

KEY FIGURES



5.3 million
Forcibly displaced within Myanmar situation as of end-March 2026

1.6 million
Refugees and Asylum-Seekers from Myanmar as of end-March 2026

3.7 million
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Myanmar as of end-March 2026



1.85 million
Rohingya Stateless within the Myanmar situation

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

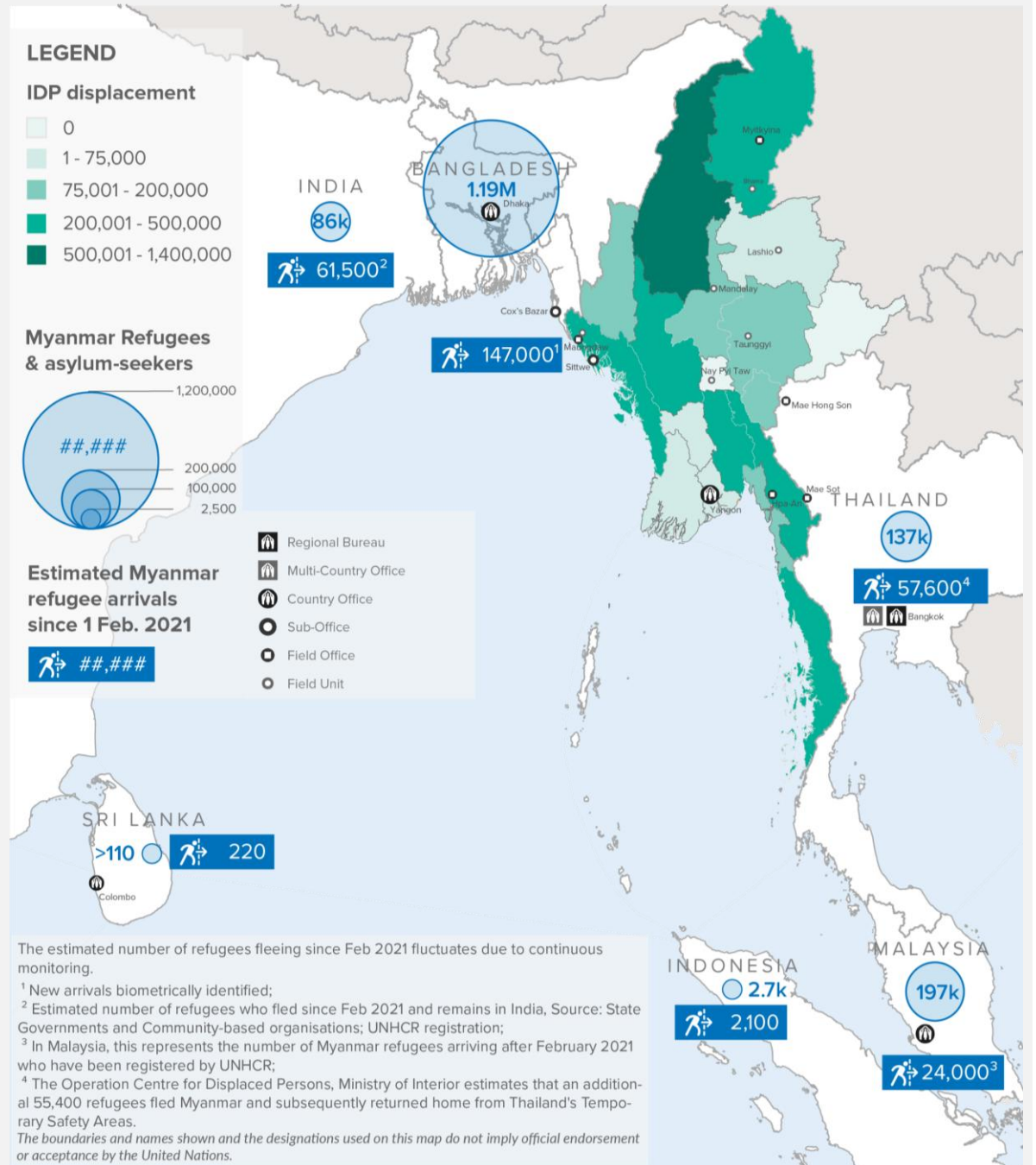
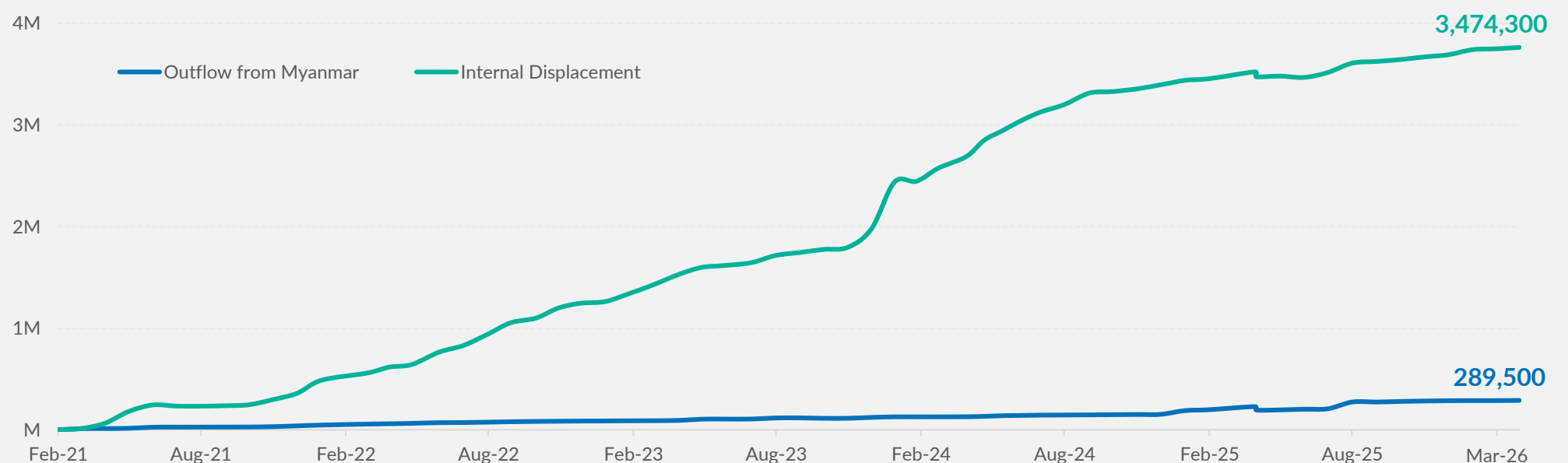
The crisis in the Middle East has further strained an already underfunded response, diverting global attention and resources at a time of rising needs in Myanmar and across the region.

