

# MYANMAR

## | Working environment |

### • The context

The situation in Myanmar will undoubtedly be influenced by the outcome of the first elections in 20 years, which are scheduled for November 2010. The first quarter of 2011 is expected to be a period when the humanitarian and development community establish a dialogue with the evolving administrative structures of the new Government. UNHCR is hopeful that it will be able to build on its existing agreements for operations in Myanmar's northern Rakhine State and in the south-east of the country during this period.

In northern Rakhine State, interventions by the authorities, with UNHCR's support, following the severe flooding in mid-June 2010 and a subsequent focus on infrastructure development, were positive moves by the Government in this region, which hosts 750,000 Muslim residents without citizenship. The increase in the number of temporary registration cards being issued to this population and their participation in the elections could be seen as first steps by the Government towards addressing their status.

In the south-east, the conflict along the Thai-Myanmar border has continued since independence in 1948. While some groups have signed ceasefire agreements with the Government and are currently being transformed into the official Myanmar Border Guard Force, the armed conflict and its negative impact on the local population continue. The conflict has claimed many lives and displaced up to 500,000 people, either across the border into Thailand or to safer areas within Myanmar.

With the agreement of the Government of Myanmar, UNHCR established an operation in the south-east in 2004 and has gradually gained access to areas of displacement. Despite the large area of operations, the remoteness of the locations to be covered and security constraints, protection and essential humanitarian assistance have been delivered to communities in 21 townships. UNHCR has received indications from the Government that an expansion of the programme would be needed in 2011.

## | The needs |

Recent comprehensive needs assessments by UNHCR show that the approximately 750,000 Muslim residents without citizenship in the three townships of Maungdaw, Buthidaung and



Rathedaung of northern Rakhine State still require humanitarian assistance to ensure access to basic public services, such as education, health, water and sanitation.

UNHCR continues to intervene at all levels of the Government in order to address restrictions on freedom of movement, a lack of marriage and birth rights, and land confiscation. It also addresses protection issues that arise as a result of cultural practices by working with community and religious leaders, women, children and other vulnerable groups. UNHCR is increasing its focus on programmes that promote peaceful coexistence between the Muslim and Rakhine communities.

## Planning figures for Myanmar

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2011		DEC 2011	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
IDPs	Myanmar	229,300	68,000	229,300	90,000
Without citizenship	Myanmar	734,300	734,300	734,300	734,300
<b>Total</b>		<b>963,600</b>	<b>802,300</b>	<b>963,600</b>	<b>824,300</b>

In south-eastern Myanmar, UNHCR provides humanitarian assistance to mitigate the effects of displacement on communities. These communities lack essential public services such as health centres and clean water, as well as shelter, protection and livelihood support. The projects focus on the construction and rehabilitation of basic infrastructure. Other projects, such as shelter interventions, target vulnerable individuals and families, including female-headed households. Additional needs include mine risk education, as well as livelihood opportunities.

## Strategy and activities in 2011

The coping capacities of the populations in northern Rakhine State and south-eastern Myanmar will be improved through better access to essential public services such as schools and health centres, as well as through protection interventions and community-based livelihood programmes.

With the support of the international community and the local authorities, UNHCR has expanded programmes in northern Rakhine State. The focus in 2010 was on community services, infrastructure, education, water and health. In 2011, UNHCR and its implementing partners will engage in the same sectors, which are also considered priority areas by the Government.

UNHCR will expand the reach of education and community-development programmes by setting up additional Community Service Centres in three townships. Activities in the health and nutrition sector will focus on women and children, with one of the aims being to provide reproductive health services in remote parts of northern Rakhine State. In the coming months, UNHCR will continue to strengthen programmes aimed at promoting coexistence between the main ethnic and religious groups.

As the lead agency in northern Rakhine State, UNHCR will continue to support all humanitarian activities by providing an operational umbrella of services, such as a logistical fleet, a radio network and guidance on staff safety and evacuation.

## Main objectives and targets

### Favourable protection environment

- Increase humanitarian space and access to affected populations through targeted awareness-raising on human rights and dialogue with the Government, local authorities and community-based organizations.
- ☞ *A number of training sessions and workshops for key government officials and local authorities are organized on various subjects, such as contingency planning and human rights.*

### Fair protection processes

- Undertake profiling of communities affected by displacement in the south-east part of the country to collect information on the protection situation and living conditions.
- ☞ *Up to 12,000 families affected by displacement are profiled and provide information about their needs and protection situation.*
- Provide social and legal protection through the issuance of identification documents in northern Rakhine State.
- ☞ *Between 80-90 per cent of the Muslim population in northern Rakhine State receive an identification document.*

### Basic needs and services

- Mitigate the effects of displacement in the south-east part of the country by

improving access to essential services such as health, education, water, shelter, livelihood assistance and skills training.

