

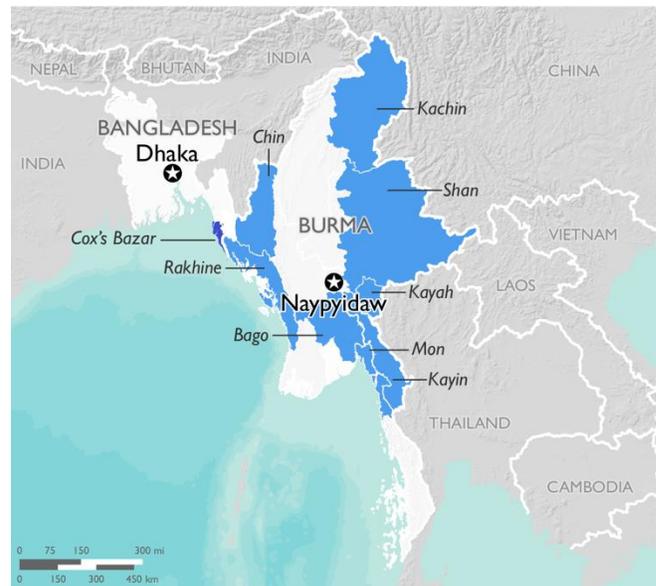
# Burma and Bangladesh – Regional Crisis Response

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Clashes and insecurity continue to generate displacement in Burma. The NUG declares a people’s defensive war against the MAF in early September, further escalating tensions.
- Humanitarian activities in the Cox’s Bazar refugee camps resume in mid-September following the lifting of enhanced COVID-19-related restrictions on relief operations since May.
- U.S. Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield announces nearly \$180 million in additional USG funding for the Rakhine State and Rohingya refugee crisis on September 22.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the Burma and Bangladesh Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$179,673,854
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$254,655,911
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$434,329,765</b>

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

<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

### **Increasing Clashes Generate Displacement, Humanitarian Needs in Burma**

Clashes between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) and peoples' defense forces continued in Burma in August and September, with insecurity further escalating following Burma's National Unity Government (NUG) declaration of war against the MAF on September 7. In August, armed clashes and insecurity generated additional displacement and compounded humanitarian needs particularly in Chin, Kachin, and Kayah states, as well as Magway, Sagaing, and Tanintharyi regions, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Meanwhile, in September, fighting in areas of northwestern Burma proliferated, resulting in the temporary displacement of an estimated 63,000 people in Sagaing between early and mid-September and the displacement of 12,000 individuals in Magway during the month, according to relief actors. Clashes in Chin also escalated in September, particularly around Thantlang Township; 19,700 people remained displaced in the state due to violence since February as of September 27. Verification of displacement figures and humanitarian needs remains challenging due to access restrictions and telecommunications outages.

In southeastern Burma, security conditions further deteriorated, particularly in Kayah and bordering townships in southern Shan State where violence displaced an estimated 22,000 people during September. Clashes in Kayin State and Tanintharyi also generated displacement and humanitarian needs. An estimated 146,000 people remained displaced in southeastern Burma as of late September.

Across Burma, access to vulnerable people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance and protection services remains significantly restricted due to escalating armed clashes, bureaucratic impediments, general insecurity, and movement restrictions to mitigate the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Despite access and other operational constraints, relief actors—including U.S. Government (USG) partners—are working to reach affected populations with emergency humanitarian assistance.

### **High COVID-19 Case Incidence, Movement Restrictions Persist in Burma**

While confirmed COVID-19 cases and related deaths declined, COVID-19-related movement restrictions and limited access to health care services persisted across Burma from August to September. The number of weekly confirmed cases decreased from nearly 24,800 cases to more than 10,300 cases between the weeks of August 9 and September 27, respectively, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). Despite the decrease in COVID-19 incidence, authorities reported more than 63,300 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 2,293 related deaths during September. However, real figures are likely higher, as a lack of reporting, limited testing, and restricted access to health care services resulted in underrepresentation of disease incidence, relief actors report. To reduce transmission of the virus, movement restrictions remained in effect in more than 100 of Burma's 330 townships as of September 30, and schools nationwide were scheduled to remain closed until at least October 24, according to the UN.

### **Humanitarian Activities Resume in Cox's Bazar Following Decrease in COVID-19 Cases**

Following a decrease in confirmed COVID-19 cases and related deaths in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar District refugee camps in August and September, humanitarian activities—including in-person training and workshops—resumed on September 9, and education activities in learning centers resumed on September 22. Under Government of Bangladesh protocols, all training sessions are limited to no more

than 15 individuals, and masks, social distancing, and availability of handwashing facilities remain prerequisites for conducting activities. Humanitarian organizations welcomed the September announcements, as many had been unable to implement relief activities except for Health and WASH interventions since May 2020 due to continued restrictions.