In **Myanmar**, the humanitarian situation remained severe, driven by ongoing conflict, human rights violations, and entrenched discrimination. Displacement increased across all regions with an estimated 3.7 million people internally displaced as of end-March. Political developments, including the formation of new authority structures following the election process, coincided with heightened operational constraints. Fuel shortages and conservation measures disrupted staff movement, supply chains and programme delivery. Humanitarian access remained restricted due to insecurity, road blockages and movement controls. Despite these constraints, UNHCR and partners continue to prioritize life-saving assistance and protection for forcibly displaced and stateless populations in an increasingly volatile environment.

The humanitarian response in **Bangladesh** continued to face mounting pressure. Persistent underfunding, limited livelihood opportunities and the arrival of approximately 147,000 Rohingya in camps since 2024 have increased needs and further stretched essential services. Against this backdrop, a prioritized [Joint Response Plan](#) was advanced, focusing on life-saving interventions – including food, health, WASH, education, and protection – while seeking cost efficiencies. Vulnerabilities remained high with impacts observed across protection and safety, health and well-being, environmental conditions and social cohesion between refugee and host communities.

At the same time, global economic pressures, including those linked to the Middle East situation, contributed to rising fuel and energy costs during the reporting period. A new Government was formed in Bangladesh in February following national elections. UNHCR continued engagement with counterparts on key advocacy priorities, including safety and security, access to territory, and expanded opportunities for self-reliance.

FORCED DISPLACEMENT SINCE 1 FEBRUARY 2021



* Includes displacements before and after February 2021.

For the latest figures and updates on UNHCR's broader response in Myanmar, as well as the regional response, visit the [Myanmar page](#) and [Myanmar Situation page](#) on UNHCR's Operational Data Portal. For any queries, please contact: RBAPEXT@unhcr.org

The operational context along the **India–Myanmar** border remained complex, shaped by evolving political, security and policy developments. In March 2026, the Government of India reiterated its support for an inclusive, Myanmar-led and Myanmar-owned peace process, underscoring the importance of long-term stability and development along the shared border. Incidents of irregular cross-border movement into Myanmar via Mizoram further illustrated the fluidity of the border environment. At the sub-national level, opposition to the proposed fencing persisted. Local authorities in Mizoram reiterated long-standing concerns, maintaining their position against both the fencing and potential changes to the Free Movement Regime – a bilateral arrangement allowing limited visa-free movement for border communities.

In **Malaysia**, more than 196,000 people from Myanmar were registered with UNHCR (including some 4,600 registered during the reporting period), representing around 90% of the total refugee and asylum-seeking population. On 1 January 2026, the Government of Malaysia launched the Refugee Registration Document (Dokumen Pendaftaran Pelarian – DPP) system. Based on publicly available information, the initial implementation phase focuses on refugees and asylum-seekers held in immigration detention centres, who are to undergo registration and refugee status determination processes. Further details on the issuance of DPP documents have yet to be communicated. In this context, UNHCR continues to work closely with the Government on the development of a national asylum framework. This includes support to the DPP system through technical advice, capacity sharing and cooperation, drawing on international standards and comparative practices. Engagement also covers access to protection, legal assistance, education and health care for those registered under the DPP programme, as well as coordination between UNHCR procedures and the DPP framework.

In **Indonesia**, boats continued to arrive in Sumatra during the reporting period. While most people are believed to have continued onwards to Malaysia, a small number who disembarked in Indonesia approached UNHCR for registration and shared details on their journeys. Reports indicate that boats typically carried between 150 and 300 passengers, with most departing from Bangladesh. Those who disembarked described two main scenarios: some were transferred from larger vessels and brought ashore in Indonesia as their intended destination, while others reported escaping or being released from coastal warehouses after being unable to meet financial demands by smugglers or traffickers to continue onward to Malaysia.

Thailand continued to advance its transition toward a more inclusive, nationally-led response for refugees, building on the 2025 policy shift granting access to legal employment. Implementation progressed in early 2026 against a backdrop of broader political transition following national elections and evolving regional dynamics linked to the situation in Myanmar. At the same time, Rohingya apprehended in Thailand faced prolonged detention with around 500 Rohingya refugees – including over 70 children – held in Government facilities as of end-March.

UNHCR RESPONSE

In **Myanmar**, UNHCR and partners supported over 10,700 people (1,889 families) with core relief items, nearly 280 people (61 families) with shelter assistance, and around 120 people (31 families) with multi-purpose assistance by end-March. These interventions helped mitigate protection risks and stabilize living conditions. In parallel, more than 125 people participated in legal awareness sessions, while others were reached through various workshops on protection mainstreaming, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, and complaints and feedback mechanisms. These efforts strengthened community-based protection, improved access to services, and reinforced accountability to affected populations.

