

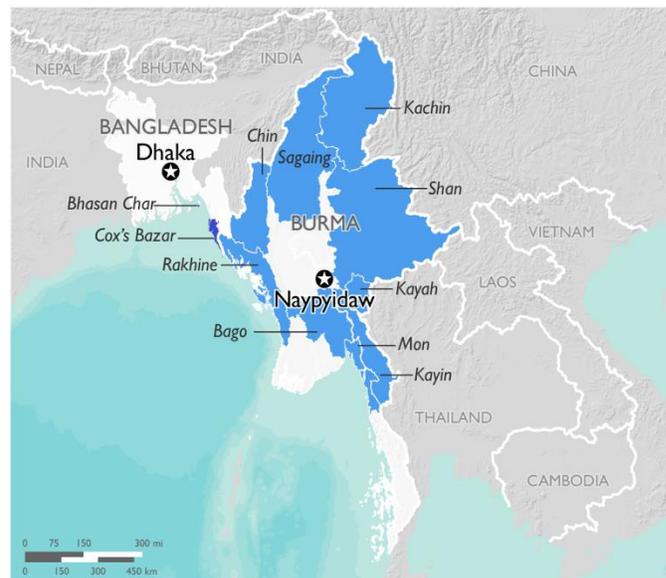
# Burma and Bangladesh – Regional Crisis Response

MAY 25, 2022

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<b>6.2</b> MILLION	<b>605,900</b>	<b>126,000</b>	<b>1.5</b> MILLION	<b>925,380</b>
People Targeted for Humanitarian Assistance in Burma <i>UN – January 2022</i>	People Displaced Since February 2021 Who Remain IDPs in Burma <i>UNHCR – May 2022</i>	IDPs Originally Displaced in 2012 in Rakhine State IDP Sites <i>UN – December 2021</i>	People in Need and Targeted by 2022 Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis JRP <i>UN – March 2022</i>	Estimated Number of Refugees in Bangladesh <i>UNHCR – April 2022</i>

- Nearly 606,000 people remain displaced throughout Burma as of May 16—an increase of approximately 48,000 people since March—due to ongoing violence and insecurity since February 2021, according to UNHCR.
- Frequent and recurring displacement in southeastern Burma exacerbates the risks faced by IDPs during monsoon season, including flooding, landslides, and a lack of access to safe drinking water.
- Government of Bangladesh continues Rohingya refugee relocations from Cox’s Bazar District to Bhasan Char Island, a silt island in the Bay of Bengal, with more than 26,000 refugees relocated to the island between November 2020 and April 30, 2022, according to UNHCR.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the Burma and Bangladesh Response in FY 2022	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	<b>\$116,862,092</b>
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$50,700,000</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$167,562,092</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

### Continued Violence Results in Destruction, Displacement Across Northwestern Burma

Clashes between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) against ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) and people's defense forces (PDFs) throughout northwestern Burma—comprising Chin State, as well as Magway and Sagaing regions—continued to result in civilian deaths, the destruction of infrastructure, and displacement throughout April and early May, further exacerbating humanitarian needs in the region. Nearly 343,000 people remained displaced due to post-coup clashes in the northwest as of mid-May, including more than 254,000 people in Sagaing alone, and displaced populations across the region remain in urgent need of food, health care, shelter, and other essential goods and services, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Meanwhile, the deployment of heavy weapons—including airstrikes and heavy artillery—and the widespread use of landmines by MAF forces continues to result in civilian deaths, as well as the destruction of agricultural equipment, livestock, and water pumps. The violence in the region poses significant protection risks—such as child marriage, extortion, forced recruitment, and gender-based violence (GBV)—for civilians, particularly among internally displaced persons (IDPs). On May 12, MAF attacks in southern Sagaing's Ye-U township resulted in an estimated 27 civilian deaths and injury to an unknown number of people, international media report. Meanwhile in Chin, although many IDPs temporarily returned to their places of origin in early May, approximately 36,000 individuals remained displaced in the state as of May 9 due to extensive damage to houses and other civilian infrastructure, as well as the continued presence of armed groups in the area, according to the UN. Overall, heightened clashes damaged or destroyed more than 7,200 civilian houses and other structures—including approximately 4,400 in Sagaing—between early February 2021 and mid-April 2022, hampering returns, the UN reports.

