

# Myanmar

DECEMBER 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 continue to take several **key preparedness actions** to ensure that complementary activities are delivered in a timely and coordinated manner



**4,600**

individuals from Myanmar have sought refuge in Thailand since 16 December according to Royal Thai Authorities

## SITUATION OVERVIEW ON THE THAI-MYANMAR BORDER

The Royal Thai Government (RTG) confirmed that around **4,600 individuals from Myanmar** have fled the recent escalation of violence around Lay Kay Kaw since 16 December. According to RTG sources, there are currently some 3,900 individuals from Myanmar remaining on the Thai side of the border with over 700 individuals having voluntarily returned between 18 and 20 December. Individuals have primarily been accommodated in two locations, namely Mae Ta Klang School and at a cow shed in Mae Kone Kane, both located in Mae Sot District. Smaller groups (less than 300 individuals in total) are being accommodated at two other sites at Ban Mae Ku Luang and Boon Pan, also in Mae Sot District. Currently, the Thai military, with the support of the Subdistrict Chiefs and the Mae Sot District Office, is assisting the displaced people and have set up donation collection points. The distribution mechanism in place remains unclear, however. Despite requests, **UNHCR and INGOs have not been able to access these groups**. As of 20

December, some key assistance such as food, water, tents, medication, CRIs, and WASH assistance (the de-sludging of mobile toilets and the provision of materials to construct a washing area), has been provided by the respective sectors. According to the district authorities, insufficient WASH facilities at the sites remains a key concern. Latest security reports indicate that fighting continues to intensify in Lay Kay Kaw and Palu in Myawaddy township. Given that the Tatmadaw are reinforcing troops in northern Myawaddy and establishing a new artillery base, the situation seems unlikely to diffuse in the upcoming days; more people might cross into Thailand.

Over the past month, conflict has intensified with increased reports of raids by the Tatmadaw across the country, especially in the North-West and South-East regions. Conflicts between the Tatmadaw and PDF are increasing, resulting in more violence against civilians with looting, arrests, and attacks. Tensions have heightened again between the Tatmadaw and the Karen National Union (KNU) in Lay Kay Kaw, Kayin State and surrounding areas. On 14 December, Tatmadaw raided the town for the seventh time since September 2021. The area is a KNU Brigade 6-controlled territory. Around 200 Tatmadaw soldiers entered the town, raiding houses, and reportedly detaining at least 30 people. The detainees include Member of Parliament-elect Wai Lin Aung from the National League for Democracy party. Since the Tatmadaw takeover of the country on 01 February 2021, Lay Kay Kaw has become one of the hideouts for pro-democracy activists and civil servants from the State Administration Council (SAC). As a result of the raids and ensuing conflict, hundreds of people were displaced. On the Myanmar side, displacement continues to grow from areas bordering Thailand and central regions, with members of the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) seeking Protection in areas under the control of ethnic groups. . As of 13 December, 295,700 people are displaced in Myanmar, of which 173,800 are displaced in the Southeast alone (Tanintharyi Region, Kayah, Shan, Kayin and Mon States).



## REFUGEE RESPONSE AND PREPADENESS PLAN 2022

The recent influx of refugee from Myanmar in December confirms the need for partners to maintain preparedness and stay vigilant to developments in Myanmar. A revised plan for 2022 will be shared in January. Humanitarian agencies continue to advocate for access to new arrivals to assess humanitarian and protection needs.

### UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

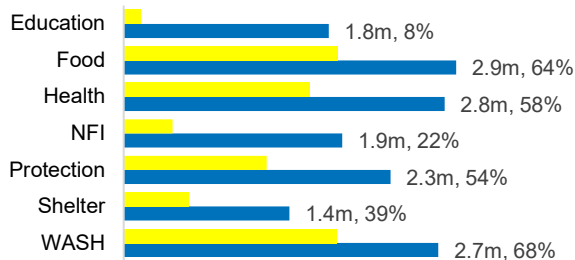
Since June 2021, partners have **conducted 11 site assessments** at the border to evaluate the structure available to receive large or small groups. Whereas some areas have identified schools and temples to receive people, others are in the jungle, and access to drinking water will be an issue. Shelters, water, and sanitation will be the main needs among all holding areas in case of influx. Partners continue to engage with different government levels – provincial, district, and more locally at border levels. The objective is to understand the authorities' expectations from the international community to assist response in case of influx.

The Protection Working Group PWG) in collaboration with UNHCR and UNICEF, will support **the delivery of Protection Mainstreaming**, inclusion and Gender Mainstreaming training to the WASH sector members on 21 December 2021 in Thai language. The training will be organized online and last for half day. The main aim of the exercise is to elaborate on why Protection mainstreaming in Emergency is important with emphasis on access to humanitarian services and responsibilities of the humanitarian actors. Moreover, it will also include a general introduction on Protection mainstreaming elements and their practical application in the humanitarian context.

### FUNDING UPDATE PER SECTOR\*

\*Funding shown on the table includes only funding earmarked specifically to activities included in the appeal; does not reflect funding that some partners have received at broader levels (country, subregional, regional)

#### Requirement by Sector\* | In millions \$



\* Provisional distribution that may be adjusted Myanmar Situation Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan, June – November 2021

The WASH sector has planned WASH specific training for the sector partners, including CBOs and CSOs where available. Further training will be delivered on WASH **Em (Improving hygiene programming in emergencies)**, Hygiene Promotion approaches, sanitation and WASH.

As of December, the NFIs sector has prepositioned items to cater for 5,000 Households. Prepositioned NFIs includes plastic tarpaulins, sleeping mats, blankets and mosquito nets. Also, procurement of 5000 kitchen sets, 10,000 water buckets and 5,000 solar lamps are ongoing, with estimated delivery in January 2022.

The Health sector continues capacity building of partners with several trainings such as **Mental-Health & Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS)** preparedness for influx. In addition, health partners have prepared for disability screening among refugee in case of influx. Partners have designed provision of assistance for mobility, walking aid and physical rehabilitation services. With the support of the food sector, UNICEF has trained partners, CBOs and CSOs in Basic Nutrition. The health sector will support additional nutrition training by UNICEF in January 2022. These training objectives are to strengthen border wide preparedness and response capacities for nutrition. In November 2021, UNICEF provided **Basic Nutrition Orientation Training** targeting particularly frontline responders of CSOs and CBOs. The training informed participants on how to address the needs of refugee women, children, and adolescents in case of influx from Myanmar. The Health sector also engages with UNICEF to identify storage site(s), distribution strategy of preposition of Ready-to-use Foods.

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