

KEY FIGURES



5.4 million
Forcibly displaced within
Myanmar situation as of
end-May 2026

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

3.8 million
Internally Displaced
Persons (IDPs) in
Myanmar as of end-May
2026



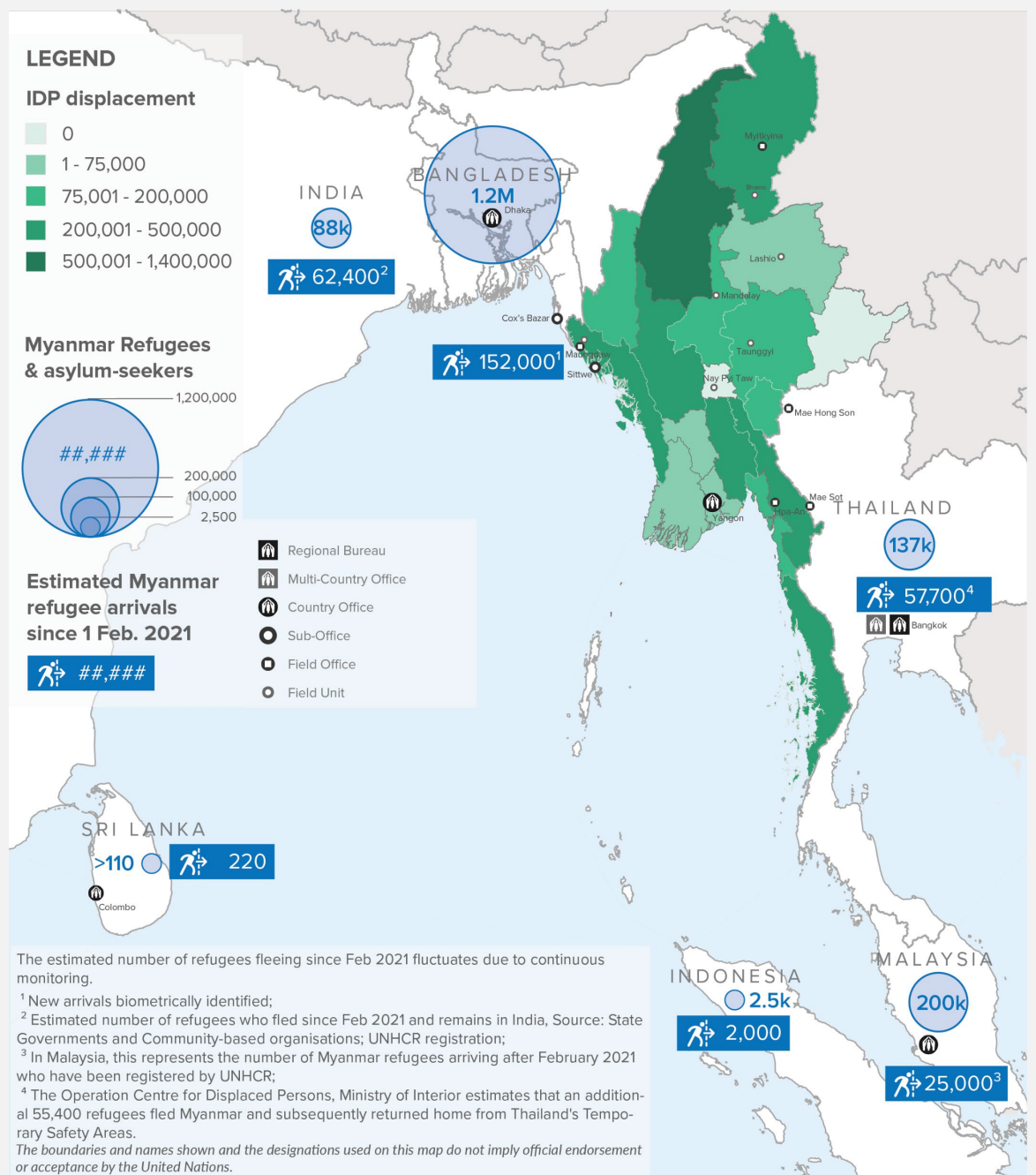
1.85 million
Rohingya Stateless
within the Myanmar
situation

