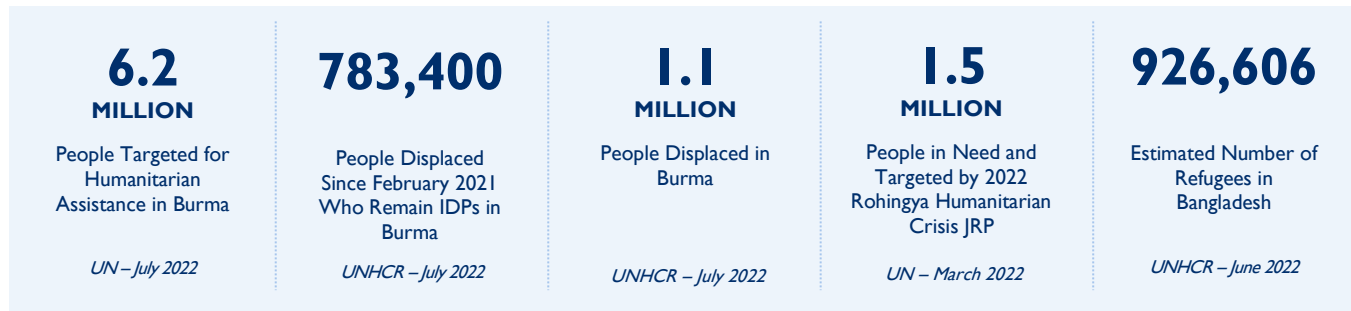


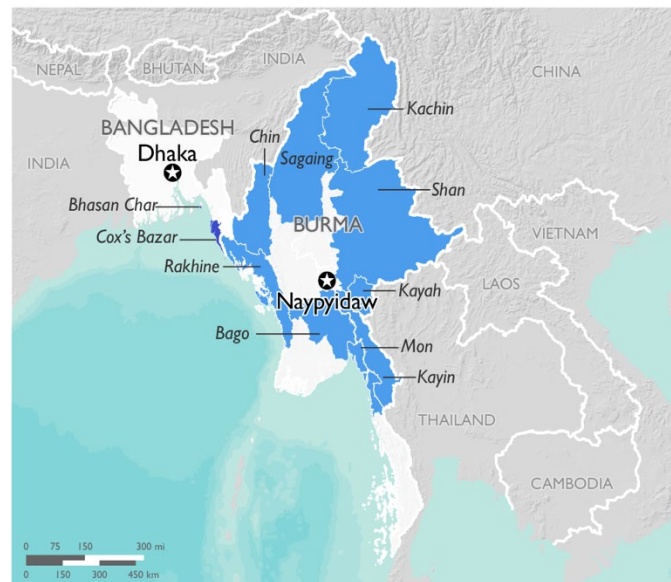
# Burma and Bangladesh – Regional Crisis Response

JULY 20, 2022

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- The total number of IDPs in Burma surpasses 1.1 million people in June, with more than 783,000 individuals displaced by ongoing violence and insecurity since the February 2021 coup.
- Approximately 1.3 million children in Burma remain unable to access critical nutrition support, and less than 40 percent of children are enrolled in school, the UN reports.
- Severe wind and rain following the onset of the June-to-October monsoon season destroys more than 9,500 shelters and displaces nearly 9 individuals in Cox’s Bazar from mid-May to late June.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the Burma and Bangladesh Response in FY 2022	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$116,862,092
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$75,900,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$192,762,092</b>

*For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 7*

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

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### **IDP Population in Burma Surpasses 1.1 Million, Hostilities Persist**

The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Burma surpassed 1.1 million in June due to persistent armed clashes and violence—including airstrikes, artillery fire, landmine use, and village raids—between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) against ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) and people’s defense forces (PDFs), according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Violence since the February 2021 coup had caused an estimated 2,000 civilian deaths as of late June, while more than 783,000 individuals remained displaced due to post-coup violence as of July 11, representing a more than twofold increase since January, UNHCR reports. In addition, ongoing hostilities since the coup have damaged or destroyed more than 18,000 civilian houses and other infrastructure, prolonging displacement and exacerbating humanitarian needs. Meanwhile, insecurity and bureaucratic restrictions—including burdensome travel authorization processes, systemic denials of access approvals, and other impediments—by military authorities continue to hinder humanitarian access and delay the delivery of assistance across much of the country, particularly in the northwestern and southeastern regions, according to the UN. Despite these challenges, U.S. Government (USG) partners continue to provide life-saving support to displaced and other violence-affected populations across Burma, adapting operations to deliver life-saving assistance through local partners and via alternate routes to bolster access to people in need.

