

Report on 5Ws: First Quarter 2022

Myanmar Food Security Cluster

2022/05/11

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Summary of achievements

Beneficiaries of humanitarian action formed 98.78% of the 2,230,628 beneficiaries in the first quarter of 2022. The remainder were reached through development interventions.

To recall, the Food Security Cluster's strategic objectives for 2022 are:

- SO1: IDPs have equitable access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food (either in-kind or through food assistance)
- SO2: Vulnerable persons (excl. IDPs) have equitable access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food (either in-kind or through food assistance)
- SO3: Restore, protect and improve livelihoods and resilience

Table 1: 2022/Q1 beneficiaries by strategic objective

strat_obj	Humanitarian	Development	Total
SO_1	324,919	0	324,919
SO_2	1,839,902	0	1,839,902
SO_3	38,589	27,218	65,807
Total	2,203,410	27,218	2,230,628

In terms of activities, the number of beneficiaries reached is heavily skewed towards food distributions. More than 95% of beneficiaries in 2022/Q1 have been reached by this activity.

Table 2: Breakdown of beneficiaries by activity in 2022/Q1

activity	ben_SO_1	ben_SO_2	ben_SO_3	Total	%_ben
food distribution	290,150	1,839,534	0	2,129,684	95.47
crop, vegetable and seed kits	0	0	52,878	52,878	2.37
multi-purpose cash transfer	34,769	368	0	35,137	1.58
food_cash for work_assets	0	0	9,365	9,365	0.42
IGA and small grants	0	0	2,111	2,111	0.09
vocational training	0	0	1,253	1,253	0.06
FFS and farmer training	0	0	150	150	0.01
livestock kits	0	0	50	50	0.00

57% of beneficiaries were reached by activities where nutrition was mainstreamed. This is highly encouraging. As the year progresses, it will be important to collect more details about how exactly nutrition has been mainstreamed so that coordination with the Nutrition Cluster may be improved.

Table 3: Breakdown of beneficiaries by status of nutrition mainstreaming

was_nutrition_mainstreamed_in_activity	SO_1	SO_2	SO_3	total_beneficiaries	%_beneficiaries
Yes	210,643	1,018,696	40,782	1,270,121	56.94
No	114,276	821,206	25,025	960,507	43.06

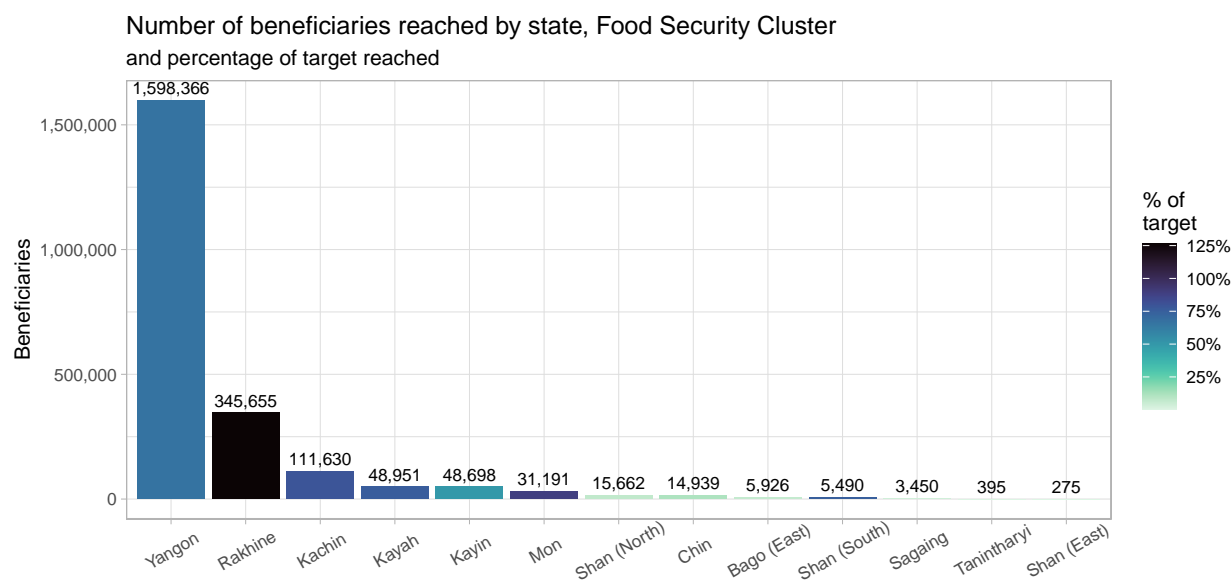
Implementation of Information Sharing Protocols

The newly approved ICCG Information Sharing Protocols have been implemented in this report to support the safe, ethical and effective management of data within Myanmar. This implementation is most evident in the use of partner pseudonymisation in this report. Partner names have been replaced by tokens in this report. These tokens are stored in a secure translation table on OCHA servers outside of Myanmar, where they may not be requisitioned by authorities. For more information, please read the full text of the protocols in either [English](#) or [Myanmar](#).

1. Geographies

1.1 Statewise breakdowns

As in 2021, the number of beneficiaries reached has been heavily biased towards relatively few areas, which is not appropriate for a unionwide response. A total of 73 townships have been reached across 13 states/regions.



The table below outlines the number of beneficiaries reached by state/region in both 2021 and 2022/Q1. In 2021, the response was heavily skewed towards Yangon and Rakhine. The bias is even more pronounced in 2022/Q1.

87.15% of beneficiaries reached in the first quarter of 2022 originated from Yangon or Rakhine.

Table 4: Skew in Q1 2022 geographic reach, comparison with 2021 data

State	Beneficiaries_2021	%_ben_2021	Beneficiaries_2022	%_ben_2022	%_target_2022
Yangon	2,011,575	61.83	1,598,366	71.66	66.53
Rakhine	530,202	16.30	345,655	15.50	126.66
Kachin	89,818	2.76	111,630	5.00	79.60
Kayah	17,746	0.55	48,951	2.19	76.01
Kayin	68,108	2.09	48,698	2.18	50.56
Mon	48,181	1.48	31,191	1.40	89.12
Shan (North)	66,220	2.04	15,662	0.70	7.64
Chin	17,005	0.52	14,939	0.67	11.82
Bago (East)	12,974	0.40	5,926	0.27	6.74
Shan (South)	15,511	0.48	5,490	0.25	75.31
Sagaing	31,985	0.98	3,450	0.15	3.96
Tanintharyi	4,476	0.14	395	0.02	0.73
Shan (East)	0	0.00	275	0.01	0.39
Ayeyarwady	99,481	3.06			
Magway	96,767	2.97			
Mandalay	143,526	4.41			

1.2 Township-level breakdowns

Just 8 townships (listed in the table below) contained 83.07% of all beneficiaries. In contrast, in 2021, the top 10 townships contained 76% of all beneficiaries. Hlaingthayra East and West by themselves contained 36% of all beneficiaries reached.

Table 5: Top 7 townships by beneficiaries reached (desc) in 2022/Q1

State	Township	Humanitarian	Development	Beneficiaries	%_Total
Yangon	Hlaingtharya (West)	461,878	0	461,878	20.71
Yangon	Shwepyithar	382,031	0	382,031	17.13
	55 other townships	350,681	27,034	377,715	16.93
Yangon	Hlaingtharya (East)	339,882	0	339,882	15.24
Yangon	North Okkalapa	269,720	0	269,720	12.09
Yangon	Dala	144,855	0	144,855	6.49
Rakhine	Buthidaung	132,642	0	132,642	5.95
Rakhine	Sittwe	121,721	184	121,905	5.47

The 55 other townships are each less than 1.5% of the total

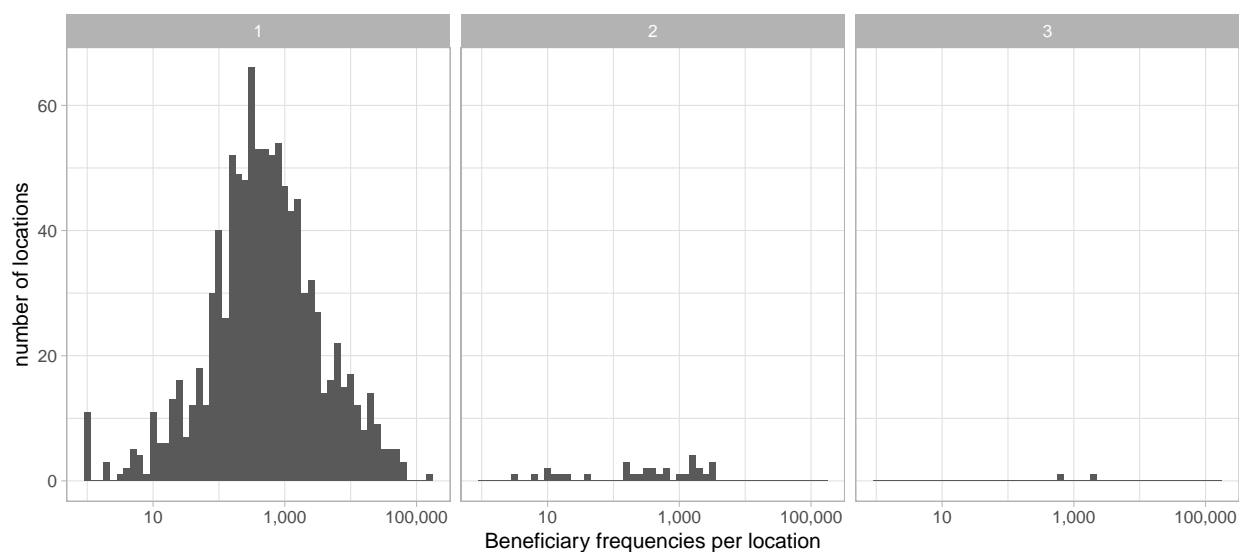
1.3 Locations

A location refers to either an village, ward, IDP site or industrial zone.

