Issue Brief

The Situation of Internally Displaced People in Rakhine State:

Challenges in Security, Socioeconomic Well-being and Access to Essential Services

No. (14/2026)

Internal Displacement, Vulnerabilities and Humanitarian Response



Internally displaced people (IDPs) from Ponnagyun Township were seen living alongside a main road in 2024.
(Photo: Development Media Group – DMG)

November 17 , 2026

1. Introduction

(A) Main Focus	An assessment of the situation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Rakhine State: Security and Civilian Protection, Access to Humanitarian Assistance, Food Security and Livelihoods, Education, and Healthcare.
(B) Geographic Scope	Townships and Displacement Sites Hosting Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Rakhine State
(C) Time Frame	January–October 2026

Throughout 2026, continued armed conflict and insecurity in Rakhine State have resulted in ongoing civilian displacement, significantly affecting the socioeconomic conditions of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and their access to essential services. Airstrikes and artillery shelling have heightened concerns over security and civilian protection, while IDPs continue to face difficulties accessing food, safe drinking water, shelter, and other necessities. Furthermore, declining livelihood opportunities and limited access to humanitarian assistance have further increased the vulnerability of displaced households.

Similarly, IDPs face significant challenges in accessing education and healthcare. These include disrupted educational opportunities for displaced children, limited capacity to afford school supplies and education-related expenses, difficulties accessing medicines and healthcare services, and increased health risks associated with flooding and infectious diseases. These conditions affect not only the immediate safety and basic needs of IDPs but also children's development and the long-term recovery prospects of displaced families.

This assessment focuses specifically on the situation of IDPs in Rakhine State during 2026, providing an overview of security and civilian protection, access to humanitarian assistance, food security and livelihoods, education, and healthcare. Drawing on reports from local media outlets and statements published by relevant humanitarian organisations, the assessment aims to identify the needs of displaced populations, the key challenges they face, and their humanitarian assistance requirements.

2. Summary of Findings

January 2026

(1) Military Airstrikes Force Residents to Flee Their Homes in Rakhine's Urban Areas (Western News)

Airstrikes carried out by the military council in December 2025 heightened security concerns among residents in Mrauk-U, Kyaukphyu, Thandwe, and Ngapali. Following an airstrike on Thandwe town on 31 December, thousands of residents reportedly fled to safer areas, with some temporarily relocating to rural areas and less populated locations.

(2) IDPs in Kyaukphyu Township Face Shortages of Drinking Water and Inadequate Healthcare Services (DMG, BNA)

According to reports published in January 2026, fighting between the military council and the Arakan Army (AA) displaced more than 30,000 to 50,000 people in Kyaukphyu Township, according to local media. Displaced people were sheltering temporarily in forests, mountainous areas, fields, monasteries, and schools. They faced shortages of clean drinking water, inadequate access to medicines and healthcare services, and skin diseases affecting both adults and children. Although local humanitarian groups were undertaking well-digging and water storage initiatives, IDPs continued to require necessities and emergency healthcare assistance.

(3) IDPs in Ponnagyun Township Face Drinking Water Shortages and Livelihood Difficulties (DMG)

Nearly 2,000 people residing at Kyantalin IDP camp in Ponnagyun Township were facing shortages of drinking water and difficulties meeting their basic needs, according to DMG. Wells near the camp were drying up, while access to water from nearby ponds was restricted, making it increasingly difficult for residents to obtain water. Furthermore, nearly 300 of the 500 households in the camp had no employment or income and were receiving less humanitarian assistance. As a result, some residents had reportedly travelled to other townships to beg for food and financial assistance to meet their basic needs.