### **Heightened Violence Persists in Northwestern and Southeastern Burma, Exacerbating Humanitarian Needs**

Fighting among MAF and MAF-aligned militias against PDFs and EAOs persists in northwestern Burma, prompting widespread and recurring displacement; restricting humanitarian access; and limiting the transportation of essential commodities, according to the UN. Northwestern Burma—comprising Chin State and Magway and Sagaing regions—hosted nearly 505,000 people displaced due to post-coup violence as of July 11, representing a majority of the approximately 783,000 people nationwide remaining displaced since February 2021, UNHCR reports. In Chin and Magway, fighting was concentrated along main transportation routes as of late June, further restricting humanitarian access as well as civilian and commercial transportation. In Sagaing, violence has escalated since May, with armed clashes occurring in at least 13 townships in recent months and arson attacks damaging approximately 16 villages in late May alone, the UN reports. Moreover, internet restrictions in Sagaing—first imposed in February 2021—continue to limit civilian access to timely information on active violence and available assistance in the region, while hostilities in the northwest continue to delay the transportation of vital commodities—including food, fuel, and medicine—to the area amid roadblocks and security concerns. Despite impediments to aid delivery, State/PRM partner UNHCR, in coordination with local implementing partners, delivered emergency relief items—including kitchen sets, mats, mosquito nets, and water buckets—to 200 IDPs in northwestern Burma during late May. Meanwhile, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) distributed emergency food assistance to 8,800 IDPs displaced due to pre-coup Arakan Army–MAF clashes in southern Chin during June.

Separately, fighting between the MAF against EAOs and PDFs in southeastern Burma—comprising Kayah, Kayin, and Mon states; eastern Bago and Tanintharyi regions, and areas of southern Shan State—continues to prompt additional displacement and obstruct humanitarian access in the region. Approximately 273,000 IDPs displaced by insecurity following the February 2021 coup resided in southeastern Burma as of July 11, representing an increase of approximately 10,000 people compared with late May. While violence—including the deployment of airstrikes and heavy artillery—has persisted

in Kayah, Kayin, and southern Shan in recent months, clashes escalated in eastern Bago and Mon during June and early July, displacing tens of thousands of additional individuals and exacerbating humanitarian needs. In Bago, heightened EAO–MAF clashes displaced more than 5,400 people from 12 villages from June 20 to 27, with the number of IDPs in the region increasing from 3,800 to 23,000 people from early June to early July. In response to the urgent needs of newly displaced individuals, UNHCR and its partners distributed emergency relief items to more than 23,500 people in Kayah and 9,300 IDPs in southern Shan during May. In addition, USAID/BHA partner WFP reached an estimated 75,000 individuals with food assistance in Kayah during June.

### **Persistent Violence Affects Children’s Education and Health in Burma**

Children in Burma experience significant challenges in accessing education, nutrition, mental health and psychosocial support, as well as protection services as a result of post-coup displacement, insecurity, a lack of education staff, and attacks on education facilities, the UN reports. Of the approximately 13 million school-aged children in Burma, only 5.2 million students were enrolled in basic education as of June, according to military officials. The remaining 7.8 million children out of school face heightened risk of experiencing trauma or violence—including abuse, child labor, child marriage, and human trafficking—and associated negative mental health outcomes, according to UNHCR. As of mid-2022, nearly 400,000 school-aged children were displaced across Burma, at least 260 violent incidents had affected schools, and military officials had fired more than 125,000 educational staff countrywide, UN agencies report. Moreover, approximately 1.3 million children in Burma were unable to access critical nutrition and health assistance, with health actors reporting that nearly 33,000 children were at risk of dying from preventable diseases due to barriers accessing routine vaccinations and medical care, as of mid-2022.

In response, USAID/BHA partner the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) treated more than 1,800 children experiencing severe wasting—a life-threatening form of malnutrition—across Burma from January to June. In addition, a USAID/BHA non-governmental organization (NGO) partner reached nearly 400 individuals in Kachin and Rakhine states with nutrition screenings and services, such as infant and young child feeding counseling and awareness sessions, in May. Separately, a second USAID/BHA NGO partner provided nearly 1,400 children ages five years and younger and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) with health and nutrition assistance, including screening and treatment for wasting, micronutrient tablet distribution, and referral of wasting cases to health facilities, in Rakhine during May.

