

# Myanmar Situation

6 SEPTEMBER

The volatile situation in Myanmar following the 01 February 2021 coup has **increased armed conflict and subsequent population displacement** within and across borders, including in Thailand.

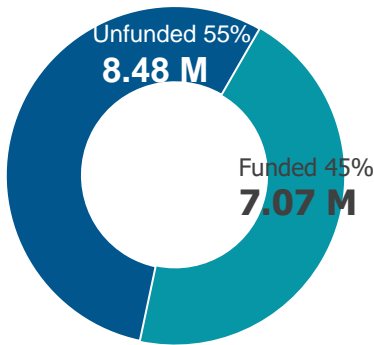
As of 22 August 2022, the Royal Thai Government (RTG) reports that **there are no refugees remaining** on the Thai side of the border. Since February 2021, the RTG estimates that some 22,000 Myanmar refugees have sought temporary safety in Thailand.

Refugees are sheltered in **temporary safety areas (TSA)**, which are placed under the general jurisdiction of the Royal Thai Army by the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) established by the RTG in March 2021.

## FUNDING OVERVIEW FOR JANUARY & JUNE 22

# USD 15.5 M

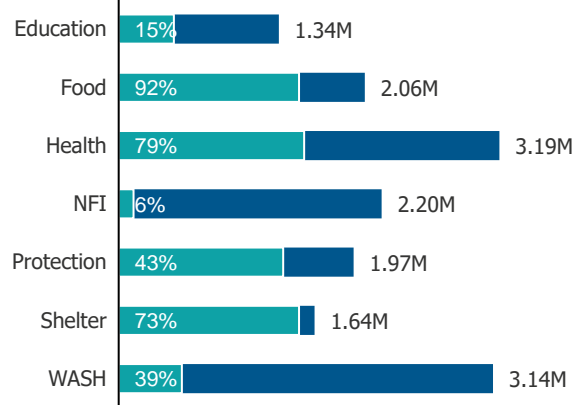
Total funding requested for the Refugee Preparedness & Response Plan Thai Myanmar Border



## Funding Requirements | January - June 2022

Budget (in million USD)

■ Requirement  
■ Received



## SITUATION OVERVIEW ON THE THAI MYANMAR BORDER – AUGUST 2022

**In Kayah State**, armed clashes continued around Demoso and Loikaw since the Military scaled up its troops' deployment in early August in an attempt to regain control of these areas. **In Kayin State**, clashes in Kawkareik Township have been reported between the Tatmadaw and Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA). Throughout August, daily battles reportedly took place between the Tatmadaw and the KNLA-led opposition forces – in the Karen National Union (KNU)-controlled areas of Dooplaya District (i.e., Brigade 6 controlled area), which is opposite Mae Sot, Phop Phra, and Umphang districts of Tak. The escalation of conflict around Myawaddy Township in late July and early August triggered displacement across the border into Thailand. On 29 July, the RTG reported new arrivals into Thailand caused by the resurgence of fighting in Myawaddy Town. The authorities recorded 244 individuals who sought safety in Thailand and were sheltered in one Temporary Safety Area (TSA) in Mor Ker Thai Temple, Valley sub-district, Pob Pra district, Tak province. All refugees reportedly returned to Myanmar once fighting subsided, and the TSA was officially closed on 13 August. **In the Tanintharyi region**, fighting intensified between the People Defense Force (PDF) and the Military in August, especially around Dawei Township.

As of 29 August, the total number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Myanmar displaced since 1 February is **974,400**, of whom **283,800 are in the southeast provinces** – Kayah, Shan, Kayin, Mon States, and Tanintharyi and Bago regions. Most of the newly displaced were in Kayin State, where 1,100 people sought safety in the jungle in Thandaungyyi Township due to airstrikes. The number of IDPs continued to increase in Tanintharyi Region due to general insecurity. Local media reported that 700 people were displaced to the jungle nearby. In Kayah State, about 210 IDPs in Nyaung Shwe Township were able to return to Loikaw.