This first plot below is a histogram of location, by number of beneficiaries. The vast majority of locations have only one activity occurring within them. This is something to be monitored over the course of the year, as it is assumed that a range of activities are required to comprehensively meet the food security and livelihoods needs of targeted communities. As it currently stands, the response is very broad, with little depth.

Histograms of locations, faceted by number of activities

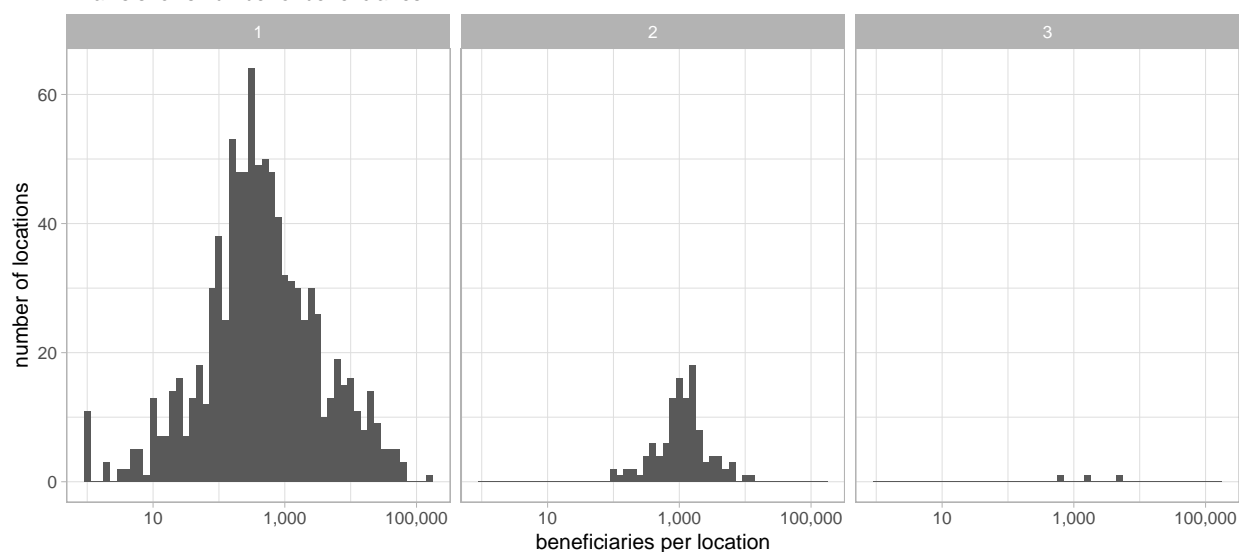
X-axis shows number of beneficiaries



This second plot of locations is faceted by the number of partners – this helps us check for potential overlaps. There are quite a large number of locations with 2 partners in them. Locations with multiple partners were from Rakhine, Kachin and Shan (North).

Histograms of locations, faceted by number of partners

X-axis shows number of beneficiaries



The greatest number of beneficiaries came from urban/peri-urban wards and villages. This runs counter to vulnerability patterns identified by in both the IFPRI Household Welfare Survey and the FAO-WFP Food Security Survey. Both surveys found that rural households were less food secure and less resilient than urban ones.

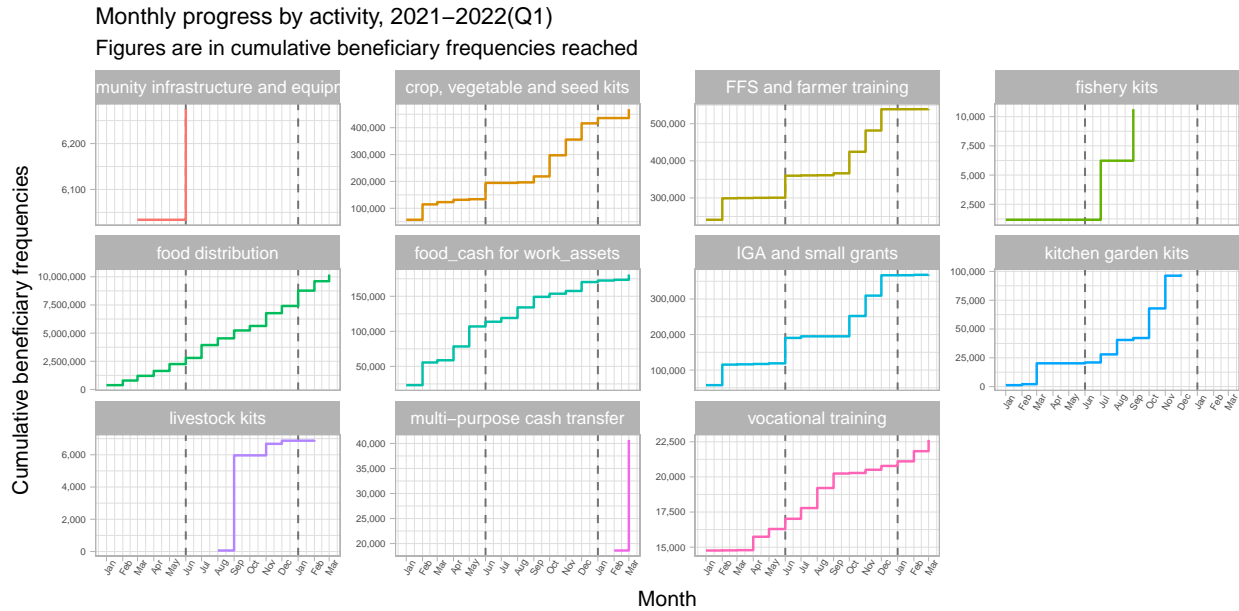
Table 6: Breakdown of locations and beneficiaries by context

rural_or_urban	location_type	locations	beneficiaries	%_of_ben	ben_per_location
Rural	Camp/IDP site	536	185,798	8.33	347
Rural	Industrial zone	3	606	0.03	202
Rural	Village	1,030	354,539	15.90	344
Urban/Peri-Urban	Camp/IDP site	403	83,120	3.73	206
Urban/Peri-Urban	Village	32	496,550	22.27	15,517
Urban/Peri-Urban	Ward	111	1,109,393	49.75	9,995

2. Activities

2.1 Progress by activity

The first grey line below shows the the approval of the IERP in June 2021 and the second red line shows the start of 2022.



Community infrastructure and equipment, fishery kits and kitchen garden kits have not been implemented in 2022/Q1. Income-generating activities, which were largely stagnant since the approval of the IERP, started to increase again in 2022/Q1. This might be due to the seasonality of the interventions under this category.

Food distributions (in-kind and CBT/CVA) continued to be the largest activity from 2021 into 2022/Q1. Multi-purpose cash transfers was new activity that was not present in 2021.

It should, however, be noted that the beneficiaries of food distributions in Yangon were provided with 50kg/household, typically a one-shot intervention. The sustainability of such interventions should be questioned, as, unlike Sagaing, Magway and other conflict-affected states, there are no access restrictions in Yangon preventing the implementation of longer-term livelihoods-focused interventions that would address the core causes of food insecurity.

2.2 Agricultural and livelihoods activities

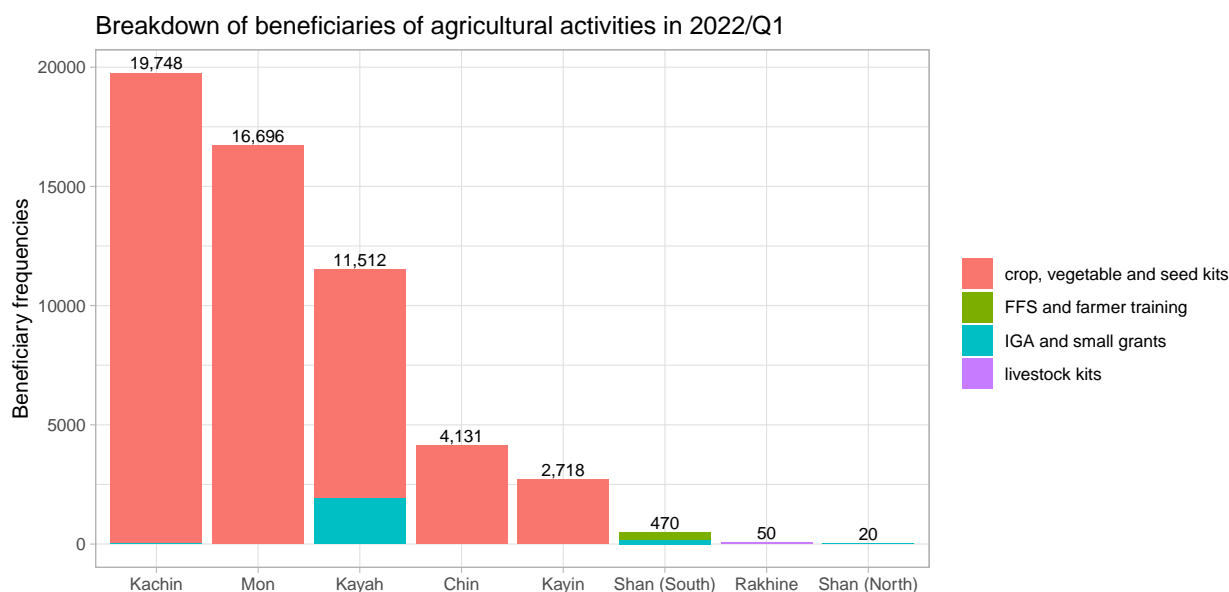
Less than 2% of all beneficiary frequencies pertained to agricultural activities. As mentioned earlier, the vast majority of beneficiaries in Q1 2022 were related to food distributions.