### **Monsoon Rains Damage or Destroy 9,500 Shelters in Cox’s Bazar**

Heavy rain and strong winds amid monsoon season affected tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees and damaged or destroyed more than 9,500 shelters in Bangladesh’s Cox’s Bazar from mid-May to late June, according to the Inter-Sector Coordination Group. In addition, the monsoon rains resulted in at least one refugee death and displaced at least 95 refugees from their shelters in camps during the period. In response, relief actors delivered materials to repair shelters—including bamboo, rope, and tarpaulin—to more than 9,400 households as of June 28. Relief actors also provided water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support by repairing approximately 200 latrines, more than 90 bathing facilities, nearly 20 water sources, four waste treatment facilities, and one water reservoir damaged by the rains. Additionally, State/PRM partner UNHCR reached more than 100,000 refugees across the camps with educational sessions regarding protection risks and monsoon and cyclone preparedness amid the monsoon season in May.

## Agriculture, Livelihoods, WASH Support Are Priority Needs in Bandarban and Cox's Bazar

Agriculture and livelihood support remain priorities for both Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh's Bandarban and Cox's Bazar districts to ensure vulnerable households can meet their basic needs, according to two recent assessments of the districts. Host communities surveyed in a March analysis by USAID identified access to agricultural land, livelihood opportunities, safe drinking water, and solid waste management systems as priority needs. The assessment further recommended that local officials and relief actors coordinate to conduct a crop value chain analysis to inform agriculture support programs; implement activities that improve targeted livelihood skills to bolster access to income; and fund education programs, among other recommendations, in the two districts. Additionally, among refugees surveyed through a December 2021 joint UNHCR–Yale University study in Cox's Bazar, households reported that volunteer and cash-for-work programs are essential to generate livelihood opportunities and provide refugees with the ability to meet basic needs and mitigate the impacts of economic shocks. The study also indicated that clothing, food, and health care were the most reported unmet needs of refugees residing in Cox's Bazar, while 82 percent of assessed households disclosed being unable to afford essential goods, and only 10 percent of households were able to save income after meeting basic needs, underscoring the need to expand livelihood opportunities—cash-for-work and volunteer programs—for refugees in the camps.

### KEY FIGURES



**\$90.5 Million**

in dedicated USAID/BHA  
FY 2022 support for  
food security activities



**10**

USG partners  
implementing stand-  
alone protection  
interventions

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports WFP to provide emergency food assistance—including cash transfers; food vouchers; and in-kind food assistance through local, regional, and international procurement (LRIP)—to populations in Burma and Bangladesh. In addition, USAID/BHA supports coordination and capacity-building activities among food security agencies in the two countries to strengthen response efforts. Meanwhile, State/PRM supports the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNICEF, UNHCR, and NGO partners to deliver complementary livelihood and nutrition services to vulnerable individuals in Bangladesh.

### PROTECTION

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support 10 partners to address protection concerns among displaced and violence-affected 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, 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 lifesaving humanitarian assistance and to promote the delivery of protection services in areas with significant humanitarian access constraints.



**70,000**

Households received tie-down kits from USG partners for cyclone and monsoon prevention.

## **SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS**

USAID/BHA works with partners in Bangladesh to enhance community resilience to cyclones and other natural disasters by conducting disaster risk reduction activities and infrastructure rehabilitation in host communities in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban. State/PRM-supported shelter assistance in Bangladesh includes emergency shelter repairs and distribution of shelter materials, such as plastic sheeting to prevent roof leaks, complemented by site coordination capacity-building activities. USG partners are also providing cash assistance for host community members and refugees to purchase local shelter materials to improve the resilience of shelters to natural disasters. In coordination with local partners, UNHCR continues to implement protection-sensitive shelter reconstruction in Rakhine by prioritizing and assessing IDPs' needs.



**11**

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 among vulnerable children and mothers. With State/PRM funding, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), IOM, UNICEF, and UNHCR are addressing critical WASH needs in Cox's Bazar by improving drainage and waste removal systems, installing handwashing stations and latrines, providing hygiene supplies and safe drinking water, and strengthening community awareness of proper WASH practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases.