In **Bangladesh**, UNHCR advanced skills development initiatives to bolster refugee entrepreneurship and self-reliance. A training of trainers on advanced information and communications technology skills reached around 90 people. Two refugee-led Green Innovation Hubs – supported by a network of about 100 trained Rohingya technicians – became fully operational in January, providing on-demand repair and maintenance services to households and community facilities for a small fee. Fees paid for repairs exceeded BDT 720,000 (around USD 5,900) in March – more than three times higher than January's total of BDT 200,000 (around USD 1,600), driven by the expansion of services and products offered through the hubs. Nearly 500 participants (around 40% women) began vocational skills training across six trades: caregiving, solar system installation and maintenance, concreting, small engine mechanics, electrical work, and sewing machine operation. In 2025, more than 2,200 trainees graduated across eight trades, including plumbing and baking.

In **Indonesia**, UNHCR continued to coordinate the humanitarian response in all Rohingya hosting locations. It maintained registration and documentation for all refugees and asylum-seekers, responded to protection incidents and supported those with heightened vulnerabilities.

In **Malaysia**, UNHCR organized the Parliamentary Symposium and Exhibition on 7 February 2026 at the Parliament of Malaysia, in collaboration with the Parliament Special Select Committee on International Relations and International Trade. The event brought together around 300 participants, including Members of Parliament, Government officials, civil society, academics and international partners, and provided a platform to advance national dialogue on improving refugees' access to legal employment and education. Discussions focused on practical policy options in the context of Malaysia's State-led refugee registration programme, including pathways to expand legal work opportunities and improve access to education for refugee children.

In **Thailand**, UNHCR continued to engage with the Royal Thai Government and relevant stakeholders to enhance access and protection for Rohingya. This included advocacy for alternatives to detention, improved conditions in detention (including timely medical care) and pathways to legal status such as access to the National Screening Mechanism. In parallel, UNHCR supported policy discussions and system development linked to refugee inclusion, including efforts to strengthen access to documentation and legal employment as well as improve coordination across relevant authorities, contributing to more protection-sensitive implementation of evolving policies.

KEY PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS ISSUES

In **Myanmar**, escalating violence, including airstrikes and shelling, caused widespread damage and increased protection risks such as forced recruitment, extortion, and arbitrary detention. Access to civil documentation remained a key protection priority, with partners supporting displaced people to obtain or renew identity documents in Shan and Kayah. At the same time, deteriorating conditions continued to drive risky maritime movements among Rohingya. A boat carrying 120 passengers capsized, while another with nearly 480 people was intercepted, leading to detention in Sittwe. Since early January, at least four boats carrying 111 Rohingya have returned from Bangladesh to Sittwe.



Refugee women work in a UNHCR-supported sewing workshop, producing handcrafted items for fair trade and building skills, income and dignity © UNHCR/ Santi Palacios

In **Bangladesh**, the border with Myanmar remained officially closed during the reporting period. Between 1 January and 31 March 2026, more than 850 people were reportedly denied access to Bangladesh, bringing the total to over 13,300 since 2024, although many incidents likely go unreported. UNHCR monitored cross-border movements and engaged with relevant authorities on access to territory and protection considerations. Over the same period, nearly 5,500 newly arrived people were biometrically identified through a joint exercise with the Government of Bangladesh. This brings the total to around 147,000 people (approximately 38,600 families) identified and issued family cards since the exercise was launched in 2025 – representing about 12% of the current population. While this process does not replace regular refugee registration – which has been suspended since May 2022 – it supports the identification of new arrivals and the delivery of assistance. UNHCR continues to advocate with Government counterparts for the resumption of full registration.

In **Malaysia**, immigration enforcement activities continued, underscoring the need for sustained safeguards for refugees and asylum-seekers in enforcement and detention contexts. UNHCR worked closely with authorities to support protection outcomes, including through the verification of documentation, facilitation of releases, and efforts to reduce prolonged detention or refoulement. Targeted protection measures were also implemented in collaboration with partners to reduce risks and improve access to justice for vulnerable people.

