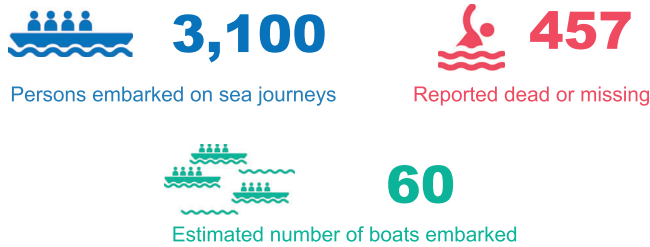


MOVEMENTS IN 2025 (January to May)

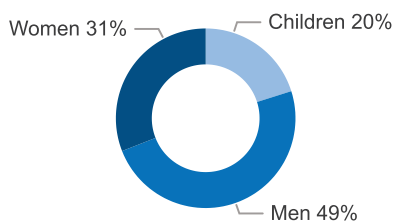


HIGHLIGHTS

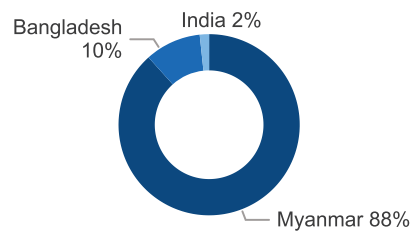
Since 2022, 20,338 people from Myanmar have embarked on sea/river journeys, out of which 1,878 have died at sea/river or are still missing. In 2025, from January to May, 3,100 people from Myanmar have attempted such journeys with 457 individuals dying at sea/river or missing.

This report presents people from Myanmar, predominantly Rohingya refugees fleeing by sea/river in South and South-East Asia. The information in this report is compiled and triangulated from various sources, including governments, partners, UNHCR operations, media reports and interviews with refugees themselves.