(4) Military Council Attacks Force Residents Across Rakhine to Flee, with IDPs Reportedly Among the Casualties (Narinjara, DMG)

In January 2026, attacks involving drones, artillery shelling and airstrikes by the military council reportedly forced residents to flee their homes in Kyaukphyu, as well as Pauktaw, Ponnagyun and Rathedaung townships, according to DMG and Narinjara. In Kyaukphyu Township, an airstrike on 17 January reportedly killed three IDPs and injured two others. A separate drone attack on

22 January also reportedly injured two IDPs.

(5) IDPs in Rakhine Face Cold Weather Conditions During the Winter Season (Narinjara)

As temperatures dropped during the winter season in Rakhine State, residents of IDP camps faced difficulties due to inadequate blankets, warm clothing, and shelter. Children and older people were particularly vulnerable to the cold. IDPs also continued to require food, medicines and healthcare services, according to Narinjara.

February 2026

(6) IDP Camps in Kyauktaw Township Face Shortages of Adequate Housing and Toilets (DMG)

Residents of the COC and Kawiyadana IDP camps in Kyauktaw Township have been facing inadequate shelter due to a lack of humanitarian assistance and financial difficulties, which have prevented them from repairing damaged houses. According to DMG, the camps also have an insufficient number of functional toilets, with many facilities damaged and unusable, creating additional sanitation and health concerns. IDPs therefore continue to require humanitarian assistance not only for food and necessities but also for the repair of houses and toilet facilities to improve their living conditions.

(7) IDPs in Sittwe Face Difficulties Meeting Their Basic Needs (Narinjara)

IDPs sheltering in monasteries in Sittwe are struggling to meet their basic needs due to a shortage of donors and employment opportunities. Although each person reportedly received 60 tins of rice from the military council, some IDPs have had to sell part of the rice to purchase other food items and medicines. Others have reportedly resorted to buying food on credit from local shops to support their daily needs, according to Narinjara.

(8) IDPs in Ponnagyun Township Face Difficulties with Food, Livelihoods and Shelter (DMG)

IDPs in Ponnagyun Township, Rakhine State, are facing worsening difficulties in meeting their basic needs due to limited employment opportunities, rising commodity prices, and declining humanitarian assistance. Women-headed households, in particular, are struggling to support their families through casual labour and the sale of firewood and bamboo products. Their limited income has also affected their children's access to education. According to DMG, these households are unable to adequately meet their families' basic needs.

Furthermore, more than 1,000 IDPs in Thae Taw village are facing food shortages. Meanwhile, more than 200 IDPs who were forced to leave a monastery in Yoe Chaung village have been living

in makeshift tents in open fields, where they face inadequate shelter and limited access to clean water, according to DMG.

(9) Displaced Children in Rakhine Face Increasing Loss of Access to Education (DMG)

Children living in IDP camps across Rakhine State are increasingly being deprived of educational opportunities due to household income losses, financial hardship, and rising prices of school supplies. Many children are unable to attend school because their families cannot afford stationery and textbooks. Others have had to discontinue their education to work and support their families or take care of younger siblings. Amid declining humanitarian assistance, increased educational support is urgently needed to help displaced children continue their studies.

March 2026

(10) Funeral Assistance Association for IDPs in Sittwe Requires Funding Support (Western News)

The Funeral Assistance Association for IDPs in Sittwe, Rakhine State, is facing a funding shortfall and requires additional financial support. Between August 2025 and February 2026, the association reportedly provided funeral assistance for 40 IDPs. The number of deaths has reportedly increased due to malnutrition and lack of access to medical treatment. Among the deceased were five children under the age of 18. Although each funeral costs approximately MMK 600,000, the association's available funds remain insufficient to cover the growing needs. Western News reported on 2 March that the association required additional financial assistance.

(11) IDPs in Ponnagyun and Kyaukphyu Townships Face Water Shortages (Western News, Narinjara)

IDPs in Ponnagyun and Kyaukphyu townships, Rakhine State, have been facing difficulties accessing drinking water due to seasonal water shortages during the dry season. In Kyaukphyu Township, approximately 4,000 IDPs have reportedly been affected by water shortages. The use of unsafe drinking water has reportedly resulted in diarrhoea and skin diseases among children. In Ponnagyun Township, wells and ponds have been drying up, while the growing number of IDPs has further strained available water supplies. In response, four local social assistance organisations jointly began distributing free drinking water on 27 March. The first distribution reportedly reached 138 households, comprising more than 500 people, according to Narinjara on 30 March.

