



About UNHCR

Since 1950, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, has led international action to protect people forced to flee because of violence, persecution, war or disaster at home. Our work is entirely humanitarian and non-political, guided by the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

UNHCR's primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of people who have been forced to flee. Together with partners and communities, we work to ensure that everybody has the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another country. UNHCR also protects and assists internally displaced people (IDPs) as well as stateless persons. These groups are collectively known as our persons of concern.

In more than seven decades of existence, the organization has helped tens of millions of people globally restart their lives. In Myanmar, UNHCR has been present since 1993 and maintains an operational presence of over 200 staff at 10 locations nationwide. Today, we care for the needs of over 1.2 million persons of concern in Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states as well as Bago, Magway, Sagaing and Tanintharyi regions.

By collaborating closely with partners such as sister UN agencies, international and local NGOs as well as local communities, UNHCR plays a key role in the provision of life-saving interventions, particularly in the areas of assistance coordination, services to mitigate protection risks and delivery of emergency relief in the form of non-food items such as shelter, blankets and household goods.

We also advocate for the fundamental human rights of persons of concern and host communities, and work towards sustainable solutions that ensure people have a safe place to call home and build a better future in cohesive and resilient communities.



UNHCR Offices

- 1 Representation in Yangon
- 1 Liaison Office in Nay Pyi Taw
- 1 Sub Office in Maungdaw
- 3 Field Offices in Hpa-An, Myitkyina, Sittwe
- 4 Field Units in Bhamo, Buthidaung, Lashio, Loikaw

Who We Support

Total Population of Concern
1,270,000

as of 31 January 2022

Internally Displaced People

370,000

at the end of 2020

Stateless Persons in Rakhine

600,000

of which 148,000 are displaced

Newly displaced IDPs

440,000

since January 2021

Returned IDPs

8,893

as of 30 June 2021

1

Internally Displaced People (IDPs)

Those forced to flee due to natural hazards, human-made disasters, human rights violations, armed conflict or violence, but remain within a country.

2

Host Communities

Communities which have internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in the homes of community members and/or in IDP camps nearby.

3

Stateless Persons

Those who are not considered a national by any country or who does not enjoy the basic rights similar to others in a country.

4

Refugees

Those who have left their country of origin and are unable to return due to a well-founded fear of persecution.

5

Returnees

Refugees or internally displaced people (IDPs) who return to places of origin once it is safe.

Our Main Activities

Protection

UNHCR works to amplify the voices of stateless and displaced populations, supporting efforts to protect those most at risk and build resilience. We partner with communities, local, national and international actors to ensure safety, security and wellbeing of the people we serve. In tandem, UNHCR contributes to improving the enjoyment of fundamental rights, in line with its mandates on preventing and reducing statelessness, and protecting displaced people.

Emergency Response

Providing emergency help to those forced to flee is often the first step towards long-term protection and rehabilitation. In Myanmar, UNHCR sends emergency teams to the scenes of a crises to provide lifesaving emergency assistance. By coordinating closely with partners, we distribute shelter materials like emergency tents and tarpaulins as well as core relief items such as mosquito nets, kitchen sets, jerry cans, clothing items, soap bars, sleeping mats, blankets and solar lights.

Durable Solutions

For displaced and stateless people, their goal is to rebuild their lives in safety, dignity and peace. UNHCR works to understand the aspirations of those who may wish to return to places of origin, reintegrate within the communities they reside in, or relocate safely elsewhere. We therefore collaborate with stakeholders to achieve lasting solutions for communities, through continuous and inclusive dialogue and provide appropriate support to ensure that no one is left behind.

Our Partners



Our Donors



UNHCR's work is entirely humanitarian and non-political, guided by the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.