Table 7: Beneficiary frequencies reached by agricultural and non-agricultural activities

agricultural_activity	beneficiaries	%_beneficiaries	state	townships	partners
no	2,846,546	98.09	13	66	34
yes	55,345	1.91	8	21	8

Although crop, vegetable and seed kits formed the largest group of agricultural activities, only reached 9,869 households (for a full breakdown by agricultural activity, please refer to the plot below).

It will be important to review the results from the second quarter in order to see if this pattern changes and agricultural household receive sufficient assistance prior to the main rice planting season which begins in May 2022. Still, the results are not encouraging and agricultural activities have had a very limited reach.



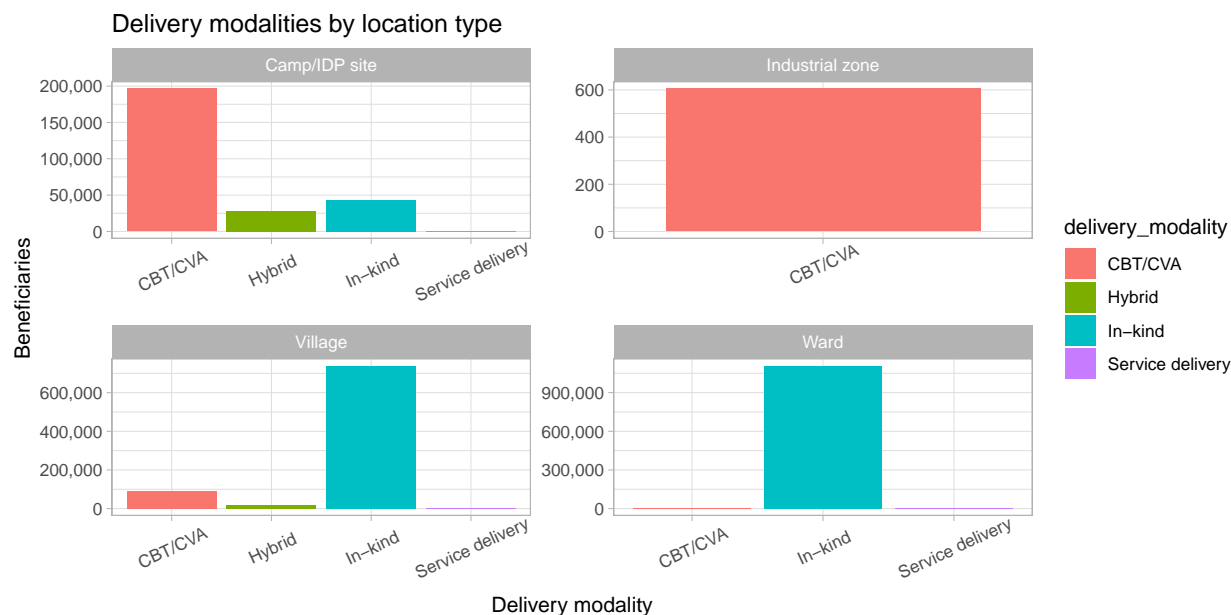
2.3 Delivery modalities

The plots below, faceted by delivery modality, show the breakdown of activities by delivery modality. All activities besides food distribution corresponded to only one type of delivery modality.

Table 8: Percentage of beneficiaries reached by activity and delivery modality

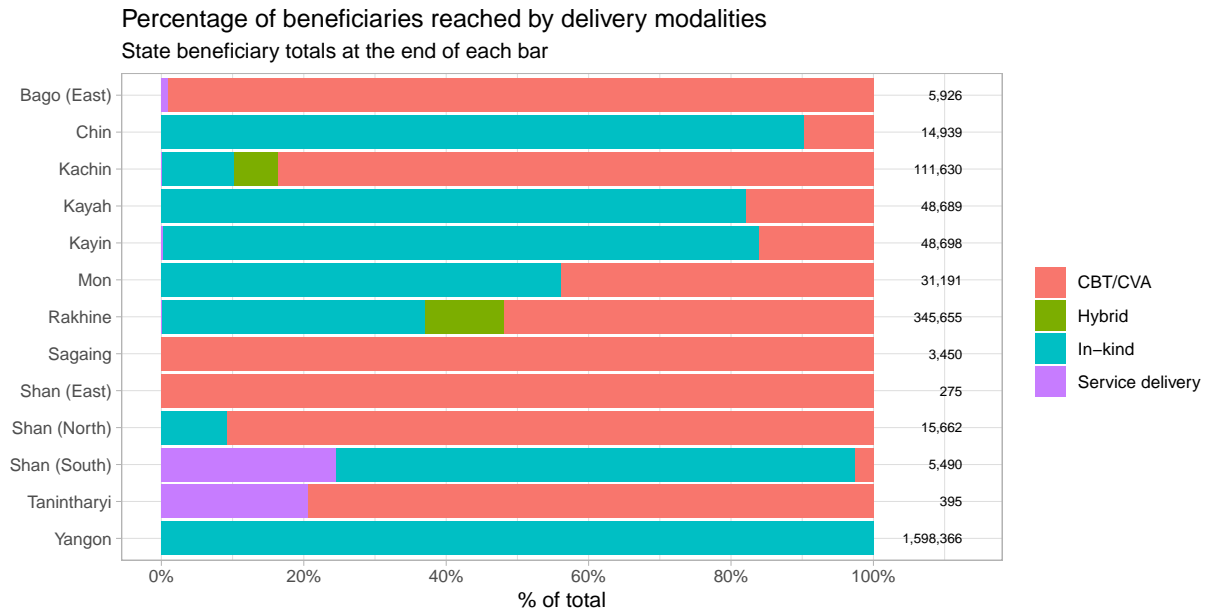
Activity	In-kind	Service delivery	CBT/CVA	Hybrid	Beneficiaries
food distribution	86.4%		11.4%	2.1%	2,129,684
crop, vegetable and seed kits	100.0%				52,878
multi-purpose cash transfer			100.0%		35,137
food_cash for work_assets			100.0%		9,365
IGA and small grants			100.0%		1,849
vocational training		100.0%			1,253
FFS and farmer training		100.0%			150
livestock kits				100.0%	50

There are also clear differences between the different location types and the delivery modalities employed with them. Rural areas were predominated by in-kind distributions whilst camps and IDP sites were mostly targeted with cash-based interventions.