April 2026

(12) IDPs in Thandwe and Ann Townships Face Challenges Due to Airstrikes and Landmine Risks (DMG, Narinjara)

In Thandwe Township, Rakhine State, four fighter jets belonging to the military council reportedly carried out airstrikes, while a military vessel also fired artillery shells. The attacks reportedly killed four displaced women and injured three others. Following these attacks, some residents near Ngapali Beach were forced to flee again. Meanwhile, in Ann Township, people previously displaced by fighting have been unable to return to their homes due to the continued threat of airstrikes and landmines. They continue to face difficulties meeting their basic needs, accessing healthcare and ensuring their children's education, according to DMG.

(13) Muslim IDPs in Sittwe Face Food Insecurity Following Reductions in Food Assistance (DMG)

Muslim IDPs living in camps in Sittwe Township have been facing increasing difficulties meeting their basic food and other needs following the suspension and reduction of food assistance provided by the World Food Programme (WFP) and its partner organisations since March. Previously, each individual reportedly received MMK 45,000 per month. However, some households have had their assistance completely discontinued, while others no longer receive support for all family members. Limited employment opportunities, rising commodity prices, and restrictions on fishing and freedom of movement have further exacerbated their difficulties.

(14) IDPs Across Rakhine State Face Difficulties with Livelihoods and Shelter (DMG, Narinjara)

Some IDPs who relocated from Kyaukphyu Township to Ramree Township have reportedly been forced to sell or pawn their remaining belongings to meet their basic needs, due to insufficient humanitarian assistance, limited employment opportunities and rising commodity prices. In addition, strong winds and heavy rain have damaged accommodation facilities and blown away roofing materials in several IDP camps in Ponnagyun and Kyauktaw townships. Affected households urgently require emergency shelter assistance ahead of the upcoming monsoon season, according to reports.

May 2026

(15) Displaced Children in Rakhine Face Challenges in Accessing Education (DMG)

Displaced families across Rakhine State have been struggling to afford their children's education due to low household incomes and rising prices of schoolbooks and stationery. As a result, some families have had to discontinue supplementary education programmes, while others have been

forced to withdraw their children from school. Some displaced children have reportedly dropped out of school because their families can no longer afford education-related expenses. Furthermore, the threat of airstrikes has left children fearful of attending school. Displaced communities are therefore calling for the establishment of safe schools near IDP camps and increased educational assistance to ensure that children can continue their studies.

(16) IDPs in Kyaukphyu Township Urgently Require Drinking Water, Menstrual Hygiene Products and Other Basic Assistance (Western News, Narinjara)

Ongoing clashes in Kyaukphyu Township have forced thousands of residents to flee their homes, leaving displaced communities in urgent need of drinking water, food, medicines, shelter and menstrual hygiene products. As drought conditions have caused ponds and water sources to dry up, more than 5,000 people across nine displacement sites have been facing inadequate access to drinking water. Some women have also reportedly been forced to use pieces of old cloth due to a lack of access to menstrual hygiene products.

Following an escalation in fighting on 10 May, approximately 8,000 additional people from at least 15 nearby villages were forced to flee their homes. Media reports indicated that the total number of IDPs in Kyaukphyu Township had reached approximately 50,000.

(17) More Than 3,700 IDPs in Thandwe Township Urgently Require Safe Shelter Ahead of the Monsoon Season (DMG)

According to DMG, more than 3,700 IDPs in Thandwe Township have been forced to leave schools and monasteries due to airstrikes and are now living in makeshift tents in forests, mountainous areas, and around nearby villages. With the monsoon season approaching, displaced communities continue to face shortages of shelter materials, food, and other necessities. These inadequate living conditions are expected to expose IDPs to further hardship during the rainy season.

