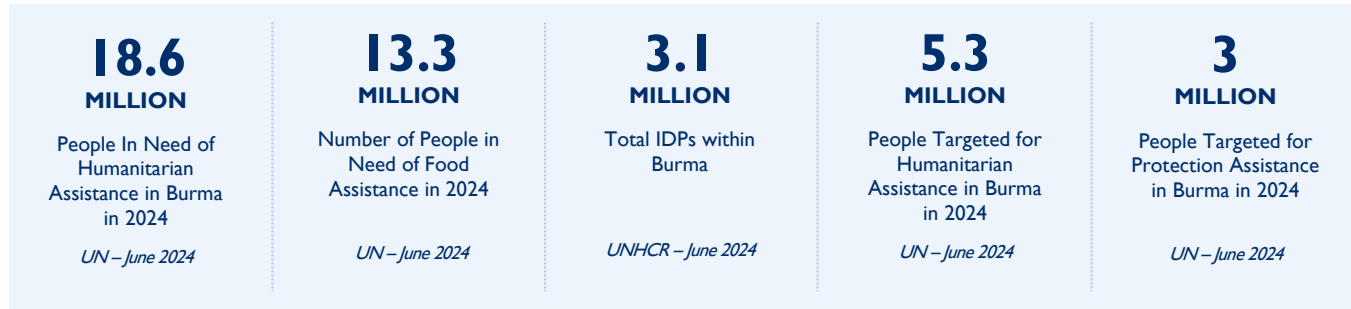


Burma – Complex Emergency

JULY 2, 2024

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Intensifying violence between the MAF and various armed groups since late 2023 drives worsening humanitarian conditions, including increased displacement and deteriorating food security, across Burma.
- Humanitarian actors experience heightened operational constraints, limiting assistance for vulnerable populations.
- USAID/BHA partner WFP provides emergency assistance to tens of thousands of individuals in Chin and Rakhine states.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Burma Response in FY 2024

USAID/BHA¹ \$93,625,000

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

Total \$93,625,000

¹ USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Prolonged Hostilities Worsen Food Security, Drive Displacement Across Burma

Intensifying hostilities between ethnic armed organizations (EAOs), the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF), and People's Defense Forces (PDFs) since November 2023 have driven displacement and exacerbated humanitarian needs among the 18.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance across Burma, according to an addendum to the 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) published in June. The HNRP addendum estimates 13.3 million people across Burma will likely face high acute food insecurity June to August 2024, compared to 12.9 million people previously reported in the initial projection. This represents an increase of 400,000 people facing acute food insecurity compared to the 2024 HNRP published in December 2023. Food insecurity was most acute in Chin, Kayah, and Rakhine states, as well as Tanintharyi region as of May and had shown signs of deterioration since January in Chin, Kayin, northern Shan, and Rakhine states, as well as Mandalay and Tanintharyi regions. The escalation in food insecurity is primarily driven by rising insecurity and compounded by limited livelihoods, reduced access to markets, and rising prices. Additionally, the escalation in fighting across Burma has interrupted the flow of goods, reducing violence-affected populations' access to essential commodities. As a result, nearly 40 percent of people across Burma are reportedly adopting negative coping strategies, reducing resilience to future stresses, including displacement.

Clashes between EAOs, the MAF, and PDFs surged in late 2023 and continued into 2024, resulting in a more than 50 percent increase in displacement between November 2023 and June 2024, with the estimated number of IDPs increasing from 2 million to nearly 3.2 million across the country during the period, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Nearly 1.6 million IDPs reside in northwest Burma's Chin, Magway, and Sagaing regions; more than 900,000 IDPs reside in southeast Burma, including Bago and Tanintharyi regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon, and southern Shan states; and nearly 500,000 IDPs reside in Rakhine as of June 17. In response to the rising humanitarian needs, USAID/BHA partner UN World Food Program (WFP) has provided cash transfers and in-kind food assistance to conflict-affected populations in Chin and Rakhine. Humanitarian needs among IDPs are likely to worsen due to the May-to-October monsoon season, as many new IDPs lack access to adequate shelters, oftentimes residing in open air shelters in the jungle or makeshift shelters comprised of plastic sheeting and tarps, according to the UN. Displacement is forecast to continue rising during the year, with the total number of IDPs projected to reach 3.6 million by the end of 2024, the HNRP addendum reports.