☞ *Up to 15,000 families benefit from the construction and equipment of 25 schools, 50 water points and ponds, 30 health facilities and 250 shelter and sanitary facilities. The families are also provided essential non-food items (NFIs), skills training and support for livelihoods.*

- Improve the living conditions and mitigate the effects of the lack of citizenship and legal documentation on the Muslim population in northern Rakhine State by covering essential needs in infrastructure, water and sanitation, NFIs and nutrition.
- ☞ *More than 20,000 extremely poor and vulnerable families benefit from the distribution of NFIs, clean drinking water and greater access to essential services, including well equipped health centres.*
- Increase the independence and participation of Muslim women and girls in northern Rakhine State in decision-making, through support to formal and non-formal education and reproductive health services.
- ☞ *The number of Muslim female teachers in formal and non-formal education increases, the literacy rate among women and girls grows to 80 per cent through Myanmar language courses, and the*

*enrolment rate of girls in secondary education rises above the current 14 per cent.*

- ☞ *More than 60 per cent of women have access to reproductive health services, including ante-natal care and birth spacing consultations.*

### Community participation and self-management

- Improve community participation and self-management and foster peaceful co-existence between Muslim and Rakhine populations in northern Rakhine State.
- ☞ *Some 50 per cent of members of Muslim community self-management committees are women.*
- ☞ *The number of inter-ethnic youth centres and community centres increases to 36. The centres offer training on peaceful coexistence and vocational skills and stage cultural events for members of Muslim and non-Muslim communities.*
- Enhance community participation and self-management in the south-east part of the country through awareness-raising programmes and training on cross-cutting issues such as sexual and gender-based violence, mine-risk education, HIV and AIDS, public health and early childhood development.
- ☞ *Up to 24,000 people affected by displacement participate in relevant skills training.*

## UNHCR's presence in 2011

□ Number of offices	<b>6</b>
□ Total staff	<b>102</b>
International	12
National	59
JPOs	1
Others	30

## PARTNERS

### Implementing partners

#### Government agencies:

Ministry of Immigration and Population  
(Immigration and National Registration  
Department)

#### NGOs:

Action Contre la Faim  
Bridge Asia Japan  
Community and Family Services International  
International Rescue Committee  
Malteser International  
Myanmar Red Cross Society

#### Others:

UNOPS

### Operational partners

#### Others:

Government agencies:  
Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National  
Races and Development Affairs

#### NGOs:

CARE  
Médecins Sans Frontières (the Netherlands and  
Switzerland)  
NRC  
Save the Children  
World Vision

#### Others:

IOM  
UNDP/UNOPS (Community Development for  
Remote Townships Project)  
UNICEF

In south-eastern Myanmar, UNHCR's operations will provide essential services such as health, education and water to families and communities affected by the ongoing conflict. Together with protection interventions, UNHCR will provide direct assistance to

communities in order to mitigate the impact of displacement, provide new livelihood opportunities in areas of relocation, and enhance the capacity of host communities. The programmes are directly managed and monitored through UNHCR's network of offices and logistical hubs.

With improved coordination between UNHCR Offices in Thailand and Myanmar, UNHCR is hopeful that the Government will agree to new humanitarian actors being allowed to operate under UNHCR's umbrella. Two new partners, the Norwegian Refugee Council and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, have already been introduced to the Government.

#### ○ Constraints

Access to large parts of northern Rakhine State remains challenging due to the remoteness of the villages, the absence of roads in some areas and impassable conditions during the rainy season. UNHCR and its partners often have to rely on boats, while some villages can only be reached on foot. Furthermore, due to the Government setting limitations on the number of organizations permitted to



Cyclone victims wave goodbye to UNHCR staff.

UNHCR / S. KRITSANAVARIN

operate in northern Rakhine State, the delivery of humanitarian assistance and protection monitoring is hindered.

In south-eastern Myanmar, UNHCR faces three main constraints: restrictions on access due to security concerns, the presence of only a limited number of humanitarian agencies in the region and difficulties in carrying out comprehensive humanitarian needs assessments along the border area.