(18) Inadequate and Unsafe Toilet Facilities Raise Safety and Health Concerns for Displaced Women (DMG)

According to DMG, women in several IDP camps across Rakhine State are facing safety and health concerns due to insufficient toilet facilities, damaged roofs, walls and doors, and poor sanitation conditions.

In one IDP camp in Kyauktaw Township, home to more than 1,000 people, toilets were damaged by heavy rain and strong winds, while financial constraints have prevented their repair. Similarly, IDP camps in Kyaukphyu Township have far too few toilets relative to their populations. As a result, women face safety concerns when using toilets at night, alongside increased risks related to poor hygiene and sanitation.

Similar challenges have also been reported in IDP camps in Rathedaung, Pauktaw, Mrauk-U, Ann, Gwa and Taungup townships, where women also require menstrual hygiene products, according to DMG.

June 2026

(19) More Than 1,000 IDPs Along the Ramree–Kyaukphyu Border Urgently Relocated Following Airstrikes (Narinjara)

According to Narinjara, airstrikes were carried out on displacement sites along the Ramree–Kyaukphyu border on 28 May, 1 June and 3 June. Following the attacks, more than 250 households, comprising over 1,000 people from two IDP camps, were urgently relocated to safer areas on 5 June by local social assistance organisations and responsible authorities in Ramree Township. The reports also indicated that some IDPs were killed and injured in the attacks.

(20) More Than 3,000 IDPs in Southern Rakhine Face Severe Food Insecurity (DMG)

According to DMG, more than 3,000 IDPs in Thandwe, Taungup and Gwa townships are facing severe food shortages due to limited humanitarian assistance and a lack of employment and income-generating opportunities. Some families have reportedly resorted to begging for food, including involving their children, to meet their basic needs. Humanitarian workers also reported that displaced households were struggling to afford shelter materials ahead of the monsoon season.

(21) Displaced Farmers in Kyaukphyu Forced to Sell Their Draught Cattle at Significantly Reduced Prices (DMG)

Displaced farmers in Kyaukphyu Township have been forced to sell their draught cattle at significantly reduced prices due to difficulties meeting their basic needs and shortages of grazing land. Ongoing fighting and military blockades have prevented them from returning to their farmland to resume agricultural activities. Cattle that were previously valued at approximately MMK 2 million are now reportedly being sold for around half that amount. Residents and humanitarian workers warned that the loss of draught cattle could create further difficulties for farmers seeking to resume agricultural production and undermine future food security.

(22) Approximately 50 IDPs in Chiway Village, Pauktaw Township, Face Homelessness After Being Evicted from a School (Narinjara)

According to Narinjara, approximately 50 IDPs in Chiway village, Pauktaw Township, are facing a lack of accommodation after being told to leave the school where they had been sheltering. Some have sought accommodation in houses within the village or relocated to stay with relatives. However, those without financial resources or relatives to support them are facing difficulties finding shelter and securing food.

The IDPs were asked to leave the school to allow classes to resume. Some displaced households are reportedly planning to relocate to other townships due to the lack of alternative accommodation.

July 2026

(23) Heavy Rainfall Worsens Livelihood and Basic Needs Challenges for IDPs Across Rakhine State (DMG)

Heavy rainfall across Rakhine State has worsened living conditions for IDPs in Kyauktaw Township. Temporary shelters have been affected by leaking roofs, while cargo boat services have been disrupted. These conditions have reduced opportunities for casual labour and income generation, making it increasingly difficult for displaced households to meet their food and other basic needs.

Military council restrictions on trade routes have also contributed to rising commodity prices. In addition, IDPs have struggled to afford rain protection materials and medicines and have faced shortages of drinking water, increasing their exposure to health risks, according to DMG.

