



The Collapse of Aid: A Quantitative Analysis of the 2025 Humanitarian Funding Crisis in Myanmar

***An Analytical Brief By The Myanmar Conflict Analysis
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Executive Summary

An analysis of the 2025 humanitarian funding data for Myanmar reveals a deepening crisis, primarily driven by a catastrophic collapse in international aid. Compared to the 2024 baseline, the funding shortfall has surged from \$538 million to over \$682 million creating a vast and widening abyss between documented human need and available resources. The decline is not uniform; the data reveals a pattern of cuts disproportionately concentrated on the most critical life-saving sectors, namely Food Security and Shelter. This has the de facto effect of a strategic dismantling of the core humanitarian safety net.

The primary finding of this brief is the direct, quantifiable human cost of this collapse. Over 1,000,000 people have been cut from essential food aid, 300,000 have lost access to NGO-provided medical services, and the operational capacity of implementing partners has been crippled, evidenced by the cancellation or cutting of 97.5% of USAID's programs. A geospatial analysis further reveals that the impact of these cuts is most severe in regions already designated as having the highest vulnerability, such as Sagaing and Rakhine. In essence, the 2025 funding landscape represents a measurable retreat of the international safety net, with devastating and verifiable consequences for Myanmar's most vulnerable populations. While this crisis is a stark reflection of a broader global decline in humanitarian funding, this analysis focuses specifically on its measurable consequences for the people of Myanmar.

Background & Methodology

This analysis is built upon a comparative framework using multiple, verifiable data sources to ensure the utmost analytical integrity and to quantify the direct impact of reduced international aid between a baseline year (2024) and the crisis year (2025). The core methodology relies on three primary datasets:

- **Humanitarian Funding Data:** All financial figures, including Amount Received and overall Humanitarian Requirement for both 2024 and 2025, are sourced directly from the UN OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS). The FTS is the globally recognized repository for tracking official humanitarian aid flows, providing the foundational quantitative basis for this report.
- **Programmatic & Human Impact Data:** Specific, quantifiable figures for human impact—such as the 1 million+ people cut from food aid and the 97.5% of USAID programs cancelled—are sourced from public reports and official statements by the World Food Programme (WFP), USAID, and other international NGOs. These figures are treated as primary data points that bridge the gap between financial shortfalls and real-world consequences.
- **Humanitarian Needs & Vulnerability Data:** The geographic analysis is based on key figures from the official UN OCHA's Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) for Myanmar. To move beyond a simple mapping of need, this brief constructs a weighted Impact Score for each State/Region. This score is calculated by multiplying the People in Need (PiN) by a Vulnerability Score (1-5 scale) assigned by humanitarian analysts based on conflict intensity, displacement, and access constraints. This methodology allows for a more nuanced analysis, identifying regions where high need and high vulnerability converge, thus pinpointing where the consequences of aid cuts are most severe.

