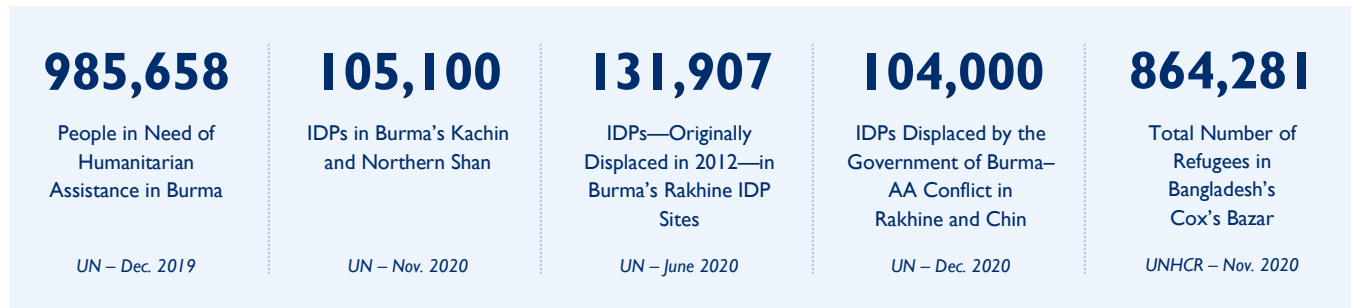


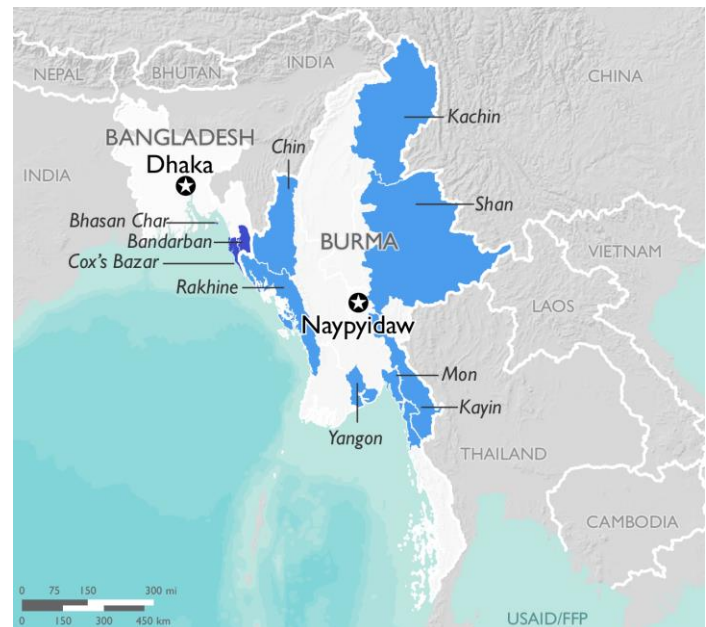
Burma and Bangladesh – Regional Crisis Response

December 21, 2020

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- The Government of Bangladesh relocated more than 1,640 refugees to Bhasan Char in the Bay of Bengal, without coordinating with the UN. The USG and broader international humanitarian community continue to raise concerns about humanitarian and protection conditions.
- Conflict between the Government of Burma and the AA armed group has continued, more than doubling the number of individuals displaced by the conflict since the beginning of 2020.



| | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Burma and Bangladesh Response in FY 2020 | USAID/BHA ^{1,2} | \$195,903,451 |
| | State/PRM ³ | \$273,142,827 |
| Total | | \$469,046,278⁴ |

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

¹ USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)
² Total USAID/BHA funding includes non-food humanitarian assistance from the former Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance and emergency food assistance from the former Office of Food for Peace.
³ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)
⁴ This total includes \$47,759,529 in funding through USAID/BHA and State/PRM for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities, of which \$43,187,165 is supplemental funding and \$4,572,364 is non-supplemental funding.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

The GoB Relocates More Than 1,640 Rohingya Refugees to Bhasan Char, Despite Opposition From Humanitarian Actors

In early December, the Government of Bangladesh announced that it had begun a phased relocation of up to 100,000 refugees to Bhasan Char, a silt island located in the Bay of Bengal, citing the deteriorating security situation and over congestion in the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar District. The Government of Bangladesh relocated more than 1,640 refugees to Bhasan Char from December 3 to 4, according to the UN. Reportedly, 22 non-governmental organizations (NGOs)—mostly national NGOs—have agreed to provide initial assistance to relocated refugees on the island, according to UNHCR. As of December 14, Caritas Bangladesh—the largest local NGO working on the response—no longer plans to respond on Bhasan Char due to a lack of donor support, international media reports. The UN has consistently emphasized that any relocations to Bhasan Char should be preceded by independent and comprehensive technical and protection assessments and should be safe, voluntary, and based on informed consent. On December 10, the U.S. Department of State issued a statement on the relocations reiterating the USG's longstanding position that any relocation must be fully voluntary and that UN assessments should proceed.

