

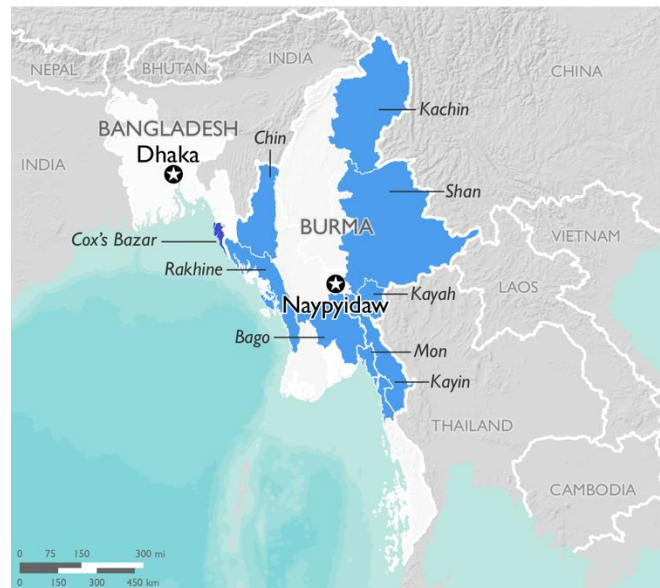
Burma and Bangladesh – Regional Crisis Response

DECEMBER 2, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Clashes across Burma have displaced hundreds of thousands of people following the February coup d'état, including nearly 267,000 people who remain displaced.
- Humanitarian access in Burma remains limited by clashes, roadblocks, COVID-19 mitigation measures, and military-imposed restrictions which hinder the movement and delivery of humanitarian goods and personnel.
- The Government of Bangladesh signs an MoU with UNHCR in early October, establishing a framework of cooperation for humanitarian activities on Bhasan Char Island.



| | | |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|
| TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Burma and Bangladesh Response in FY 2021 | USAID/BHA ¹ | \$179,673,854 |
| | State/PRM ² | \$254,655,911 |
| | Total | \$434,329,765 |

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6

¹ USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)
² U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Security Conditions in Northwestern Burma Further Deteriorate Amid Limited Humanitarian Presence

Clashes between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) or peoples' defense forces (PDFs) intensified following the National Unity Government declaration of war against the MAF in early September, heightening insecurity and displacement across the country. Nearly 267,000 people displaced since the February coup d'état remain displaced as of November 22 in addition to the estimated 370,000 people who were displaced in Burma prior to February, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Northwestern Burma's Chin State and Magway and Sagaing regions saw a significant rise in violence—including airstrikes and heavy artillery shelling—throughout October and November, generating additional displacement and exacerbating humanitarian needs throughout the region. Nearly 76,000 people displaced since February were sheltering in these three locations as of November 22, an approximately fourfold increase compared with the 20,000 displaced as of late August, according to UNHCR. Moreover, humanitarian access remains heavily restricted, leaving many internally displaced persons (IDPs) across northwestern Burma facing serious food, fuel, and medical supply shortages, the UN reports.

In Chin, communities continue to experience an upsurge in violence. In Falam Township, clashes displaced an estimated 3,000 people and destroyed hundreds of structures between mid- and late October. In addition, a MAF offensive against PDFs in Thantlang Township on October 29 damaged or destroyed hundreds of houses, religious buildings, and other infrastructure, including the offices of USAID/BHA partner Save the Children (SCF). The offensive occurred weeks after a majority of Thantlang's population of 12,000 people had fled to Chin's capital city of Hakha and to neighboring India's Mizoram State, with many IDPs in Hakha subsequently experiencing secondary displacement after the MAF deployed thousands of troops to the area, local media report. The October attacks highlight the often-repeated displacement of households in the region, compounding humanitarian needs.