In **India**, close to 30 people, including women and children, were deported from Manipur to Myanmar via the Moreh–Tamu border in February following a period of administrative detention. In Mizoram, authorities reported significant progress in biometric enrolment. Around 93% of Myanmar refugees have registered through the Foreigners Identification Portal.

In **Thailand**, Rohingya held in Immigration Detention Centres face heightened protection and health risks, including reported fatalities in recent months. During the reporting period, some were deported despite having expressed a need for international protection, raising concerns regarding their safety and exposure to onward risks. Rohingya outside of detention also face significant risks, including arrest, detention and possible deportation.

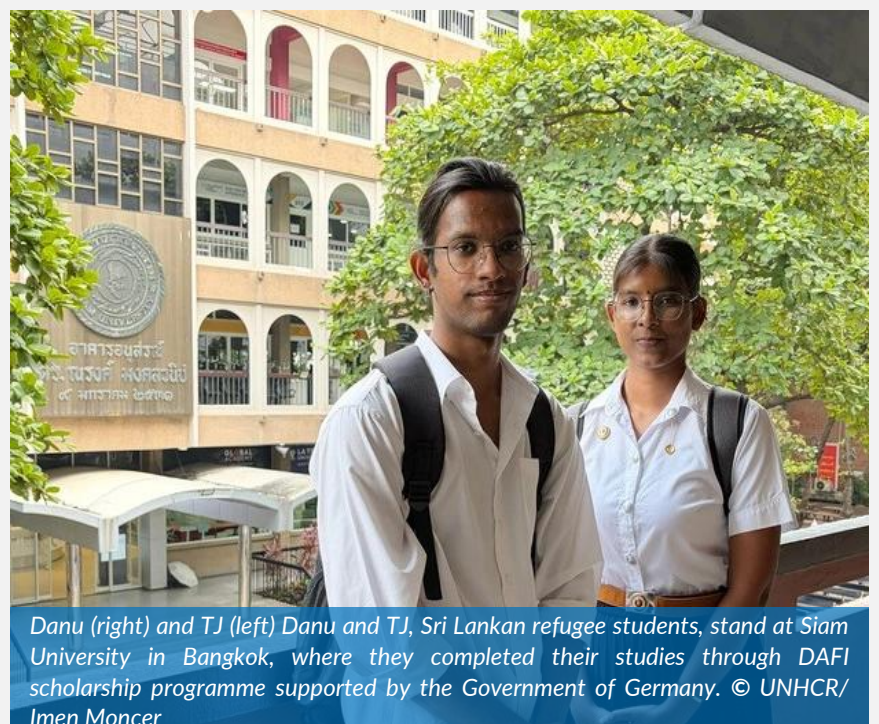
THE POWER OF OPPORTUNITY: HOW EDUCATION SHAPED DANU AND TJ'S JOURNEY

After years of disrupted schooling, siblings Danu and TJ, refugees from Sri Lanka, found opportunities to continue their education in Thailand despite significant barriers. Arriving as children with their family in search of safety, much of their early life was shaped by uncertainty and restricted movement due to a lack of legal documentation, with the constant risk of detention. For five years, they were unable to attend formal school and instead relied on informal learning through church groups and volunteer teachers within the refugee community. “People in the community taught us for free,” Danu recalls. “That’s how we kept learning.”

A turning point came when a Thai private school headmaster allowed refugee students to enrol, opening the door back to formal education. After placement tests, both were admitted at the level expected for their age, despite years outside the system. Teachers continued to support them closely, sometimes providing photocopied textbooks when needed.

With encouragement from their family and teachers, they completed high school and later accessed a UNHCR-supported scholarship to university. Now in Canada through a private sponsorship pathway, they are beginning a new chapter, continuing their studies and building independent lives shaped by opportunity.