Fighting in Chin and Rakhine States Causes Continued Displacement, Civilian Casualties

Fighting between Government of Burma forces and the Arakan Army (AA) armed group continues, leading to the displacement of more than 104,000 individuals in southern Chin and central and northern Rakhine states as of early December, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports. Clashes intensified in Rakhine's Rathedaung Township in particular, causing increased displacement, civilian injuries and deaths, and destruction of property. Humanitarian agencies reported air and ground attacks and indiscriminate shelling in villages along the township's Mayu River, particularly in Htee Swea village. Relief organizations report that some villages were also burned. Limited humanitarian access continues to severely impact United States Government (USG) partners' ability to support humanitarian and COVID-19 response in camps, displacement sites and villages, with 51 out of 169 displacement sites inaccessible due to insecurity and other restrictions as of November 26, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Relief organizations continue to advocate for the government to allow access for humanitarian assistance and to lift internet restrictions that prevent people in conflict areas from accessing information.

Aid is Disrupted in Rakhine State due to RSG COVID-19-Related Restrictions

While the Rakhine State Government (RSG) has partially eased access restrictions for humanitarian organizations in camps for internally displaced persons, approximately 30 percent of humanitarian activities were suspended and 50 percent were significantly scaled-down during November, according to an assessment by the Inter Cluster Coordination Group. Disruptions have been most severe at rural sites hosting populations displaced by the Government of Burma-AA conflict. The restrictions have severely affected health services—with some sites not receiving any health assistance since September—and a reduction in the number of clinics and staff available for providing services at the camps that remain accessible to health actors, OCHA reports. As of December 13, the UN reported nearly 4,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 32 confirmed COVID-19-related deaths in Rakhine State.

KEY FIGURES



1.7 Million

People supported through FY 2020 BHA emergency food assistance



9

USG partners implementing FY 2020 stand-alone protection interventions



\$6.7 Million

in FY 2020 funding for shelter and settlements emergency and DRR activities

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

With more than \$150 million in FY 2020 funding to WFP, USAID/BHA-supported food assistance aims to reach nearly 1.7 million people, including approximately 355,000 vulnerable individuals in Burma and more than 1.3 million Rohingya refugees and host community members in Cox's Bazar, by providing cash transfers for food, food vouchers, and locally, regionally, and internationally procured in-kind food assistance. USAID/BHA also supports coordination and capacity-building activities among food security agencies in the two countries to strengthen response efforts. Additionally, USAID/BHA assistance to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), WFP, and one NGO partner supports nutrition assistance in Burma, while State/PRM assistance to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNHCR, UNICEF, and NGO partners supports the delivery of complementary livelihoods and nutrition services to vulnerable individuals in Bangladesh.

PROTECTION

The USG supports nine partners to address protection concerns among conflict-affected and displaced populations in Burma's Kachin, Rakhine, Chin 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 aim to increase access to and the provision of protection services, including gender-based violence prevention services and case management, 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 the Government of Burma to allow access to distribute life-saving humanitarian assistance and to promote the delivery of protection services in areas with significant humanitarian access constraints.

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

The USG provides shelter and site management assistance in Burma and Bangladesh to support newly displaced persons, improve living conditions, and strengthen resilience to the impact of cyclones and other natural disasters. With more than \$6.7 million in FY 2020 funding, USAID/BHA partners in Burma are constructing and repairing durable shelters and distributing essential household items for vulnerable internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan, while partners in Bangladesh are conducting disaster risk reduction activities to establish and strengthen shelters in host communities and refugee camps in Bandarban and Cox's Bazar districts. 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.



