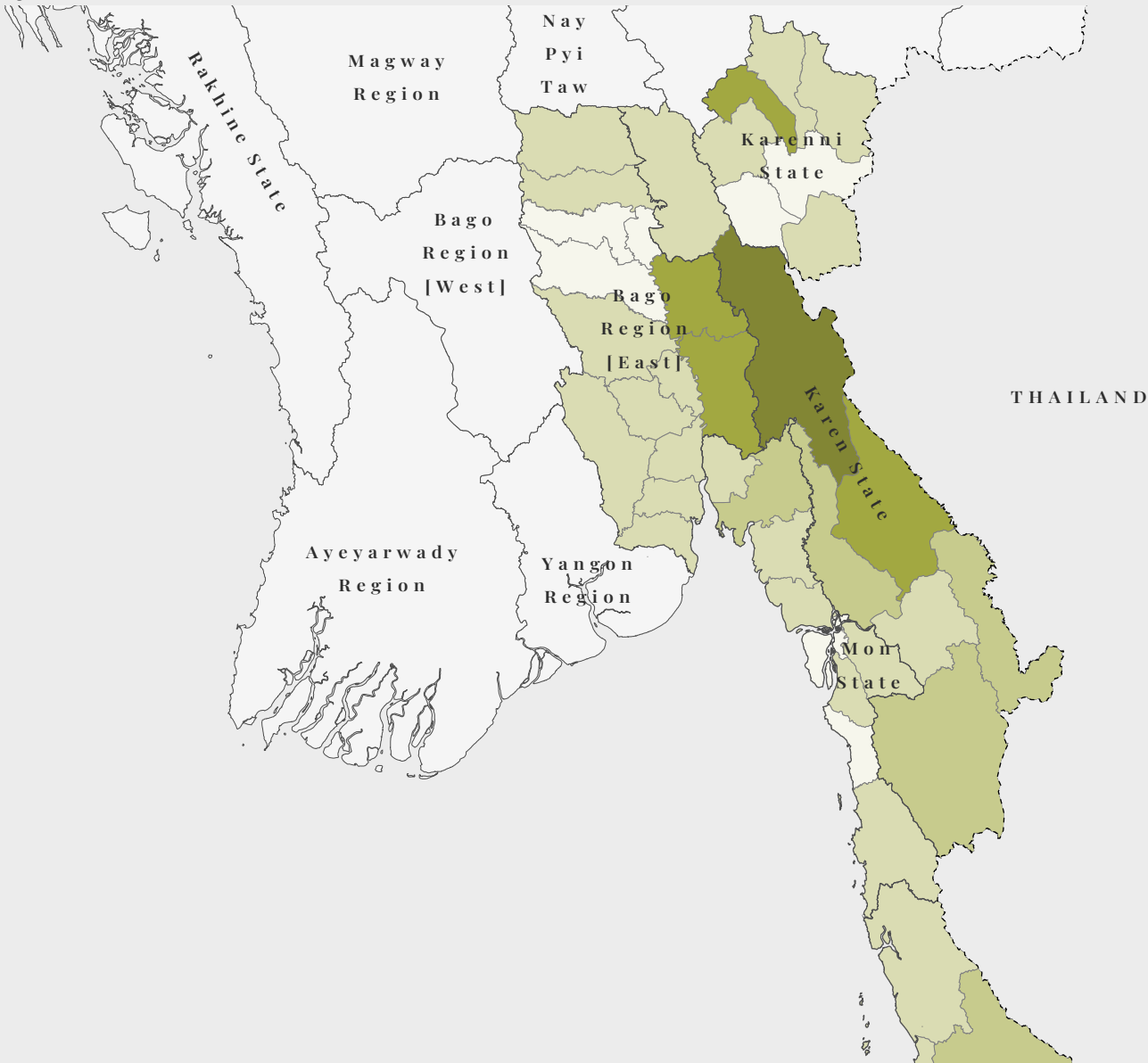


GENDER



RESPONSE LANDSCAPE INTERVIEWS

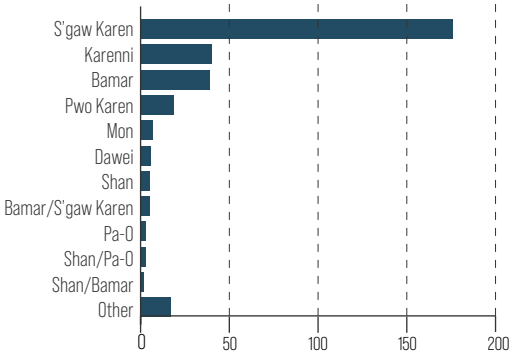
[June-July 2025]



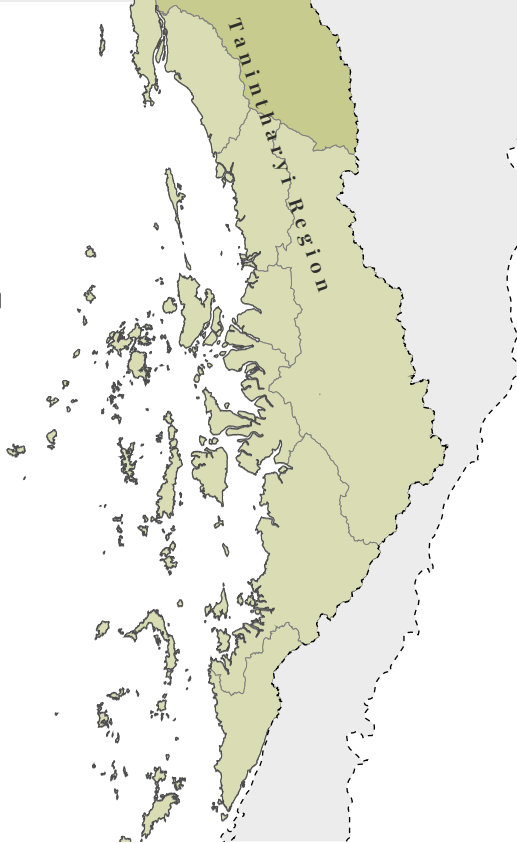
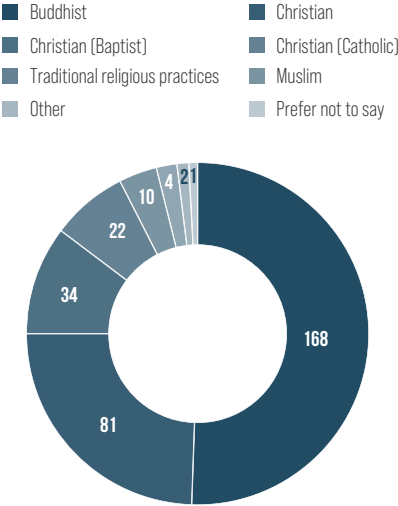
Number of Respondents per Township

0	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-41

ETHNIC GROUP



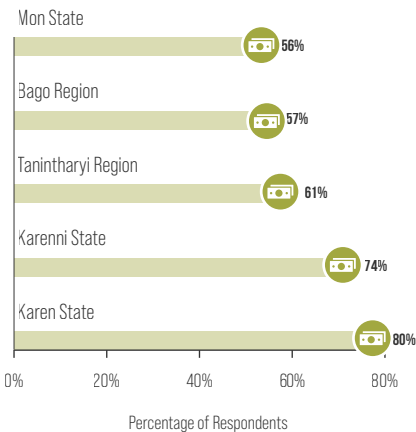
RELIGION



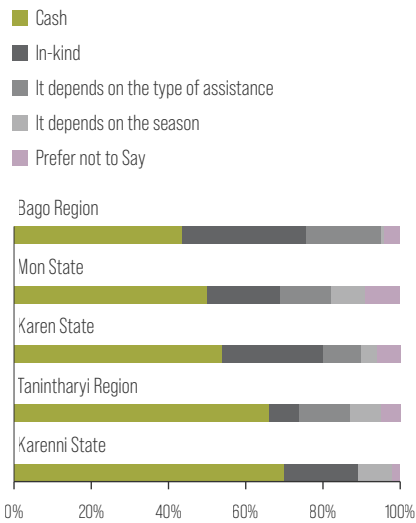
CASH

Cash payments are the dominant modality of support within the humanitarian response in Myanmar, and cash was identified as a priority need by 69% (222 of 322) of respondents in Southeast Myanmar. On the state/region level, this ranged from 56% (18 of 32) of respondents in Mon State to 80% (100 of 125) of respondents in Karen State. When asked whether they prefer cash or in-kind support, a majority of respondents expressed a preference for cash (56%, 179 of 322). The preference for cash support was strongest among respondents in Karenni State (70%, 38 of 54 respondents), and weakest in Bago Region (43%, 31 of 72 respondents).