(24) Flooding Disrupts Sanitation and Access to Healthcare Services at an IDP Camp in Mrauk-U Township (DMG)

According to DMG, flooding at the Gyar Taung IDP camp in Mrauk-U Township has left only approximately four of the camp's 14 toilets functional. As a result, between 10 and 20 households are having to share a single toilet.

The camp accommodates 273 people from 61 households across 78 shelters. Flood damage to toilets, combined with shortages of mosquito nets and menstrual hygiene products, has created additional health risks and difficulties in daily living conditions for displaced residents.

(25) Military Forces Arrest IDP Camp Administrator in Sittwe for a Second Time (Narinjara)

A male administrator of the Sain Kuu Lan School IDP camp in Sittwe was initially arrested on 15 June during a household registration inspection at the camp and released on 22 June. However, on 21 July, military personnel from the Sittwe Regional Military Command reportedly arrested him and took him away again.

As he reportedly has underlying health problems, his family has expressed concern about his well-being. The incident has further heightened concerns over the safety and security of IDP camp administrators and displaced residents, according to Narinjara.

August 2026

(26) Diarrhoea Outbreak Kills 11 Children in Displacement Camps in Sittwe (DVB)

An outbreak of severe diarrhoea has affected displacement camps and rural communities in Sittwe Township, Rakhine State, since 13 August, killing 11 children and leaving more than 200 people ill. Heavy rainfall and flooding have worsened drinking water and sanitation conditions. In addition, movement restrictions have made it difficult for patients to access hospitals for treatment. Health risks have further increased due to shortages of medicines, healthcare workers and emergency medical supplies at clinics in displacement camps.

(27) Displaced People in Kyaukphyu Urgently Need Mosquito Nets and Basic Healthcare Services (DMG)

Some displacement camps in Kyaukphyu Township are experiencing dengue outbreaks. However, shortages of mosquito nets and medicines, together with the limited availability of regular healthcare outreach services, have increased the risk of infectious diseases and created difficulties in accessing healthcare services. More than 60,000 displaced people in Kyaukphyu Township are also in need of food and women's personal hygiene supplies. Ongoing fighting, airstrikes and naval artillery shelling have further undermined the safety of displaced communities and their access to essential services.

(28) Humanitarian Assistance Provided to Internally Displaced People in Rakhine State (Narinjara)

The Ah Myint Gyi Rakhine New Generation Youth Charity Association constructed and donated 32 houses for internally displaced people (IDPs). Meanwhile, the ULA/AA and HDCO provided food assistance, essential household items and healthcare services to people displaced from Ngapali due to the threat of airstrikes. In addition, the Mitta Organization provided one month's supply of food and essential items to 3,970 IDPs in Kyaukphyu Township, according to Narinjara News.

September 2026

(29) Fighting Near Sittwe Displaces Residents from Ponnagyun and Rathedaung, Increasing Humanitarian Needs (DMG, BNA)

Fighting near Sittwe, artillery shelling, and air and naval attacks have forced thousands of residents from Ponnagyun and Rathedaung townships to flee their homes. Some have sought temporary shelter in relatives' homes and nearby villages in Mrauk-U Township. Displaced households are facing shortages of food, shelter, financial resources and livelihood opportunities, alongside difficulties accessing medicines and healthcare services. Children, older people, persons

with disabilities and those with existing health conditions are particularly in need of basic assistance. Reports also indicate that international humanitarian assistance remains inaccessible in some areas.

(30) Rising Commodity Prices and Restrictions on Humanitarian Assistance Cause Food Shortages in Sittwe (Narinjara)

Fighting near Sittwe has disrupted the entry of cargo vessels, contributing to rising commodity prices and worsening food shortages among local residents and displaced people, who are also facing limited employment opportunities. Food shortages have become increasingly severe as a result. Furthermore, restrictions imposed by the military junta on donor assistance have left Rakhine IDP camps located in monasteries facing inadequate food supplies. Emergency food assistance and improved access to humanitarian support are therefore urgently needed.

