

Myanmar Situation

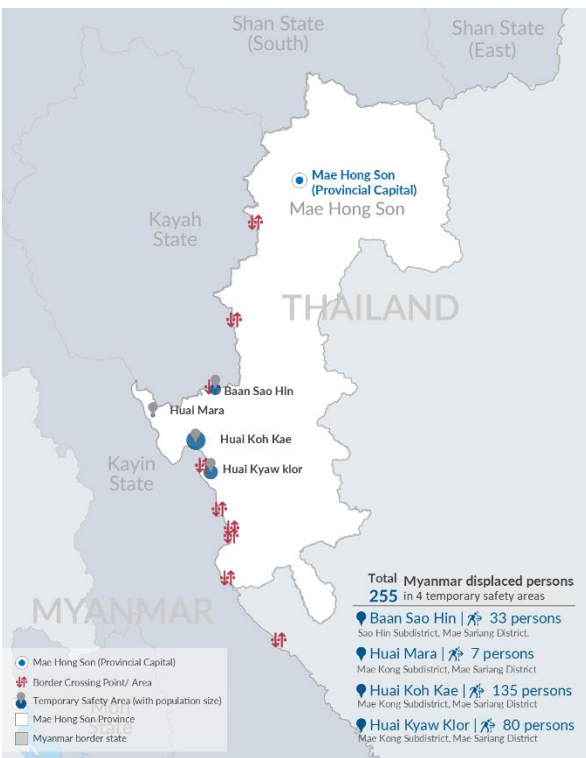
Thailand, 01 June 2021

The volatile situation in Myanmar following the 01 February 2021 coup has **resulted in increased displacement** both within the country and across borders, including into Thailand

Humanitarian actors stand ready to **support the Royal Thai Government (RTG)’s efforts** to receive Myanmar refugees fleeing at this time to ensure that they receive the protection they need

Agencies have taken a number of **key preparedness actions** to ensure that complementary activities are delivered in a timely and coordinated manner

Latest Situation Overview



In view of the ongoing civil unrest and conflict in Myanmar, humanitarian actors continue to engage with the RTG in Bangkok and in the border provinces on potential support to its preparedness and response efforts for a potential refugee influx. Following intensification of clashes which have reportedly resulted in the displacement of some 100,000 people in Myanmar’s Kayah and Shan states, as well as a reported outbreak of fighting opposite Mae Sot District, humanitarian actors continue to monitor the developing situation and adopt preparedness measures. **The most affected area in Thailand continues to be Mae Hong Son (MHS) Province, where the latest group of 1,700+ individuals in 5 temporary safety areas in MHS Province initially reported by the Myanmar Border Command Center on 13 May, has reduced (per the official figure) to 255 individuals as of 01 June.** Following a meeting of the MHS Provincial Coordination Working Group, convened by the MHS Deputy Governor and the Mae Sariang District Chief on 21 May, several Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have submitted a request to the Thai authorities to provide material support (food, water and medicines) to this group. It is understood that these items would still need to be distributed by the Royal Thai Army (RTA). As of 01 June, humanitarian actors have not yet formally been granted access to this

group. Meanwhile, several recent reports have served to highlight the potentially harmful impact of repeated cross-border movements, with local media reporting on 22 May that an elderly Karen refugee who had evacuated from De Phu No at the end of March had passed away on the Thai side on 21 May, while the Karen Thai Group (KTG) reported that one child whose family had previously entered Thailand but been returned to Myanmar after fleeing Du Phu No on 27 April had passed away on the Myanmar side on 19 May due to diarrhea and malaria. In a separate development, on 19 May several humanitarian agencies conducted a site visit to a designated "Holding Area" in the Ko Heng River area, located in the north of Mae Sam Leap Sub-District along the Salween River, following a request made by MHS Province to UNHCR to support with site planning. **In Tak, humanitarian actors continue to follow up with local authorities to explore the possibility of conducting site assessments, in line with the adjustments being made to some locations according to the province’s revised response plan.** In Kanchanaburi/Ratchaburi provinces, according to reports received from partners there are currently no displaced groups on the Thai side. Humanitarian actors are also following up with local authorities in Kanchanaburi/Ratchaburi on potential site assessments.