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

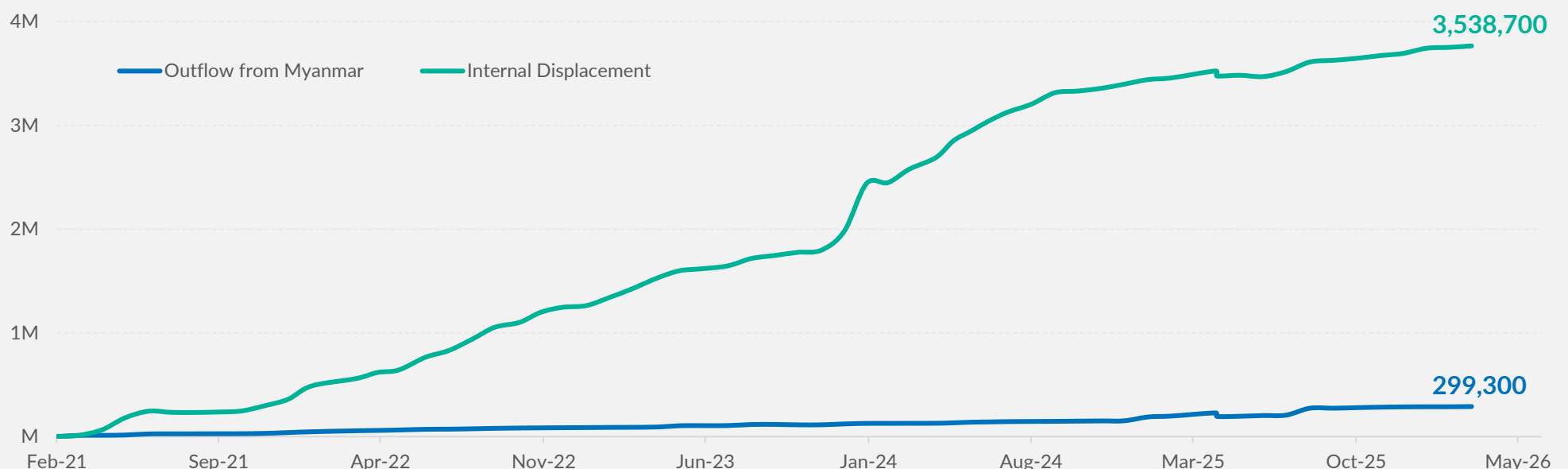
The Middle East crisis has further strained an already underfunded response, diverting global attention and resources at a time of rising needs in Myanmar and across the region.

In **Myanmar**, the humanitarian situation remained critical with ongoing armed conflict, human rights violations, discrimination and the lingering impacts of the March 2025 earthquake continuing to drive humanitarian needs. By end-May, an estimated 3.8 million people remained internally displaced, placing additional pressure on already stretched protection and assistance. Humanitarian actors continued to face operational and access challenges, affecting the delivery of assistance in some areas. Against this backdrop, the UN Special Envoy of the Secretary General on Myanmar visited Myanmar and new Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Myanmar was appointed by the UN Human Rights Council in April.

In **Bangladesh** in May, UNHCR and interagency partners presented the updated [2026 Joint Response Plan \(JRP\)](#), appealing for USD 710.5 million, to reach up to 1.56 million refugees and host communities. This hyper-prioritized appeal – 26% lower than in 2025 – covers only lifesaving needs, with reduced funding affecting all sectors, including resilience and preparedness activities. Midway through the year, the plan is 60% funded. Shortfalls led WFP to introduce targeted food assistance from 1 April, with monthly rations of USD7-12 per person based on levels of food insecurity, and USD11 on Bhasan Char due to higher market costs. Meanwhile, the Middle East crisis drove fuel price increases, including a 30-45% rise in Liquefied Petroleum Gas.



