

Myanmar Situation

Thailand, 27 July 2021

The volatile situation in Myanmar following the 01 February 2021 coup has **resulted in increased displacement** both within the country and across borders, including into Thailand

Humanitarian actors stand ready to **support the Royal Thai Government (RTG)’s efforts** to receive Myanmar refugees fleeing at this time to ensure that they receive the protection they need

Agencies have taken a number of **key preparedness actions** to ensure that complementary activities are delivered in a timely and coordinated manner

Latest Situation Overview



The security situation continues to deteriorate in Southeast Myanmar with intensification of armed clashes reported between the Tatmadaw and ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) or People's Defence Force (PDF) in several areas, as well as continued deployment of security forces and increase in tensions. In Kayah State, fighting between the combined forces of the Karenni Army and Tatmadaw during 19-20 July in Bawlakhe and Hpruso townships resulted in some 4,000 persons fleeing their homes and seeking shelter in the jungle. Meanwhile, the conflict between EAOs in southern Shan State recently displaced almost 1,000 civilians in Mong Kung Township. Overall, as of 19 July, **an estimated 101,100 persons are internally displaced within Kayah State, together with 47,700 in Karen State, while 21,700 are estimated to be displaced within southern Shan State. Displaced populations in some areas reportedly continue to experience significant challenges in accessing basic needs, services, and shelter materials due to road blockages and other constraints, as well as suspension of services due to COVID-19 prevention measures.** On the Thai side, as per the latest official figure reported by the Thai-Myanmar Border Command Center (Mae Hong Son Province) on 12 June there continues to be 0 individuals remaining in temporary safety areas in MHS Province. **While there have been reports of groups**

continuing to gather in border areas on the Myanmar side, including opposite Thailand’s Mae Sariang, Khun Yuam and Mueng districts, such groups have not yet demonstrated any intention to cross over onto the Thai side. However, the ongoing situation of internal displacement in Myanmar continues to highlight the need for preparedness measures on the Thai side by humanitarian actors in coordination with the RTG in Bangkok and in the border provinces. As part of ongoing activities, humanitarian actors continue advocacy efforts to ensure that any displaced persons entering Thailand are able to access protection. **This is in the context of growing numbers of reported arrests of Myanmar nationals considered as “illegal migrant workers” attempting to enter Thailand irregularly in the Kanchanaburi/Ratchaburi area, for which there continues to be no systematic identification of people in need of international protection in place.**

TOTAL DISPLACED POPULATION IN THAILAND

0 persons*

TOTAL DISPLACED POPULATION IN SOUTHEAST MYANMAR

171,600 persons**

* As per official RTG statistics, 12 June 2021
 ** As per UNHCR estimated figure of new displacement since 01 February 2021, 26 July 2021

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Humanitarian Agency Preparedness Activities



Partners are prepared to distribute prepositioned learning materials such as books and pens to at least 150 school-aged children and are preparing play kits including tracing books, crayons, playdough and finger puppets for around 380 children aged 2-5 years, in the event of a sudden influx of refugees from Myanmar into Thailand. **Technical resources such as manuals and IEC materials on areas such as COVID-19 prevention, Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), Explosive Ordnance/Mine Risk Education (EORE) are available and ready for immediate deployment.** Partners are also ready to conduct group activities for children such as storytelling, puppet shows and arrange community libraries in holding areas. Planning with a wide range of education partners to prepare for a potential refugee influx is ongoing.



The Border Consortium (TBC) continues to support and work collaboratively with the Border Emergency Relief Team (BERT) – a network of local CSOs - to provide essential food for refugees in Mae Sariang proximal to the border. **TBC is prepositioning essential food ration items for potential holding areas,** and specific food for nutrition of children and pregnant/breastfeeding women, with established suppliers for the four provinces of its current operation. Currently TBC is closely monitoring the massive displacement of people in Kayah State, and a number of groups on the other side close to the border derived from both ethnic and Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) groups.



Health sector agencies have planned essential activities for an influx scenario of 4,000 arrivals/month over 6 months to include the following essential response categories: Communicable Disease, Child Health, Sexual/Reproductive Health, Injury/Trauma Care, Mental Health, Non-Communicable Disease, and Rehabilitation. **Response includes COVID-19 screening and quarantine management** with referral to Government District Hospitals for case management. Health sector agencies are currently working to identify additional partner organizations capable of responding in areas where current agencies do not have or cannot ensure operational presence. MI and the IRC have participated in short informal visits to government identified holding areas for cursory informal site reviews.



The NFI sector continues to collaborate with partners for a NFI response plan at provincial and national levels through consultations with partners. Cross-sector coordination efforts continue, focusing on **distribution of guidance, plans and information sharing on core relief items (CRIs) and specialized kits coordinated by other sectors** such as hygiene kits (WASH), dignity kits (Protection), shelter kits (Shelter) and Education kits (Education). NFI sector IM platforms and 4Ws have been established to streamline information sharing practices and aid coordination. UNHCR stands ready to complement efforts with pre-positioned CRIs in Mae Sot.



To support protection mainstreaming across sectors, UNHCR has **developed a training program for humanitarian actors** and a 5-Action strategy for Sector Leads. Preparedness activities such as capacity building, establishment of standby partnerships, deployment of emergency staff, border monitoring and advocacy with local authorities remain ongoing. Protection actors are finalizing referral pathways for assistance and protection services in the different provinces and **supporting several inter-agency preparedness initiatives** including the mapping of local actors in areas of displacement, site assessments in border areas and the development of a multi-sector rapid needs assessment tool.



TBC has now **completed delivery of the initial order of 1,200 pieces of durable plastic roofing sheets** (5mx6m) to border sites by the end of June. An additional 1,200 pieces are being procured and delivered during July. TBC also continues to source and procure bamboo and other building materials with established local suppliers. These are in readiness for construction of houses for refugees in holding areas. In accordance with SPHERE standards, this initial procurement will house up to 6,000 refugees (five per household).



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector agencies have planned essential activities for an influx scenario of 4,000 arrivals/month over 6 months to include the following essential response categories: Water Supply, Hygiene Promotion, Excreta Management, Vector Control and Solid Waste Management. **The WASH sector has started to work on a sectoral operational plan to identify additional partner organizations capable of responding in areas where current agencies do not have or cannot ensure operational presence.** This will also help in mapping contingency stocks including construction materials and hygiene kits.

