



Cross-cutting topics update

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Hot topics

- Latest report of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights refers to human rights violations impacting the right to adequate food including:
 - Systematic and widespread burning of villages, looting food stocks, livestock and agricultural equipment/fertilizer/seeds, burning of harvests, food supplies and storage facilities
 - Obstruction of food transportation, confiscation of food assistance, extortion of transporters
 - Forcing traders to only sell to military and prohibiting food item purchases from other areas
 - Mining of agricultural land or killing of people who try to cultivate their land
- Chin State, Sagaing and Magway destruction of agricultural land from Cyclone Mocha, airstrikes and arson of civilian infrastructure also affecting South-East
- Rakhine state IDP camp closure efforts continue, pressure for returns Bangladesh
- Kachin and NSS forced recruitment e.g. false job promises, abductions

Focus topic: child labor

- International Labor Organization (ILO), 2023: report on child labor in the Yangon Region, Ayeyarwady Region and Kayin State
 - 92.3% of the 5-11 year old children interviewed in Yangon and Kayin are engaged in child labor and 100% of 12–14-year-olds in Ayeyarwady
 - Affects both boys and girls, but more boys than girls
 - Note that not all “working children” are engaged in child labor, it depends on factors such as age, working hours, type of work, voluntariness, disruption of education etc
 - Mostly children working due to family poverty (71%) and many who were out of school during COVID-19 have not returned to school due to political crisis/conflict
- Avoid child labor; try to relieve situation of families doing it due to food insecurity