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

Along the **India–Myanmar** border the operational context remained complex, shaped by evolving political, security and policy developments. The security situation in Manipur, India, remained [volatile](#), with periodic reports of violence across several districts, which continued to pose challenges for humanitarian access and operational continuity, including constraints on partner staff movement and reduced access to some affected communities. On 15 April, authorities in Mizoram indicated that refugees and displaced persons residing in the State would be included in India’s ongoing census enumeration as part of a population counting exercise, rather than a citizenship verification exercise.

In **Malaysia**, 2,900 refugees and asylum-seekers from Myanmar were registered with UNHCR between April–May, bringing the total registered population to more than 198,000 people by end-May. Refugees and Asylum seekers from Myanmar represent around 90 per cent of those registered with UNHCR in Malaysia. The 18 May visit by the Minister of Home Affairs to the Special Segregation Centre for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Bidor, Perak, brought renewed public attention to the Government’s Refugee Registration Document Programme, implemented since the start of 2026. The participation of the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers during the visit highlighted growing interest in linking documentation initiatives with more regulated pathways to employment. These developments may signal a more structured national approach to refugee coordination and support, while reinforcing the importance of protection safeguards and continued access to asylum. Since late May 2026, Malaysia has seen an increase in harmful misinformation and negative public narratives affecting refugees, including Rohingya communities, increasing anxiety and protection risks. UNHCR continues to prioritize refugee protection and well-being preserving space for principled humanitarian engagement. Efforts include monitoring risks, engaging with partners and refugee communities, addressing harmful content through appropriate channels, and reinforcing measured, fact-based public messaging that promotes social cohesion and respect.

In **Indonesia**, Rohingya refugees are facing challenges in adapting to recent funding cuts, which have affected the provision of financial assistance and access to health services. Many refugees reported increased difficulty in meeting their basic needs. There have been instances of protests and expressions of frustration, accompanied by a rise in negative public sentiment toward refugees, particularly on social media. In response to these challenges, UNHCR and partners continued to work to mitigate the impact of reduced assistance by expanding opportunities for refugees to participate in economic empowerment activities, though limited in scope, in Aceh and Riau Provinces. Efforts are ongoing to support legislative and policy developments aimed at fostering a more inclusive and sustainable protection environment for refugees.

In **Thailand**, implementation of the right-to-work policy continued to progress, with around 5,500 registered refugees employed outside temporary shelters as of the end of May. The policy marks a significant step toward enabling refugees to become more self-reliant, contribute economically, and move beyond long-term dependence on humanitarian assistance toward greater inclusion and dignity. In May, the Ministry of Interior [announced](#) the issuance of ID cards for refugees residing in temporary shelters, which are expected to facilitate access to formal employment and promote greater economic inclusion. UNHCR and partners continued preparations to support issuance of refugee ID cards which are expected to be delivered in June. At the same time, nearly 500 Rohingya refugees—including over 60 children—remain detained in government facilities.



UNHCR RESPONSE

In **Myanmar**, UNHCR and partners delivered life-saving assistance to over 74,000 people (14,354 families) through core relief items while around 3,000 people (559 families) benefitted from shelter support, and around 3,300 people (1,146 families) from multi-purpose assistance. These interventions helped vulnerable households meet urgent needs, improve living conditions and mitigate protection risks. In parallel, UNHCR supported community-based protection through awareness sessions on complaints and feedback mechanisms, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and camp coordination and camp management. These efforts improved access to information and services, strengthened accountability, and supported more inclusive, protection-centered programming.

In **Bangladesh**, the Teknaf Water Project aims to address chronic water shortages driven by seasonal scarcity, high operating costs, weak distribution infrastructure, and fuel supply vulnerabilities, providing a more reliable water supply. Water systems in the Teknaf camps are being progressively solarized to reduce fuel reliance, promote renewable energy, and improve reliability. As of May, the solar-powered system in Camp 26 is fully operational, and three substations have been completed in Camp 26 and Nayapara Registered Camp, though full integration awaits government approval for connection to the power grid. In May, thanks to support from the Republic of Korea, UNHCR launched the second cohort of the Early Adolescent Skills for Emotions (EASE) programme in Cox’s Bazar to strengthen MHPSS for adolescents aged 10–15 and caregivers, with seventeen partner staff completing nine days of specialized training. UNHCR will support the rollout of EASE through ongoing supervision and technical guidance.