Meanwhile, the Government of Bangladesh continues to conduct its countrywide COVID-19 vaccination campaign; health authorities in Bangladesh had administered more than 48 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine throughout the country as of September 30, according to WHO. Between September 18 and 23, the Government of Bangladesh delivered second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to nearly 33,400 Rohingya refugees ages 55 years and older in Cox's Bazar, reaching 90 percent of the individuals targeted to receive a second dose. Humanitarian actors continue to advocate for the expansion of COVID-19 vaccine eligibility, particularly for frontline Rohingya volunteers.

Additionally, health authorities are conducting preparations to commence a first-round oral cholera vaccination (OCV) campaign to reach approximately 1.4 million refugees and host community members ages one year and older in Cox's Bazar in response to increased reported acute watery diarrhea (AWD) cases in the refugee camps in recent months. Between January and September, health actors confirmed more than 240 cholera cases in the camps. Meanwhile, relief actors continue to address increased AWD incidence in Cox's Bazar by conducting community-based surveillance activities, distributing commodities for the treatment of AWD-related dehydration, and leading education sessions on hygiene promotion and prevention of AWD.

## **USG Announces Nearly \$180 Million in Additional Humanitarian Assistance for the Rakhine State and Rohingya Refugee Crisis in Late September**

U.S. Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield announced nearly \$180 million in additional USG humanitarian funding to assist those affected by the Rakhine State and Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh, Burma, and elsewhere in the region on September 22. This new funding will directly support international and national non-governmental organization (NGO) partners and UN agencies to provide humanitarian assistance—including education, food, health, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support—to vulnerable crisis-affected people. In FY 2021, the USG provided more than \$434 million in humanitarian assistance in response to the crisis, including approximately \$302 million and \$85 million for programs in Bangladesh and Burma, respectively.

### **KEY FIGURES**



**136 Million**

in dedicated USAID/BHA support for food security and activities in FY 2021

## **U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

### **FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION**

USAID/BHA supports the UN World Food Program (WFP) to provide cash transfers and vouchers for food and locally, regionally, and internationally procured in-kind food assistance to populations in Burma and Bangladesh. WFP reached more than 1.5 million people, including approximately 497,000 vulnerable individuals in Burma and more than 1 million Rohingya refugees and host community members in Cox's Bazar, with food and other assistance in September. USAID/BHA also supports coordination and capacity-building activities among food security agencies in the two countries to strengthen response efforts. USAID/BHA assistance to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), WFP, 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.



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USG partners implementing stand-alone protection interventions

## PROTECTION

The USG supports thirteen partners to address protection concerns among violence-affected and displaced populations in Burma’s Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, 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 focus on providing and increasing access to 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 for access to life-saving humanitarian assistance and to promote the delivery of protection services in areas with significant humanitarian access constraints.



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USG partners implementing critical shelter and settlements programming

## SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

USAID/BHA works with partners in Bangladesh to support displaced persons, improve living conditions, and strengthen resilience to the impact of cyclones and other natural disasters by conducting disaster risk reduction activities in host communities and refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar. Additionally, USAID/BHA partners in Burma construct and repair durable shelters and distribute essential household items for vulnerable internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine, and Shan. 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. Between March and August, IOM and partners constructed approximately 2,700 shelters for individuals negatively affected by fires in Cox’s Bazar in March. IOM also distributed shelter materials and disseminated storm-preparedness messages to more than 68,300 households to help mitigate the negative damage to shelters during the June–October monsoon season.



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USG partners implementing critical WASH programming

## WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support WASH programming in Bangladesh’s 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—in vulnerable children and mothers. With State/PRM funding, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), IOM, Terre des Hommes, UNHCR, and UNICEF are addressing critical WASH needs in Cox’s Bazar by improving drainage and waste removal systems, installing handwashing stations and latrines, 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. In August, IOM and partners rebuilt more than 280 cubicles of communal latrines, nearly 80 cubicles of bathing sheds, and three decentralized wastewater treatment systems, while upgrading nearly 100 additional latrine cubicles to improve access for elderly people and people with disabilities in Cox's Bazar. To prevent AWD, IOM distributed nearly 1.9 million water purification tablets and nearly 28,700 hygiene kits to households. Meanwhile, UNHCR and local partners reached more than 160,000 individuals with AWD and COVID-19 awareness messaging through household visits in Cox's Bazar in July. UNHCR also distributed more than 200,000 water purification tablets and disinfected WASH facilities across the camps.

## CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- On February 1, 2021, Burma's military staged a coup d'état against Burma's 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, Burma's military extended the initial one-year state of emergency to August 2023. Since February, clashes between Burma's military forces, EAOs, and other local non-state armed groups across Burma have escalated, resulting in increased displacement and humanitarian needs, particularly in southeastern and central Burma, as well as in Chin, Kachin, and Shan. Coup-related instability has also resulted in access challenges, restricted banking operations, and limited cash availability, making the provision of humanitarian assistance more difficult for relief actors.
- In October 2016 and August 2017, Burma's military forces launched large-scale and indiscriminate military operations in Rakhine's Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung townships following Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army attacks—which the international community has since characterized as ethnic cleansing—on northern Rakhine checkpoints and police posts. Nearly 752,000 people had fled Burma since August 2017 into neighboring Bangladesh and taken shelter in Cox's Bazar's 34 refugee camps as of September 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.
- 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 91,000 civilians, mostly ethnic Rakhine, remained displaced in Rakhine and Chin states as of June 2021 due to clashes between the Arakan Army and Burma's military forces 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 January 8, 2021, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Gwendolyn J. Cardno re-issued a disaster declaration for Burma due to the ongoing complex emergency.

**USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA–BANGLADESH RESPONSE IN FY 2021**

<b>IMPLEMENTING PARTNER</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>FUNDING IN BURMA FOR THE REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE</b>			
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	Health; WASH	Chin, Kayin	\$1,500,000
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), Protection	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$1,200,000
IOM	Shelter and Settlements	Rakhine	\$1,600,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine, Shan	\$3,600,000
Mercy Corps	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA), MPCA, WASH	Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Shan	\$1,595,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	ERMS, HCIMA, MPCA, Shelter and Settlements	Bago, Chin, Kayah Kayin, Mon, Rakhine	\$2,400,000
Save the Children Federation (SCF)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Rakhine, Shan	\$2,500,000
UNICEF	Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$4,179,734
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,600,000
WFP	Food Assistance–Cash Transfers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Nutrition	Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine, Shan	\$29,500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN BURMA</b>			<b>\$49,674,734</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response	Burma	\$3,800,000
	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Burma	\$15,200,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response	Burma	\$2,200,000
	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Burma	\$13,900,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN BURMA</b>			<b>\$35,100,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING IN BURMA</b>			<b>\$84,774,734</b>
<b>FUNDING IN BANGLADESH FOR THE REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE</b>			
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
CARE	Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$2,000,000
IOM	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP), ERMS	Cox's Bazar	\$2,300,000
IRC	Health, Protection, WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$1,700,000
UNICEF	Nutrition	Cox's Bazar	\$1,999,120

WFP	DRRPP, ERMS, Food Assistance– Vouchers, HCIMA, Nutrition	Cox's Bazar	\$122,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN BANGLADESH</b>			<b>\$129,999,120</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
Humanity and Inclusion	Health, Protection	Cox's Bazar	\$4,578,623
ICRC	Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response	Cox's Bazar	\$500,000
	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Cox's Bazar	\$3,600,000
IFRC	DRRPP, ERMS, Health, MPCA, Protection, WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$10,000,000
IRC	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Cox's Bazar	\$6,354,672
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response	Cox's Bazar	\$2,440,000
	Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), DRRPP, ERMS, Health, HCIMA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$29,500,000
Medical Teams International	Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response	Cox's Bazar	\$1,159,777
Terre des Hommes Foundation	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$3,190,200
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response	Cox's Bazar	\$800,000
	Health, Protection	Cox's Bazar	\$4,400,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response	Cox's Bazar	\$10,200,000
	CCCM, HCIMA, Health, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$61,900,000
UNICEF	Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response	Cox's Bazar	\$7,800,000
	Education, HCIMA, Monitoring and Evaluation, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$21,900,000
WHO	Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response	Cox's Bazar	\$2,800,000
	Health, HCIMA, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Cox's Bazar	\$700,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN BANGLADESH</b>			<b>\$171,823,272</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING IN BANGLADESH</b>			<b>\$301,822,392</b>
<b>REGIONAL FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE<sup>2</sup></b>			
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
Ara Trust	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	India	\$161,460
Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation	Health	Malaysia	\$500,000
Health Equity Initiatives (HEI)	Health, Protection	Malaysia	\$600,000
Humanity and Inclusion	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Thailand	\$1,125,291
International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)	Health, Protection	Malaysia	\$600,000
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Indonesia	\$412,500

	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Thailand	\$500,000
IRC	Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response	Thailand	\$623,357
	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Thailand	\$17,201,252
IRC - The Border Consortium	Food, Nutrition	Thailand	\$19,668,779
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Regional	\$5,000,000
	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Thailand	\$1,000,000
UNICEF	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Thailand	\$340,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM REGIONAL FUNDING</b>			<b>\$47,732,639</b>
<b>TOTAL USG REGIONAL FUNDING</b>			<b>\$47,732,639</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR BURMA AND BANGLADESH IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$179,673,854</b>
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR BURMA AND BANGLADESH IN FY 2021<sup>2</sup></b>			<b>\$254,655,911</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH REGIONAL CRISIS IN FY 2021<sup>3</sup></b>			<b>\$434,329,765</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> 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 September 30, 2021.

<sup>3</sup> Funding for populations in Burma and Bangladesh affected by the violence in Rakhine State totals nearly \$1.6 billion—including nearly \$1.3 billion in Bangladesh and nearly \$283 million in Burma—since the outbreak of violence in August 2017. This includes nearly \$840 million in State/PRM funding and nearly \$712 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 September 30, 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 [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)