## Organization and implementation

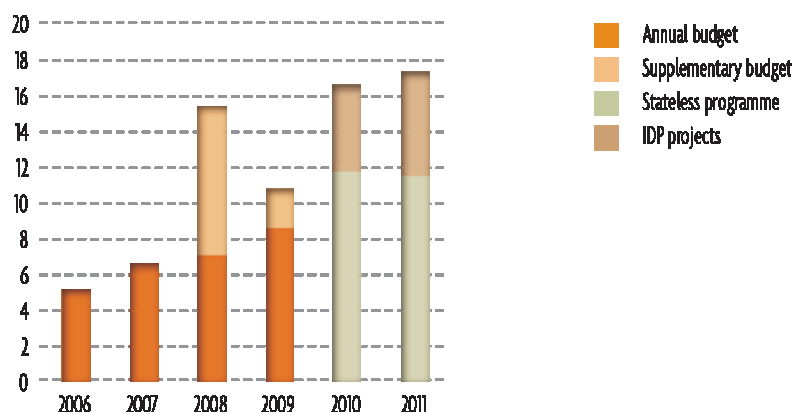
#### ○ Coordination

As the lead agency in northern Rakhine State, UNHCR chairs a monthly coordination meeting with all UN agencies and national and international NGOs active in the region, besides acting as the Area Security Coordinator for UN agencies. UNHCR works with other agencies on health, education and gender issues and acts as a channel of communication between humanitarian agencies and the authorities.

In south-eastern Myanmar, UNHCR is the designated lead humanitarian agency and chairs regular inter-agency coordination meetings in its operational area. UNHCR also chairs the protection working group and

## UNHCR's budget in Myanmar 2006 – 2011

Millions (USD)



actively contributes to sub-groups on issues related to landmines, shelter, child soldiers, human rights and land.

## Financial information

Since 2006, UNHCR's budget has been influenced by two key factors: the need to respond to natural disasters—Cyclone Nargis

in 2008 and floods in 2010; and the continuing need to assist the population in northern Rakhine State and stabilize the situation of the displaced in the south-east. The seriousness of these challenges has been recognized by the international community, which has increased its support for UNHCR as it fulfils its responsibilities as the lead agency in both regions.

## 2011 UNHCR Budget for Myanmar (USD)

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	IDP PROJECTS PILLAR 4	TOTAL
<b>Favourable protection environment</b>			
National administrative framework	246,698	0	246,698
Cooperation with partners	81,698	0	81,698
Public attitudes towards persons of concern	86,698	0	86,698
Subtotal	<b>415,094</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>415,094</b>
<b>Fair protection processes and documentation</b>			
Registration and profiling	0	473,218	473,218
Subtotal	<b>0</b>	<b>473,218</b>	<b>473,218</b>
<b>Security from violence and exploitation</b>			
Effects of armed conflict	0	131,109	131,109
Gender-based violence	325,892	69,609	395,501
Non-arbitrary detention	288,417	0	288,417
Access to legal remedies	290,024	0	290,024
Subtotal	<b>904,333</b>	<b>200,718</b>	<b>1,105,051</b>
<b>Basic needs and essential services</b>			
Nutrition	881,868	0	881,868
Water	511,868	851,415	1,363,284
Shelter and other infrastructure	1,095,868	501,442	1,597,310
Basic domestic and hygiene items	1,005,458	197,632	1,203,089
Primary health care	1,865,458	610,415	2,475,873
HIV and AIDS	0	216,442	216,442
Education	1,085,458	1,000,415	2,085,873
Sanitation services	295,458	36,442	331,899
Subtotal	<b>6,741,436</b>	<b>3,414,202</b>	<b>10,155,638</b>
<b>Community participation and self-management</b>			
Community self-management and equal representation	709,364	81,810	791,173
Self-reliance and livelihoods	0	381,783	381,783
Subtotal	<b>709,364</b>	<b>463,593</b>	<b>1,172,956</b>
<b>Durable solutions</b>			
Voluntary return	0	139,753	139,753
Reduction of statelessness	178,249	0	178,249
Subtotal	<b>178,249</b>	<b>139,753</b>	<b>318,002</b>
<b>External relations</b>			
Resource mobilisation	154,613	118,658	273,271
Subtotal	<b>154,613</b>	<b>118,658</b>	<b>273,271</b>
<b>Logistics and operations support</b>			
Supply chain and logistics	1,319,609	190,336	1,509,945
Programme management, coordination and support	969,495	849,709	1,819,205
Subtotal	<b>2,289,105</b>	<b>1,040,045</b>	<b>3,329,150</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,392,194</b>	<b>5,850,187</b>	<b>17,242,381</b>
<b>2010 Revised budget</b>	<b>11,633,625</b>	<b>4,804,783</b>	<b>16,438,408</b>

## Consequences of a 20 – 40 per cent funding shortfall

- Support for nutritional centres for children under five and pregnant or lactating women in northern Rakhine State would be reduced.
- The number of families in northern Rakhine State with access to basic services such as water, sanitation, health and NFIs assistance will decline.
- The number of households in south-eastern Myanmar with access to clean and safe drinking water will be reduced.
- Vocational training and assistance to vulnerable adolescents in the south-east will be significantly reduced.
- The absence or diminution of livelihood opportunities will give rise to secondary displacement and social problems in communities affected by displacement.
- Reduced funding will result in less access to areas of displacement where needs are acute.