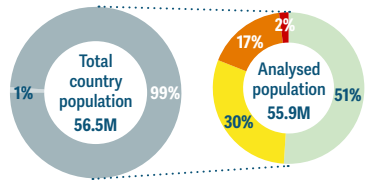


ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | A very concerning food crisis driven by the impact of conflict, cyclone Mocha, flooding and crop pests on agricultural production.

PEAK 2023 (SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER)

10.7M people or **19%** of the total population faced high levels of acute food insecurity. Among them, 1.4 million people faced Emergency (equivalent to IPC Phase 4).

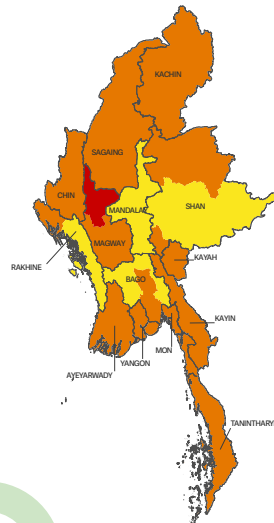
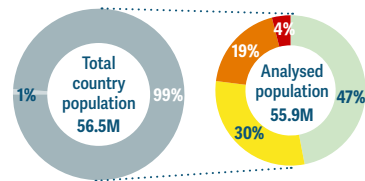


Source: Pre-analysis conducted under the HNRP, as a basis for generating results for the 2024 projection used by the Myanmar HNRP 2024.

PROJECTION 2024 (JUNE–AUGUST)

12.9M people or **23%** of the population are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity (HNRP 2024, January 2024). Of them, 2.4 million are projected to be in Emergency (equivalent to IPC Phase 4).

The worsening situation is due to intensifying conflict, and lower food availability during the height of the lean season, coupled with a high risk of flooding during the monsoon rains (OCHA, January 2024).



This map portrays the food security situation at area level but does not detail the food security status of the IDPs in these areas nor humanitarian assistance provided to them.

Source: HNRP 2024.



DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023–2024

Conflict/insecurity Since the February 2021 military takeover and subsequent state of emergency, insecurity has driven displacement, destroyed infrastructure, hindered access to basic services and prevented movement of agricultural goods and food. Conflict intensified towards the end of year, with an estimated 628 000 people displaced between October and December 2023 (OCHA, January 2024).

Over half of the IDPs, including in Rakhine, southern Shan, Kayah and Kachin, depend on external assistance for food. Restrictions on freedom of movement and insecurity complicate the humanitarian response.

In mid-2023 a quarter of farmers reported difficulty accessing fertilizer in insecure areas, leading to reduced planted areas, especially among smallholder farmers (OCHA, January 2024).

DISPLACEMENT

2.6M IDPs by 2023

Source: UNHCR, January 2024.

History of the food crisis A lower-middle-income country, Myanmar has been included in six out of eight GRFC editions. Although a change in methods does not allow direct comparison of numbers, Myanmar was classified as a major food crisis for the first time in the GRFC 2023, and again in this edition. This is largely due to instability and conflict following the 2021 military takeover, which prompted displacement, destruction of fields and homes, and restricted market access.

Economic shocks The retail price of rice increased from early 2022 to reach record levels in September 2023, driven by tight market availabilities and conflict-related disruptions (FAO, November 2023). Seasonal price decreases were offset by the below-average rice harvest, high prices of agricultural inputs and of transport. By November these were about 65 percent higher than the already high levels of 2022 (FAO, January 2024). The average cost of the food basket was 69 percent higher in January 2024 than January 2023 (WFP Price Update, January 2024).

Weather extremes Cyclone Mocha made landfall in May 2023 causing widespread flooding and infrastructure destruction that affected 3.4 million people and damaged or flooded 326 000 hectares of farmland, impacting food availability for subsistence farmers, especially in western and northwestern regions where insecurity is most intense (OCHA, May 2023; OCHA, January 2024).

ACUTE MALNUTRITION

0.4M children under 5 years old at risk of acute malnutrition in 2024

0.36M MAM 0.07M SAM

Source: Myanmar HNRP 2024, December 2023.

0.03M pregnant and breastfeeding women at risk of acute malnutrition in 2024

Acute food insecurity is driving a malnutrition crisis requiring life-saving treatment and humanitarian assistance, particularly for IDPs in the northwest and Rakhine state (OCHA, December 2023).

DRIVERS OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION 2023–2024

Lack of food Food insecurity linked to market disruptions and reduced mobility, destruction of cropland, and high inflation that disrupted household consumption patterns and impacted the affordability of a healthy diet drove malnutrition (OCHA, December 2023).

Inadequate practices A lack of safe spaces for breastfeeding persisted in camps and among displaced populations (OCHA, January 2024).

Inadequate services Open defecation and drinking from contaminated water sources was common in camps and displacement sites as IDP infrastructure struggled to meet the needs of a burgeoning displaced population. Over half of IDPs reported sharing water facilities, while use of non-improved drinking water sources was common among all population groups in Myanmar during the dry and monsoon seasons (OCHA, December 2023).

In Shan, Kachin and Rakhine states, healthcare facilities have been damaged or abandoned due to a new wave of fighting since November 2023. Severe movement restrictions are preventing humanitarian actors from providing health and nutrition care (MSF, January 2024).