(31) More Than 30,000 Displaced People in Kyaukphyu District Urgently Need Food and Healthcare Assistance (Network Media Group)

More than 30,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in Kyaukphyu and Ramree townships are facing severe shortages of food and healthcare services due to ongoing fighting and road blockages, which have disrupted the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Approximately 5,100 people with urgent humanitarian needs require rice, medicines, household items and school supplies for children. Transport restrictions and shortages of healthcare workers have also made it difficult for children, older people and pregnant women to access basic healthcare services.

October 2026

(32) Airstrikes on Displacement Camps and Villages in Ponnagyun Cause Civilian Casualties and Further Displacement (Narinjara, DMG)

In early October, airstrikes on Aung Phyu Pyin Village, Byala Village and the Pannila displacement camps in Ponnagyun Township caused civilian casualties and injuries. Homes, shops and a clinic providing free medical treatment to displaced people were also damaged.

As airstrikes continued, displaced people and local residents were forced to flee again to forested areas, roadsides and nearby towns and villages. They faced increasing rental costs and difficulties finding safe and secure accommodation. Furthermore, ongoing clashes along the Sittwe–Ponnagyun boundary and military airstrikes have further exacerbated loss of employment and income, as well as difficulties meeting basic living needs among displaced households.



The Bya La displacement camp, located between Thayetcho and Yoe Ngu villages in Ponnagyun Township, following an attack by two military junta fighter jets at approximately 5:10 p.m. on 4 October. (Photo: One Nation News)

(33) Number of People Begging for a Living Nearly Doubles in Southern Rakhine (DMG)

The number of people resorting to begging for a living in southern Rakhine has nearly doubled due to limited employment opportunities, rising commodity prices and ongoing insecurity. In Thandwe, the suspension of fishing and related businesses has resulted in significant income losses among local residents, forcing some to rely on begging and selling household belongings to meet their basic needs.

(34) Rice Shortages and Rising Prices Leave Residents and Displaced People Struggling to Meet Basic Needs in Taungup (DMG)

Residents and displaced people from Kyaukphyu and Thandwe are facing food insecurity in Taungup Township due to rice shortages and rising prices. Rice mills are only selling limited quantities of rice to customers who place advance orders, with a sack of low-quality rice costing between MMK 150,000 and 160,000. Ongoing conflict, the threat of airstrikes and declining agricultural production have further constrained rice availability, while humanitarian food assistance efforts have also faced significant obstacles.

(35) Financial Hardship Prevents Residents and Displaced People in Thandwe and Gwa from Accessing Healthcare (DMG, Narinjara)

Residents and displaced people in Thandwe and Gwa townships are experiencing difficulties purchasing medicines and accessing medical treatment due to losses of employment and income.

Although the Laywaddy–Thandwe Social Assistance and Rescue Association provided free medical treatment to 500 displaced people, its remaining medicine supplies are declining. The assistance has also been insufficient to reach everyone in need, highlighting the continued need for humanitarian assistance to support access to healthcare services.

3. Key Findings

1. Between January and October 2026, internally displaced people (IDPs) in Rakhine State continued to face displacement and difficulties securing temporary accommodation. In addition, challenges related to security, food security, livelihoods, healthcare and education remained interconnected, placing multidimensional pressure on the socioeconomic well-being of displaced communities.

2. Armed conflict and the threat of airstrikes continued to pose serious risks to the lives and physical safety of displaced people. These conditions also created barriers to school attendance, access to medical treatment and the receipt of humanitarian assistance. As a result, security remains a critical prerequisite for ensuring access to other essential needs and services.

3. Loss of employment and income sources, coupled with rising commodity prices, has further exacerbated the difficulties faced by displaced households in meeting their basic needs. Inability to afford education-related and healthcare expenses has further restricted access to essential services. These conditions have increased the need for emergency humanitarian assistance.