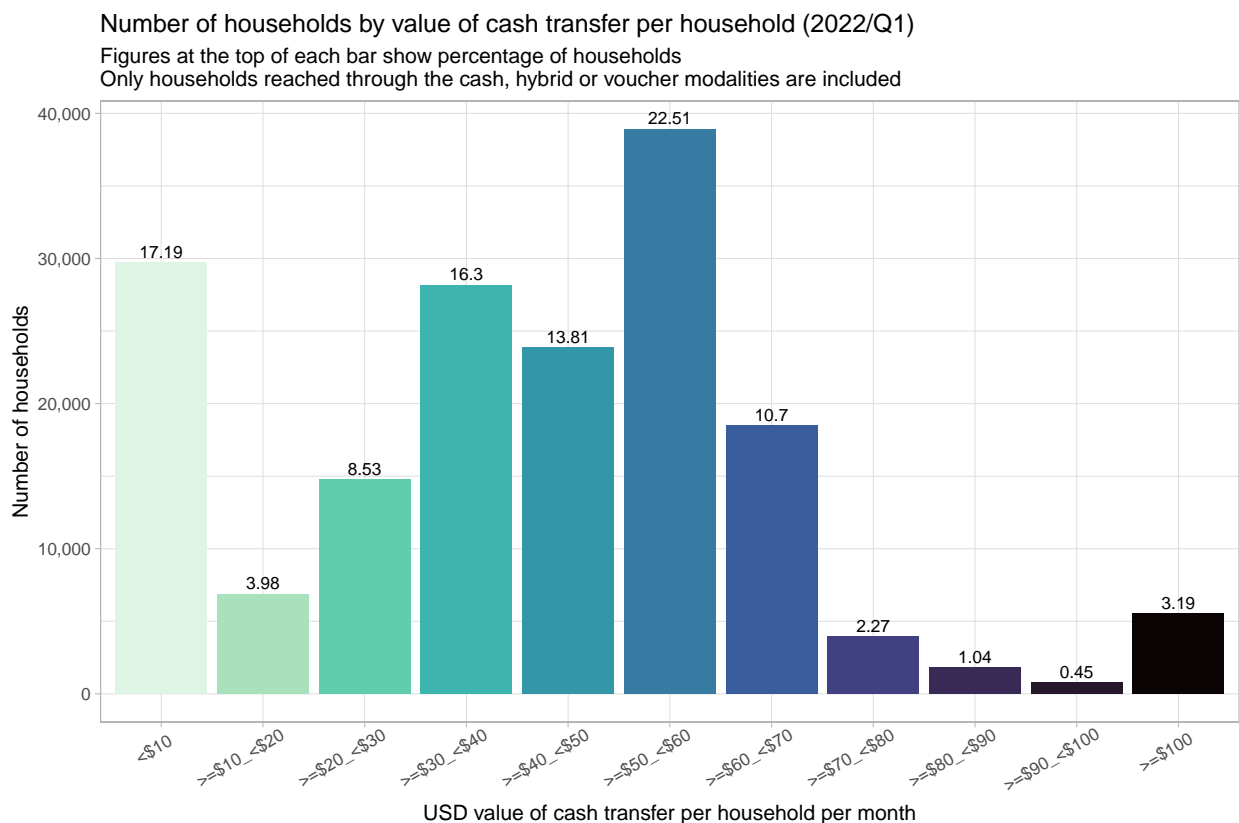
This would perhaps imply that partners believe that markets were more accessible from camps and IDP sites than rural areas; this is certainly a possibility for the longer-standing and more developed camps. Other alternative assumptions include donor preferences and logistical challenges in bringing in-kind goods to camps and IDP sites. This remains a question to be explored by the broader Food Security Cluster.

Below is a breakdown of percentage of beneficiaries reached by the different delivery modalities, by state.



3. Cash-based programming

3.1 Cash transfer values per household



46% of households received less than USD 40/month per transfer. However, the most common transfer values were between USD 40/month and USD 70/month, with 47% of households receiving transfers in this

range. This aligns fairly well with 50% of the Minimum Expenditure Basket for food expenditures (USD 52.28/household/month). It should be noted, however that the value of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (calculated for 2021) needs to be revised as the Food Security Cluster anticipates 40% inflation in 2022.

The table below shows the average USD values per transfer per household by and total transfer values per activity in the first quarter of 2022.

Table 9: Average value (USD) of household package values per activity

activity	hhd_frequencies	total_value_usd	avg_transfer_value
livestock kits	50	5,631	112.62
IGA and small grants	363	30,152	83.06
multi-purpose cash transfer	7,712	583,031	75.60
food_cash for work_assets	3,500	207,092	59.17
food distribution	162,193	6,598,313	40.68

Only households which were reached by cash, hybrid or voucher modalities are included

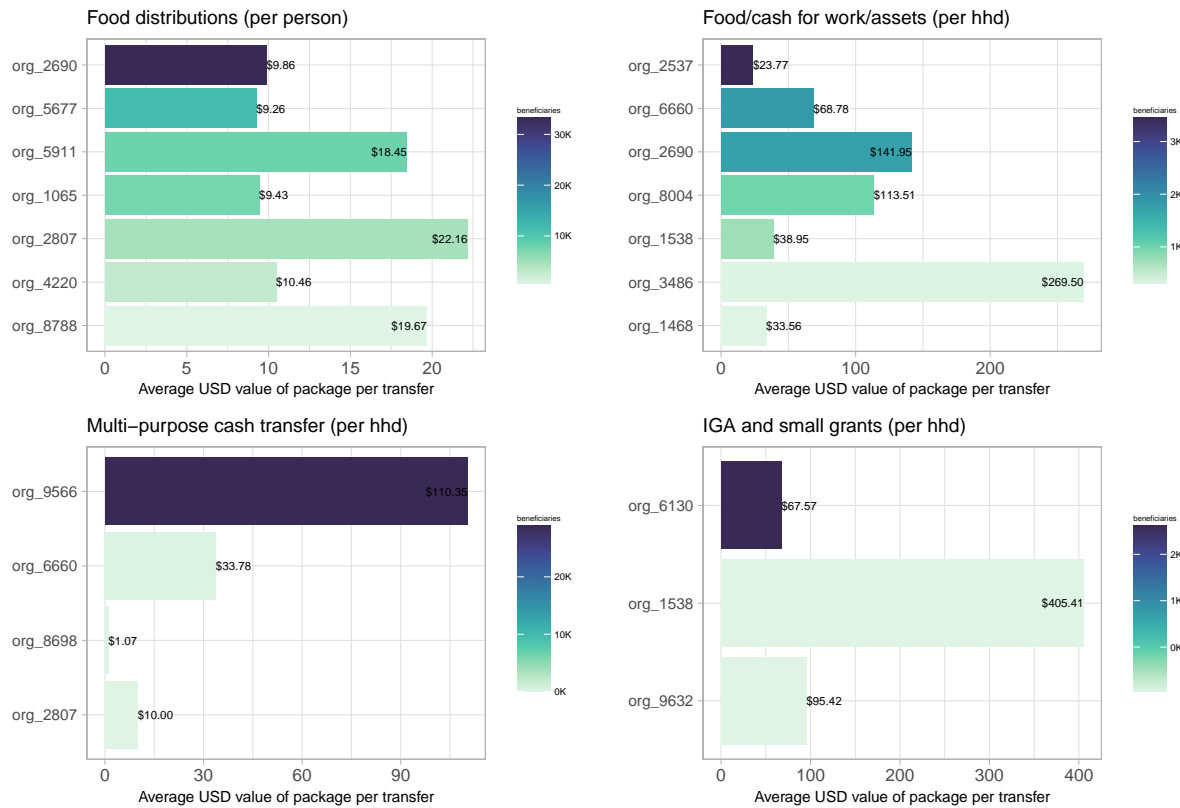
3.2 Cash transfer values by implementing partner

The plots below show average cash transfer values by activity of the partners who reached the most beneficiaries.

The x-axis shows the average value per person or per household, depending on the activity and the colour indicates the number of beneficiaries reached.

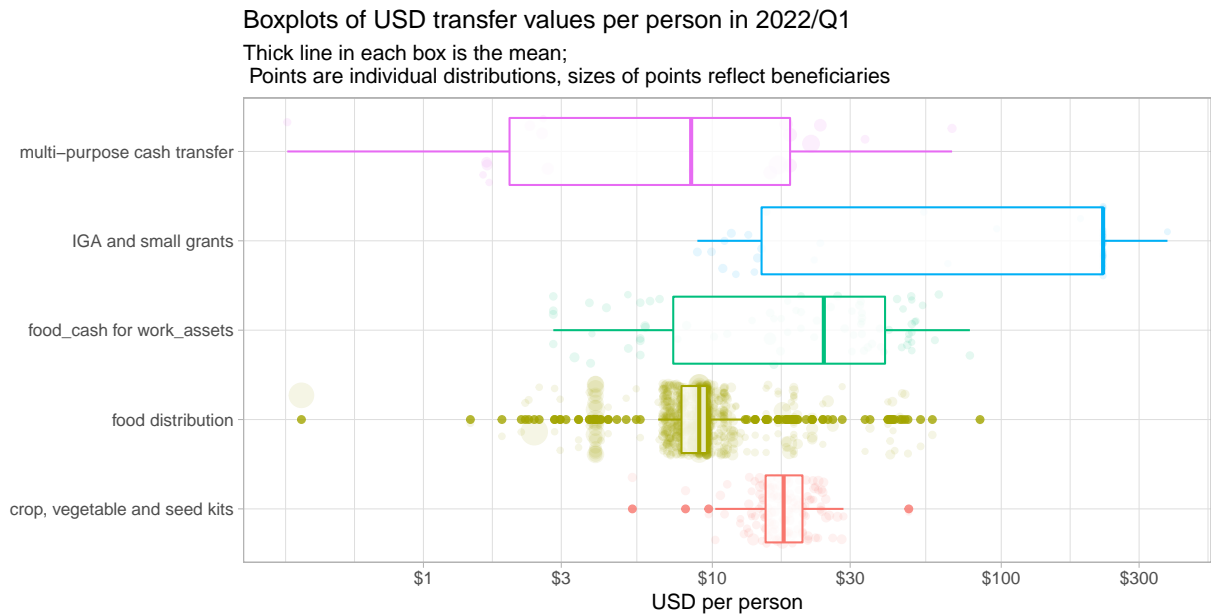
Cash transfer values of the top implementing partners (by beneficiaries reached)