**REFUGEE SITUATION UPDATE IN TAK**

The situation at the border continues to be very dynamic and fluid, with Myanmar Refugees seeking safety in Thailand for a short period (e.g., varying from a few days to a few weeks) and returning to Myanmar once the fighting reportedly subsides. As of 6 September, there are **no Myanmar refugees residing in TSAs on the Thai side**. The RTG reported a total of **1,590 new arrivals** who have crossed to Thailand between 29 June and 26 July, and an additional **244 individuals** crossed between 29 July and 13 August. All new arrivals reported by the RTG were in Tak.

Based on local sources (e.g., village chiefs, CBOs), partners estimate that **some 4,000 refugees are currently accommodated outside the TSAs** in Tak Province. It should be noted that estimating the exact number of individuals residing outside the TSAs remains a challenge. In Pho Pra district, an estimated 1,430 refugees who arrived during the late June/July influx live in four areas along the Moei river, from Muen Ruechai village to Wah Lay Tai village. More recently, local CBOs reported some 1,500 individuals have crossed into Thailand, Phop Pra area since 3 September and are staying in non-TSA areas between Morker Thai and Muen Ruechai villages on the Moei riverbank; and between Morker Thai and Wah Lay Tai villages on the Moei riverbank. In Umphang District, local sources confirmed some 200 individuals are staying near Ta Per Poo village, and about 800 individuals remain in and around Perng Klerng village of Mae Chan sub-district to areas in Le Tong Khu village. The Umphang group reportedly crossed into Thailand during the late June/July influx.

**INTER SECTOR UPDATES – AUGUST**

**The WASH sector**, via the **International Rescue Committee (IRC)**, distributed drinking water bottles, hygiene kits, and waste disposal management in the TSA. In addition, two mobile toilets were provided to Myanmar individuals outside the TSAs. Besides, HWF via COERR provided mobile toilets, personal hygiene kits, tarpaulins, mats, and blankets. Furthermore, the sector distributed trash bags to refugees and collected solid waste.

**The Shelter sector** provided basic assistance, including distributing plastic sheetings. The sector also finalized the specifications for a shelter design to be implemented in holding areas in case the RTG activates the second line of defense of the SOPs.

**The Education sector** via **Save the Children (SCI)** is running a reading corner and a child-friendly space in Pho Pra District for refugee children outside the TSA. **SCI** conducted a Psychological First Aid (PFA) training for host community members who volunteer to support

