KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

- Refuges and asylum-seekers from Myanmar in neighbouring countries as of 30 June 2022: 1,086,000
- Estimated total internally displaced persons (IDPs) within Myanmar, displaced since 1 February 2021: 1,215,000
- Estimated total internally displaced persons (IDPs) within Myanmar as of 9 January 2023: 1,545,000
- Estimated refugee movements to neighbouring countries since 1 February 2021: 72,000

HIGHLIGHTS

According to the UN, an estimated 1,545,000 people were reported internally displaced within Myanmar as of 9 January, including 1,215,000 people newly displaced since 1 February 2021.

In Kachin and Shan (North), the protection risks faced by many communities continued to increase because of the intensifying conflict. In response, communities limited their own movements (particularly in the evenings) due to the risk of forced recruitment, robbery, physical assault, and arbitrary arrests. The situation has also been further compounded by their inadequate access to livelihoods, which is making it difficult for communities to meet their basic needs.

In the North-West, the security situation remained volatile across Chin State and Sagaing and Magway Regions, as indiscriminate attacks continue to drive displacement. Movement restrictions have also pushed up the cost of essential goods and sparked shortages of food and other basic commodities.

In Rakhine and Chin (South) States, following the announcement of an informal ceasefire between the Tatmadaw and the Arakan Army (AA) in late November 2022, roadways were reopened to enable the movement of civilians and goods between Yangon-Sittwe and within most of Rakhine State (North). However, rising criminality in Rakhine North (State) continues to exacerbate insecurity. Currently, most of the humanitarian response in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, Rathedaung, Mrauk-U, Minbya and Myebon remains limited to life-saving activities such as food and health after de facto authorities introduced new restrictions on UN agencies and INGOs in mid-September 2022.

In the South-East, the security situation across all states and regions remained unpredictable with frequent airstrikes and indiscriminate shelling being reported. Access to education continued to be challenging for many children, which increased their exposure to negative coping mechanisms such as child labour. Limited access to food, shelter materials and basic medicine were other challenges brought about by the volatile context.

RESPONSE

Myanmar

In Kachin and Shan (North) States, UNHCR and partners distributed various core relief items (CRIs), including mosquito nets, sleeping mats, blankets and buckets to 3,200 IDPs (815 families). 4,150 people (1,190 families) received emergency shelter assistance in Kachin State and Shan State (North). UNHCR and partners also provided transitional shelters, including corrugated galvanized iron roofing and timber frame structures to some 1,170 people (234 families) living in Kachin State and Shan State (North). As part of the COVID-19 response, over 20,000 face masks were distributed in IDP camps in Kachin State.

In Rakhine State, through local partners, UNHCR distributed CRIs to 1,328 people (358 families) in Rakhine State (North) and 197 people (52 families) in Rakhine State (Central). In Rakhine State (Central), 58 longhouses were rehabilitated in two IDP camps to accommodate some 3,179 people (578 families). In addition, 308 people (56 families) received emergency shelter assistance to improve their living conditions in Rakhine State (Central). Some 6,500 face masks were distributed in IDP camps in Rakhine State (Central).
Myanmar cont’d

masks were also delivered to partners for distribution as part of the ongoing COVID-19 response to IDPs.

In the South-East, UNHCR and partners distributed CRIs comprising mosquito nets, blankets, sleeping mats, plastic buckets, kitchen sets, plastic tarpaulins and solar lamps to 47,000 IDPs (11,000 families) in Kayah, Kayin and Shan (South) States. 8,000 people (1,700 families) in Kayin, Kayah and Shan (South) States and Bago (East) Region also received emergency shelter assistance, which included plastic tarpaulins, nails and ropes. Information, educational and communication materials on civil documentation, landmine awareness, and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse as well as helpline cards were distributed to 3,500 people in Kayin, Kayah and Shan (South) States and Bago (East) and Tanintharyi Regions. In Kayin State and Tanintharyi Region, over 10,000 personal protective equipment (PPE) was distributed as part of UNHCR’s COVID-19 response.

In the North-West, UNHCR and partners distributed CRIs to some 198 conflict and flood-affected families in Pakokku Township, Magway Region. In addition, UNHCR donated over 4,000 PPE, including face masks, gloves, hand sanitizers, thermometers and safety goggles to support the health response in Magway Region. UNHCR continues to advocate for expanded access to reach people in areas experiencing large-scale displacements.

Thailand

The Royal Thai Army reported that no refugees were sheltered in the nine Temporary Safety Areas (TSA) and no new arrivals recorded along the Thai – Myanmar border in December 2022. Meanwhile, local partners estimate some 5,137 Myanmar individuals currently reside outside TSAs in Tak Province (3,497 in Phop Phra district and 1,640 in Umphang district).

Due to limited humanitarian access, most partners rely on local community-based organizations (CBOs) to conduct basic monitoring and deliver much-needed assistance. During the reporting period, different water schemes were set up in Umphang and Pho Pra districts to provide refugees residing outside TSAs access to clean water and sanitation facilities. This included the rehabilitation of pipelines, water tanks, pumps and filters, handwashing stations and temporary latrines. IRC, Handicap International, Sempanya Foundation, Malteser International and MSF are also developing a framework to enhance mental health and psychosocial support and build the capacity of local health actors to deliver community-based counselling.

India

The total number of people of who fled from Myanmar and are presently in India stands at approximately 49,850 individuals. Of this figure, 38,200 reside in Mizoram while an estimated 6,950 are in Manipur. Since February 2021, 4,700 individuals approached UNHCR in Delhi for registration and refugee status determination. CBOs reported a slight increase in the number of new arrivals in Manipur from Myanmar’s Sagaing Region due to the intensifying conflict. More arrivals from Chin State and Sagaing Region into India could be likely in the coming weeks.

Due to funding shortfalls, CBOs and humanitarian organizations provide limited support such as food and CRIs to vulnerable new arrivals and host communities. The needs on the ground are likely to continue increasing because of the harsh winter, slight uptick in the number of new arrivals and protracted displacement.
UNHCR provides targeted shelter support to IDPs in Kachin State. New homes are constructed for families and solar streetlights are installed to illuminate pathways and provide a sense of security. © UNHCR/Hkun Ring
Sex and age disaggregated data is not currently available for displacement figures, though efforts are being made to improve the quality of the data.

*Estimates by the Operation Center for Displaced Persons, Ministry of Interior (OCDP/MOI). All 22,300 refugees have reportedly returned to Myanmar.
UNHCR REGIONAL BUREAU FOR ASIA AND PACIFIC (RBAP)

MYANMAR EMERGENCY UPDATE

as of 9 January 2023

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by the following donors, who have contributed to our Myanmar situation response as well as those that contribute to UNHCR programmes with globally unearmarked funds and broadly earmarked funds for the Asia-Pacific region:

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