Intensifying AA-MAF Clashes in Rakhine, Result in Civilian Deaths, Displacement, and Reduced Access to Humanitarian Assistance

In Rakhine, fighting between the Arakan Army (AA)—a Rakhine-based EAO—and the MAF continued to result in civilian deaths, destruction of property, and displacement, particularly in areas of northern Rakhine between April and June. Since the breakdown of the AA-MAF ceasefire in November 2023, violence-affected communities in the state have experienced airstrikes, artillery shelling, explosive remnants of war (ERW), and landmines as AA-MAF clashes expanded to 15 out of 17 townships in the state as of June 9, the UN reports. Additionally, fighting between the AA and MAF resulted in at least 16 civilian deaths and injury to 28 people across nine townships in the state in April. Furthermore, violence has prompted displacement of an estimated 290,000 individuals since November 2023 and damaged critical infrastructure, including houses and schools, according to the HNRP.

In recent months, the most significant clashes have occurred in northern Rakhine's Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships. Fighting in Buthidaung resulted in widespread displacement and property destruction, with some estimating more than 200,000 Rohingya people were displaced from the town due to AA and MAF-related insecurity, according to an open letter by the humanitarian community to the UN Security Council. In nearby Maungdaw, approximately 50 houses were destroyed during intense fighting on May 6. The intensification of clashes, worsened by bureaucratic impediments, has significantly reduced humanitarian access, amid elevated need. On June 27, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) announced it had suspended all operations in northern Rakhine due to the widespread violence and continued challenges in obtaining travel authorizations from relevant authorities. Previously, MSF suspended operations of 25 mobile health care clinics in the state, reducing the number of monthly outpatient consultations in Rakhine to approximately 80 consultations in March 2024 compared to 6,700 consultations in September 2023. Furthermore, WFP reported its warehouse in Maungdaw had been burned and commodities were stolen as of June 26. The UN agency had been unable to reach its warehouse since late May due to the elevated security risks, leaving approximately 64,000 people without access to emergency food assistance.

The worsening situation in Rakhine limited vulnerable populations' access to humanitarian assistance during the February-to-May dry season, during which nearly 85,000 individuals residing in Rakhine were expected to face water scarcity, according to the UN. Water scarcity in Rohingya IDP sites resulted in outbreaks of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) as escalating hostilities led to blocked transportation routes, preventing timely water deliveries and disrupting access to health services as of June 9, according to the HNRP. More than 1,300 AWD cases were documented in Rakhine during April, with children under five most affected, according to the UN. Water scarcity is a yearly issue and typically results in communities using contaminated water sources and walking long distances to obtain potable drinking water, exposing individuals to elevated health and protection risks.

Access Restrictions Continue as Humanitarian Needs are Rising

Checkpoints, difficult terrain, and increased fighting have limited humanitarian access across Burma, exacerbating needs among vulnerable populations and increasing security risks for relief actors, according to the HNRP. Due to the restricted operating environment and funding shortages, the total number of people reached by relief actors decreased from 27 percent of the targeted population January–March 2023 to 18 percent during the same period in 2024. Humanitarian organizations reported approximately 360 access incidents across the country between January and March, disrupting the delivery of assistance and essential services to violence-affected populations, particularly in Kayin, Rakhine, Shan, and Sagaing, according to the UN. Specifically, military authorities implemented access restrictions for responders, including limiting access to banking, travel, and visa processes, the HNRP reports. Despite operational challenges and underfunding, humanitarian actors reached an estimated 949,000 people in the first quarter of 2024, including supporting nearly 500,000 IDPs and distributing food assistance to more than 470,000 people, according to the HNRP.

Protection Violations Increase Amid Military Conscription and Violent Clashes

Hostilities—including ERW and landmine explosions—continue to drive protection concerns and heighten safety risks for civilians. Incidents of explosive ordnance and landmine-related casualties increased by approximately 270 percent in 2023, with the deaths or injury of more than 1,000 people, 20 percent of whom were children. Furthermore, ERW contamination also poses an obstacle for returns, generates a long-term social burden for victims, and threatens agriculture and food production. In 2024, the UN reported explosive ordnance and landmine-related incidents across Burma, excluding

the capital of Nay Pyi Taw, and noted that these incidents were reportedly expanding into more residential areas nationwide as of May 24. In response to increased protection risks, USAID/BHA partner the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) reached more than 34,000 individuals with life-saving child protection, including psychosocial first aid for an estimated 12,000 individuals through community based mental health and psychosocial support services. Furthermore, UNICEF supported more than 16,000 individuals with explosive ordinance risk education sessions.