Faceted by activity



3.3 Cash transfer values per person

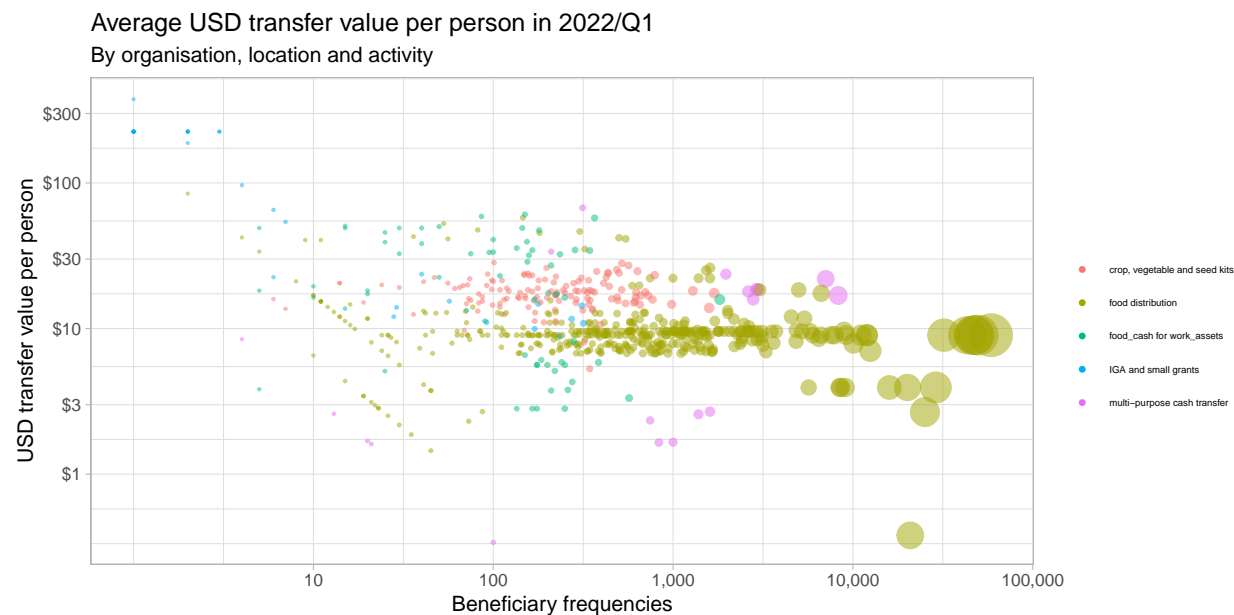
The boxplots above shows the range of cash transfer values (all values are per person, to facilitate comparability) by activity. The average for reach activity is marked by the thick line in the middle of each box. The leftmost and rightmost side of each box indicate the 25th and 75th percentile of transfer values, respectively. The length of each box is a gauge for how much variation there is in the transfer values of each activity.



Additionally, each of the bubbles indicate an individual distribution, with their position along the x-axis showing the USD per person value of the distribution and the size of each bubble indicates the number of beneficiaries reached.

Despite being the activity which reached the most beneficiaries, food distributions have one of the tightest ranges of transfer values, though, as will be explored further in the plot below and in the next section, there are substantial outliers.

The x-axis indicates the number of beneficiaries reached and the y-axis indicates the per-person value of each transfer. Each point is a distribution and the size of each point indicates the number of beneficiaries reached. The interactive version of this scatterplot is available in the [online edition](#) of this report.



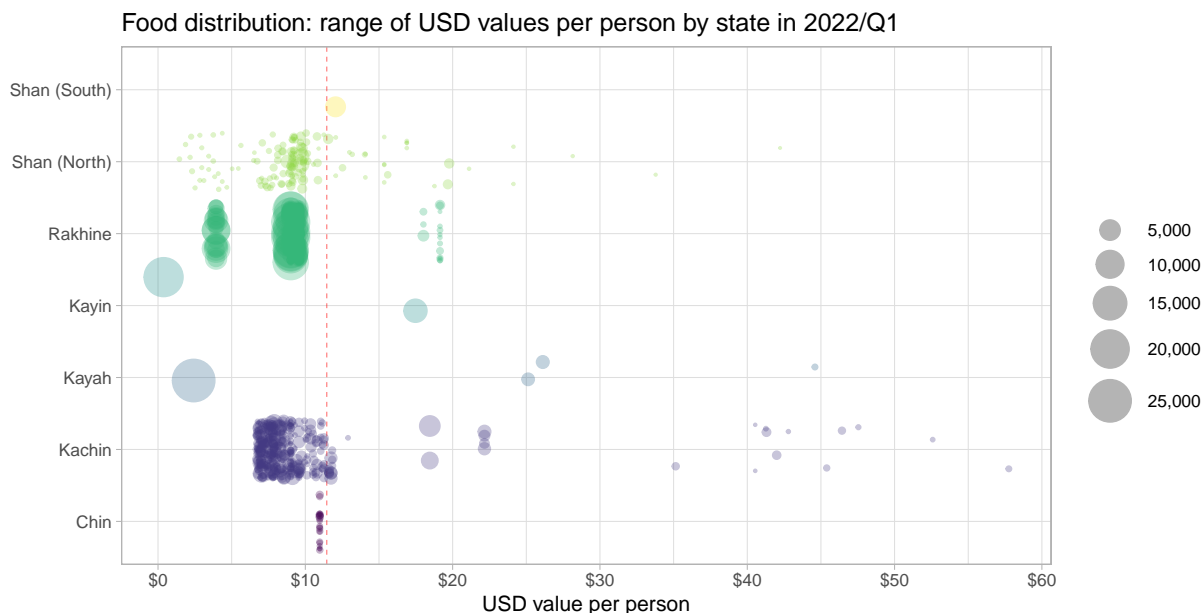
Food for work/cash for assets and multi-purpose cash transfers had the largest dispersions in the values of their transfers. For food for work/cash for assets, there is one cluster largely below USD 5/person in Sagaing and another of between USD 30 and USD 60 per person in Kachin and Shan North.

As mentioned, food distributions had the tightest range of transfer values, with the vast majority of distributions falling just below USD 10/person. However, it has outlying values that reached very large groups of beneficiaries. This will be explored in the next section.

3.4 A closer look at food distributions

The plot below breaks down the range of USD per person cash transfer values by state. Similar to the plot above, each point is a distribution. The interactive version of this scatterplot is available in the [online edition](#) of this report.

The red line indicates 50% of the monthly expenditure basket (MEB) for food (divided by 5 to get the figure per person). The vast majority of transfers fall below this value.



Kachin and Shan notably have several extreme outliers much higher than the average for that state. Kayin, however, has a very large number of beneficiaries who received less the USD 1/person. Distributions in Chin had very consistent values as they were all implemented by the same implementing partner.

The table below compares the different bins for cash transfer values of food distributions with the minimum expenditure basket for food established by the Cash Working Group. They have established a floor of MMK 190,555 (or USD 114.55).

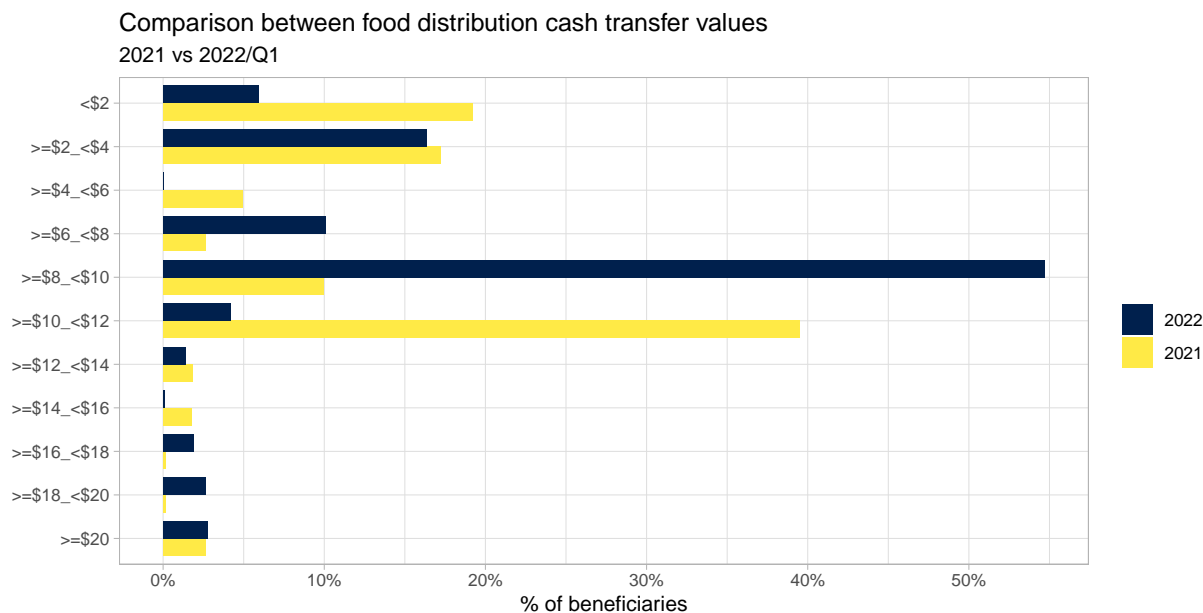
Overall, 1.44% of food distribution beneficiaries have received at least 100% of the MEB and 10.05% have received at least 50% of the MEB.