% OF RESPONDENTS SELECTING CASH AS A PRIORITY NEED



PREFERENCE FOR CASH OR IN-KIND SUPPORT



- 1 Interview, 21, male, Karenni, Christian (Catholic), displaced, Demoso Township.
- 2 Interview, 36, male, S'gaw Karen, Christian, not displaced, Hlaingbwe Township
- 3 Interview, 58, female, Bamar, Buddhist, not displaced, Yebyu Township.

“Cash is something we always need because we have to buy things with it. I’ve got younger siblings still in school, so we especially need school supplies and personal items. Even if we get those items, we still need cash to buy them when necessary”.¹

“Cash is more useful during the rainy season. When someone is unwell and needs to travel to buy medicine or go to the market, it’s more convenient. Although it’s easier to reach the market in Hpa-An, transportation is still challenging”.²

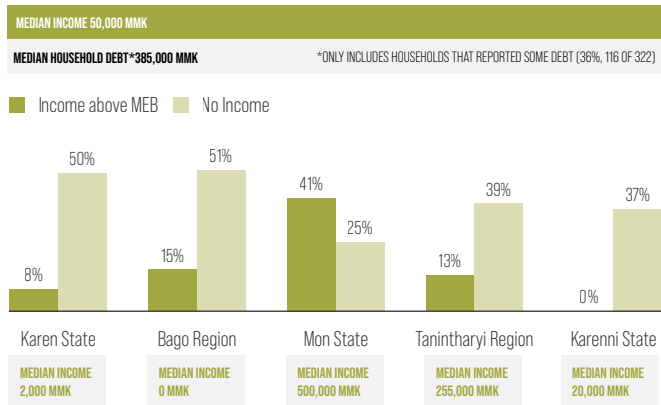
“When we have to flee due to conflict, we need food, solar panels, and shelter materials. We don’t really need cash, because even if we have money, we can’t buy supplies due to blocked checkpoints”.³

HOUSEHOLD FINANCES

44% (143 of 322) of respondents said that their household has no monthly income, a figure that was almost the same for both displaced (45%, 50 of 111) and non-displaced (44%, 92 of 209) respondents. The median monthly household income was 50,000 MMK, with only 12% of households (39 of 322) reporting incomes above the Myanmar Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) of 665,534 MMK per month.⁴ Reported incomes were highest in Mon State, where the median income among respondents was 500,000 MMK, and 41% (13 of 32) of respondents reported incomes above the Myanmar MEB. Incomes were lowest in Bago Region, where 51% (37 of 72) of respondents reported having no income.

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

Just over a third of respondents (36%, 116 of 322) reported that their household had some debt. Of these, the median amount of debt was 385,000 MMK. While the highest proportion of indebted households was found in Karen State (48%, 60 of 125), the median debt here was the lowest at 75,000 MMK. By contrast, the highest median debts were found in Mon State, where the median reported debt was 2,750,000 MMK.



5 Interview, 33, male, S'gaw Karen, Christian, displaced, Kyaukkyi Township.

“I manage our living expenses carefully so that food insecurity does not cause worry. There is no steady income of around 100,000 MMK per month. In lean months, I borrow from friends. While I face many anxieties, I organise things to keep the family stable”.⁵

6 Interview, 58, female, Bamar, Buddhist, not displaced, Yebyu Township.

“Since we have to flee and return frequently, we can’t maintain steady livelihoods. I used to be a fisherman, but I can’t do that anymore. As we can’t work, almost everyone here is surviving on debt”.⁶

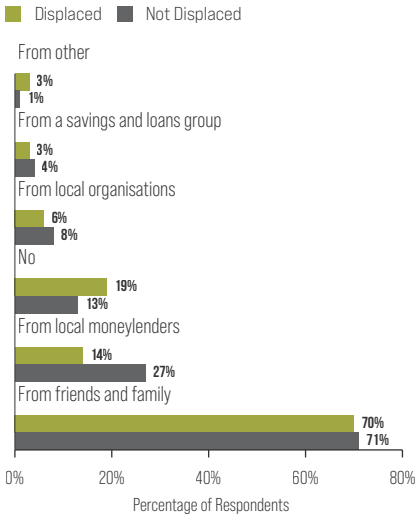
ACCESS TO CREDIT

Over three-quarters of respondents (80%, 257 of 322) 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 (88%, 226 of 257). Among displaced respondents, the ability to borrow from local moneylenders was much lower than among non-displaced respondents (17% vs 34%), despite overall having broadly similar ability to borrow from friends and family or other sources. Ability to access credit was highest in Mon and Karen states (87%), and lowest in Tanintharyi Region and Karenni State (68%).

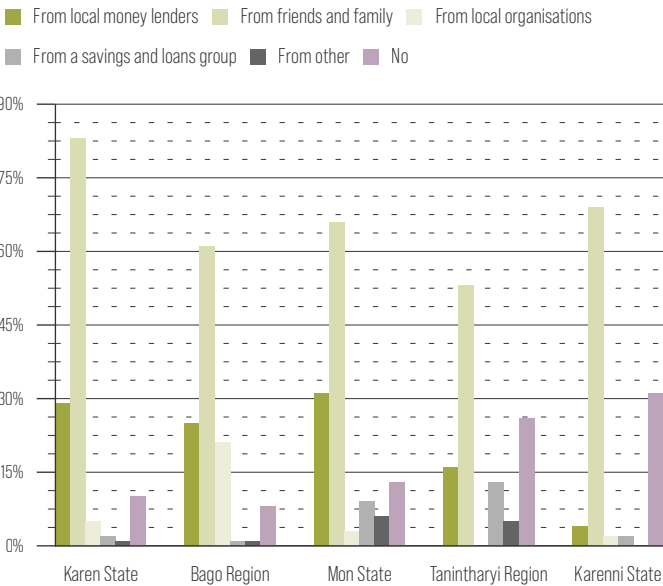
“My spouse and I are both teachers, but we have no stable income. We borrow at interest”.⁷

7 Interview, 28, male, S'gaw Karen, Christian, not displaced, Kyaukkyi Township.

ABILITY TO BORROW MONEY



ABILITY TO BORROW MONEY

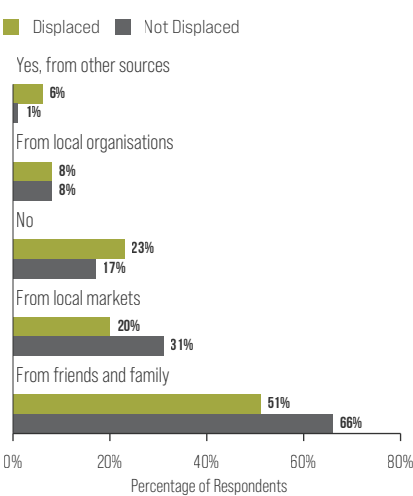


8 Interview, 33, male, Dawei, Buddhist, displaced, Dawei Township.

“Moneylenders in the village have disappeared. Given the unstable political situation and low likelihood of repayment, they no longer provide loans. When funds are needed, it becomes extremely difficult. Shops in the village no longer allow credit either”.⁸

Just over three-quarters of respondents (77%, 249 of 322) 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 (78%, 194 of 249).