Persistent Clashes Drive Displacement Across Southeastern Burma

Heightened insecurity persists throughout southeastern Burma, with reports of clashes, landmine incidents, and explosions, according to UNHCR. As a result, nearly 173,000 people remain displaced since February in southeastern Burma's Kayah, Kayin, and Mon states, as well as in Tanintharyi Region and areas of southern Shan State. Intermittent clashes in Tanintharyi displaced thousands of people between early October and late November, with the number of IDPs in the region increasing from 1,400 to 8,900 people, UNHCR reports. Nevertheless, the majority of IDPs in southeastern Burma remain concentrated across Kayah and Kayin, where nearly 134,000 IDPs were sheltering as of late November. IDPs in southeastern Burma remain in urgent need of food, health care, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services; however, ongoing violence, coronavirus disease (COVID-19) mitigation measures, military roadblocks, movement restrictions, and landmine risks continue to constrain humanitarian access to populations experiencing the greatest needs, according to the UN.

Continued Hostilities Result in Displacement and Casualties in Shan State

Hostilities between the MAF and EAOs continued across Burma's Shan in October and November, with frequent clashes reported near the Kayah–Shan border and reports of EAOs forcibly recruiting from communities in the state, according to UNHCR. Escalating violence in Shan has resulted in increased displacement and civilian casualties; at least 16 related civilian casualties—including nine deaths—were recorded in Shan during October, and an estimated 37,000 IDPs resided in the state as of November 22.

Humanitarian actors, including USAID/BHA partners, are working to deliver assistance and protection services despite access challenges and poor security conditions, the UN reports.

Government of Bangladesh Signs Bhasan Char MoU; UN Begins Assessments on the Island

Government of Bangladesh officials signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the UN in early October outlining a framework for the coordination of international relief efforts on Bhasan Char—a remote, flood-prone silt island off the coast of Bangladesh where authorities have relocated nearly 20,000 Rohingya refugees since December 2020. The MoU includes provisions regarding key protection issues, including voluntary and informed refugee relocation to Bhasan Char, freedom of movement on the island, and humanitarian access to and operations on the island. Subsequently, in early November UN agencies commenced a series of needs assessments and consultations on the island to identify gaps in humanitarian programming and support operational planning. However, relief actors continue to raise concerns regarding the safety and habitability of Bhasan Char, particularly due to the island’s vulnerability to severe weather events. Moreover, Human Rights Watch reports that refugees on Bhasan Char were transferred to the island without full, informed consent—raising serious protection concerns among humanitarian organizations. Once on the island, media reports indicate refugees face movement restrictions, food shortages, and inadequate access to healthcare. The U.S. Government (USG) continues to closely monitor humanitarian conditions on and additional refugee relocations to Bhasan Char in coordination with other donors and relief actors.

Health Actors Complete Oral Cholera Vaccine Campaign in Cox’s Bazar

Health actors completed a two-phase oral cholera vaccine campaign in Bangladesh’s Cox’s Bazar District on November 14, reaching nearly 735,000 people with both vaccine doses, representing 85 percent of the targeted population, according to the Government of Bangladesh. The vaccination campaign began on October 10 in response to an elevated incidence of cholera and acute watery diarrhea (AWD)—a symptom of cholera and other diseases—identified among individuals in Cox’s Bazar. Between January and September, health actors recorded more than 240 confirmed cholera cases among host community and refugee households. To minimize the continued spread of diseases causing AWD, State/PRM partner UNHCR distributed more than 300,000 water purification tablets and information on AWD prevention to more than 350,000 refugees in September. Health actors are also distributing packets of oral rehydration salts and zinc tablets to people experiencing AWD symptoms and referring individuals to health facilities, as needed.

COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Expands to 400,000 Additional Refugees

Confirmed COVID-19 cases and related deaths continued to decline in Cox’s Bazar among both Rohingya refugees and host communities throughout October and November. During the first two weeks of November, health actors confirmed less than 30 new COVID-19 cases among refugees in camps, representing a more than 90 percent decrease compared with a similar two-week period during the height of the COVID-19 outbreak in July. Meanwhile, the Government of Bangladesh announced that COVID-19 vaccine eligibility among Rohingya refugees will expand to include approximately 400,000 individuals ages 18 years and older beginning December 1. The announcement follows a vaccination effort in September that reached more than 33,000 Rohingya refugees ages 55 years and older with both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. Meanwhile, health actors continue to conduct visits to refugee households in Cox’s Bazar to screen for the disease and deliver COVID-19 prevention messaging, reaching more than 265,000 people between November 8 and 14.