5

NGO partners
implementing critical
FY 2020 WASH
programming

WASH

The USG supports water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming in Bangladesh's Bandarban and Cox's Bazar districts and across Burma to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, prevent communicable disease outbreaks, and mitigate the risk of acute malnutrition in vulnerable children and mothers. Through FY 2020 funding to IOM, Red Cross agencies, UNICEF, and five NGO partners, USG assistance helps to address critical WASH needs by installing handwashing stations and latrines, improving drainage and waste removal systems, 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.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Continued conflict between Government of Burma forces and non-state armed groups since June 2011 in Kachin and northern Shan states has generated widespread displacement and exacerbated humanitarian needs. As of August 2020, more than 105,000 people remained displaced in Kachin and northern Shan, with many IDPs residing in areas outside of Government of Burma control and with limited or no humanitarian access, hindering efforts to provide assistance to displaced and other populations in need.
- Government of Burma forces launched large-scale and indiscriminate military operations in Rakhine's Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung townships that have since been characterized by the international community as ethnic cleansing following Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army attacks on northern Rakhine State checkpoints and police posts in October 2016 and August 2017. More than 740,000 people had fled Burma into neighboring Bangladesh and taken shelter in Cox's Bazar's 34 refugee camps as of September 2020, 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.
- Since November 2018, escalating clashes between the AA and Government of Burma forces have displaced more than 97,000 civilians, mostly ethnic Rakhine, in Rakhine and Chin states. In addition, intercommunal violence in 2012 displaced tens of thousands of people in Rakhine, and nearly 132,000 people affected by the 2012 clashes remained displaced in the state as of June 2020. 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. Many IDPs in Rakhine are Rohingya, a minority group not recognized by the Government of Burma and denied rights to citizenship, freedom of movement, and public services. As of December 2019, an estimated 600,000 ethnic Rohingya remained in Rakhine.
- On December 20, 2019, U.S. Ambassador Scot Marciel re-declared a disaster for Burma due to the ongoing complex emergency.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA-BANGLADESH RESPONSE IN FY 2020¹

| IMPLEMENTING PARTNER | ACTIVITY | LOCATION | AMOUNT |
|---|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| FUNDING IN BURMA FOR THE REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE² | | | |
| USAID/BHA | | | |
| Non-Food Assistance | | | |
| Danish Refugee Council (DRC) | Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Protection | Kachin, Rakhine, Shan | \$1,200,000 |
| International Rescue Committee (IRC) | Health, Protection | Chin, Kachin, Rakhine, Shan | \$1,200,000 |
| Metta Foundation | Agriculture and Food Security, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH | Kachin, Shan | \$1,500,000 |
| Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) | ERMS, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) | Kachin, Rakhine, Shan | \$1,500,000 |
| OCHA | HCIM | Countrywide | \$400,000 |
| | Country-Based Pooled Fund ³ | Countrywide | \$2,000,000 |
| Relief International | MPCA, Protection, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH | Rakhine, Shan | \$1,200,000 |
| Save the Children Federation (SCF) | Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH | Rakhine, Shan | \$2,506,329 |
| Solidarités International | Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, WASH | Kachin, Rakhine | \$2,500,000 |
| UNICEF | Health, Protection, WASH | Kachin, Rakhine, Shan | \$3,002,184 |
| | Program Support | | \$25,000 |
| TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR THE BURMA COMPLEX EMERGENCY | | | \$17,033,513 |
| Food Assistance | | | |
| DRC | Agriculture and Food Security, Cash Transfers for Food | Kachin, Shan | \$2,261,446 |
| UNICEF | Complementary Services; Local, Regional, and International Procurement | Rakhine, Yangon | \$1,238,554 |
| WFP | Cash Transfers for Food, Complementary Services, Local, Regional, and International Procurement | Chin, Kachin, Rakhine, Shan | \$25,250,000 |
| TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING IN BURMA | | | \$28,750,000 |
| TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN BURMA | | | \$45,783,513 |
| State/PRM | | | |
| International Committee of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (ICRC) | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector | Burma | \$19,100,000 |
| UNHCR | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector | Burma | \$12,750,000 |
| TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN BURMA | | | \$31,850,000 |
| TOTAL USG FUNDING IN BURMA | | | \$77,633,513 |
| FUNDING IN BANGLADESH FOR THE REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE² | | | |

| USAID/BHA | | | |
|---|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Non-Food Assistance | | | |
| CARE | Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH | Cox's Bazar | \$3,500,000 |
| Catholic Relief Services (CRS) | Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements | Bandarban | \$4,194,628 |
| IOM | Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH | Cox's Bazar | \$3,500,000 |
| WFP | Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements | Cox's Bazar | \$1,000,000 |
| TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING IN BANGLADESH | | | \$12,194,628 |
| Food Assistance ⁴ | | | |
| UNICEF | Nutrition | Cox's Bazar | \$1,925,310 |
| WFP | Cash Transfers for Food; Complementary Services; Food Vouchers; Local, Regional, and International Procurement | Cox's Bazar | \$125,000,000 |
| TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR THE ROHINGYA RESPONSE IN BANGLADESH | | | \$126,925,310 |
| TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN BANGLADESH | | | \$139,119,938 |
| STATE/PRM | | | |
| Humanity & Inclusion/ Handicap International (HI) | Health | Bangladesh | \$4,366,186 |
| ICRC | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector | Bangladesh | \$5,700,000 |
| International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector | Bangladesh | \$8,000,000 |
| IRC | Livelihoods | Bangladesh | \$6,390,820 |
| IOM | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector | Bangladesh | \$33,270,487 |
| Terre des Hommes Foundation | Health | Bangladesh | \$3,277,284 |
| UNHCR | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector | Bangladesh | \$80,875,000 |
| UNICEF | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector | Bangladesh | \$31,800,000 |
| UN World Health Organization (WHO) | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector | Bangladesh | \$1,999,830 |
| TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN BANGLADESH | | | \$175,679,607 |
| TOTAL USG FUNDING IN BANGLADESH | | | \$314,799,545 |
| REGIONAL FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE ² | | | |
| STATE/PRM | | | |
| The Ara Trust | Gender-Based Violence | India | \$176,860 |
| Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation (BTCF) | Health | Malaysia | \$498,026 |
| HI | Protection | Thailand | \$599,860 |
| Health Equity Initiatives (HEI) | Health | Malaysia | \$600,000 |
| International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) | Gender-Based Violence | Malaysia | \$599,960 |

