HIGHLIGHTS

According to the UN, an estimated 1,865,500 internally displaced people (IDPs) were reported across the country, including 1,537,500 displaced after 1 February 2021.

In the North-West, the situation remains volatile with 26 Townships under martial law. Airstrikes, explosive ordnance, and road blockages continue to impact the humanitarian response and drive large-scale and secondary displacement. Frequent pendular movements were also reported between displacement sites and villages of origin in parts of Magway and Sagaing Regions.

In Rakhine and Chin (South) States, access restrictions continue to impact protection and other life-saving assistance such as food, clean water, and safe shelter. As access remains unpredictable, efforts continue at the national and regional levels to extend assistance to people affected by Cyclone Mocha. However, the limited availability, high cost, and increased demand of key commodities is impacting recovery efforts. Loss of agricultural land and livestock also continue to be reported across Townships. Cases of water and mosquito-borne diseases such as acute watery diarrhea and dengue fever have been recorded in cyclone-affected Townships in Rakhine, including IDP camps. The relocation site in Kyauk Ta Lone IDP camp, Kyaukphyu Township, Rakhine State (Central), remained flooded. Water, sanitation and hygiene facilities are in poor condition and pose serious protection risks for women and girls who have to leave the site to access functioning latrines. UNHCR continues to advocate for safe, voluntary, dignified, sustainable returns in the event of any IDP camp closure.

In the South-East, martial law orders remain in place in 10 Townships amid ongoing clashes. Deadly airstrikes, landmines, shelling, and arson attacks were reported in townships in Kayin, Kayah, Mon and Shan (South) States and Bago (East) and Tanintharyi Regions. Movement restrictions, the closure and/or destruction of roads, and security checkpoints, are impacting communities’ access to essential goods and services. Children and youth are reportedly targets for arrest and forced recruitment, as they are increasingly on the move in the region. In addition, reports of gender-based violence are also on the rise.

In Kachin and Shan (North), clashes continued to persist with increased reports of arrests, forced recruitment, destruction and burning of civilian property, indiscriminate shelling, and killings. IDPs are unable to return due to the presence of armed actors, destroyed and inhabitable homes, and security fears. Despite the insecurity, IDPs have expressed an interest in pursuing community-led voluntary returns.

RESPONSE

Myanmar

In Kachin State and Shan State (North), UNHCR and partners distributed core relief items (CRI), including mosquito nets, sleeping mats, blankets, buckets, jerry cans, and kitchen sets to some 981 people (216 families). In addition, 440 people (89 families) received shelter support to promote living in safety and dignity. UNHCR and partners have ensured equitable access to services for more than 90,000 IDPs via camp coordination and camp management thereby contributing to their overall protection.
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Myanmar cont’d

In Rakhine State (Central), travel authorizations for the month of June were formally and temporarily reinstated for regular activities such as shelter reconstruction and CRI distributions. UNHCR and partners distributed CRIs to more than 53,000 people (10,000 families). Moreover, emergency shelter assistance was provided to 83,000 people (17,000 families). Materials included plastic tarpaulins, myaw posts (jungle wood), timber, bamboo poles, ropes and nails. UNHCR continues to address legal and systemic issues related to statelessness, civil documentation and birth registration through monitoring, case referrals and awareness raising on procedures while also developing strategies in tandem for affected communities.

In the South-East, UNHCR and partners distributed CRIs to 5,600 people (1,800 families) in Kayah, Kayin and Shan (South) States. Items included blankets, buckets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, mats, mosquito nets, solar lamps and plastic tarpaulins. In Kayah and Shan State (South), 6,250 people (1,640 families) received emergency shelter materials such as corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) sheets, plastic tarpaulins and nails. In Kayah and Shan (South) States, 152 people with specific needs (older people, people with disabilities, children, people with serious medical conditions, and female-headed households) were identified and supported with multipurpose cash assistance. UNHCR also conducted a workshop on access to civil documentation, targeting 21 staff from four local partner organizations.

With the looming monsoon season, efforts are underway to transport additional emergency shelter supplies and rapidly replenish local stockpiles.

Thailand

During the reporting period, 4,892 refugee arrivals were recorded and sheltered in four Temporary Safety Areas in Mae Hong Son Province, according to the Royal Thai Government following heavy armed clashes across multiple locations in Mese Township, Kayah State. The Thai Red Cross Society is currently coordinating the delivery of humanitarian assistance while other partners provide basic services such as food, shelter, WASH, and health support. Upon authorities’ request, UNHCR delivered various CRIs in June, including 700 mosquito nets, 675 sleeping mats, 558 blankets, 144 bottles of washing up liquid, 110 garbage bags, 70 sponges, 51 kitchen sets, 50 plastic tarpaulins and 10 solar lamps to this group.

India

Close to 200 new arrivals crossed into India due to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar’s North-West region, according to estimates by community-based organisations (CBOs) in Manipur and Mizoram states. This brings the total number of arrivals from Myanmar to India following the events of 1 February 2021 to approximately 54,400. State governments and CBOs estimate that over 40,600 individuals currently reside in Mizoram and 8,450 individuals in Manipur. As of 1 July, 5,232 individuals have approached UNHCR in New Delhi for registration since February 2021.

Following the re-escalation of violence in Manipur in June, curfew restrictions remain in place with internet services suspended across the state. More than 100 families have reportedly returned to Myanmar in the past two months and some others have relocated to safer locations within the state.

Against this unpredictable backdrop, humanitarian agencies and CBOs continue to operate with assistance prioritised for internally displaced populations. According to the Department of Education of the State Government of Mizoram, 2,687 children of Myanmar arrivals are currently enrolled in government schools in Champhai district as of mid-June. Humanitarian agencies are supporting both new arrivals and host community students via the provision of education kits, recreational kits, and child-friendly learning spaces. Humanitarian agencies and CBOs are also linking children who have dropped out of school due to long commuting distance or to support their families to complementary classes to facilitate their adjustment to the new curriculum and ensure continued access to education. With food, water and health assistance remaining the most urgent needs in Mizoram and Manipur, more resources are needed in view of the increasing number of new arrivals.

Publishing date: 18 July 2023 | Author: UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP)
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An internally displaced family receiving core relief items in Kayah State © UNHCR Yin Yin Myint
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Displacement Trends

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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