### Shelling, Landmines Generate Insecurity and Restrict Mobility in Southeastern Burma and Rakhine

Hostilities persisted between the MAF against EAOs and PDFs across southeastern Burma—comprising Kayah, Kayin, and Mon states, as well as Tanintharyi Region and areas of southern Shan State—throughout April and May, with more than 253,000 people remaining displaced in the region due to post-coup violence as of May 16, according to UNHCR. Indiscriminate artillery shelling by the MAF, as well as dangers posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) are particularly severe in the region and continue to cause civilian casualties and displacement, with 80 percent of recorded landmine and ERW casualties recorded countrywide between January and March occurring in southeastern Burma and Shan alone, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) reports. The majority of IDPs in Kayah, Kayin, and southern Shan reside in temporary IDP sites—which are often crowded, lack privacy, and pose significant protection risks—and lack access to essential goods and services, as well as livelihood opportunities. IDPs remain in need of shelter items and other materials such as blankets, mosquito nets, and tarpaulins, UNHCR reports. Meanwhile, ERW and landmine contamination, compounded by a lack of access to livelihood opportunities, are limiting IDP returns in Rakhine, where more than 223,000 people remain displaced due to violence before February 2021.

Amid continued violence and displacement in the region, relief actors are delivering life-saving assistance to displaced and other violence-affected communities in southeastern Burma and Rakhine. In Kayah, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) distributed emergency food assistance to more than 34,000 people and provided nutrition support to approximately 2,000 children ages five years and younger, as well as 400 pregnant and lactating women from early to mid-May. Moreover, U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) partner UNHCR distributed core relief items—including kitchen sets, jerry cans, mosquito nets, and sleeping mats—and

shelter materials, personal protective equipment, and sanitary kits to an estimated 30,000 individuals from 7,000 households across the state between late April and early May. In Rakhine, WFP also reached approximately 413,600 people with in-kind food distributions and livelihoods support with USAID/BHA and other donor support in March. Meanwhile, to address persistent needs in Rakhine, USAID/BHA partners reached tens of thousands of people in March and April with health, livelihood, nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities—among other support—such as conducting GBV awareness sessions, distributing multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA), and supporting primary health care needs through mobile clinics.

### **USAID/BHA Partners Pre-Position Shelter and WASH Assistance for IDPs Ahead of Monsoon Season in Burma**

Burma's May-to-October monsoon season will likely exacerbate humanitarian needs among displaced individuals residing in flood-prone regions of the country, especially in the violence-affected states of Kayin, Mon, and Rakhine, the UN reports. High levels of displacement, inadequate shelter, and a lack of appropriate WASH infrastructure in many regions will likely exacerbate individuals' exposure to risks associated with flooding, landslides, and water contamination during the monsoon season, according to a humanitarian analysis organization. In March, nearly 40 percent of new IDP sites in Rakhine lacked sufficient safe drinking water, while nearly 45 percent of all IDP sites in the state lacked adequate sanitation services, according to the Health Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian health activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders. In Rakhine, a majority of displacement camps are located in low-lying coastal areas exposed to heavy winds and rain, while the shelters in IDP camps, which house tens of thousands of people, are highly vulnerable to flooding and further damage from storms, the UN reports. Furthermore, IDP movement restrictions in Rakhine have compounded the transmission risks of waterborne diseases, such as acute watery diarrhea, by limiting peoples' access to health and WASH services, according to the UN. To mitigate WASH and other flood-related risks amid the monsoon season, USAID/BHA partners have prepositioned supplies—including emergency food assistance, tarpaulins, and WASH kits—and conducted disaster preparedness trainings for local partners and volunteers in Rakhine during April.

