

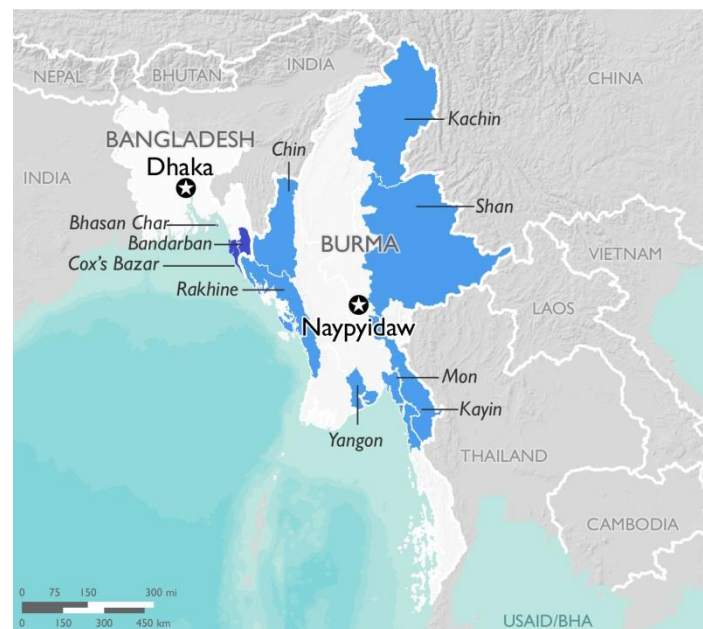
Burma and Bangladesh – Regional Crisis Response

FEBRUARY 26, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

1 MILLION	104,475	130,000	101,798	871,924
People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Burma	IDPs in Burma's Kachin and Northern Shan	IDPs—Originally Displaced in 2012—in Burma's Rakhine IDP Sites	IDPs Displaced by Burmese Military—AA Conflict in Rakhine and Chin	Refugees in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar
<i>UN – January 2021</i>	<i>UN – December 2020</i>	<i>UN – January 2021</i>	<i>UN – January 2021</i>	<i>UNHCR – January 2021</i>

- The Government of Bangladesh continues to relocate Rohingya refugees to Bhasan Char despite concerns from the international community regarding humanitarian and protection conditions on the island.
- Following the Burmese military coup d'état against the civilian government on February 1 and subsequent civilian protests, USG partners continue humanitarian operations.
- Escalated hostilities between Burmese military forces and armed groups in Shan during December and January displace thousands of individuals.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Burma and Bangladesh Response in FYs 2020–2021	USAID/BHA ^{1,2}	\$214,303,451
	State/PRM ³	\$288,446,121
	Total	\$502,749,572⁴

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5

¹USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)
²USAID/BHA FY 2020 funding includes emergency food assistance from the former Office of Food for Peace and non-food humanitarian assistance from the former Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance.
³U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)
⁴This total includes \$47,759,529 in FY 2020 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

Government of Bangladesh Continues Refugee Relocations to Bhasan Char

The Government of Bangladesh relocated thousands of Rohingya refugees to Bhasan Char—a flood-prone silt island in the Bay of Bengal—between December 2020 and February 2021, according to humanitarian actors. More than 10,000 refugees were residing on the island as of mid-February following the most recent Government of Bangladesh-initiated relocations on February 14 and 15 that moved approximately 3,600 refugees from Cox’s Bazar District to the island, relief actors report. The Government of Bangladesh, which commenced the relocation of refugees to Bhasan Char in early December, had not permitted the UN to conduct an independent and comprehensive technical and protection assessment of the island as of mid-February. The U.S. Government (USG), alongside other donors and humanitarian partners, continues to advocate that any resettlements to Bhasan Char be fully voluntary, based on informed consent, and preceded by UN technical and protection assessments.

Humanitarian Operations Continue Following Burma Military Coup

Humanitarian operations in Burma continue largely unabated following the Burmese military coup d’état against the Burmese civilian government on February 1, 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. While movement restrictions and intermittent, military-imposed telecommunications disruptions resulted in the temporary pause of some humanitarian activities during the week of February 1, humanitarian organizations—including USG partners—had largely resumed programming supporting vulnerable households across Burma as of mid-February. In addition, mostly peaceful civilian protests in Yangon city following the change in state leadership have not disrupted humanitarian assistance. However, the ongoing civil disobedience movement has caused widespread closure of businesses, including banks, causing challenges for humanitarian agencies. The UN has released statements expressing concern regarding the coup, affirming its intent to continue life-saving relief activities in Burma, and urging military authorities to allow for uninterrupted humanitarian access to vulnerable populations.

