

Myanmar Situation

Thailand, 24 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 several **key preparedness actions** to ensure that complementary activities are delivered in a timely and coordinated manner

Latest Situation Overview on the Thai-Myanmar border

The security situation in Myanmar continues to be tense due to clashes. On 9 August, the NUG reported that 1,130 Tatmadaw soldiers were killed and 443 wounded in over 700 clashes in July 2021. The NUG report informed most of the fighting and violence occurred in Sagaing and Mandalay regions and Kachin State, and the minor clashes were in Tanintharyi Region. According to the Karenni Nationalities Defense Force, the Tatmadaw launched offensives in Demoso township in Kayah State and Pekon township in southern Shan state on 13 August, displacing some 10,000 people from 9 villages. IDPs who had attempted to return to Demoso when the fighting stopped were prevented from doing so following a return of Tatmadaw troops. Meanwhile, the KNU expects increased activity in Brigade 1, 2 and 3 areas. Generally, it has been observed that the Tatmadaw is undertaking activities in areas with reported presence of People's Defense Forces, Civil Disobedience Movement members, and/or IDPs. If there should be more intensified fighting, refugees may attempt to cross at Mae Tha Wor or otherwise, on the Salween River near Sopmoei district.

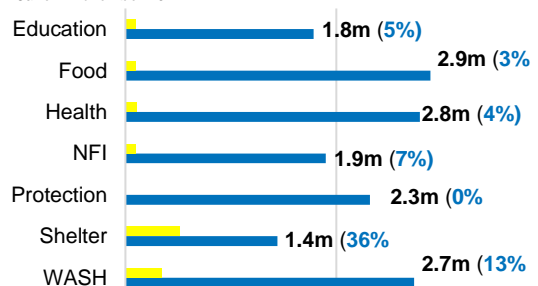
However, the Thai borders remain closed on the whole and this is expected to continue as part of measures related to preventing the spread of COVID-19. Five temporary border crossing points are operational in Mae Hong Son province but for transport of goods only.

UNHCR estimates that there are currently 154,800 newly displaced IDPs in southeast Myanmar as of mid-August (see map). Included among these are some 19,000 reported by key informants to be in the immediate proximity of the Thai-Myanmar border.



Requirements by Sector* | In millions \$

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



Coordination requirements currently **29%** funded across all sectors as of 30 July 2021

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.**

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Humanitarian Agency Preparedness Activities

The members of each sector responding to the Myanmar Situation have positioned and planned humanitarian assistance based on the possible influx scenario of 4,000 new arrivals per month over 6 months.

Education



Partners have finalized the content of home-learning kits. The partners have designed the range of the training for the community volunteers to use the home-based learning. Now, the partners proceed with the recruitment of volunteers. Training on Education in Emergencies (EiE) Minimum Standards and Child Safeguarding is scheduled in September. In the context of fighting the pandemic, partners are assessing needs for hygiene and PPE and messaging on preventive measures. Partners are currently developing the establishment of Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) and discussing distance learning support for school-aged children, including follow-up with parents

Food



The Border Consortium (TBC) supports and works collaboratively with the Border Emergency Relief Team (BERT) – a network of local CSOs - and other local partners, to provide essential food for refugees in sites proximal to the border. TBC remains prepared to support 4,000 new arrivals. **TBC is prepositioning essential food ration items, cooking fuel and fuel-efficient stoves for potential holding areas**, as well as specific food for the nutrition of children and pregnant/breastfeeding women. A lack of kitchen sets in the NFIs sector to date is noted. TBC is closely monitoring the displacement of people in south eastern Myanmar. Several groups on the other side close to the border include both ethnic minorities and displaced human rights defenders.

Health



Health sector agencies have planned essential activities for the influx scenario to include the following basic response categories: Communicable Disease, Child Health, Sexual/Reproductive Health, Injury/Trauma Care, Mental Health, Non-Communicable Disease, and Rehabilitation. **The response includes COVID-19 screening and quarantine management** with referral to Government District Hospitals for case management. Health sector agencies currently rely on camp-based staff with unclear access to holding areas and have identified a gap in capacity. Also, IRC and MI have developed COVID-19 SOPs, simulation exercises and the experiences of case managements in current outbreaks in the camps so that the expertise would be applied to train health actors if there are recruitments of additional health staff for the potential influx of refugees.

Non-Food Items (NFI)



The NFI sector elaborated 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**. Core NFI kits (sleeping mats, plastic sheets, mosquito nets) are in place but there is a lack of kitchen sets.

Protection



To support protection mainstreaming across sectors, UNHCR has **developed a training programme for humanitarian actors** and a 5-Action strategy for Sector Leads. In August, the protection sector has trained 56 participants on protection mainstreaming, with the final session on 18 August. From 9 to 13 August, the sector provided a training on Child Protection in Emergencies (CPIE) in Mae Sot and will prepare similar training in Mae Hong Son and Kanchanaburi. Preparedness activities such as capacity building, establishment of standby partnerships, deployment of emergency staff, border monitoring and advocacy with local authorities remain ongoing.

Shelters



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. In accordance with SPHERE standards, this initial procurement will house up to 6,000 refugees (five per household). In August, TBC has prepositioned construction toolkits.

WASH



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector agencies have planned essential activities for the influx scenario to include the following essential response categories: Water Supply, Hygiene Promotion, Excreta Management, Vector Control and Solid Waste Management. **ISWGs in the provinces are completing the local partner mapping to facilitate capacity building trainings for WASH sector partners**. The trainings are scheduled to be delivered in September.

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