Key Findings

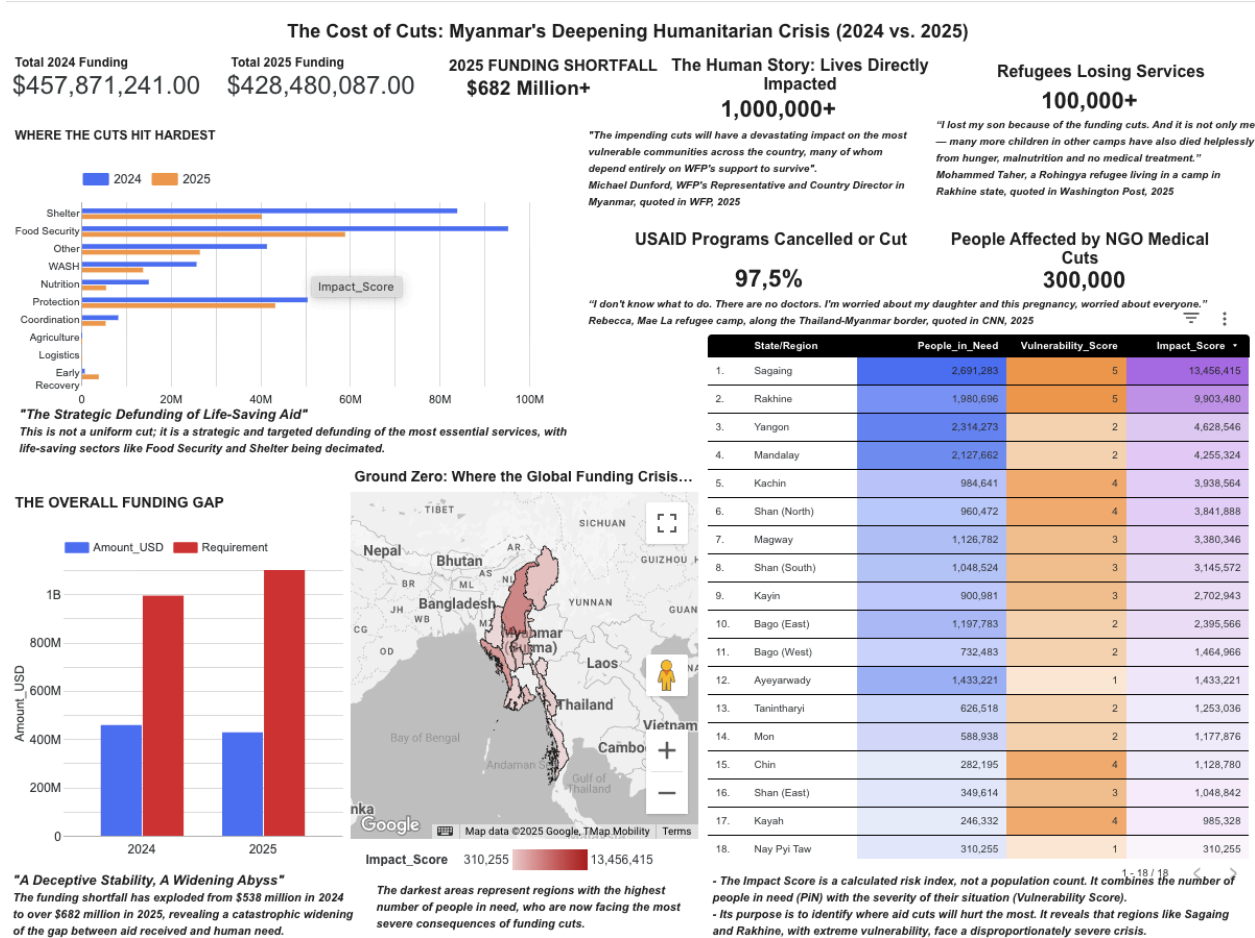
1. **A Catastrophic Funding Abyss:** The humanitarian funding shortfall has surged from \$538million in 2024 to over \$682 million in the first ten months of 2025 alone, signaling a massive and accelerating withdrawal of international support.
 2. **The Decimation of Core Sectors:** The cuts have disproportionately hit the most critical life-saving sectors. Compared to 2024 levels, funding for Food Security and Shelter has been functionally eliminated, dismantling the primary mechanisms for survival for vulnerable populations.
 3. **The Direct Human Ledger:** The funding gap translates directly into verifiable human suffering. This includes 1,000,000+ people cut from food aid, 100,000+ refugees on the Thai border losing essential services, and 300,000 people losing access to NGO-provided medical care.
- Geographic Impact:** A geospatial analysis using a weighted Impact Score

reveals that the consequences of funding cuts are most acute in regions like Sagaing (Impact Score: 13.4M) and Rakhine (Impact Score: 9.9M), where extreme need and high vulnerability intersect.