KEY FIGURES



\$126 Million

in dedicated USAID/BHA support for food security and activities in FY 2021



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USG partners implementing stand-alone protection interventions



6

USG partners implementing critical shelter and settlements programming

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports the UN World Food Program (WFP) to provide emergency food assistance—including cash transfers, food vouchers, and local, regional, and international procurement (LRIP) of in-kind food assistance—to populations in Burma and Bangladesh. WFP reached nearly 1.5 million people, including approximately 497,000 vulnerable individuals in Burma and more than 1 million Rohingya refugees and host community members in Cox’s Bazar, with food and other assistance in September. USAID/BHA also supports coordination and capacity-building activities among food security agencies in the two countries to strengthen response efforts. USAID/BHA assistance to the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), WFP, and two non-governmental organization (NGO) partners supports food and nutrition assistance and complementary nutrition support in Burma and Bangladesh, while State/PRM assistance to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNICEF, UNHCR, and NGO partners supports the delivery of complementary livelihoods and nutrition services to vulnerable individuals in Bangladesh.

PROTECTION

The USG supports 13 partners to address protection concerns among violence-affected and displaced populations in Burma’s Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Rakhine, and Shan states; host communities and Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh’s Cox’s Bazar; and Rohingya refugees across Southeast Asia. USG-supported protection activities in Burma and Bangladesh focus on increasing access to protection services, including gender-based violence prevention and response services, child-friendly spaces, community-based mental health and psychosocial support, and legal assistance. USG partners also work with the broader humanitarian community in Burma to advocate for access to life-saving humanitarian assistance and to promote the delivery of protection services in areas with significant humanitarian access constraints.

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

USAID/BHA works with partners in Bangladesh to support displaced persons, improve living conditions, and strengthen resilience to the impact of cyclones and other natural disasters by conducting disaster risk reduction activities in host communities and refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar. Additionally, USAID/BHA partners in Burma continue to construct and repair durable shelters and distribute essential household items for vulnerable IDPs in Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine, and Shan. State/PRM-supported shelter assistance includes emergency shelter repairs and distribution of shelter materials, such as plastic sheeting to prevent roof leaks, complemented by site coordination and site management capacity-building

activities. USG partners are also providing cash assistance for host community members and refugees to purchase local shelter materials. Between March and September, IOM and partners constructed approximately 3,300 shelters for individuals affected by fires in Cox's Bazar in March.



