



**Karen National Union
Supreme Headquarters
Kawthoolei
www.knuhq.org**

**Karen National Union (KNU)
Statement on aid to the people in flood-affected
areas of Kawthoolei**

September 28, 2024

The Karen National Union (KNU) is deeply concerned about the damage, destruction, and loss of life caused by flooding as Typhoon Yagi swept through northern Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and Myanmar in early September. The KNU has expressed its commitment to providing assistance to the people residing in the Kawthoolei who have been impacted, assuring them that it will allocate all available resources to support those in need. It is clear, however, that support from the international community is greatly needed. In this matter, the KNU renews its pleas to the international community to recognize the need for parallel programs of assistance since any assistance will be blocked by the State Administration Council (SAC) junta led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing from reaching areas under the control of KNU and other resistance forces.

The impact of Typhoon Yagi in Burma/Myanmar has been severe, and KNU and humanitarian agencies associated with the KNU have gathered data on the impact on their operational areas. The disaster occurred on top of the disaster caused by conflict and displacement following the military coup of 1st February 2021. Not only that, but many of the communities' farms had already suffered severe flood damage in late July and early August of 2024, which had caused severe damage to paddy fields and delayed the preparation of fields for new crops.

In KNU areas, 20 out of 27 townships in the KNU seven districts, but most severely in its Doo Tha Htu (Thaton), Kler Lwe Htu (Nyaunglaybin), and Taw Oo (Toungoo) districts, are affected. Over 380,000 people are affected by large-scale damage to paddy fields, food storage facilities, and water resources, including shallow wells, hand-pump wells, ponds, and latrines, livestock loss, and widespread destruction of buildings.

Flood-Affected Areas and Population

| Sr. | KNU's District | # of Village | Male | Female | Total Population | Households |
|-----|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Doo Tha Htu District | 178 | 53,084 | 55,209 | 108,293 | 18,852 |
| 2 | Taw Oo District | 72 | 33,608 | 39,751 | 73,359 | 15,314 |
| 3 | Kler Lwe Htu District | 186 | 57,796 | 59,500 | 117,296 | 22,705 |
| 4 | Mutraw District | 8 | 1,882 | 1,953 | 3,303 | 611 |
| 5 | Mergui-Dawei District | 46 | 9,354 | 9,906 | 19,260 | 4,196 |
| 6 | Dooplaya District | 13 | 2,135 | 2,296 | 4,431 | 1,054 |
| 7 | Hpa-An District | 39 | 27,160 | 27,677 | 54,837 | 10,268 |
| | Total | 542 | 185,019 | 196,292 | 380,779 | 73,000 |

Loss, Damage, and Destruction

| Sr. | District | Death (Human) | House | School | Health facility | Latrine | Drinking well | Farms (Acre) | Livestock | Food Storage | Bridge | Road (Mile) | Vehicles & Machinery | Cart |
|-----|-----------------------|---------------|-------|--------|-----------------|---------|---------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|--------|-------------|----------------------|------|
| 1 | Doo Tha Htu District | | | | | | | 8931 | 372 | | | | 601 | |
| 2 | Kler Lwe Htu District | | | 301 | 4 | | | 3988 | | | 13 | | | |
| 3 | Taw Oo District | | 1625 | 4 | 1 | 4587 | 6527 | 15152 | 2258 | 2007 | 5 | 53 | 2400 | 230 |
| 4 | Mutraw District | | 85 | | 9 | 240 | | | | | | | | |
| | Total | | 1710 | 304 | 14 | 4827 | 6527 | 28071 | 2630 | 2007 | 18 | 53 | 3001 | 230 |

*Due to transportation and communication challenges, the remaining data for all losses, damages, and destruction has yet to be received.

Humanitarian Needs

The most urgent needs are as follows:

- Support for food, drinking water, and hygiene kits is the most urgent emergency requirement.
- Support for replacing or repairing farm tools, vehicles, and machinery.
- Support for restoring animal husbandry to replace livestock and poultry used mainly for domestic consumption to diversify nutrition and livelihoods.
- Support for replacing or repairing water supply facilities, such as wells and pipelines.

As KNU has expressed over the past years and extensively deliberated with the Thai government, ASEAN, and other supportive governments and aid agencies, the necessity of implementing parallel processes for delivering assistance to those in need has been emphasized:

- To assist people in areas controlled by the SAC, access can be arranged with them;
- To assist people in areas governed by ethnic resistance forces, access must be arranged with the KNU and other resistance forces, without any involvement of the SAC. The SAC is known for obstructing aid to those in need and for ongoing attacks on civilian populations and vital infrastructure, including schools and hospitals.

Assistance for individuals in KNU areas should be facilitated across the Thailand border through collaborative dialogues involving Thai authorities and the KNU, which is prepared to engage in such discussions actively.

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