### **COVID-19 Vaccination Campaigns Reach 424,000 Refugees in Bangladesh**

Through successive vaccination efforts since August 2021, health actors had reached an estimated 424,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar District with one or both doses of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccine as of May 14, representing approximately 98 percent of the nearly 430,000 refugees ages 18 years and older eligible for the vaccine. On May 7, the Government of Bangladesh—in coordination with State/PRM partner the UN World Health Organization (WHO)—commenced an additional vaccination campaign in Cox's Bazar targeting 115,500 host community members and refugees who were not included in previous vaccination campaigns or who required second doses. At the conclusion of the campaign on May 14, the campaign had reached more than 13,400 people with a first dose of the vaccine and immunized approximately 31,300 additional Rohingya refugees with a second dose, according to the Health Cluster. Government of Bangladesh personnel also administered more than 145,000 doses of routine immunizations—including diphtheria, hepatitis-B, Hib, measles, pertussis, pneumonia, polio, rubella, tetanus, and tuberculosis—to children ages two years and younger in Cox's Bazar between January and March. Across Cox's Bazar, recorded cases of COVID-19 remained low in late April, with health actors recording no new COVID-19 cases among refugees or host community members between April 25 and May 1, following a surge in reported cases of the disease from mid-January to early February, according to WHO.

## Late April Rainfall Causes Flooding, Damage to Bhasan Char Health Facility

Heavy rainfall and related flooding across Bhasan Char Island—where more than 26,000 Rohingya refugees have been relocated from Cox’s Bazar—in late April damaged several rooms and facilities of a 20-bed hospital, including storage rooms for medicines and supplies, UNHCR reports. The damaged hospital is the only facility on Bhasan Char that provides specialized health services to refugees—including cesarean sections, dental care, eye care, surgeries, and x-rays—and remains the referral point for any transfer cases to the mainland for higher-level care. In response, UN and local partners supporting the hospital’s operations have conducted a joint assessment to inform structural improvements and plan to repair damages in the coming weeks. Additionally, UNHCR initiated several electrical projects to improve health capabilities on the island, including electrical installations at the facility’s registration center, procuring electrical equipment for primary health care centers, and conducting electrical design projects for the hospital and island medical warehouse.

### KEY FIGURES



**\$90.5 Million**

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



**10**

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 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. USAID/BHA assistance to WFP, UNICEF, and two NGO partners supports food and nutrition assistance 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

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; 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 GBV 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.

### 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 districts. 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 ability of shelters to withstand natural disasters. In coordination with local partners, UNHCR continues to implement protection-sensitive shelter reconstruction in Rakhine by prioritizing and assessing IDPs' needs.



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, 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, 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 U.S. Government 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 774,000 people had fled Burma since August 2017 into neighboring Bangladesh and taken shelter in Cox's Bazar's 34 refugee camps as of April 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.
- 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>**

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>FUNDING IN BURMA FOR THE REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE</b>			
USAID/BHA			
IOM	Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); 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>TOTAL USG FUNDING IN BURMA</b>			<b>\$38,532,557</b>
<b>FUNDING IN BANGLADESH FOR THE REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE</b>			
USAID/BHA			
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–Food Vouchers and LRIP, 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>
STATE/PRM			
IFRC	Risk Management Policy and Practice (RMPP), ERMS, Health, MPCA, Protection, WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$10,000,000
IOM	Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), RMPP, ERMS, Health, HCIMA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH, COVID-19 Response, Logistics Support, Monitoring and Evaluation	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, Logistics Support, Monitoring and Evaluation, Nutrition, Protection, RMPP, Shelter and Settlements, 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</b>			
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance – Multi-Sector	Indonesia	\$500,000

<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM REGIONAL FUNDING</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG REGIONAL FUNDING</b>	<b>\$500,000</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>\$50,700,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH REGIONAL CRISIS IN FY 2022<sup>3,4</sup></b>	<b>\$167,562,092</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 (MRA), and American Rescue Plan Act–Migration and Refugee Assistance (ARPA-MRA) funding committed for COVID-19 preparedness and response as of May 25, 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 May 25, 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)