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 advanced refugee inclusion and protection through engagement with government, civil society, religious institutions and border authorities. On 22 April, UNHCR, together with the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia, the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies, and the Muslim Youth Movement of Malaysia, convened the inaugural Symposium on Islam and Humanity. The event brought together some 260 people from across society to explore Islamic principles supporting refugee protection and inclusion, following which the Minister of Education reaffirmed commitment for inclusive education for all children, including refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR and the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia undertook a joint mission to Malacca to strengthen cooperation with border authorities and promote protection-sensitive responses, including safe disembarkation and early identification of those with protection needs.

In **Thailand**, UNHCR continued to engage with the Royal Thai Government and stakeholders to enhance access and protection for Rohingya. UNHCR provided protection expertise for a workshop convened by the Governor of Pattani Province in which government agencies, international organizations, and civil society shared proposals for how educational institutions can work with communities to create safe spaces for Rohingya children and mothers. In parallel, UNHCR support continues for policy dialogue and system development on refugee inclusion, including improving access to documentation, lawful employment, and coordination among authorities.

LEARNING TOGETHER: HOW A COMMUNITY INITIATIVE IS TRANSFORMING EDUCATION FOR SOMALI REFUGEES IN DELHI

On a narrow street in Delhi, as the late afternoon sun softens, a small space begins to fill with voices. Voices which are hesitant at first, then louder, more assured. A group of young Somali girls and one boy sit closely together, watching short English learning videos. They pause, repeat, and try again. A mispronounced word draws laughter, but no one stops. Instead, they help each other, correcting gently, building confidence with every sentence.

Just outside, another group of children sit around tables, their attention fixed on sheets of brightly coloured paper. Careful hands fold and shape each piece into a lotus flower. Some compare their work, others quietly concentrate, determined to get each fold right. The room is filled with focus and small moments of pride. In a nearby space, a group of youth sit in front of computers. A young teacher moves among them, explaining how to organize information and present it clearly. For many, this is their first time they are learning digital skills in a structured way.

This is the Sampushti Community Learning Centre in Delhi, an educational initiative developed under the auspices of the National Bahá'í Charitable Society in response to the needs of refugee families, particularly from the Somali community, following a series of consultations with the community itself. Supported by UNHCR, the initiative seeks to bring together children and youth from the Somali refugee and local communities, fostering inclusion and social cohesion through shared learning experiences. [Read more](#)



Young Somali refugees learn skills at the Sampushti Community Learning Centre in Delhi, building confidence through shared learning and peer support. © UNHCR/Paridhi Jain

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KEY PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS ISSUES

In **Myanmar**, escalating hostilities, including airstrikes and shelling, continued to expose civilians to serious protection risks such as forced recruitment, extortion, arbitrary detention, family separation, and restriction of freedom of movement. Protection Cluster-led assessments highlighted growing psychosocial support needs, gaps in referral services, particularly in Kachin State. In Shan and Kayah States, communities identified livelihoods as a priority need amid continued displacement and insecurity. In Rakhine State, small-scale spontaneous returns of Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh continued to expose people to risks of detention, exploitation and other protection risks. Efforts by UNHCR and partners to improve access to civil documentation in the South-East helped strengthen protection outcomes and access to services for affected communities.

In **Bangladesh**, the border with Myanmar remains officially closed. Between 1 January and 31 May 2026, 1,893 individuals were reportedly denied entry, bringing the total to 14,380 since 2024, though many incidents continue to go unreported. Over the same period, 2,260 new arrivals were biometrically identified through a joint exercise with the Government of Bangladesh, bringing the total identified since 2025 to 152,029 individuals (39,881 families) some 12% of the population. Unlike regular refugee registration - suspended since May 2022 - this process does not issue individual refugee documents. UNHCR continues to advocate with the Government for resumption of full registration.