**KEY FIGURES**

**1,304,800**

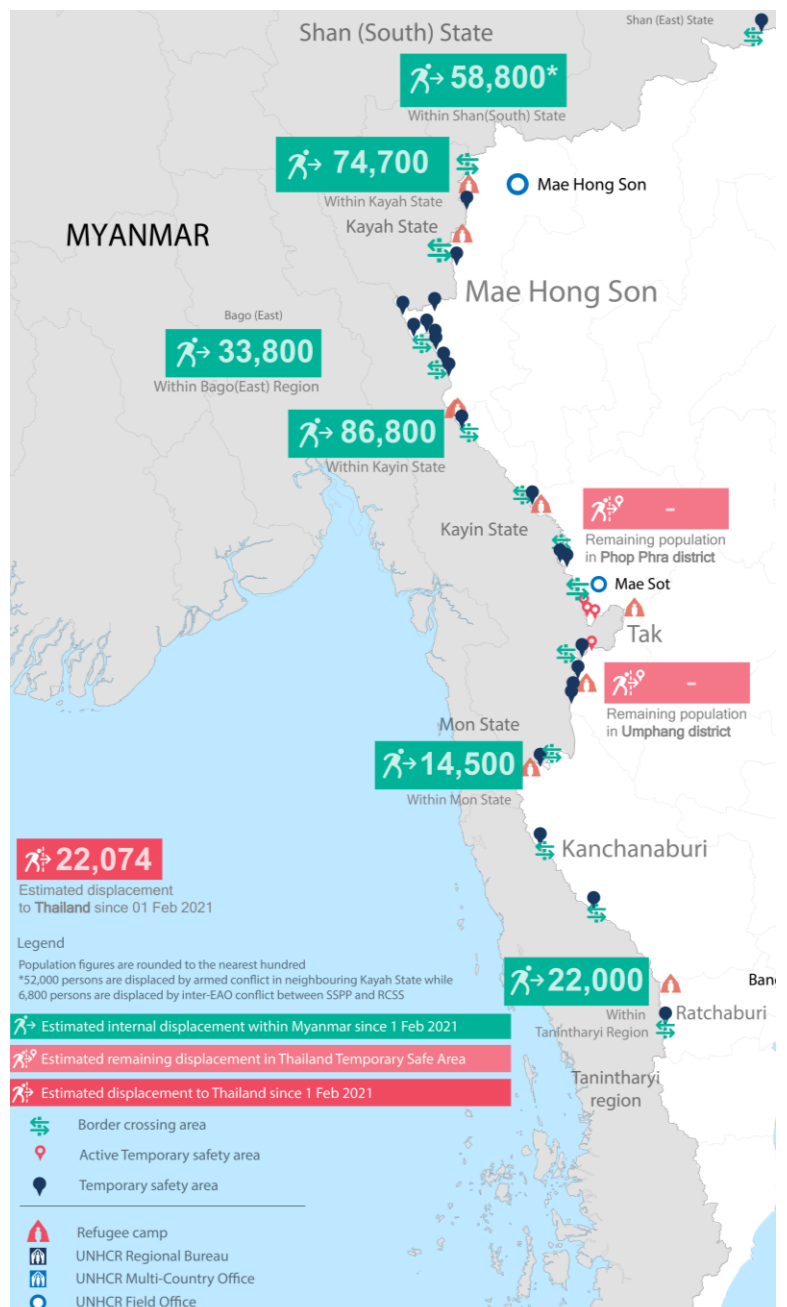
Total number of **IDPs in Myanmar**, including 330,400 displaced prior to 1 February 2021

**5,963**

**Myanmar refugees** sought safety in **Thailand** since January 2022, according to the RTG

**MAP: DISPLACEMENT ALONG THE THAI MYANMAR BORDER**

Internally Displaced People in Myanmar and Refugees in Thailand (RTG official figures)



Myanmar individuals staying along the border. Moreover, **SCI** conducted a child protection risk assessment among refugee children residing outside the TSAs.

**The Food sector via TBC** has worked through the local CBOs and communities to provide food support for individuals accommodated outside the TSAs.

**The NFI sector via IRC** provided 80 dignity and hygiene kits through village leaders to refugees. **IRC** conducted post-distribution monitoring (PDM) among refugees outside the TSAs. However, partners can only ask a few basic questions due to difficulty of access and sensitivity. Besides, **Save the Children (SCI)**, via the local CBOs, distributed Non-Food Items (NFIs) and educational materials to refugees outside the TSAs. **SCI** also plans on post-distribution monitoring (PDM) to assess the impact of the distribution and draw lessons learned.

**The Protection Sector** continues to engage with the authorities to share key protection messages and advocates for direct access to refugees. On 17 August, the Military Task Force 14 (MTF14) conveyed a meeting with partners in Tak (i.e., COERR, ICRC, IOM, IRC, SCI, TBC, and UNHCR). The objective of the meeting was to develop a practical response plan in case of future influx situations. The MTF14 is currently developing a document called “The support plan for influx group upon humanitarian principles and SOP of the National Security Council.”

**The Health sector** upgraded the patient houses for referred Myanmar patients in Chiang Mai, Mae Sariang, and Mae Hong Song. Each Patient house underwent a renovation of its facilities (e.g., toilet for persons with disabilities), and was restocked with medical furniture and supplies. In addition, partners have allocated more human resources for the emergency influx/cross-border health program (i.e., clinical doctors, health emergency coordinators, and interpreters to support the referrals). The sector continues to provide capacity-building training, including Mental Health Psychological Support, Non- Communicable Disease, and Sexual and Reproductive Health.

Thanks to all our donors who have generously contributed to the Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan since June 2021: ECHO, Canada, Denmark, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. Contributions have also been received from Caritas and its partners, OANDA, Save the Children and UNICEF.