Analysis: Deconstructing the Crisis

1. The National Picture: A \$682 Million+ Funding Abyss

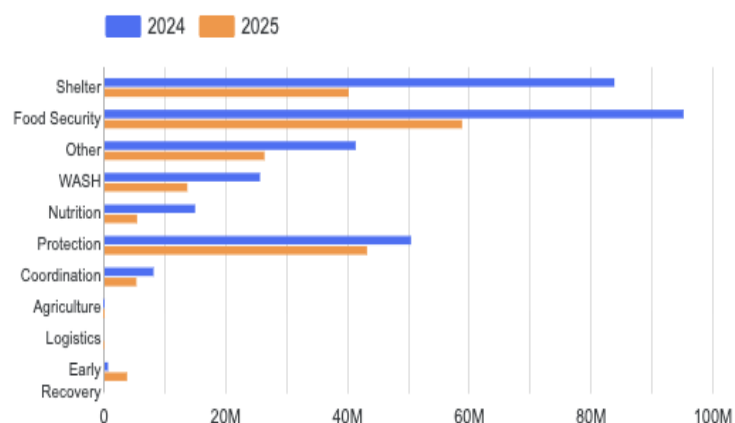
The most powerful finding of this analysis is the sheer scale of the funding gap. The difference between the baseline year (2024) and the crisis year (2025) is stark. While 2024 was already severely underfunded, 2025 represents a near-total collapse of the funding pipeline. The "\$682 Million+ Funding Shortfall" is the central, undeniable fact of this crisis. It is a quantifiable measure of international retreat and serves as the primary driver of the humanitarian consequences detailed in this brief. The bar chart "The Overall Funding Gap" visualizes this widening abyss, showing that as needs remain immense, the resources to address them have evaporated.



2. Anatomy of the Cuts: The Decimation of Life-Saving Sectors

The funding cuts have not been applied evenly across the board. The "Where the Cuts Hit Hardest" chart provides granular proof that the reduction in aid is disproportionately concentrated on the most essential services. The near-total disappearance of funding for Food Security and Shelter between 2024 and 2025 is the analytical core of this crisis. These are not marginal programs; they are the bedrock of survival for displaced and conflict-affected populations. This data proves that the core capacity to feed and house people in desperate need has been systematically dismantled by the 2025 funding environment. The significant reductions in Protection and WASH funding further compound the vulnerability of these communities.

WHERE THE CUTS HIT HARDEST



"The Strategic Defunding of Life-Saving Aid"

This is not a uniform cut; it is a strategic and targeted defunding of the most essential services, with life-saving sectors like Food Security and Shelter being decimated.

3. The Human Ledger: Translating Dollars to Lives

This crisis is ultimately measured in human lives, not dollars. The programmatic data provides a direct and harrowing link between the funding charts and the reality on the ground. The fact that over one million people were cut from WFP's food

The Human Story: Lives Directly Impacted
1,000,000+

"The impending cuts will have a devastating impact on the most vulnerable communities across the country, many of whom depend entirely on WFP's support to survive".

Michael Dunford, WFP's Representative and Country Director in Myanmar, quoted in WFP, 2025

Refugees Losing Services
100,000+

"I lost my son because of the funding cuts. And it is not only me — many more children in other camps have also died helplessly from hunger, malnutrition and no medical treatment."

Mohammed Taher, a Rohingya refugee living in a camp in Rakhine state, quoted in Washington Post, 2025

USAID Programs Cancelled or Cut
97,5%

"I don't know what to do. There are no doctors. I'm worried about my daughter and this pregnancy, worried about everyone."

Rebecca, Mae La refugee camp, along the Thailand-Myanmar border, quoted in CNN, 2025

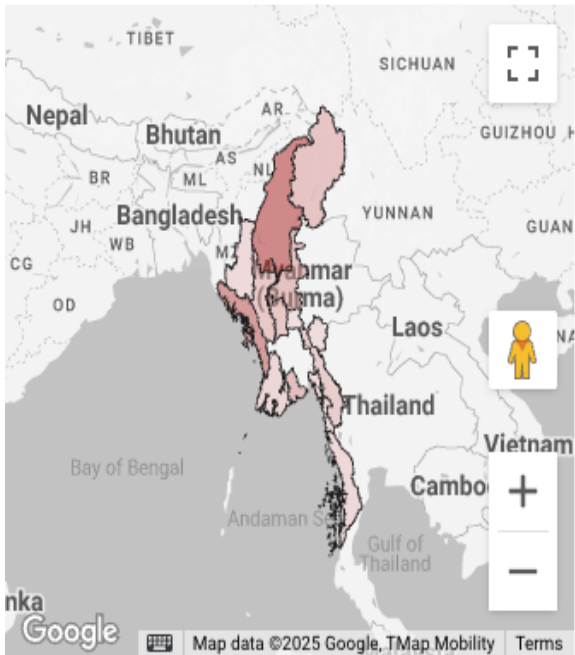
People Affected by NGO Medical Cuts
300,000

support is a direct and foreseeable consequence of the sectoral collapse detailed previously. The loss of medical services for 300,000 people and the disruption of aid for 100,000 refugees are not isolated incidents but part of a systemic failure triggered by the funding withdrawal. These scorecards represent the human ledger of the 2025 funding cuts—a verifiable account of suffering caused by the retreat of aid.

