

# Myanmar Situation

Thailand, 10 August 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 continue to take a number of **key preparedness actions** to ensure that complementary activities are delivered in a timely and coordinated manner

## Latest Situation Overview



In Southeast Myanmar, ongoing fighting in Kayah state has displaced thousands of villagers in Karen National Progressive Party (KNPP) controlled territories, with some IDPs crossing the Salween River to arrive in Daw Noh Ku IDP settlement at the border. Overall, as of 02 August 2021, an estimated 101,100 persons continue to be internally displaced within Kayah State, together with 47,400 in Kayin State, while some 21,600 persons are estimated to be displaced within southern Shan State.

Borders remain closed on the whole and this is expected to continue as part of measures related to preventing the spread of COVID-19. However, in the northern province of Mae Hong Son, 5 temporary border crossing points are open, but for transportation of goods only.

Inside Thailand, as per the latest official figures reported by the Royal Thai Government (RTG), there are currently no refugees remaining in temporary safety areas in provinces along the border. Moreover, there have not been any reports of movements towards the border by the IDPs in Myanmar, in part due to movement restrictions related to measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. However, there are continued reports of individuals within various villages keeping a low profile, supported by their local networks. Reportedly, their decision to maintain a low profile is also due to

uncertainties about the protection framework in Thailand. As the situation prolongs, these individuals may exhaust their coping mechanisms and may come out of the woodwork to seek protection and assistance. **This scenario, as well as the fact that the ongoing situation of new internal displacement in Myanmar continues, serves 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.** Preparedness efforts continue in Tak. While four site assessments were completed, the earlier request to conduct a site assessment in Umphang district has now been rejected by the authorities. Up north, a coordination meeting was held by CBOs/CSOs based in Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai. A training on protection is being arranged for this group in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, in contrast with previous weeks, there have been fewer recent media reports of arrests in Kanchanaburi/Ratchaburi and Tak provinces, though the reason for this reported decrease is not clear at this stage. This is in the context of a tightening of border security in some border areas including Kanchanaburi/Ratchaburi due to increasing COVID-19 cases in Thailand as well as concerns related to the COVID-19 situation in Myanmar. As part of ongoing activities, humanitarian actors continue advocacy efforts to ensure that any displaced persons entering Thailand are able to access protection.

# INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE

## Humanitarian Agency Preparedness Activities



**Education** Planning with a wide range of education partners to prepare for a potential refugee influx is ongoing. 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 384 children aged 2-5 years, in the event of a sudden influx of refugees from Myanmar into Thailand. Home-based Learning Kit Guidance is being finalized for further procurement of kits with following training of community volunteers. Partners are also ready to conduct group activities for children such as storytelling, puppet shows and arrange community libraries in holding areas. Trainings on EiE Minimum Standards and Child Safeguarding will be organized in August.



**Food** 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** 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.



**NFI** 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.



**Protection** 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.



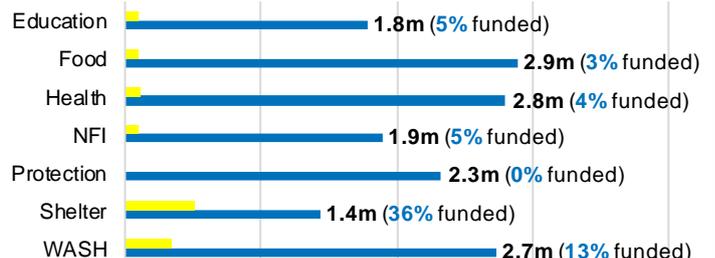
**Shelter** TBC has now **completed delivery of the durable plastic roofing sheets** (5mx6m) to all border sites as of the end of July. A total of 2,600 pieces are now in place in Mae Hong Son, Tak and Kanchanaburi Provinces. TBC also continues to source and procure bamboo and other building materials 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).



**WASH** 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.

### Requirements by Sector\* | In millions \$

\* Myanmar Situation Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan, June – November 2021



Coordination requirements currently 29% funded across all sectors

Thank you to donors who have contributed funds to date: **Canada, Denmark, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and United States.** Contributions have also been received from **Caritas and partners, OANDA, Save the Children and UNICEF.**