In **India**, continued instability and armed conflict in north-west Myanmar, particularly in Chin and Sagaing regions, contributed to an increase in arrivals into the Northeast and Delhi. Over 1,000 individuals are reported to have crossed into Champhai district in Mizoram, following reports of airstrikes, civilian casualties and damage to residential property. Most new arrivals are reportedly understood to be residing with relatives or within host communities rather than in centralized shelters, resulting in a dispersed population across border areas.

In **Malaysia**, recent arrivals by boat have included a high proportion of children and other vulnerable individuals, raising key protection concerns. Many children may be separated from their families or unaccompanied, highlighting urgent needs for family tracing and reunification, alongside access to appropriate community-based care arrangements. UNHCR, in coordination with authorities and partners, is supporting efforts to assess protection risks and promote safe and appropriate care solutions. During May, UNHCR advocacy contributed to the release of 15 people, predominantly children, facilitating family reunification and community-based care.

In **Thailand**, more Rohingya were reportedly deported before UNHCR could access them, continuing concerns that some are unable to seek international protection and remain exposed to smuggling and trafficking risks. At the same time, access to government shelters has become more restricted for Rohingya children, leaving some in prolonged detention. In response, Thai authorities are exploring alternative care arrangements and community-based approaches for children and their mothers. Along the Thai Myanmar border, tens of thousands of non-registered asylum-seekers- inside and outside temporary shelters- remain without legal status or access to work, underscoring the urgent need for policy solutions amid declining humanitarian assistance.



Rohingya women and girls enjoy a game of badminton on International Day of Sport on 6 April in Cox's Bazar refugee camps © UNHCR/ Shari Nijman

COORDINATION

In **Myanmar**, UNHCR continued to strengthen response capacity through partnerships with 16 national and nine international partners, reinforcing localization efforts and expanding access to humanitarian assistance to hard-to-reach areas. As a lead agency for the Protection Cluster and Shelter, Land and Site Coordination Cluster, UNHCR coordinated joint assessments, response planning, information sharing, and preparedness efforts to support a coherent humanitarian response. Through active engagement in inter-agency coordination mechanisms, including the UN Country Team and Humanitarian Country Team, UNHCR contributed to joint advocacy and nexus approaches.

In **Bangladesh**, UNHCR leads coordination of the Rohingya refugee response, working closely with the Resident Coordinator through the streamlined Rohingya Coordination Team (RCT), introduced in January 2026. The RCT brings Dhaka- and Cox's Bazar-based decision-makers closer together, supporting inclusive and effective leadership amid reduced resources, reflected in May through the joint development and presentation of the [updated JRP](#).

In **India**, UNHCR works with the Government of India, UN agencies, and other stakeholders to address the needs of arrivals from Myanmar in Northeast India, and has updated contingency plans, based on the trends of Myanmar arrivals in Manipur and Mizoram since 2021.

In **Malaysia**, UNHCR works with authorities, NGOs and community-based organizations to deliver services, coordinate responses and identify vulnerable people. It also strengthens partnerships with UN agencies and the private sector to address resource gaps while advancing advocacy on refugee inclusion, access to territory, asylum and justice, and UNHCR's access to immigration detention.

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 leads coordination and advocacy efforts and provides protection in refugee-hosting sites in Aceh and Riau Province.

Thailand's response relies on coordination between the Royal Thai Government, UNHCR, UN agencies, civil society, and humanitarian and development partners. In May, UNHCR joined a government delegation led by the National Security Council Secretary-General to Mae La, strengthening engagement and insight into evolving policy directions, with emphasis on self-reliance and integration alongside continued humanitarian needs.

FUNDING SITUATION

In 2026, UNHCR appealed for **USD 328.5 million** to support the response to the Myanmar situation. By end-May, funding levels had reached only **34%**.

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:

Australia | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | European Union | Finland | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) | Norway | Qatar | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | UN Country-based Pooled Funds | UN Joint Programme

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