ABILITY TO BORROW FOOD AND NFIS



MARKET ACCESS AND FUNCTIONALITY

77% (245 of 322) of respondents said that they have a nearby market that they can access. Over 80% of respondents in Karen State, Mon State, and Bago Region said that they are able to access a nearby market, while only 58% (22 of 38) of respondents in Tanintharyi Region and 50% (27 of 54) of respondents in Karenni State said that they are able to access a nearby market.

9 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.

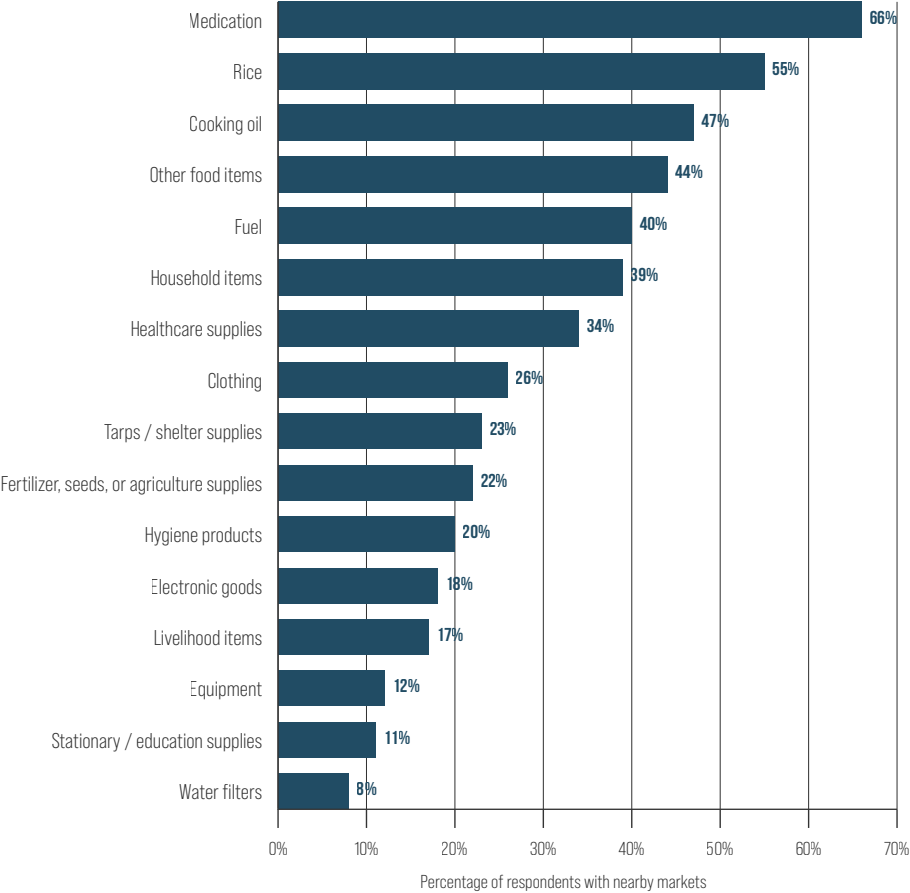
Among respondents with access to a nearby market, 36% (89 of 245)⁹ said that not all goods are available. This rate was highest in Karenni State (48%, 13 of 27), and lowest in Bago Region (25%, 16 of 64). The goods reported to be missing the most are medication (67%, 60 of 89), rice (61%, 54 of 89), and cooking oil (54%, 48 of 89). In Karen State, 75% of respondents who said that not all goods are available in local markets said that rice is missing (33 of 44), while 80% said that cooking oil and other food items are unavailable (35 of 44).

“Previously, shops would stock goods at 100% of regular inventory, but now only about 20%. When conflict erupts and people flee, shops can be looted by the military, leaving nothing behind. Due to unstable prices, shopkeepers now avoid stocking large quantities. Even current stock isn’t considered secure, so they refuse to sell on credit and sometimes refuse to sell altogether”.¹⁰

10 Interview, 33, male, Dawei, Buddhist, displaced, Dawei Township.

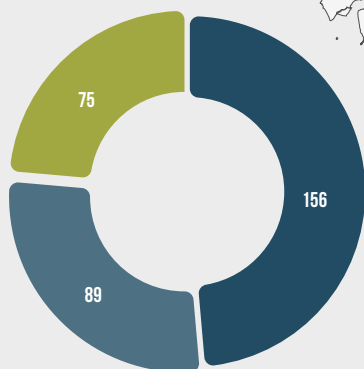
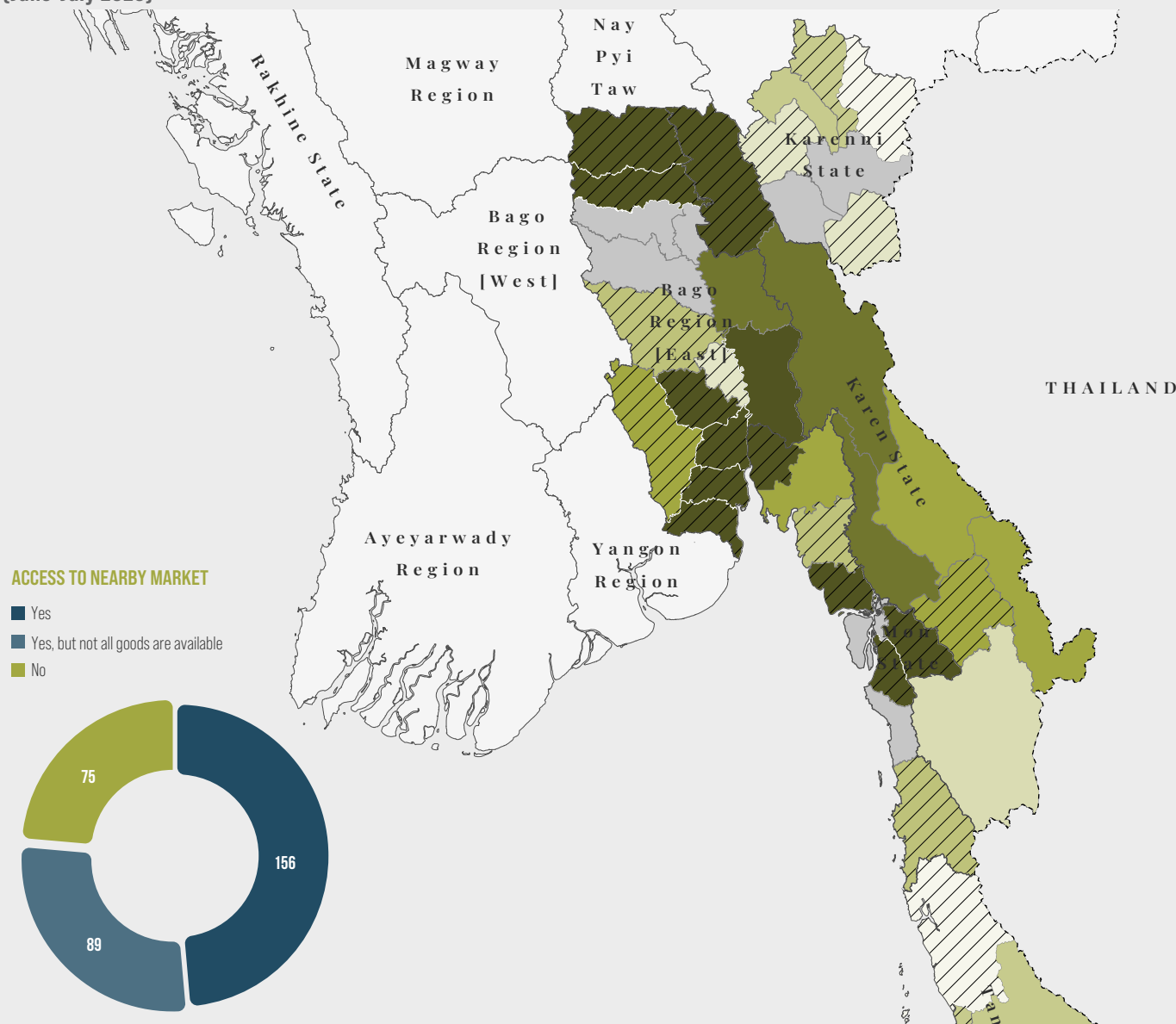
Medication was the good that respondents most often said was unaffordable (48%, 118 of 245), followed by rice (40%, 99 of 245), and cooking oil (34%, 84 of 245). Generally, fewer respondents in Bago Region and Mon State reported that goods are unaffordable compared to the other areas. 50% (53 of 105) of respondents in Karen State with access to a nearby market said that rice is unaffordable, compared to 45% (10 of 22) in Tanintharyi Region, 41% (11 of 27) in Karenni State, 28% (18 of 64) in Bago Region, and 26% (7 of 27) in Mon State.

