

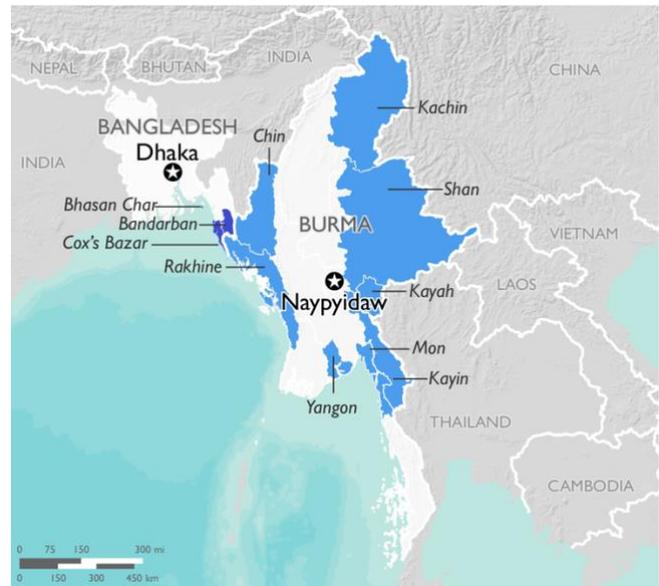
Burma and Bangladesh – Regional Crisis Response

JUNE 7, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Insecurity and violence across Burma continue to escalate following the February 1 military coup d’état against the civilian government, displacing tens of thousands of people and exacerbating humanitarian needs.
- Hostilities in Burma’s Kayah State displace between 85,000 and 100,000 people from mid- to late May.
- Health actors, including USG partners, continue to respond to a surge in COVID-19 cases in Bangladesh’s Cox’s Bazar District.
- The USG announces nearly \$155 million in additional funding to support the Burma and Bangladesh regional humanitarian response.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Burma and Bangladesh Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA ¹	\$101,679,734
	State/PRM ²	\$90,343,294
	Total	\$192,023,028

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

¹ USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)
² U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Clashes Across Burma Displace Tens of Thousands of People in May

Clashes between Burmese military forces, ethnic armed organizations (EAOs), and other local non-state armed groups across Burma have escalated in recent months, resulting in rising displacement and humanitarian needs, the UN reports. Increased hostilities have been particularly pronounced in Chin State, northern Shan State, and southeastern Burma, comprising Bago and Tanintharyi regions, as well as Kayah, Kayin, and Mon states. In the southeast, fighting between the Burmese military and both the Karenni Army and the Karenni People's Defense Force erupted in Kayah in mid-May, displacing between 85,000 and 100,000 people as of May 31. Insecurity also continued to prompt displacement in other areas of the region during the month, including Kayin and Bago. As of late May, 151,000 people remained displaced in the southeast due to recent insecurity, requiring urgent cash, food, health, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance.

In Chin, fighting between Burmese military forces and the Chinland Defense Force—an armed group formed in response to the February 1 military coup—since late April had displaced approximately 10,000 individuals, including 9,000 people from Mindat town, as of late May, according to the UN. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Mindat are sheltering primarily in 16 sites in Chin and Magway region and require immediate food, health, protection, shelter, and WASH support. Meanwhile, in northern Shan, clashes between Burmese military forces and EAOs, as well as among EAOs, displaced approximately 2,800 people in May. An estimated 8,400 people remained displaced in northern Shan due to insecurity since January—in addition to the approximately 9,800 IDPs displaced in 2011 who continue to reside in state-managed protracted displacement camps in the state—as of late May.

While USG partners continue relief activities in Burma, access challenges, restricted banking operations, and limited cash availability resulting from coup-related instability are adversely affecting the provision of humanitarian assistance. Insecurity due to hostilities in areas of Chin, Kachin, northern Shan, and southeastern Burma; landmine contamination; and roadblocks impede humanitarian access, according to the UN. Additionally, deteriorating cash liquidity has challenged relief actors' ability to conduct cash and voucher assistance programs, procure necessary commodities, and pay staff salaries, amid rising humanitarian needs in the country.

Health Actors Respond to Surge in COVID-19 Cases in Cox's Bazar

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases continued to increase among Rohingya refugees and host community members in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar District in May. Between May 17 and 30, health actors confirmed more than 400 COVID-19 cases among refugees in the Cox's Bazar camps, representing a more than 120 percent increase compared with the nearly 190 cases confirmed in the previous two-week period. Seven COVID-19-related deaths among refugees have been reported between early April and late May, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). Meanwhile, health actors confirmed more than 800 COVID-19 cases among host community members from May 17 to 30, representing a 48 percent increase compared with the previous two-week period.

In response to the recent surge in COVID-19 cases, health actors have bolstered infection prevention and control efforts and strengthened laboratory capacity in the Cox's Bazar camps. Humanitarian organizations also began activating additional severe acute respiratory infection isolation and treatment center beds in late May at the request of Cox's Bazar health authorities. As of May 30, approximately 70 percent of the more than 520 isolation and treatment center beds available in the camps were occupied, up from a 26 percent bed occupancy rate in late April. USG partners the International

Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and WHO continue COVID-19 response efforts throughout Cox’s Bazar to strengthen the health sector and prevent excess morbidity and mortality from COVID-19.

USG Announces Nearly \$155 Million in Additional Funding to the Burma and Bangladesh Regional Response, As UN Launches 2021 JRP

On May 18, the USG announced nearly \$155 million in additional funding to humanitarian partners—including more than \$80 million from USAID/BHA and nearly \$74 million from State/PRM—to support the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh and people affected by ongoing violence in Burma’s Chin, Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan states. The new funding will support continued delivery of food, nutrition, protection, shelter, and WASH assistance in Burma and Bangladesh.