[Read more](#)



Danu (right) and TJ (left) Danu and TJ, Sri Lankan refugee students, stand at Siam University in Bangkok, where they completed their studies through DAFI scholarship programme supported by the Government of Germany. © UNHCR/ Imen Moncer

COORDINATION

In **Myanmar**, UNHCR collaborates with 15 national and nine international partners to expand access and response coverage. As lead of the Protection Cluster and Shelter, Land and Site Coordination Cluster, UNHCR coordinates joint assessments and response planning. It also actively engages in the UN Country Team and Humanitarian Country Team, supporting joint advocacy and nexus approaches. In Kachin, joint Shelter and WASH assessments were conducted across four displacement sites, informing relocation planning. Protection Cluster partners identified priority needs, including support for vulnerable groups, civil documentation, mental health and psychosocial support, and immediate assistance to improve living conditions.

In **Bangladesh**, a streamlined Rohingya coordination structure was introduced in January 2026, following endorsement by the Government and partners late 2025. Led by UNHCR and supported by the UN Resident Coordinator, the Refugee Coordination Platform (RCP) brings decision makers in Dhaka and Cox's Bazar closer together, supporting more inclusive and effective leadership despite reduced resources. A small inter-agency team provides Secretariat, cross-cutting priority, and sector coordination support. The RCP replaces the Inter-Sector Coordination Group and serves as the main body coordinating more than 150 UN agencies and NGOs involved in the Rohingya refugee response.

In **India**, UNHCR engages with the Government, UN agencies and other relevant stakeholders on the humanitarian needs and situation of Myanmar arrivals in the north-east, and the resources required to address service gaps. UNHCR has updated its contingency plan for the humanitarian response, reflecting trends in Myanmar arrivals to Manipur and Mizoram since 2021.

In **Malaysia**, UNHCR works with local authorities, NGOs and community-based organizations to deliver services, coordinate refugee responses and identify vulnerable people requiring urgent assistance. It also strengthens partnerships with UN agencies and the private sector to address gaps arising from resource constraints. At the same time, UNHCR advances several advocacy priorities – including refugee inclusion in national systems and access to territory, asylum, and justice as well as UNHCR's access to immigration detention – while working with federal ministries, parliamentarians, state authorities, law enforcement, human rights actors, the Inter-Agency Preparedness Coordination Group, the Malaysian Bar, diplomatic community, and civil society. UNHCR also liaises with the judiciary and supports capacity building initiatives on refugee protection for magistrates and judges and collaborates with the Government on similar initiatives related to registration and refugee status determination. It also coordinates with resettlement countries and IOM on third-country solutions.

UNHCR supports authorities in **Indonesia** by leading and coordinating inter-agency preparedness and response at the local, provincial, and national level, in close coordination with IOM and other humanitarian partners. It continues to lead coordination efforts and provide protection and cash assistance in refugee-hosting sites in Aceh and North Sumatra, while supporting protection activities in Riau Province. Key areas of work include sustained engagement with authorities, coastal communities, NGOs and other stakeholders to ensure refugees are rescued, allowed to disembark and granted access to safety and assistance.

In **Thailand**, the response is characterized by close coordination between the Royal Thai Government, UNHCR, UN agencies, civil society, and development partners. A whole-of-government approach guides the transition toward inclusion, with ministries of interior, labour, health and social development engaged in implementation and coordination processes. Multi-stakeholder consultations, including recent discussions on procedures for access to legal employment, have supported alignment across Government counterparts, UN agencies, and partners. UNHCR contributes by providing technical expertise, facilitating dialogue, and convening partners to support coherent implementation of evolving policies. At the same time, contingency planning remains a priority along the Thai-Myanmar border. Authorities and partners continue to prepare for potential influxes through joint planning exercises, coordination platforms, and engagement with frontline responders.

FUNDING SITUATION

In 2026, UNHCR appealed for **USD 328.5 million** to support the response to the Myanmar situation. By year-end, funding levels had reached only **26%**, reflecting a significant shortfall.

UNHCR is grateful for the generosity of donors who have stepped forward with earmarked contributions as well as those providing flexible funding globally ensuring life-saving assistance reaches those most in need:

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