13

USG partners
implementing critical
WASH programming

WASH

The USG supports WASH programming in Cox's Bazar and across Burma to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, prevent communicable disease outbreaks, and mitigate the risk of wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—among vulnerable children and mothers. With State/PRM funding, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), IOM, Terre des Hommes, UNHCR, and UNICEF are addressing critical WASH needs by improving drainage and waste removal systems, installing handwashing stations and latrines, providing safe drinking water and hygiene supplies, and strengthening community awareness of proper WASH practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. From January to September, IOM and its partners distributed more than 246,000 soap kits and nearly 69,000 menstrual hygiene management kits to and constructed more than 520 latrine cubicles for refugees in Cox's Bazar. The UN agency also conducted nearly 139,000 hygiene promotion sessions in September to reduce the transmission risk of communicable diseases in the camps.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- On February 1, 2021, Burma’s military staged a coup d’état against the civilian government during which soldiers detained senior civilian government officials, including State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi and President Win Myint and announced a one-year state of emergency. In August 2021, military authorities extended the initial one-year state of emergency to August 2023. Since February, clashes between the MAF, EAOs, and other local non-state armed groups across Burma have escalated, resulting in increased displacement and humanitarian needs, particularly in southeastern and northwestern Burma, as well as in Kachin, and Shan. Coup-related instability has also resulted in access challenges, restricted banking operations, and limited cash availability, challenging the provision of humanitarian assistance by relief actors.
- Burma’s military forces launched large-scale and indiscriminate military operations—which the international community has since characterized as ethnic cleansing—in Rakhine’s Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung townships following Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army attacks on northern Rakhine checkpoints and police posts in October 2016 and August 2017. Nearly 757,000 people had fled Burma since August 2017 into neighboring Bangladesh and taken shelter in Cox’s Bazar’s 34 refugee camps as of September 2021, while other refugees are sheltering in host communities, UNHCR reports. Refugee populations largely rely on humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs, including food, shelter, and WASH services. The Government of Bangladesh limits refugees’ access to basic education services, capacity to engage in income-earning activities, and freedom of movement. Refugees and host communities in Cox’s Bazar are also vulnerable to natural hazards, such as cyclones and flooding.
- As of January 2021, an estimated 600,000 ethnic Rohingya—a minority group not recognized by Burma’s military forces and denied rights to citizenship, freedom of movement, and public services—remained in Rakhine. Many IDPs in Rakhine are Rohingya, including approximately 126,000 people affected by the 2012 clashes who remained displaced as of May. In addition, approximately 83,000 civilians, mostly ethnic Rakhine, remained displaced in Rakhine and Chin states as mid-November 2021 due to clashes between the Arakan Army and the MAF that erupted in 2018. Displaced populations, as well as other vulnerable individuals, continue to lack access to basic services and livelihood opportunities due to ongoing tensions and movement restrictions.
- On January 8, 2021, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Gwendolyn J. Cardno re-issued a disaster declaration for Burma due to the ongoing complex emergency.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA–BANGLADESH RESPONSE IN FY 2021

| IMPLEMENTING PARTNER | ACTIVITY | LOCATION | AMOUNT |
|--|--|-----------------------|-------------|
| FUNDING IN BURMA FOR THE REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE | | | |
| USAID/BHA | | | |
| Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) | Health; WASH | Chin, Kayin | \$1,500,000 |
| Danish Refugee Council (DRC) | Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), Protection | Kachin, Rakhine, Shan | \$1,200,000 |

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|---|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| IOM | Shelter and Settlements | Rakhine | \$1,600,000 |
| International Rescue Committee (IRC) | Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements | Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine, Shan | \$3,600,000 |
| Mercy Corps | Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA), MPCA, WASH | Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Shan | \$1,595,000 |
| Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) | ERMS, HCIMA, MPCA, Shelter and Settlements | Bago, Chin, Kayah Kayin, Mon, Rakhine | \$2,400,000 |
| SCF | Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH | Rakhine, Shan | \$2,500,000 |
| UNICEF | Nutrition, Protection, WASH | Kachin, Rakhine, Shan | \$4,179,734 |
| UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) | HCIMA | Countrywide | \$1,600,000 |
| WFP | Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, LRIP; Nutrition | Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine, Shan | \$18,000,000 |
| | Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, LRIP; Nutrition | Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine, Shan | \$11,500,000 |
| TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN BURMA | | | \$49,674,734 |
| STATE/PRM | | | |
| International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector | Burma | \$15,200,000 |
| UNHCR | Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response | Burma | \$6,000,000 |
| | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector | Burma | \$13,900,000 |
| TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN BURMA | | | \$35,100,000 |
| TOTAL USG FUNDING IN BURMA | | | \$84,774,734 |
| FUNDING IN BANGLADESH FOR THE REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE | | | |
| USAID/BHA | | | |
| CARE | Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH | Cox's Bazar | \$2,000,000 |
| IOM | Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP), ERMS | Cox's Bazar | \$2,300,000 |
| IRC | Health, Protection, WASH | Cox's Bazar | \$1,700,000 |
| UNICEF | Nutrition | Cox's Bazar | \$1,999,120 |
| WFP | DRRPP, ERMS, Food Assistance—Vouchers, HCIMA, Nutrition | Cox's Bazar | \$122,000,000 |
| TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN BANGLADESH | | | \$129,999,120 |
| STATE/PRM | | | |
| Humanity and Inclusion | Health, Protection | Cox's Bazar | \$4,578,623 |
| ICRC | Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response | Cox's Bazar | \$500,000 |
| | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector | Cox's Bazar | \$3,600,000 |
| IFRC | DRRPP, ERMS, Health, MPCA, Protection, WASH | Cox's Bazar | \$10,000,000 |