The UN released the 2021 Joint Response Plan (JRP) for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis in early May, requesting approximately \$943 million to continue providing multi-sector humanitarian assistance to approximately 1.4 million people—including 884,000 Rohingya refugees and 470,000 host community members—in Cox’s Bazar through the end of 2021. According to the Joint Multi-Sector Needs Assessment conducted between July and August 2020—which informed the development of the JRP—shelter, food, livelihood, and education support remain priority needs among Rohingya households, with women and girls identifying access to safe WASH facilities and electricity as major concerns. Among host community households in Cox’s Bazar, access to food and income-generating activities are key needs, reflecting the economic impact of COVID-19 containment measures in the district. The JRP is also centered on a strategy to bolster humanitarian and protection conditions in the 34 Cox’s Bazar refugee camps and support access to basic services through refugee registration and efforts to bolster coordination among relief actors for the delivery of assistance.

KEY FIGURES



1.2 Million

People supported through FY 2020 BHA emergency food assistance

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA continues to support the UN World Food Program (WFP) to provide cash transfers for food, food vouchers, and locally, regionally, and internationally procured in-kind food assistance to populations in Burma and Bangladesh. Through WFP, USAID/BHA-supported food assistance has reached more than 1.2 million people in FY 2021, including approximately 399,000 vulnerable individuals in Burma and more than 871,000 Rohingya refugees and host community members in Cox’s Bazar. 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 UNICEF, WFP, and one non-governmental organization (NGO) partner supports nutrition assistance in Burma, while State/PRM assistance to IOM, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF, 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 nine 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 Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh; and Rohingya refugees across Southeast Asia. USG-supported protection activities in Burma and Bangladesh aim to provide and increase 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 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. USAID/BHA partners in Burma are constructing and repairing durable shelters and distributing essential household items for vulnerable IDPs in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan states, 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.



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USG partners implementing critical WASH programming

WASH

The USG supports 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. With State/PRM funding, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), IOM, and five NGO partners are addressing 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 COVID-19 and other communicable diseases.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- 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. Since February, clashes between Burmese military forces, EAOs, and other local non-state armed groups across Burma have escalated, resulting in increased displacement and humanitarian needs, particularly in southeastern Burma, as well as in Chin, Kachin, and northern Shan states. 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.
- Burmese military forces launched large-scale and indiscriminate military operations in Rakhine's Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung townships following Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army attacks on northern Rakhine State checkpoints and police posts in October 2016 and August 2017 that have since been characterized by the international community as ethnic cleansing. More than 884,000 people had fled Burma into neighboring Bangladesh and taken shelter in Cox's Bazar's 34 refugee camps as of March 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.
- Approximately 82,000 civilians, mostly ethnic Rakhine, remained displaced in Rakhine and Chin states as of late May due to clashes between the Arakan Army and Burmese military forces. In addition, intercommunal violence in 2012 displaced tens of thousands of people in Rakhine, and approximately 126,000 people affected by the 2012 clashes remained displaced in the state as of May. 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.
- Continued hostilities between Burmese military forces and EAOs since June 2011 in Kachin and northern Shan states has generated widespread displacement and exacerbated humanitarian needs. As of April 2021, approximately 105,000 IDPs displaced in 2011 remained 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.
- 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 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
FUNDING IN BURMA FOR THE REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE			
USAID/BHA			
IOM	Shelter and Settlements	Rakhine	\$1,600,000
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)	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Countrywide	\$400,000
WFP	Food Assistance–Cash Transfers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Nutrition	Chin, Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$18,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN BURMA			\$26,679,734
STATE/PRM			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Burma	\$8,400,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Burma	\$2,300,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN BURMA			\$10,700,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING IN BURMA			\$37,379,734
FUNDING IN BANGLADESH FOR THE REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP), Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Food Assistance–Vouchers, HCIMA, Nutrition	Cox's Bazar	\$75,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN BANGLADESH			\$75,000,000
STATE/PRM			
ICRC	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Cox's Bazar	\$1,700,000
IFRC	DRRPP, ERMS, Health, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Protection, WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$10,000,000
	Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response	Cox's Bazar	\$1,750,000
IOM	Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), DRRPP, ERMS, HCIMA, Health, Shelter and Settlements, Protection, WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$18,250,000
UNFPA	Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response	Cox's Bazar	\$400,000
	Health, Protection	Cox's Bazar	\$2,200,000
UNHCR	CCCM, HCIMA, Health, Shelter, WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$13,400,000
	Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response	Cox's Bazar	\$3,980,000
UNICEF	Education, HCIMA, Monitoring and Evaluation, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$11,860,000

WHO	Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response	Cox's Bazar	\$2,800,000
	HCIMA, Health, Logistics Support	Cox's Bazar	\$700,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN BANGLADESH			\$67,040,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING IN BANGLADESH			\$142,040,000
REGIONAL FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE²			
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Indonesia	\$412,500
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response	Thailand	\$623,357
	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Thailand	\$5,079,298
IRC - The Border Consortium	Food, Nutrition	Thailand	\$5,188,139
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Regional	\$1,300,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM REGIONAL FUNDING			\$12,603,294
TOTAL USG REGIONAL FUNDING			\$12,603,294
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR BURMA AND BANGLADESH IN FY 2021			\$101,679,734
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR BURMA AND BANGLADESH IN FY 2021²			\$90,343,294
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH REGIONAL CRISIS IN FY 2021³			\$192,023,028

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 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 May 18, 2021.

³ Funding for populations in Burma and Bangladesh affected by the violence in Rakhine State totals more than \$1.3 billion—including more than \$1.1 billion in Bangladesh and more than \$238 million in Burma—since the outbreak of violence in August 2017. This includes nearly \$713 million in State/PRM funding and more than \$633 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 June 7, 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)