4. Ground Zero: A Geospatial Analysis of Concentrated Impact

The "Geographic Vulnerability" map, powered by the weighted Impact Score, provides the crucial final layer to our analysis. It illustrates the pre-existing landscape

Ground Zero: Where the Global Funding Crisis...



Impact_Score 310,255 13,456,415

The darkest areas represent regions with the highest number of people in need, who are now facing the most severe consequences of funding cuts.

of need upon which this funding crisis is unfolding. The darkest areas—Sagaing, Rakhine, and Kachin—are not merely the regions with the most people in need, but the areas where high vulnerability and high need converge, making them acutely sensitive to aid disruptions. The map demonstrates a painful correlation: the very regions with the highest Impact Scores are those now facing the most severe consequences of aid cuts. This analysis proves that the funding withdrawal is not happening in a vacuum; it is disproportionately punishing the communities that were already the most vulnerable, effectively abandoning them at their moment of greatest need.

The Ledger of Risk

The conclusions in this report are not abstract; they are rooted in the verifiable data presented below. This table serves as the granular evidence for our analysis, providing a state-by-state ledger of where Myanmar's humanitarian crisis is most severe.

While People in Need (PiN) shows the scale of the problem, the Impact Score is the key that unlocks a deeper insight. By weighting the number of people by the severity of their conditions, this score reveals the true concentration of risk. It is the core metric that proves why the collapse of aid will not be felt equally across the country, but will instead deliver a devastating blow to already vulnerable regions.

	State/Region	People_in_Need	Vulnerability...	Impact_S...
1.	Sagaing	2,691,283	5	13,456,415
2.	Rakhine	1,980,696	5	9,903,480
3.	Yangon	2,314,273	2	4,628,546
4.	Mandalay	2,127,662	2	4,255,324
5.	Kachin	984,641	4	3,938,564
6.	Shan (North)	960,472	4	3,841,888
7.	Magway	1,126,782	3	3,380,346
8.	Shan (South)	1,048,524	3	3,145,572
9.	Kayin	900,981	3	2,702,943
10.	Bago (East)	1,197,783	2	2,395,566
11.	Bago (West)	732,483	2	1,464,966
12.	Ayeyarwady	1,433,221	1	1,433,221
13.	Tanintharyi	626,518	2	1,253,036
14.	Mon	588,938	2	1,177,876
15.	Chin	282,195	4	1,128,780
16.	Shan (East)	349,614	3	1,048,842
17.	Kayah	246,332	4	985,328
18.	Nay Pyi Taw	310,255	1	310,255

Conclusion: The Displacement of Aid and Policy Implications

The evidence presented in this brief leads to a profound and disturbing conclusion. The 2025 funding crisis has resulted in more than just the movement of people; it has caused the displacement of aid itself. The international community has, in effect, retreated from the front lines of Myanmar's humanitarian crisis, creating two distinct and irreconcilable realities: a vulnerable population with immense, documented needs, and an international support system that is no longer present to meet them.

The "funding gap" is no longer a theoretical concept for budget meetings; it is a measurable reality that is taking food off plates, closing down clinics, and dismantling shelters. The primary story of "The Cost of Cuts" is the story of an international promise being broken, with the bill being paid by the most vulnerable people in Myanmar.

Policy Implications: Donors and policymakers must recognize that the current funding trajectory will lead to a complete collapse of the humanitarian safety net, risking widespread malnutrition, disease outbreaks, and further mass displacement. A failure to immediately address the \$682 million+ shortfall is not a passive act; it is an active choice with predictable and fatal consequences.