Clashes Displace Thousands of People in Shan from December to February

Escalated hostilities between the Burmese military and non-state armed groups (NSAGs) in northern Shan State since late December have displaced thousands of individuals and resulted in several civilian casualties, according to the UN. Conflict between the Shan State Army and the Ta’ang National Liberation Army displaced an estimated 3,900 people in Kyaukme and Namtu townships between December 27 and January 15, of whom 1,000 remained displaced in Kyaukme as of January 25. Fighting between the Burmese military and NSAGs, as well as among NSAGs, continued from early to mid-February, resulting in the displacement of more than 2,000 people in Hsipaw, Kyaukme, and Namtu townships and at least three civilian casualties, the UN reports. This recent displacement is in addition to the approximately 9,800 people who remain in protracted displacement in Shan. In response to increased protection risks due to displacement, USAID/BHA partner the International Rescue Committee (IRC) provided information on gender-based violence (GBV) service availability to more than 400 women in Shan in December, in addition to psychosocial support services and GBV awareness sessions for vulnerable populations. In addition, State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) distributed more than 300 non-food item kits—consisting of blankets, mosquito nets, and plastic mats—to vulnerable households in Shan during December. An estimated 1 million people will likely require humanitarian assistance across Burma during 2021, including approximately 336,000 displaced people who remain in camps or displacement sites in eastern

Bago Region and Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine, and northern Shan states, according to the UN.

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, Bangladesh 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), the UN World Food Program (WFP), and one non-governmental organization (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 Chin, Kachin, Rakhine, 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 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and other communicable diseases.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Continued conflict between Burmese military forces and NSAGs since June 2011 in Kachin and northern Shan states has generated widespread displacement and exacerbated humanitarian needs. As of December 2020, more than 104,000 people remained displaced in Kachin and northern Shan, with many IDPs residing in areas outside of Burmese military control and with limited or no humanitarian access, hindering efforts to provide assistance to displaced and other populations in need.
- Burmese military 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. Nearly 872,000 people had fled Burma into neighboring Bangladesh and taken shelter in Cox's Bazar's 34 refugee camps as of January 2021, 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 Arakan Army (AA) and Burmese military forces have displaced more than 101,000 civilians, mostly ethnic Rakhine, in Rakhine and Chin states. In addition, intercommunal violence in 2012 displaced tens of thousands of people in Rakhine, and approximately 130,000 people affected by the 2012 clashes remained displaced in the state as of January 2021. 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 Burmese military forces and denied rights to citizenship, freedom of movement, and public services. As of January 2021, an estimated 600,000 ethnic Rohingya remained in Rakhine.
- On January 8, 2021, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Gwendolyn J. Cardno re-declared a disaster for Burma due to the ongoing complex emergency.
- On February 1, 2021, the Burmese military staged a coup d'état against the Burmese 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.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA–BANGLADESH RESPONSE IN FY 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
FUNDING IN BURMA FOR THE REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE²			
USAID/BHA			
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM)	Countrywide	\$400,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP); Nutrition	Chin, Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$18,000,000

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN BURMA			\$18,400,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING IN BURMA			\$18,400,000
FUNDING IN BANGLADESH FOR THE REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE²			
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-sector	Bangladesh	\$4,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN BANGLADESH			\$4,000,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING IN BANGLADESH			\$4,000,000
REGIONAL FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE²			
STATE/PRM			
IRC	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Thailand	\$5,079,298
	Humanitarian Assistance for COVID-19 - Multi-Sector	Thailand	\$623,357
IRC - The Border Consortium	Food and Nutrition	Thailand	\$5,188,139
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Indonesia	\$412,500
TOTAL STATE/PRM REGIONAL FUNDING			\$11,303,294
TOTAL USG REGIONAL FUNDING			\$11,303,294
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA–BANGLADESH RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$33,703,294

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			
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Protection	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$1,200,000
	Food Assistance–Agriculture and Food Security, Cash Transfers	Kachin, Shan	\$2,261,446
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, 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 (RMPP), Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Rakhine, Shan	\$1,200,000
Save the Children (SCF)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Rakhine, Shan	\$2,506,329
Solidarités International	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine	\$2,500,000
UNICEF	Food Assistance–Complementary Services, LRIP	Rakhine, Yangon	\$1,238,554
	Health, Protection, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$3,002,184
	Program Support		\$25,000
WFP	Food Assistance–Cash Transfers, Complementary Services, LRIP	Chin, Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$25,250,000

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN BURMA			\$45,783,513
STATE/PRM			
International Committee of the Red Cross (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			
CARE	RMPP, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$3,500,000
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	RMPP, Shelter and Settlements	Bandarban	\$4,194,628
IOM	RMPP, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$3,500,000
UNICEF	Food Assistance—220 metric tons (MT) of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Cox's Bazar	\$1,925,310
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Complementary Services, Food Vouchers, LRIP	Cox's Bazar	\$125,000,000
	RMPP, Shelter and Settlements	Cox's Bazar	\$1,000,000
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 RESPONSE²			
STATE/PRM			
The Ara Trust	Protection	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)	Protection	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			
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 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 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 STATE/PRM 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 STATE/PRM 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 STATE/PRM 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 THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH REGIONAL CRISIS 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 February 26, 2021.

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

4 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.

5 Funding for populations in Burma and Bangladesh affected by the violence in Rakhine State totals approximately \$1.2 billion—including more than \$965 million in Bangladesh and more than \$219 million in Burma—since the outbreak of violence in August 2017. This includes more than \$639 million in State/PRM funding, more than \$101 million in USAID/BHA non-food assistance funding, and more than \$448 million in USAID/BHA food assistance funding for populations affected by the violence in Rakhine State and other vulnerable populations. The FY 2021 total includes funding from October 1, 2019, through February 26, 2021.

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 [usaaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)