Table 10: USD values of food distributions by percentage of MEB received

usd_person_bin	avg_pc_of_meb	avg_usd_month	beneficiaries	pc_of_hhd
<\$2	5.39	1.23	20,923	5.99
>=\$2_<\$4	15.45	3.54	57,619	16.49
>=\$4_<\$6	20.58	4.72	156	0.04
>=\$6_<\$8	32.00	7.33	35,494	10.16
>=\$8_<\$10	40.19	9.21	191,024	54.68
>=\$10_<\$12	47.59	10.90	13,775	3.94
>=\$12_<\$14	54.74	12.54	4,882	1.40
>=\$14_<\$16	65.04	14.90	353	0.10
>=\$16_<\$18	74.24	17.01	6,705	1.92
>=\$18_<\$20	82.73	18.95	8,692	2.49
>=\$20	163.81	37.53	9,757	2.79

Only persons reached through CBT/CVA/hybrid modalities are included

However, a very large proportion of the beneficiaries reached were between USD 8 and 10 per person, fairly close to 50% of the MEB. The 50% threshold is of interest because humanitarian assistance does not aim to cover the full MEB and is intended to meet acute needs.

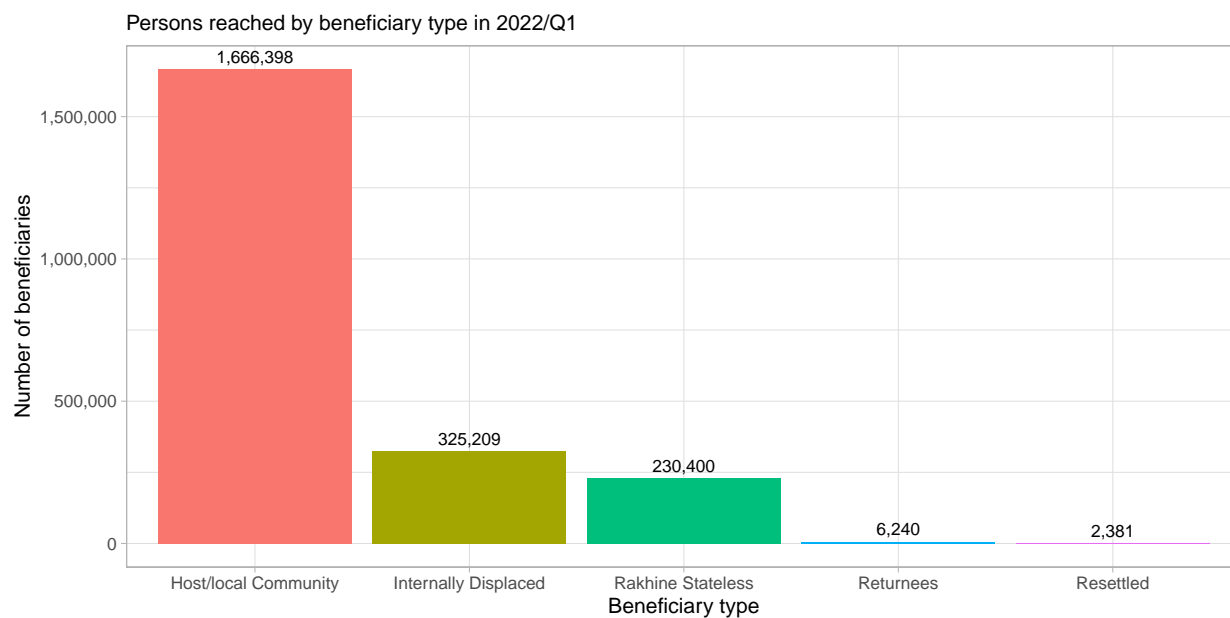


With reference to the plot above, the per person USD values in 2022 are more consistent than in 2021, with more than 50% of beneficiary frequencies receiving between USD 8 and 10 per transfer. The average transfer value for food distributions in 2021 was USD 7.36; in 2022/Q1, it was USD 8.59.

4. Beneficiaries

4.1 Beneficiary types

74.71% of beneficiaries were from the host or local community. 14.58% beneficiaries were IDPs.



4.2 Evidence of food insecurity status

Very few of the beneficiaries reached had evidence of their food insecurity status. This makes it difficult to determine whether or not food security interventions are truly reaching those most in need.

Table 11: Food insecurity status and evidence provided in 2022/Q1

food_insecurity_status	beneficiaries	%_beneficiaries
Food secure	13,759	0.62
Moderately food insecure	38,081	1.71
Severely food insecure	116,513	5.22
No status provided	2,062,275	92.45

Though evidence of food insecurity was not provided by for the vast majority of beneficiaries reached, much of the evidence that was provided were reasonable justifications for targeting beneficiaries. Some good reasons included armed conflict, community-based beneficiary selection and the use of the food consumption score.

Table 12: Breakdown of evidence of food insecurity status in 2022/Q1

evidence	beneficiaries	%_beneficiaries
Armed conflict	97,999	4.39
community-based beneficiary selection	21,315	0.96
Food consumption score	8,034	0.36
Food distribution certificate	1,040	0.05
Monthly distribution report	16,484	0.74
Village Profile	754	0.03
No evidence	2,085,002	93.47

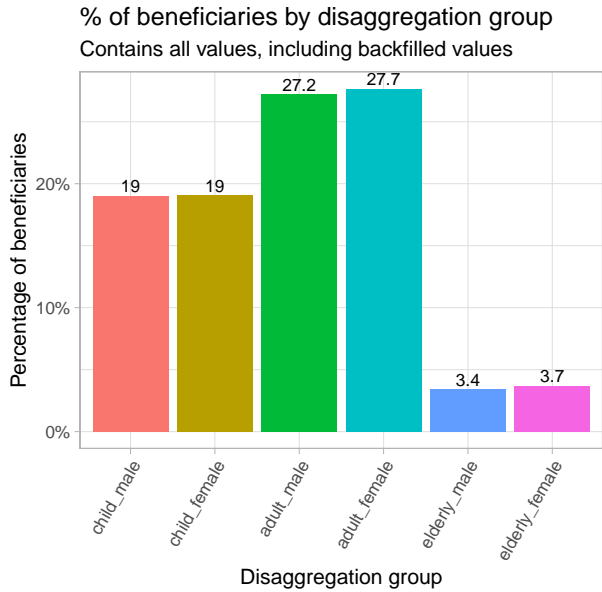
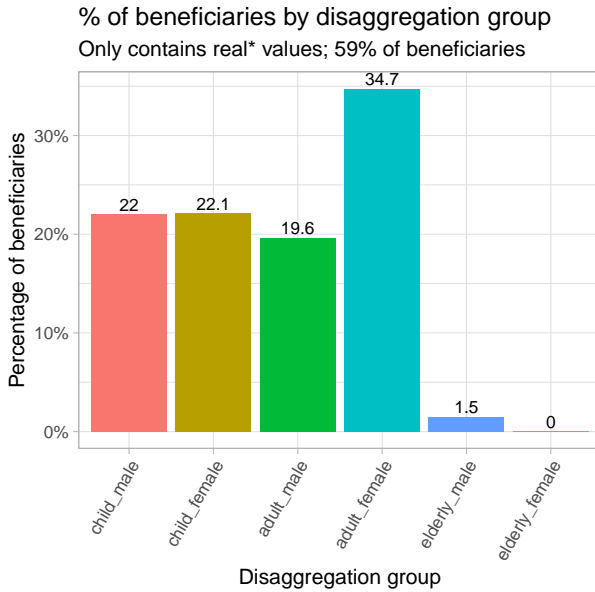
The general lack of evidence of evidence of beneficiaries' food insecurity status makes it difficult to justify to affected communities and donors that the Food Security Cluster is reaching the most in need. This highlights the need to promote a shared understanding of the response through the development of a common prioritisation tool for food security partners.

4.3 Beneficiary disaggregation

Due to the problems in reporting disaggregated beneficiary data, two tests have been applied to the submitted 5W data. The first involves a comparison to the proportions of disaggregation groups in the census to determine if values have been backfilled from the census.

The plots below show the breakdowns between the “real” values and those that have been backfilled from the census. Approximately 59% of beneficiaries reported were not backfilled from the census; this is an improvement from 2021, where only 44% of beneficiaries had “real” disaggregations.