GOODS THAT ARE UNAFFORDABLE



MARKET ACCESS REPORTED BY RESPONDENTS

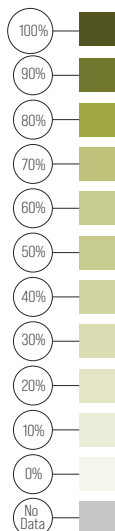
[June-July 2025]



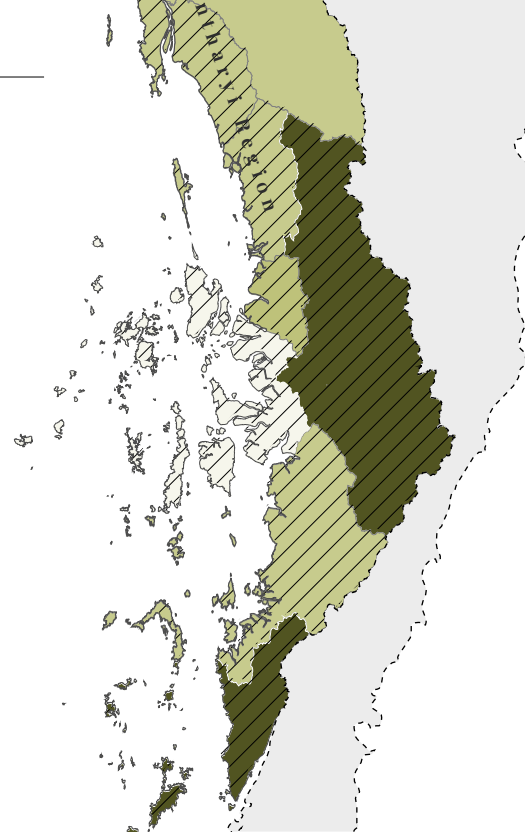
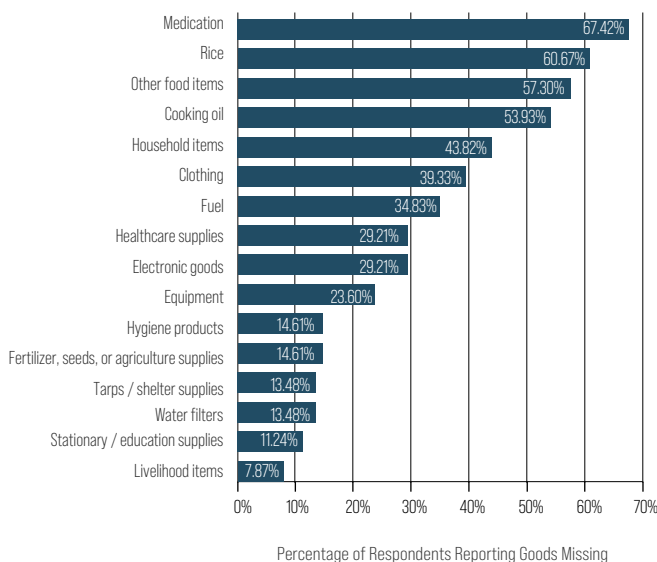
Townships with fewer than 10 respondents

Market Access

Percentage of Respondents With Access to a Nearby Market.



GOODS MISSING IN LOCAL MARKETS



FOOD SECURITY

70% (225 of 322) of respondents selected food as a priority need. This was higher among respondents in Karen State (84%, 105 of 125) and Karenni State (74%, 40 of 54) than among respondents from other regions. Of the 225 respondents who selected food as a priority need, 26% (66 of 225) said they are currently in receipt of food support. 79% (177 of 225) expressed concern that their household would struggle to have enough food in future.

11 Interview, 75, male, S'gaw Karen, Christian, displaced, Kyaukkyi Township.

“Sometimes I borrow 10,000 to 20,000 MMK from friends to deal with food shortages. When I don’t have a penny, I can’t even donate at the monastery. I don’t really have a solution — if I don’t have money for food, I just go hungry”.¹¹

The most common coping strategies respondents expected to employ in such a situation were to borrow money (60%, 107 of 177), borrow food (51%, 91 of 177), or take on additional work (20%, 36 of 177). 10% (17 of 177) 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, 31, female, S'gaw Karen, Buddhist, not displaced, Thaton Township.

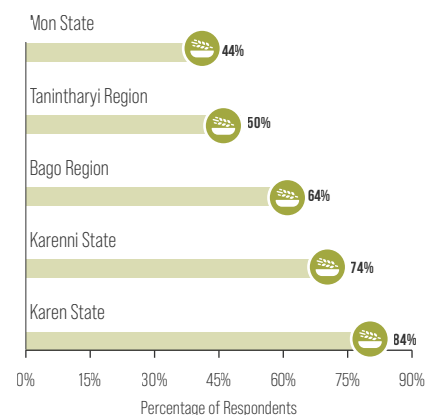
“The current situation is difficult due to flooding, making it hard to find food and essentials”.¹²

13 Interview, 46, female, S'gaw Karen, Buddhist, not displaced, Kyainseikgyi Township.

“These villages used to be under SAC control, but they’ve recently come under Karen territory. Now people rely on resistance groups for basic food, but there’s still not enough to go around, and many are struggling”.¹³

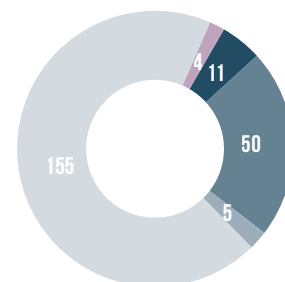
Of the 245 respondents with access to local markets, 40% (99) said that rice is unaffordable, 34% (84) said cooking oil is unaffordable, and 32% (78) said other food items are unaffordable. 22% (54 of 245) of respondents said that rice is unavailable in local markets, while 20% (48 of 245) of respondents said that cooking oil and other food items are unavailable, respectively.