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|-----------------------------|---|-------------|--------------|
| IRC | Health, Nutrition, Protection | Cox's Bazar | \$6,354,672 |
| IOM | Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response | Cox's Bazar | \$2,440,000 |
| | Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), DRRPP, ERMS, Health, HCIMA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH | Cox's Bazar | \$29,500,000 |
| Medical Teams International | Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response | Cox's Bazar | \$1,159,777 |
| Terre des Hommes Foundation | Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH | Cox's Bazar | \$3,190,200 |
| UN Population Fund (UNFPA) | Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response | Cox's Bazar | \$800,000 |
| | Health, Protection | Cox's Bazar | \$4,400,000 |
| UNHCR | Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response | Cox's Bazar | \$10,200,000 |
| | CCCM, HCIMA, Health, Shelter and Settlements, WASH | Cox's Bazar | \$61,900,000 |
| UNICEF | Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response | Cox's Bazar | \$7,800,000 |
| | Education, HCIMA, Monitoring and Evaluation, Nutrition, Protection, WASH | Cox's Bazar | \$21,900,000 |
| WHO | Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response | Cox's Bazar | \$2,800,000 |
| | Health, HCIMA, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities | Cox's Bazar | \$700,000 |

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| TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN BANGLADESH | \$171,823,272 |
| TOTAL USG FUNDING IN BANGLADESH | \$301,822,392 |

REGIONAL FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE²

| STATE/PRM | | | |
|--|---|-----------|--------------|
| Ara Trust | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector | India | \$161,460 |
| Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation | Health | Malaysia | \$500,000 |
| Health Equity Initiatives (HEI) | Health, Protection | Malaysia | \$600,000 |
| Humanity and Inclusion | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector | Thailand | \$1,125,291 |
| International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) | Health, Protection | Malaysia | \$600,000 |
| IOM | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector | Indonesia | \$412,500 |
| | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector | Thailand | \$500,000 |
| IRC | Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response | Thailand | \$623,357 |
| | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector | Thailand | \$17,201,252 |
| IRC - The Border Consortium | Food, Nutrition | Thailand | \$19,668,779 |
| UNHCR | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector | Regional | \$5,000,000 |
| | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector | Thailand | \$1,000,000 |
| UNICEF | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector | Thailand | \$340,000 |

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|---|---------------------|
| TOTAL STATE/PRM REGIONAL FUNDING | \$47,732,639 |
| TOTAL USG REGIONAL FUNDING | \$47,732,639 |

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR BURMA AND BANGLADESH IN FY 2021 | \$179,673,854 |
| TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR BURMA AND BANGLADESH IN FY 2021² | \$254,655,911 |

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|---|----------------------|
| TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH REGIONAL CRISIS IN FY 2021³ | \$434,329,765 |
|---|----------------------|

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. USAID/BHA and State/PRM funding includes funding for both refugees from Burma and asylum-seekers in the region, as well as IDPs inside Burma. Funding does not include USAID/BHA support for activities in Bangladesh that are not related to the Rohingya refugee response.

² Figures include supplemental International Disaster Assistance (IDA), Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA), and American Rescue Plan Act—Migration and Refugee Assistance (ARPA-MRA) funding committed for COVID-19 preparedness and response as of September 30, 2021.

³ Funding for populations in Burma and Bangladesh affected by the violence in Rakhine State totals nearly \$1.6 billion—including nearly \$1.3 billion in Bangladesh and nearly \$283 million in Burma—since the outbreak of violence in August 2017. This includes nearly \$840 million in State/PRM funding and nearly \$712 million in USAID/BHA funding for populations affected by the violence in Rakhine State and other vulnerable populations. USG funding represents publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2021.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)