Overview

UNHCR’s operation in South-East Myanmar, which covers Bago Region (East), Kayah State, Kayin State, Mon State, Shan State (South) and Tanintharyi Region, was established in 2004 primarily to support the return and reintegration of displaced populations, as well as refugees.

The region, long the centre of armed conflict, had seen positive developments up till the late 2010s. This includes the signing of the 2015 Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), which paved the way for small-scale returns of internally displaced people (IDPs) as well as Myanmar refugees from Thailand to take place.

The events of 1 February 2021 and subsequent resumption and intensification of conflict have negatively impacted sustainable return and reintegration efforts, while presenting new protection challenges. A resurgence of violence has resulted in over 754,000 people forced to flee across the South-East, of which 471,000 remain displaced.

In view of the deteriorating humanitarian situation, UNHCR has scaled up its operations in the South-East to meet increased emergency response, protection monitoring, capacity building and humanitarian coordination needs.

With a presence in Hpa-An, Kayin State, Loikaw, Kayah State and Taunggyi, Shan State (South), UNHCR works with partners to protect and assist forcibly displaced people, engage with affected communities and understand their concerns, deliver critical humanitarian assistance, track displacement dynamics, support social cohesion and facilitate humanitarian engagement and advocacy with stakeholders.
Our Donors in Myanmar

UNHCR’s work is entirely humanitarian and non-political, guided by the principles of humanity, impartiality and independence.