% OF RESPONDENTS SELECTING FOOD AS A PRIORITY NEED

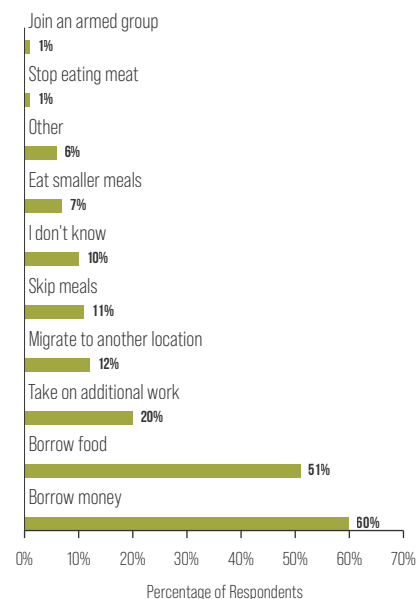


RECEIVING FOOD SUPPORT

■ Cash for food ■ In-kind food ■ Cash and in-kind food
■ No ■ Prefer not to say



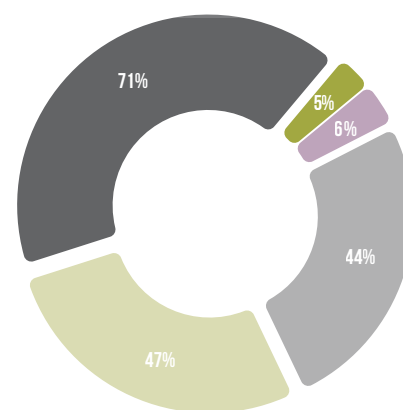
COPING MECHANISMS



ACCESS: COMMUNICATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

36% (116 of 322) of respondents said that they were unable to access humanitarian support due to a combination of poor transportation infrastructure leading to villages being isolated, communication barriers, and movement restrictions amid ongoing fighting. Respondents in Mon State were the most likely to express concerns around access limitations (63%, 20 of 35), followed by respondents in Bago Region (54%, 39 of 72).

REASONS FOR INABILITY TO ACCESS SUPPORT



14 Interview, 23, female, Karenni, Christian (Baptist), not displaced, Hpruso Township.

“The main issue is the difficulty in transportation. It gets worse during the rainy season because the roads are poor, making transportation very difficult”.¹⁴

15 Interview, 23, male, Dawei, Buddhist, displaced, Dawei Township.

“The roads are terrible, and the ongoing fighting makes travel extremely difficult”.¹⁵

16 Interview, 26, male, Mon, Buddhist, displaced, Ye Township.

“Communications and aid do not reach Ye Town. No group has come—perhaps due to remoteness or small population”.¹⁶

The challenges of poor infrastructure and limited connectivity are compounded by ongoing fighting and movement restrictions, which prevent humanitarian organisations from accessing certain communities or transporting supplies.

17 Interview, 50, male, S'gaw Karen, Christian, not displaced, Shwegyin Township.

“For some villagers, fighting makes things more difficult. We also cannot help. They need assistance but aid cannot reach them due to difficult travel and ongoing conflicts”.¹⁷

18 Interview, 25, male, Bamar, Buddhist, displaced, Yedashe Township.

“Ethnic armed groups are on the east side of Sittaung River; while SAC controls the bridge on the west. Only those who have a close relationship with them can cross”.¹⁸

19 Interview, 31, female, S'gaw Karen, Buddhist, displaced, Hpa-An Township.

“Due to ongoing conflict, donors aren't allowed into the village—villagers themselves are denied entry”.¹⁹

Some respondents also noted how elderly people, and people with disabilities or chronic health conditions, face unique access challenges due to both mobility issues and their reliance on others for transport and information:

20 Interview, 29, female, Pwo Karen, Buddhist, displaced, Hpa-An Township.

“People who are elderly, disabled, or have poor eyesight find it difficult to access and receive support”.²⁰

21 Interview, 41, male, Bamar, Buddhist, not displaced, Nyaunglebin Township.

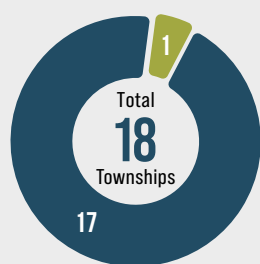
“People with health issues struggle with mobility and can't access aid”.²¹

TOWNSHIPS UNDER MOBILE INTERNET RESTRICTIONS

[September 2025]

INTERNET RESTRICTIONS STATUS

■ All Connections ■ Internet/call



2,316,442

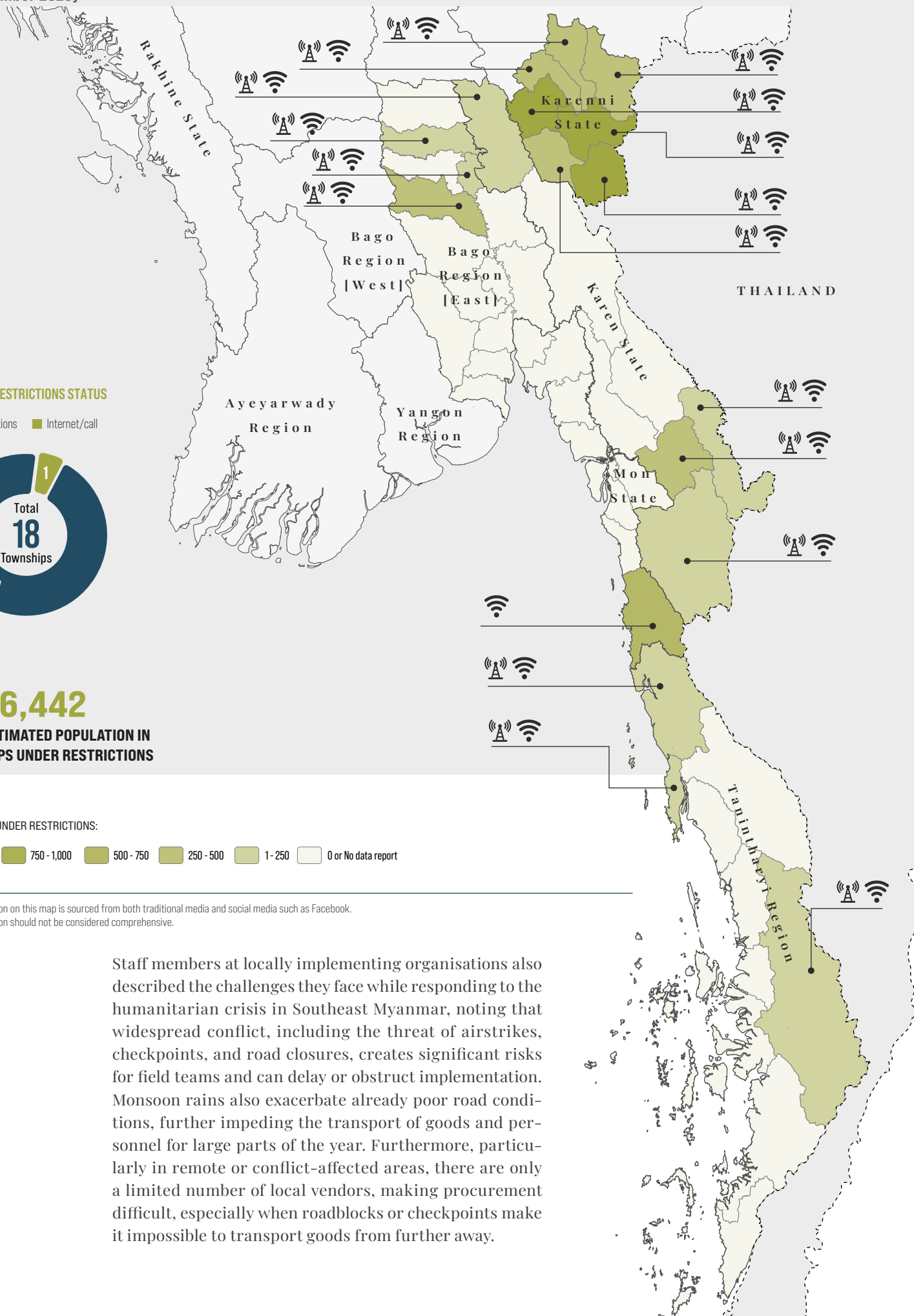
TOTAL ESTIMATED POPULATION IN TOWNSHIPS UNDER RESTRICTIONS

NO. OF DAYS UNDER RESTRICTIONS:

■ 1,000++ ■ 750 - 1,000 ■ 500 - 750 ■ 250 - 500 ■ 1 - 250 ■ 0 or No data report

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 members at locally implementing organisations also described the challenges they face while responding to the humanitarian crisis in Southeast Myanmar, noting that widespread conflict, including the threat of airstrikes, checkpoints, and road closures, creates significant risks for field teams and can delay or obstruct implementation. Monsoon rains also exacerbate already poor road conditions, further impeding the transport of goods and personnel for large parts of the year. Furthermore, particularly in remote or conflict-affected areas, there are only a limited number of local vendors, making procurement difficult, especially when roadblocks or checkpoints make it impossible to transport goods from further away.



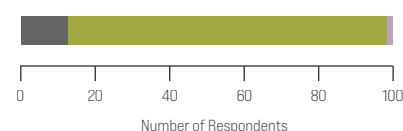
PROTECTION AND INCLUSION

13% (41 of 322) of respondents said that they are aware of vulnerable people not receiving support due to not being included in beneficiary selection lists. Many attributed this to administrative mistakes, being absent during registration, or changes in household status, which particularly impacted newcomers and those temporarily away from IDP camps, pointing to gaps in aid coverage. Others also noted that aid is targeted towards only certain groups, meaning that other vulnerable people miss out.

AWARENESS OF INCLUSION AND ACCOUNTABILITY CONCERNS IN RESPONDENTS' COMMUNITIES

■ Yes ■ No ■ Prefer not to Say

VULNERABLE PEOPLE NOT RECEIVING SUPPORT DUE TO BENEFICIARY LISTS



22 Interview, 33, male, Karenni, Christian, displaced, Loikaw Township.

“In the IDP camp, some missed being included in the name list because they were away at the clinic during the registration”.²²

23 Interview, 20, female, Karenni, Christian (Catholic), displaced, Hpruso Township.

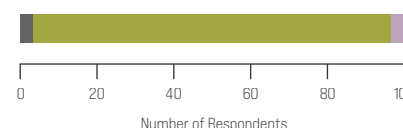
“Some don’t receive support due to errors in the name list, especially if they are both IDPs and original village residents”.²³

24 Interview, 23, female, Bamar, Buddhist, not displaced, Kyaikmaraw Township.

“Most people affected by the conflict are not receiving support. Some lack proper household registration; others were not at home during the registration period”.²⁴

3% (11 of 322) of respondents said that they are aware of groups that have been deliberately excluded from accessing support. Several suggested that non-IDPs are often excluded from humanitarian support, while one said that support is only given to insiders or those displaced from nearby communities.

CASES OF EXCLUSION

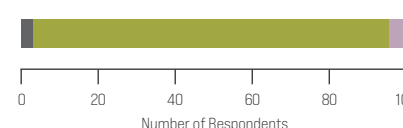


25 Interview, 46, male, Bamar, Buddhist, displaced, Tanintharyi Township.

“The current way they provide support is based solely on their own classifications. Although people are displaced for many reasons, if you’re not from their defined area, you won’t get any aid [...] Only the IDPs from nearby designated areas tend to get support. Even within the township, internally displaced persons often miss out”.²⁵

3% (10 of 322) 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. Eight of these reported bias or favouritism by IDP committees or humanitarian organisations, while two noted cases of corruption within local governance and administrative structures:

INCIDENTS OF FRAUD/CORRUPTION



26 Interview, 30, female, Shan/Bamar, Buddhist, displaced, Bilin Township.

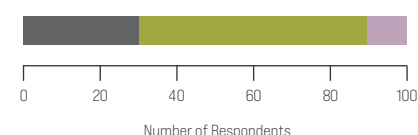
“When aid was provided to us, we noticed that those who were friendly with the aid providers received one or two extra items. I don’t remember which organisation it was. No one dared to mention it”.²⁶

27 Interview, 29, female, Kayan, Christian (Catholic), displaced, Demoso Township.

“In past years, there were instances of financial aid distributed based on household registration. Each individual received a fixed amount. However, there was a case where a person’s name remained on the list while they were travelling, and their share was taken. There were also cases where those known to higher-ups received a larger share. As for us, we had to request five times to get help even once. Some lists were compiled and distributed without informing or contacting us. When we eventually found out, we just assumed we weren’t eligible”.²⁷

30% (97 of 322) 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. Eight respondents noted that humanitarian organisations must coordinate with or receive approvals from local governance actors. Five, however, noted that the SAC (SSPC) and its administrators had previously demanded a share of assistance, or confiscated goods at checkpoints.

INVOLVEMENT OF ARMED OR GOVERNANCE ACTORS IN AID DELIVERY



28 Interview, 75, male, S'gaw Karen, Christian, displaced, Kyaukkyi Township.

“If you intend to bring supplies, you’ll need to pay gate fees via someone familiar with the KNU and SAC checkpoints to pass. Otherwise, there’s a risk of being shot. If you inform the KNU in advance of your intention, they will assist in delivering goods to the locals”.²⁸

29 Interview, 66, male, P'wo Karen, traditional religious practices, not displaced, Hpa-An Township.

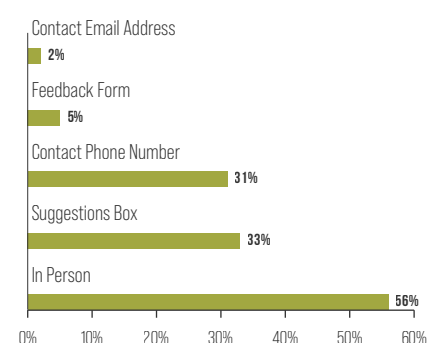
“The village has a SAC-appointed administrator. Supplies are generally distributed directly to the people. If assistance is to be delivered, the administrator must be informed in advance”.²⁹

30 Interview, 22, female, Mon, Buddhist, displaced, Ye Township.

“Occasionally, food donations are received from Mon monks. When goods are transported in, sometimes the military demands supplies, or insists on a payment of 150,000 MMK to pass through checkpoints. If you intend to carry out support activities, you should inform the coordinator of the Mon National College under MMSP”.³⁰

34% (110 of 322) of respondents said that they are aware of local organisations having feedback mechanisms to report concerns. Staff at locally implementing organisations noted that most feedback channels are in person and during community meetings, with limited use of written feedback due to lower levels of digital and literacy capacity in local communities as well as repeated communications blackouts.

TYPES OF BENEFICIARY FEEDBACK MECHANISM



CAMPS AND DISPLACEMENT

34% (109 of 322) of respondents reported being displaced at the time of interview, 39% (43 of 109) of whom reported living in some kind of displacement camp. The respondents in displacement camps expressed needs for shelter support (40%, 17 of 43) in particular at higher rates than other respondents.