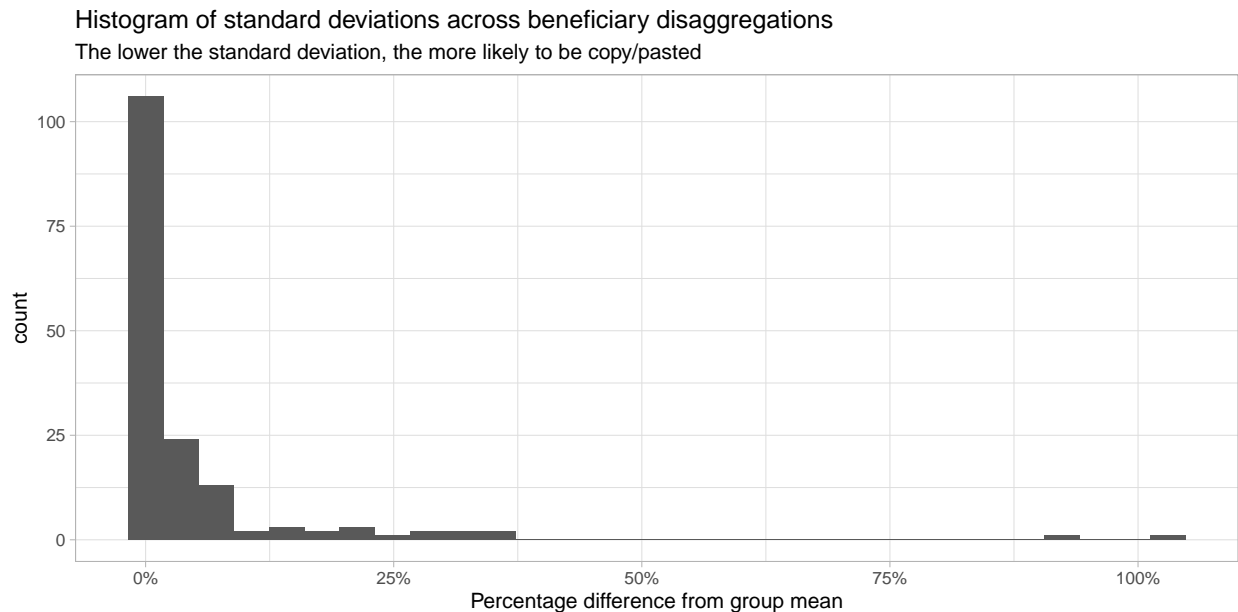
In the “real” values, it can be seen that the proportion of adult females reached is much higher than adult males – this is in line with the Cluster’s understanding of several activities that specifically target women. The percentages of elderly persons actually reached is also much lower than what has been reported.



The second test applied is if the disaggregated numbers of beneficiaries reached have been copied and pasted. To do this, the proportions of each disaggregation group by partner have been compared to how close they were to the mean for the entire group. To explain: if partner A reported that 40% of beneficiaries in an activity were adult females, this percentage was then compared to the average percentage of adult females for all other activities reported by that partner. This measure whether or not the same proportions were copied and pasted throughout the 5W form.

It is extremely unlikely that these percentages would be similar across activities as implementing partners worked in an average of 32.39 locations.

In the plot below, the closer a value is to 0% on the x-axis, the more likely it is that it was copied and pasted. It is estimated that 89% of beneficiary disaggregation values were copied and pasted.

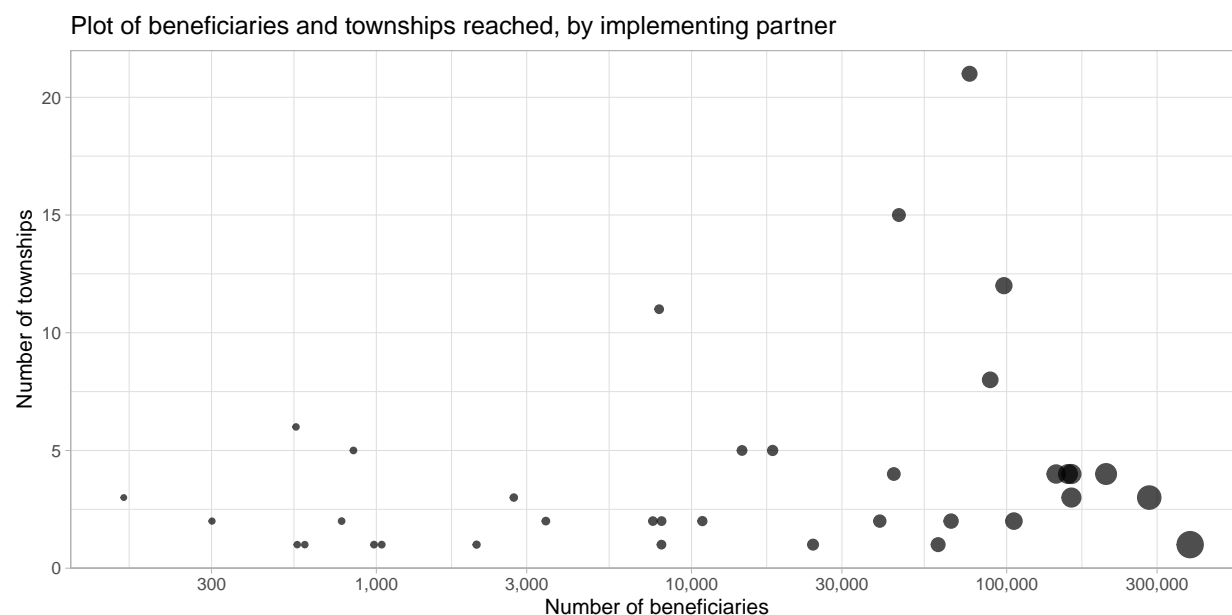


5. Partners

5.1 Reach by implementing partner

There are 36 partners that were involved in direct implementation that have reported achievements in first quarter of 2022. These implementing partners corresponded to a total of 15 reporting organisations. The largest reporting organisation, org_2690, had 21 implementing partners. All other reporting organisations had 1 or 2 implementing partners.

The plot below shows the number of beneficiaries and townships reached by each implementing partner. The interactive version of this scatterplot is available in the [online edition](#) of this report.



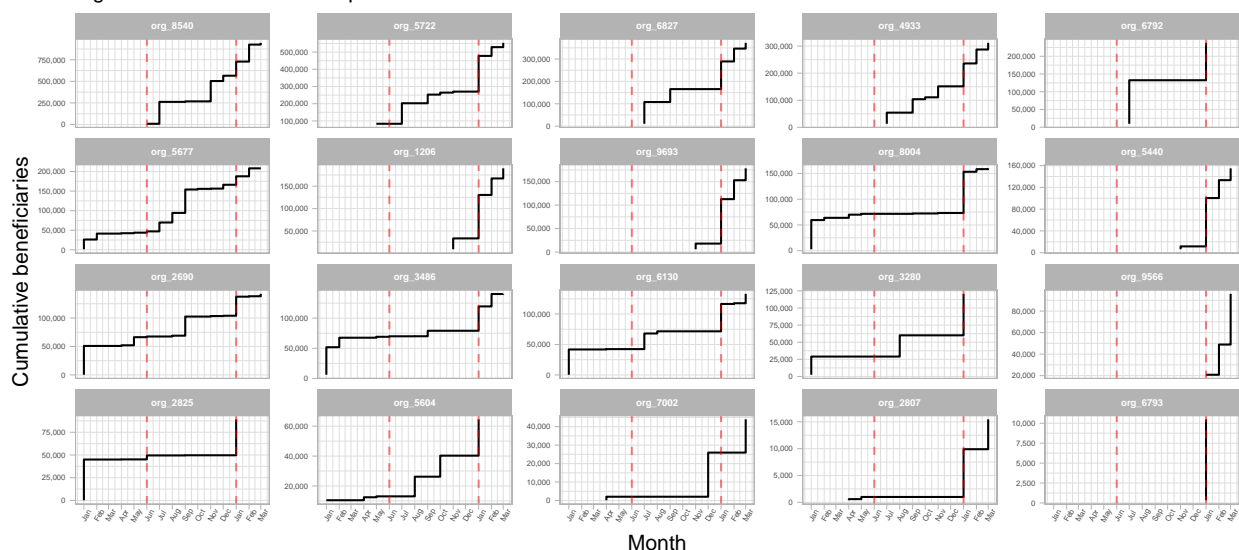
In 2021, it was noted that whilst there was much variation in the numbers of beneficiaries reached by each implementing partner, their geographic footprints were quite limited. This pattern has continued into 2022/Q1. Only 6 partners (17% of the total) have a presence in more than 5 townships. The distribution of partners remains an impediment to the implementation of a countrywide response. And the following steps mentioned in the 2021 report are still very necessary:

- Incentivise partners to expand their footprints
- Identify new partners to reach vulnerable persons in areas recently affected by conflict
- Encourage donors to support expansion of Food Security activities in areas recently affected by conflict (with sufficient support costs)

5.2 Monthly progress by partner

Monthly progress of top 20 implementing partners, 2021–2022/Q1

Figures show cumulative unique beneficiaries



Overall, 13 implementing partners increased the number of beneficiaries reached over their 2021 totals by more than 50%; 29 partners who reported in 2021 also reported in 2022/Q1. 7 new implementing partners reported in 2022. And 28 partners who reported in 2021 but have not yet reached any beneficiaries in 2022.

Table 13: Top implementing partners by beneficiaries reached in 2022/Q1

org_code	ben_2021	rank_2021	ben_2022	rank_2022	total_ben
org_8540	565,398	1	380,478	1	945,876
org_5722	270,216	2	283,348	2	553,564
org_6827	165,538	5	206,710	3	372,248
org_4933	151,389	6	160,480	4	311,869
org_9693	12,094	24	160,449	5	172,543
org_1206	33,442	20	156,433	6	189,875
org_5440	11,567	25	143,505	7	155,072
org_6792	132,464	7	105,410	8	237,874
org_9566			95,999	9	95,999
org_8004	73,116	10	86,740	10	159,856
org_3486	77,301	9	61,257	11	138,558
org_3280	60,057	12	60,599	12	120,656
org_6130	71,467	11	59,547	13	131,014
org_5677	165,794	4	40,377	14	206,171
org_2825	49,692	15	39,572	15	89,264
org_2690	103,611	8	38,411	16	142,022
org_5604	40,279	17	24,298	17	64,577
org_7002	25,954	21	18,021	18	43,975
org_2807	1,001	48	14,463	19	15,464
org_6793			10,494	20	10,494

5.3 Donors

As shown by the table below, the majority of beneficiaries reported in the first quarter of 2022/Q1 were reported without any corresponding donor, as in 2021. The data in this column continues of limited utility in analysis.