DISPLACED POPULATION ON THAI SIDE (01 June 2021)

255 individuals*

4 locations**

* As per official RTG statistics, 01 June 2021
** 4 "Temporary Safety Areas" located in Mae Sariang District, Mae Hong Son Province

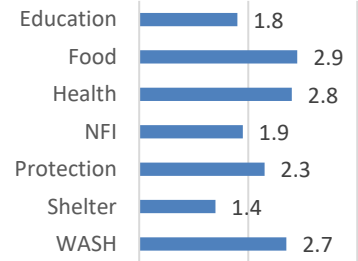
INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Humanitarian Agency Preparedness Activities

Education

Education partners are prepared to **distribute prepositioned learning materials** such as reading books, notebooks and pens to at least 150 school-aged children in the event of a sudden influx of refugees from Myanmar into Thailand. Technical resources such as manuals and IEC materials on areas such as COVID-19 prevention, Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), Explosive Ordnance/Mine Risk Education (EORE) are available and ready for immediate deployment. Partners are also ready to **conduct group activities** for children such as story-telling, puppet shows and arrange community libraries in holding areas. Planning with a wide range of education partners to prepare for a potential refugee influx is ongoing.

Requirements by Sector* | In millions \$



* Myanmar Situation Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan, June – November 2021

Food

The Border Consortium (TBC) continues to support and work collaboratively with the Border Emergency Relief Team (BERT) – a network of local CSOs - to **provide essential food for refugees** in various locations in Mae Sariang proximal to the border. Displaced persons have gathered on both sides of the border, however a reported total of 1,698 refugees on the Thai side have been supported with assistance as of 10 May 2021. All are ethnic Karen displaced by Tatmadaw offensives and comprise predominantly of elderly, women, children and babies. Nutritionally diverse in-kind food items were supplied (together with key NFIs and WASH items). **TBC is prepositioning essential food ration items for potential holding areas**, and specific food for nutrition of children and pregnant/breastfeeding women, with established suppliers for the four provinces of its current operation, with focus on Mae Hong Son and Tak.

Health

Health sector agencies have planned essential activities for an influx scenario of 4,000 arrivals/month over 6 months to include the following essential response categories: Communicable Disease, Child Health, Sexual/Reproductive Health, Injury/Trauma Care, Mental Health, Non-Communicable Disease, and Rehabilitation. **Response includes COVID-19 screening and quarantine management** with referral to Government District Hospitals for case management. Health sector agencies currently working to identify additional partner organizations capable of responding in areas where current agencies do not have or cannot ensure operational presence. MI and the IRC have participated in short informal visits to government identified holding areas for cursory informal site reviews.

NFI

NFI sector partners have collaborated at the provincial and national levels to prepare a **NFI response plan** through consultations with partners, in the effort to develop a joint appeal. Establishing inclusive contingency planning allowed partners in existing locations to potentially cover needs and gaps across Mae Hong Son, Tak, and Kanchanaburi provinces as well as hot spot areas of potential displacement. Further coordination efforts are planned between sectors, focusing on the distribution of specialized NFI kits. UNHCR stands ready to complement efforts with pre-positioned Core Relief Items (CRIs) delivered to Mae Sot on 25 May 2021.

Protection

Planned preparedness and response activities will aim to ensure access to territory for persons in need of protection, address specific needs of refugees in Thailand, and facilitate durable solutions in line with international standards. **Protection Working Groups** were established in Bangkok and in Kanchanaburi, Mae Hong Son and Tak provinces to strengthen and coordinate the preparedness and response to the protection needs of refugees fleeing Myanmar after 01 February 2021. These mechanisms are distinct from existing coordination arrangements in the nine temporary shelters along the border.

Shelter

In collaboration with BERT, **TBC has helped support shelter needs of newly-arrived refugees** in various locations in Mae Sariang. Shelter provided includes plastic rolls, plastic sheeting and tents. These were delivered with other key items such as mats, blankets and mosquito nets. Access to displaced persons remains difficult for BERT, as has the logistical management of generous donations from many parties. In addition to funding for shelter, food and other, TBC is supporting BERT with seconded human resources and transport costs. TBC is delivering an **initial order of 1,200 pieces of durable plastic roofing sheets (5mx6m) to border sites**, and prepositioning bamboo, eucalyptus poles and other building materials with established local suppliers. These are in readiness for construction of houses for refugees in holding areas. In accordance with SPHERE standards, this initial procurement will house up to 6,000 refugees (five per household).

WASH

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector agencies have planned essential activities for an influx scenario of 4,000 arrivals/month over 6 months to include the following essential response categories: **Water Supply, Hygiene Promotion, Excreta Management, Vector Control and Solid Waste Management**. WASH sector agencies currently working to identify additional partner organizations capable of responding in areas where current agencies do not have or cannot ensure operational presence. Malteser International and the International Rescue Committee have participated in short informal visits to government identified holding areas for cursory informal site reviews.