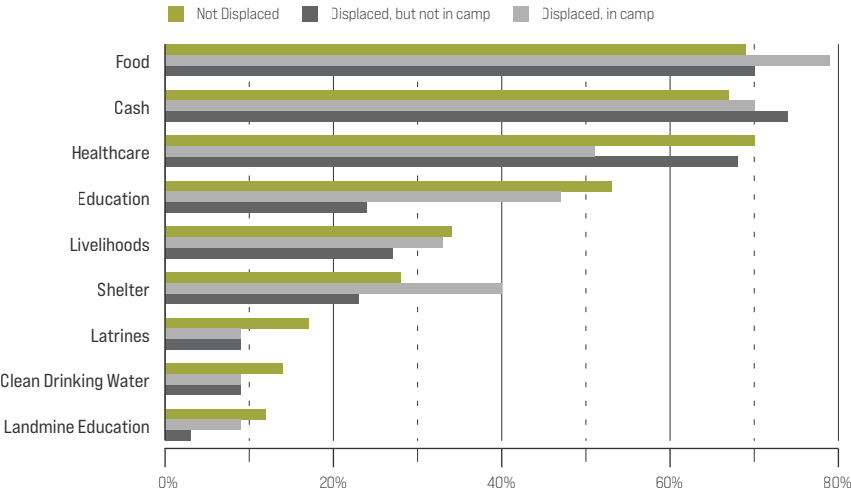
“Although there is no conflict in our village, many displaced people have fled here from the Kawkareik side”.³¹

“Many people are currently displaced and on the move. There are no job opportunities available. Most rely on daily labor, and work is only available when an employer specifically calls for it. Because there is no stable income, it is extremely difficult to meet basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. Due to constant displacement, even basic necessities like pots, cups, and plates are lacking. Therefore, they wish to receive support for these essentials”.³²

31 Interview, 24, male, S’gaw Karen, Christian, not displaced, Hpa-An Township.

32 Interview, 25, female, S’gaw Karen, Buddhist, displaced, Kyaukkyi Township.

NEEDS BY DISPLACEMENT STATUS



WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

12% (40 of 322) of respondents selected clean drinking water as a priority need, and 14% (45 of 322) of respondents selected latrines as a priority need. For both needs, respondents in Karen State selected them at significantly higher rates (22% and 28%, respectively) than respondents from other states/regions, where fewer than 10% of respondents selected both needs.

33 Interview, 23, female, S'gaw Karen, Buddhist, not displaced, Myawaddy Township.

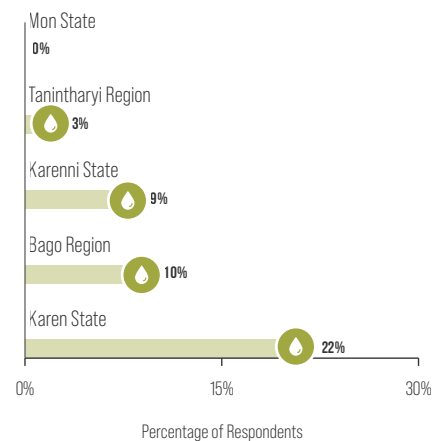
“Our area has many needs. After returning post-displacement (3+ years), life is tough. Villagers are living on debt, shops cannot restock, and there's no clean water”.³³

Of those who said that certain goods are unavailable in local markets, 13% (12 of 89) said that water filters are missing, and 15% (13 of 89) said that hygiene products are unavailable. Of respondents with access to a nearby market, 14% (35 of 245) said that hygiene products are unaffordable, while 6% (14 of 245) said that water filters are unaffordable.

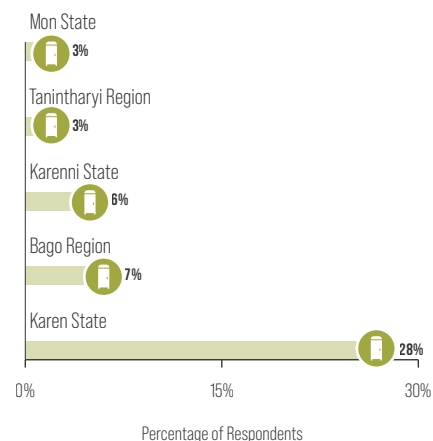
34 Interview, 21, female, S'gaw Karen, Buddhist, not displaced, Kyainseikgyi Township.

“In order for the children in the village to receive a proper education, there is a need for shelters and clean water toilets for personal hygiene”.³⁴

% OF RESPONDENTS SELECTING CLEAN DRINKING WATER AS A PRIORITY NEED



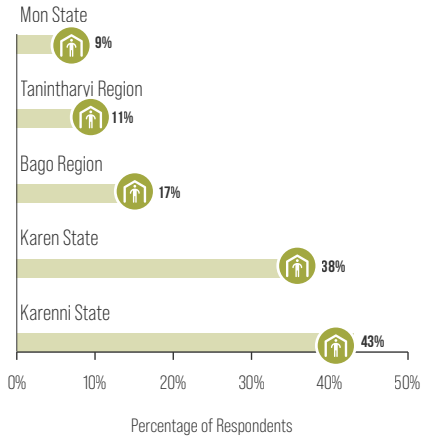
% OF RESPONDENTS SELECTING LATRINES AS A PRIORITY NEED



SHELTER

28% (90 of 322) of respondents cited shelter as a priority need; this rose to 43% (23 of 54) of respondents in Karenni State and 38% (48 of 125) of respondents in Karen State, while it fell to 10% (3 of 32) of respondents in Mon State and 11% (4 of 38) of respondents in Tanintharyi Region.

% OF RESPONDENTS SELECTING SHELTER AS A PRIORITY NEED



35 Interview, 32, male, S'gaw Karen, Buddhist, displaced, Tanintharyi Township.

“Displacement is constant in our area, and no permanent IDP sites can be designated. We need strong shelters in a secure area”.³⁵

36 Interview, 42, male, Karenni, Christian (Catholic), displaced, Hpruso Township.

“Our IDP camp is crowded. Farmland is limited. Many families can’t meet basic needs and rely on donors. In the rainy season, there are shelter problems; in summer, water problems. We have to fetch water from about 8-10 miles away, and the transport cost is high. Due to poor road access, donors rarely reach us”.³⁶

17% (41 of 245) of respondents with access to a nearby market said that tarps/shelter supplies are unaffordable. 13% (12 of 89) of respondents who said not all goods are available at local markets said that tarps/shelter supplies are missing.

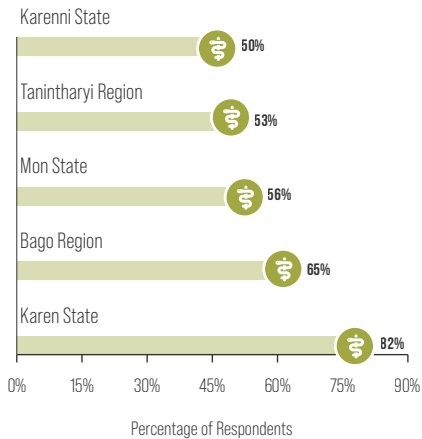
37 Interview, 30, female, Karenni, Christian (Catholic), displaced, Demoso Township.

“There are so many challenges. Housing is a big issue—it’s tough in the dry season because there’s no water, and in the rainy season, I worry about the roof and shelter. So I’m just trying to manage the present. I’ve no idea what to do next”.³⁷

HEALTH (NUTRITION)

67% (215 of 322) of respondents cited healthcare as a priority need, rising to 82% (103 of 125) of respondents in Karen State and falling to 50% (27 of 24) of respondents in Karenni State.