Table 14: Top donors by beneficiaries reached

donor	beneficiaries	%_beneficiaries
No donor specified	2,022,049	90.65
FCDO	76,391	3.42
CERF	33,157	1.49
WVI	20,843	0.93
Organizational own funds	19,721	0.88
BPRM	16,362	0.73
USAID	14,386	0.64
FCDO+BPRM	7,059	0.32
NZMFAT	4,854	0.22
LIFT	2,986	0.13
Other donors	2,945	0.13
MoFA Luxemburg	2,730	0.12
UN Women	2,238	0.10
Norad	2,070	0.09
ECHO	1,797	0.08
SIDA	1,040	0.05

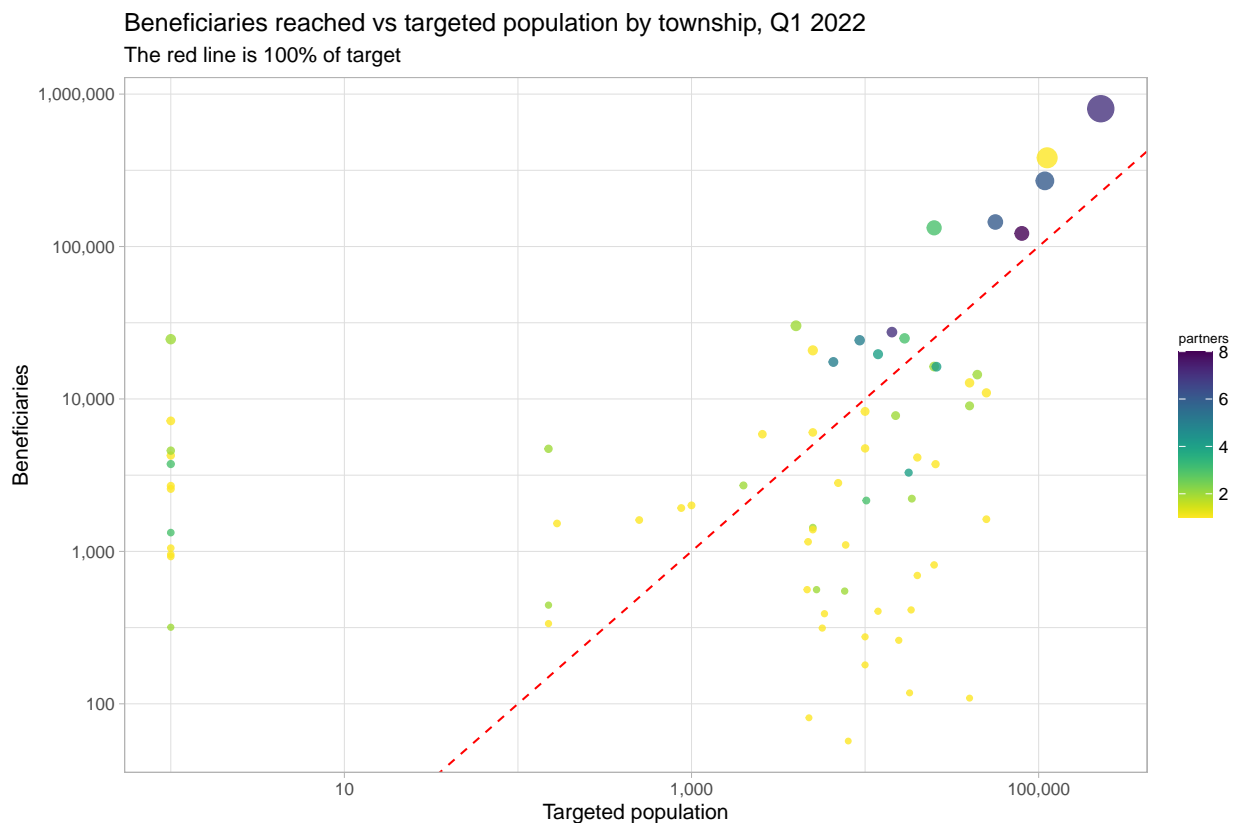
6. Comparison with targets

6.2 Reached vs target by township

The specifics of each township can be reviewed with the interactive plot below. Each point is a township, with the size indicating the number of beneficiaries. The x-axis indicates the target population by township and the y-axis shows the number of beneficiaries reached in 2022/Q1.

The red line down the middle represents reaching 100% of the target. Townships above this line have reached more beneficiaries than their target and townships below the line have not met their target yet. The further away a township is from the red line, the further above or below its target it is. Mouse over each of the townships to see more details.

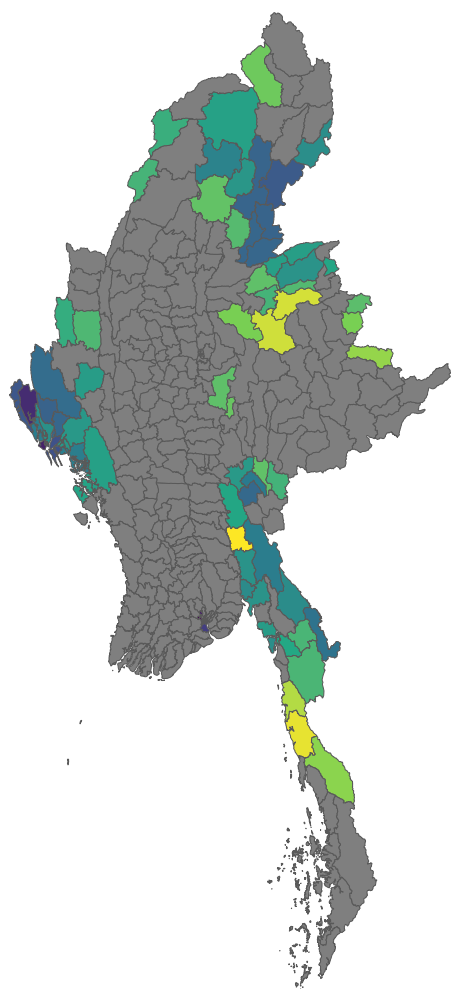
The 12 townships along the extreme left side of the plot have beneficiaries but do not have targets. 230 townships with targets have not been reached. The interactive version of this scatterplot is available in the [online edition](#) of this report.



6.2 Map of beneficiaries reached in 2022/Q1 vs target

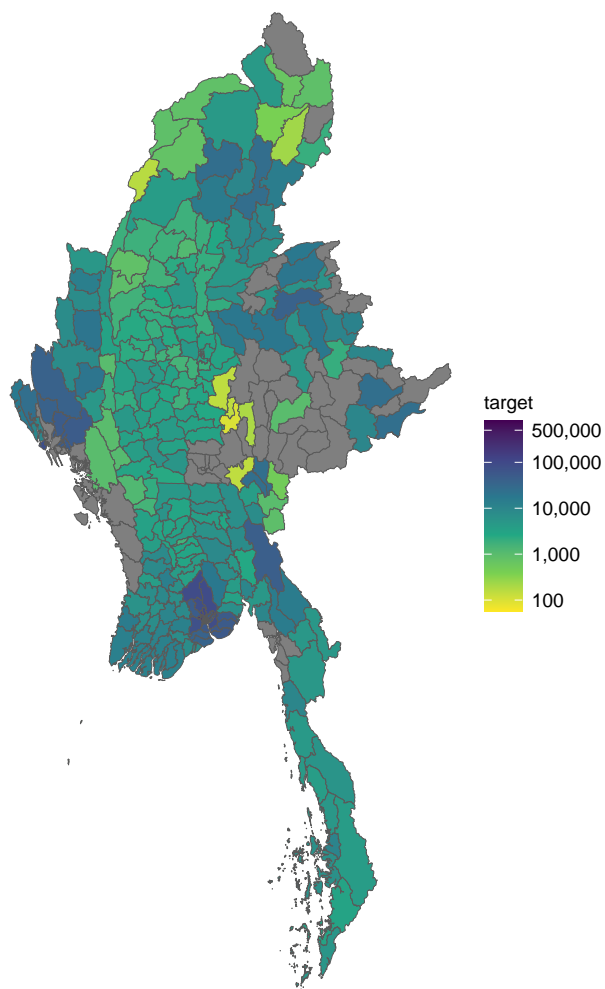
Beneficiaries by township

townships in grey do not have any partners present



2022 target by township

townships in grey do not food security targets



With the important exceptions of Yangon and the Southeast, beneficiaries are concentrated in the peripheral and border regions of the union, where humanitarian actors have traditionally been present. As mentioned in previous reports, this is not consistent with the current patterns of needs and vulnerability.

6.3 Interactive reference table

This interactive reference table is not available in this PDF edition. Please refer to the online version of this report [here](#).