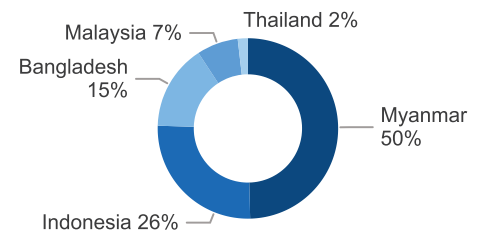
AGE-GENDER*



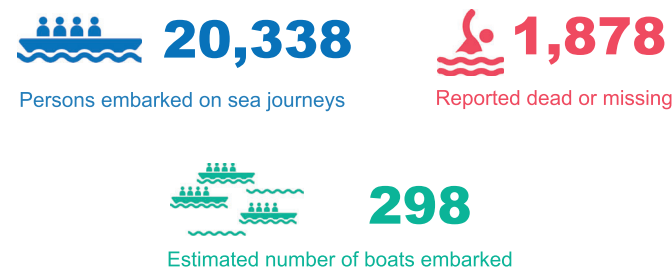
COUNTRY OF DEPARTURE**



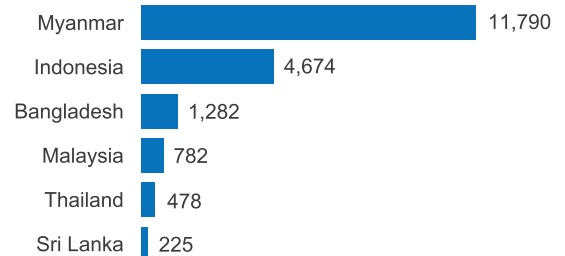
COUNTRY OF DISEMBARKATION



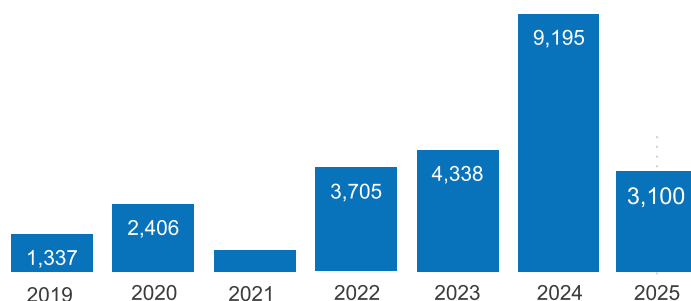
MOVEMENTS SINCE JANUARY 2022



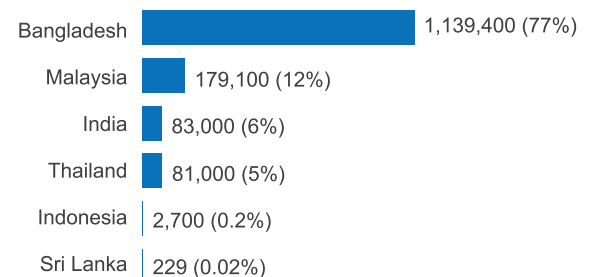
KNOWN DISEMBARKATIONS PER COUNTRY SINCE 2022



PERSONS EMBARKING BY YEAR (2019-2025)



REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS FROM MYANMAR | MAY 2024



*Age-gender breakdown only available for 60% of survivors.

**Journeys may consist of different legs through several countries. Thus, the country of departure may not be the country where the journey started.

For the purposes of this document, the simplified term "movement" refers to people fleeing by sea/river directly from Myanmar and/or travelling in an onward movement from a country where they sought refuge and international protection. 'Attempted' movements include intercepted/stopped movements as well as those reaching their intended destinations. The information in this report is provisional and subject to retroactive changes.

Dangerous Maritime Movements in South and South-East Asia

Key Developments

- 3,100 Rohingya refugees embarked on dangerous sea and river journeys from January – May 2025. Comparing the same period with previous years since 2022, the number of persons fleeing by boat in 2025 has increased with an average of 174 per cent.
- Alarming, 457 persons were reported as dead or missing by the end of May 2025, making this year's initial five months nearly seven times deadlier than the same period in 2024 that recorded 69 deaths at sea.

New Movement Trends

- Due to the deteriorating situation in Myanmar and insecurity in the refugee camps in Bangladesh, the worrisome trend of increased movements and deaths at sea is expected to continue unabated for the 2025-2026 'sailing season' that is yet to begin.
- 51 per cent of those embarking on perilous journeys in 2025 (as of 31 May) were women and children, marking a decrease from 2024 that recorded 64 per cent women and children for the same period.

Gaps & Challenges

- As observed in 2024, the pattern of increased numbers of Rohingya refugees, many of whom are stateless, fleeing over the Naf to Bangladesh has continued in 2025, posing additional challenges with boat movements occurring all months of the year.
- With 77 per cent of all refugees and asylum-seekers from Myanmar generously hosted by Bangladesh, UNHCR continues to call for a more evenly distributed regional responsibility sharing and collaboration on search and rescue, safe disembarkations and protection-sensitive approaches.
- A 81 per cent reduction (from 34,055 to 3,032) in resettlement quotas of refugees in the South and South-East Asia subregions from 2024 to 2025, compounded with overall funding constraints is likely to exacerbate the situation, leaving more Rohingya refugees to make desperate decisions to seek protection through dangerous maritime journeys.

In Search of Safety and Protection

- For the initial five months of 2025, only 35 per cent of those embarking reached their intended destination with the majority (26 per cent) safely disembarking in Indonesia. Instability and protection concerns will continue to force refugees from Myanmar to seek safety and protection in the sub-region and beyond.
- By adopting a 'whole-of-journey' Panoramic Approach for the South and South-East Asia Route, UNHCR seeks to enhance protection and solutions as early as possible in the countries along the maritime route and reduce the need to undertake further irregular and dangerous journeys.



Fleeing bombardments in Myanmar, Sadeqa and her two-year-old son spent weeks at sea. Without enough food or water, they resorted to drinking seawater to survive. By the time the boat reached South Aceh in Indonesia, three people had died and many more were seriously ill. Despite their initial opposition, the local community donated food, water and clothing to the refugees.

"Having spent days on the water, we were constantly praying to Allah, asking when we would be able to set foot on land," said Sadeqa. "When [they] rescued us and brought us to shore, we were incredibly grateful."

Sadeqa Bibi and her son fled Myanmar after her husband was killed in bombardments.
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