% OF RESPONDENTS SELECTING HEALTHCARE AS A PRIORITY NEED



38 Interview, 33, male, Dawei, Buddhist, displaced, Dawei Township.

“When health problems arise, public hospitals can’t be relied upon, so people turn to private clinics, which are much more expensive. There’s no trust in public hospitals. People worry about safety even there—if staff suspect someone is from a conflict zone, they fear the military might be informed and arrests may follow”.³⁸

39 Interview, 24, male, Karenni, Christian (Baptist), displaced, Hpruso Township.

“In the camp, if an elderly person with poor health doesn’t have money for transport, they can’t make it to the clinic, which is also located far away”.³⁹

Among respondents with access to a nearby market, 24% (60 of 245) said that healthcare supplies are unaffordable, while 48% (118 of 245) said that medication is unaffordable. Of those who said that there are goods missing in local markets, 29% (26 of 89) said that healthcare supplies are unavailable, and 67% (60 of 89) said that medication is unavailable.

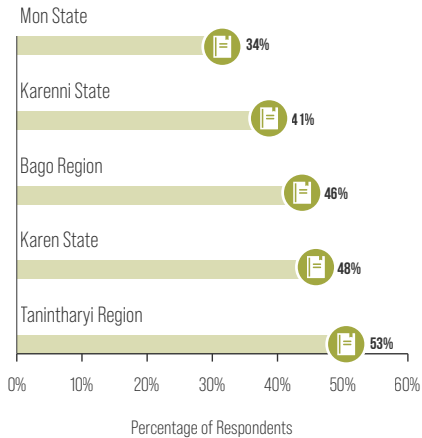
40 Interview, 29, female, Pwo Karen, Christian, not displaced, Myawaddy Township.

“There are also many mental health challenges, and more psychological support is needed. Though things may seem okay on the surface, living alone with constant worries causes insomnia”.⁴⁰

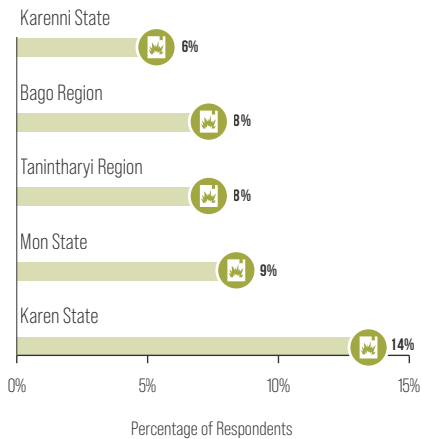
EDUCATION

45% (146 of 322) of respondents selected education as a priority need, and 10% (32 of 322) selected landmine education as a priority need. 53% (20 of 38) of respondents in Tanintharyi Region reported education as a priority need, while the lowest rate was in Mon State (34%, 11 of 32).

% OF RESPONDENTS SELECTING EDUCATION AS A PRIORITY NEED



% OF RESPONDENTS SELECTING LANDMINE EDUCATION AS A PRIORITY NEED



41 Interview, 51, male, Karenni, Christian (Catholic), displaced, Hpruso Township.

“The economy is difficult. There's no casual work, and crop yields are insufficient. It's hard to make ends meet. Financial support is needed for education. I have to ask parents for money for my children's education, which is very difficult”.⁴¹

42 Interview, 31, female, Pwo Karen, Christian, not displaced, Dawei Township.

“There aren't many education opportunities. Those who've finished school just help out as tutors”.⁴²

43 Interview, 26, male, Mon, Buddhist, displaced, Ye Township.

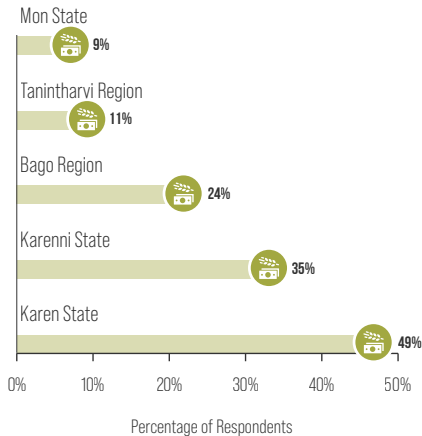
“There is growing concern about the increasing number of young people being subjected to random checks and arrests in the area. We are deeply worried about the safety of the youth. On top of this, schools are no longer functioning, which is seriously disrupting the education of local children and youth”.⁴³

8% (20 of 245) of respondents with access to a nearby market reported that stationary/education supplies are unaffordable, while 11% (10 of 89) of respondents reporting that there are goods missing in local markets said that stationary/education supplies are missing.

EARLY RECOVERY (LIVELIHOODS)

32% (104 of 322) of respondents said that livelihoods are a priority need for their household. 49% (61 of 125) of respondents in Karen State identified livelihoods as a priority need, the highest among the sample, while the lowest was in Mon State (9%, 3 of 32) and Tanintharyi Region (11%, 4 of 38).

% OF RESPONDENTS SELECTING LIVELIHOODS AS A PRIORITY NEED



44 Interview, 38, female, S'gaw Karen, Buddhist, displaced, Bilin Township.

“At the moment, I’m doing daily wage work. I used to be a headmistress, but now I take on whatever jobs I can find. As for the future, I suppose I’ll just keep going like this”.⁴⁴

45 Interview, 56, male, S'gaw Karen, Christian, displaced, Thandaunggyi Township.

“I’m thinking about moving to a place where I can find better job opportunities and earn a bit of income compared to where I’m staying now”.⁴⁵

Of respondents with access to a nearby market, 12% (30 of 245) said that livelihoods items are unaffordable, 16% (40 of 245) said fertiliser, seeds, or agriculture supplies are unaffordable, and 29% (72 of 245) said that fuel is unaffordable. 15% (13 of 89) of respondents who said some goods are unavailable in local markets said fertiliser, seeds, or agriculture supplies are missing, 8% (7 of 89) said livelihood items are missing, while 35% (31 of 89) said fuel is missing.

46 Interview, 36, male, Bamar, Buddhist, displaced, Hpruso Township.

“Most people engage in hill farming. They need agricultural tools and seeds; currently, only a third of the land can be cultivated. Livestock support would also be helpful”.⁴⁶

RESPONSE IMPLICATIONS

■ Southeast Myanmar covers a diverse range of contexts in which needs profiles vary; however, needs remain high across the board, particularly for food, cash, and health-care assistance.

– The data collected for this report shows little variance in needs and household finances between displaced and non-displaced populations, with only 12% of all populations earning above the MEB, showing that displacement does not function as a clear indicator or criterion for vulnerability and that needs remain high for all populations.

■ 69% of respondents said that cash is a priority need for their household, and 77% said they have a nearby market that they can access, meaning that overall cash programming continues to be relevant to meeting community needs by enabling beneficiaries to purchase items or services according to their own priorities.

– Nevertheless, as in other areas of Myanmar, certain items tend to be unavailable in local markets, especially medication. Of those who said that some goods are unavailable in local markets, 67% (60 of 89) said that medication is unavailable. Support for local medical clinics or health NGOs that are able to source and distribute medication is crucial, as well as understand-

ing that the costs of medicines may be impacted by blocked or complicated distribution channels.

■ It should be noted that only 34% of respondents reported being aware of local organisations having feedback and complaints handling mechanisms (FCHM); especially with the prevalence of cash programming, lead agencies and donors should focus some capacity-strengthening on developing, implementing, and monitoring FCHMs, as well as transparently sharing results for learning and accountability.

■ Data collection in Southeast Myanmar, 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

SOUTHEAST MYANMAR

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