KEY FIGURES



\$38.4 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA
FY 2024 support for
food assistance



5

USG partners
implementing health
activities



9

USG partners
implementing standalone
protection interventions



8

USG partners supporting
WASH activities

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA provides funding to the WFP to deliver emergency food assistance—including cash transfers for food; food vouchers; and in-kind food assistance through local, regional, and international procurement—to communities in need in Burma. USAID/BHA also supports complementary nutrition services, as well as coordination and capacity-building activities among food security actors in the country to strengthen response efforts to food needs.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA partners with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and four implementing partners to provide life-saving health care for violence-affected people in Burma. USAID/BHA partners provide health assistance—including health awareness trainings, maternal health assistance, and medical consultations—to IDPs and vulnerable communities across Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Magway, Rakhine, and Sagaing.

PROTECTION

USAID/BHA and U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) support nine humanitarian partners to address protection concerns among displaced and violence-affected populations throughout Burma. Ongoing U.S. Government (USG)-supported protection activities in Burma focus on increasing access to protection assistance, such as gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response services and community-based mental health and psychosocial support. USG partners also work with the broader humanitarian community in Burma to advocate for and promote the delivery of protection services in areas with significant humanitarian access constraints.

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM fund water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming throughout the country to promote access to safe drinking water and prevent waterborne disease outbreaks. USAID/BHA supports seven partners to implement critical WASH activities, including conducting hygiene awareness sessions, rehabilitating water systems and latrines, and providing safe drinking water to violence-affected people

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. Military authorities have extended the state of emergency five times since the coup, with the most recent extension from February 2024 to July 2024, which has further delayed elections. Three years since the February 2021 coup happened, clashes between EAOs, MAF, and other local non-state armed groups across Burma have persisted, resulting in continuous displacement and humanitarian needs. Coup-related instability has also resulted in access challenges, limited cash availability, and restricted banking operations, challenging the provision of assistance by relief actors at a time of significant humanitarian need. From February 2021 to March 2024, more than 126,000 refugees fled to neighboring countries, such as Bangladesh, India, and Thailand.
- The coup d'état exacerbated the already complex issues in Burma. The MAF launched large-scale and indiscriminate military operations—which the USG has since characterized as genocide—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. As of September 2023, nearly 966,000 ethnic Rohingya—a minority group not recognized by Burma's military forces and denied rights to citizenship, freedom of movement, and public services—had fled to neighboring Bangladesh, the majority of whom live in refugee camps in Cox's Bazar District. As of December 2023, an estimated 633,000 ethnic Rohingya remained in Rakhine. Many IDPs in Rakhine are Rohingya, including approximately 147,000 people affected by clashes in 2012 who remained displaced as of June 2024. In addition, approximately 78,000 civilians, mostly ethnic Rakhine, remained displaced in Rakhine and Chin states as of mid-March 2022 due to AA-MAF clashes that erupted in 2018. Displaced populations, as well as other vulnerable individuals, continue to lack access to basic services and livelihood opportunities due to persistent violence and associated movement restrictions. On October 27, 2023, the Three Brotherhood Alliance—comprising three EAOs—launched a series of attacks against the MAF across the country, resulting in significant displacement; the breakdown in the alliance also represented the end of a one-year AA-MAF ceasefire in Rakhine.
- On November 17, 2023, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Susan N. Stevenson re-issued a declaration of humanitarian need in FY 2024 for Burma due to the ongoing complex emergency. USG partners are continuing to support affected populations in Burma with emergency food, health, nutrition, protection, shelter, and WASH assistance, as well as other critical relief commodities.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA COMPLEX EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN FY 2024²

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partner	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Health, Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH; Humanitarian Coordination, Info Management and Assessments (HCIMA)	Bago, Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Magway, Mandalay, Mon, Rakhine, Sagaing, Shan, Tanintharyi, Yangon	\$29,200,000
IOM	HCIMA, Health, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Chin, Magway, Mon, Rakhine, Sagaing	\$14,925,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
UNICEF	Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Bago, Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Magway, Mon, Rakhine, Sagaing, Shan, Tanintharyi	\$8,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Bago, Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Magway, Mon, Sagaing, Shan, Rakhine, Tanintharyi	\$40,000,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA COMPLEX EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN FY 2024			\$93,625,000

²Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of July 2, 2024.

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)