## 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 2021, 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 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. Nearly 930,000 people had fled Burma since August 2017 into neighboring Bangladesh and taken shelter in Cox's Bazar's 34 refugee camps as of June 2022, 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 78,000 civilians, mostly ethnic Rakhine, remained displaced in Rakhine and Chin states as mid-March 2022 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. The Government of Bangladesh relocated more than 26,900 refugees from Cox's Bazar to Bhasan Char—a slit island in the Bay of Bengal—between November 2020 and June 2022.
- On December 28, 2021, U.S. Ambassador Thomas L. Vajda re-issued a disaster declaration for Burma due to the ongoing complex emergency.

**USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA-BANGLADESH RESPONSE IN FY 2022 <sup>1,2</sup>**

<b>IMPLEMENTING PARTNER</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>FUNDING IN BURMA FOR THE REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE</b>			
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
IOM	Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA); Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Chin, Magway, Sagaing	\$3,600,000
UNICEF	Protection, Nutrition, WASH	Chin, Kayah, Kayin, Magway, Rakhine, Sagaing, Shan	\$2,000,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, LRIP; Nutrition	Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Rakhine, Magway, Rakhine, Sagain, Shan	\$24,000,000
Implementing Partners	Food Assistance—LRIP, HCIMA, Health, MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Bago, Chin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Sagaing, Shan	\$7,693,307
	Program Support	Nationwide	\$39,250
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN BURMA</b>			<b>\$38,532,557</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Countrywide	\$11,200,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Countrywide	\$9,100,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN Burma</b>			<b>\$20,300,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING IN BURMA</b>			<b>\$58,832,557</b>
<b>FUNDING IN BANGLADESH FOR THE REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE</b>			
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP)	Cox's Bazar	\$313,219
IRC	DRRPP, Protection	Cox's Bazar	\$1,000,000
UNICEF	Nutrition	Cox's Bazar	\$2,000,000
WFP	DRRPP, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Food Assistance—International Procurement and Food Vouchers, HCIMA, Nutrition	Cox's Bazar	\$75,000,000
	Program Support	Nationwide	\$16,316
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN BANGLADESH</b>			<b>\$78,329,535</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
IFRC	ERMS, Health, MPCA, Protection, Risk Management Policy and Practice (RMPP), WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$10,000,000
IOM	Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), COVID-19 Response, ERMS, Health, HCIMA, Logistics Support, Monitoring and Evaluation, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, RMPP, WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$9,600,000
UNICEF	COVID-19 Response, Education, HCIMA, Health, Monitoring and Evaluation, Nutrition, Protection, WASH, RMPP,	Cox's Bazar	\$11,300,000

UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	COVID-19 Response, Health, Protection	Cox's Bazar	\$2,200,000
	COVID-19 Response	Cox's Bazar	\$2,800,000
UNHCR	CCCM, Education, Food Assistance, HCIMA, Health, Shelter and Settlements, Logistics Support, Monitoring and Evaluation, Nutrition, Protection, RMPP, WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$14,300,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN BANGLADESH</b>			<b>\$50,200,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING IN BANGLADESH</b>			<b>\$128,529,535</b>
<b>REGIONAL FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE <sup>3</sup></b>			
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Indonesia	\$500,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Regional	\$4,900,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM REGIONAL FUNDING</b>			<b>\$5,400,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG REGIONAL FUNDING</b>			<b>\$5,400,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR BURMA AND BANGLADESH IN FY 2022</b>			<b>\$116,862,092</b>
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR BURMA AND BANGLADESH IN FY 2022</b>			<b>\$75,900,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH RESPONSE IN FY 2022 <sup>4</sup></b>			<b>\$192,762,092</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

<sup>3</sup> Figures include supplemental International Disaster Assistance (IDA), Migration and Refugee Assistance (MIRA), and American Rescue Plan Act—Migration and Refugee Assistance (ARPA-MRA) funding committed for COVID-19 preparedness and response as of March 29, 2022.

<sup>4</sup> Funding for populations in Burma and Bangladesh affected by the violence in Rakhine State totals more than \$1.7 billion—including nearly \$1.4 billion in Bangladesh and more than \$321 million in Burma—since the outbreak of violence in August 2017. This includes more than \$890 million in State/PRM funding and more than \$828 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 July 20, 2022.

## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

1. 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).
2. 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.
3. More information can be found at:
  1. USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
  2. 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)