4. Despite ongoing efforts by humanitarian organisations, assistance has yet to reach everyone in need. Those who cannot afford medicines and medical treatment, face transportation difficulties or have limited access to humanitarian assistance networks are particularly vulnerable. These challenges also adversely affect children's education, health and overall development.

5. The needs of displaced people vary across locations and individual households, while flooding, contaminated drinking water and disease outbreaks further compound existing challenges. Therefore, in addition to providing food, medicines and essential supplies, sustained support is needed for livelihood recovery, education and healthcare services. Furthermore, a context-specific approach is required to ensure that water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services adequately address the needs of different communities.

4. Analysis

The renewed conflict in Rakhine State, which began in November 2023, has significantly transformed the region's military control, political authority and administrative landscape. At present, more than 90 per cent of the territory is reportedly under the control of the ULA-led administration, while Sittwe, Kyaukphyu and Manaung remain under the control of the military junta based in Naypyidaw.

Consequently, the majority of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Rakhine State are living in areas under ULA control. Their number is estimated to range between 500,000 and 600,000, while a considerable number of displaced people are also believed to be living in areas under military junta control. IDPs come from diverse ethnic, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds. While those with financial resources or strong family support networks may be relatively better able to cope with displacement, ordinary households have often been forced to abandon their homes, land and other assets, leaving them with few resources to rebuild their lives. Many have consequently sought shelter in displacement camps, monasteries, schools and vacant roadside spaces, often under inadequate living conditions.

During the initial stages of displacement, some households were able to rely on their remaining savings, sell or pawn personal belongings, and reduce their expenses to meet basic needs. However, as the conflict has continued, dwindling financial resources and limited employment opportunities have made it increasingly difficult for displaced households to sustain themselves. Many have become heavily dependent on donations and assistance from international organisations, the ULA administration and local civil society organisations. Such assistance, however, is insufficient to sustain households over the long term. The decline in international humanitarian funding and the lack of predictable, sustained assistance have further deepened the hardships faced by displaced communities.

Displacement camps have increasingly become challenging environments in terms of security, healthcare, education and access to basic living conditions. In terms of security, displaced people remain exposed to targeted airstrikes by the military junta and the risks posed by landmines. They are also highly vulnerable to seasonal hazards and adverse weather conditions throughout the year. During the rainy season, flooding and inadequate protection from rain create serious difficulties, while water shortages and fire hazards pose additional risks during the summer. In winter, inadequate blankets and shelter leave displaced households vulnerable to cold temperatures. These overlapping challenges further undermine their safety, health and overall living conditions.

Among displaced populations, older people, women and children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of displacement. In addition to being unable to afford the costs of healthcare and education, their specific needs may not be adequately considered in the planning and delivery of existing basic services. Meanwhile, displaced people living in areas under military junta control face a different set of challenges. Some have reportedly been forcibly relocated into urban areas under the military's security arrangements, even in the absence of active fighting. They also face frequent security checks, pressure related to military recruitment and a lack of reliable arrangements to support their basic living needs. Furthermore, incidents such as the Byai Phyu village incident, in which an entire village was subjected to violence and intimidation, with numerous residents reportedly killed and others detained and taken away, have likely left affected communities experiencing significant psychological trauma and continued insecurity.

At the same time, restrictions imposed by the military junta on the entry of humanitarian assistance

into ULA-controlled areas have further exacerbated the difficulties faced by displaced populations. These restrictions have significantly constrained the delivery of essential assistance to communities in need.

Overall, the situation of internally displaced people is a critical humanitarian concern arising from the wider consequences of armed conflict and requires urgent and sustained attention. Ensuring that humanitarian assistance reaches those in need without obstruction is therefore a shared responsibility of the United Nations and other international organisations, neighbouring country governments and all relevant political authorities. All parties with influence over access and humanitarian operations shall take responsibility for facilitating the safe, timely and unhindered delivery of international humanitarian assistance to affected populations.

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Contact – info@arakanstudies.org, www.arakanstudies.org