| | | | |
|---|--|-----------|----------------------|
| IRC | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector | Thailand | \$19,406,311 |
| IOM | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector | Indonesia | \$125,000 |
| | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector | Thailand | \$400,000 |
| Kumpulan ACTS | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector | Malaysia | \$372,674 |
| UNHCR | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector | Regional | \$6,075,000 |
| TOTAL STATE/PRM REGIONAL FUNDING | | | \$28,853,691 |
| TOTAL USG REGIONAL FUNDING | | | \$28,853,691 |
| TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2020 | | | \$421,286,749 |

FUNDING FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE⁴

USAID/BHA

Non-Food Assistance

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| IOM | HCIM, Health, Protection, WASH | Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan | \$1,000,000 |
| IRC | Health, Protection | Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Rakhine, Shan | \$2,000,000 |
| UNICEF | Health, Protection, WASH | Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine, Shan | \$3,000,000 |
| TOTAL USAID/BHA NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING IN BURMA | | | \$6,000,000 |
| IOM | ERMS, Health, Protection, WASH | Cox's Bazar | \$1,000,000 |
| IRC | Health, Protection, WASH | Cox's Bazar | \$2,000,000 |
| SCF | Health, Protection, WASH | Bandarban, Cox's Bazar | \$2,000,000 |
| TOTAL USAID/BHA NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING IN BANGLADESH | | | \$5,000,000 |
| TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING | | | \$11,000,000 |

STATE/PRM

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|------------|---------------------|
| ICRC | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector | Burma | \$2,750,000 |
| UNHCR | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector | Burma | \$2,200,000 |
| TOTAL FUNDING IN BURMA | | | \$4,950,000 |
| ICRC | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector | Bangladesh | \$3,500,000 |
| IFRC | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector | Bangladesh | \$1,724,000 |
| IOM | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector | Bangladesh | \$7,380,000 |
| IRC | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector | Bangladesh | \$462,364 |
| UNHCR | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector | Bangladesh | \$6,397,000 |
| UNICEF | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector | Bangladesh | \$9,260,000 |
| TOTAL FUNDING IN BANGLADESH | | | \$28,723,364 |
| IRC | Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Preparedness and Response | Thailand | \$1,986,165 |

| | | | |
|--|--|----------|----------------------|
| UNHCR | Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector | Malaysia | \$1,100,000 |
| TOTAL REGIONAL FUNDING | | | \$3,086,165 |
| TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING | | | \$36,759,529 |
| TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH REGIONAL CRISIS IN FY 2020 | | | \$47,759,529 |
| TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR BURMA AND BANGLADESH IN FY 2020 | | | \$195,903,451 |
| TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR BURMA AND BANGLADESH IN FY 2020 | | | \$273,142,827 |
| TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR BURMA AND BANGLADESH IN FY 2020⁵ | | | \$469,046,278 |

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 Burmese refugees 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 USG funding represents publicly announced funding as of October 22, 2020.

3 Country-based pooled funds are country-based multi-donor humanitarian financing instruments managed by OCHA under the guidance of the Humanitarian Coordinator.

4 Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change once purchased.

5 Figures represent supplemental International Disaster Assistance (IDA) and Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) funding committed for COVID-19 preparedness and response as of October 22, as well as non-supplemental funding to support COVID-19 preparedness and response.

6 Funding for populations in Burma and Bangladesh affected by the violence in Rakhine State totals nearly \$1.2 billion—including nearly \$962 million in Bangladesh and more than \$201 million in Burma—since the outbreak of violence in August 2017. This includes nearly \$635 million in State/PRM funding, more than \$101 million in USAID/BHA non-food assistance funding, and nearly \$431 million in USAID/BHA food assistance funding for populations affected by the violence in Rakhine State and other vulnerable populations. The fact sheet total includes funding from October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2020.

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)