

MYANMAR

| Working environment |

o The context

The political environment in Myanmar continues to be dominated by preparations for the 2010 elections, which will result in both constraints and opportunities for UNHCR's operations.

There has been no significant change in the situation of Muslim residents of northern Rakhine State. However, in the lead-up to the 2010 elections, the Government has made some overtures to them, suggesting that their legal status may be improved and that restrictions on movement, marriage and other rights may be eased.

In this context, UNHCR has increased its engagement in northern Rakhine State by significantly expanding activities in the areas of infrastructure, education and health. Since any concessions to this population are opposed by the local community, progress towards normalization of the Muslims' status will be gradual.

The Government continues to support UNHCR's projects to assist communities affected by the conflict in south-east Myanmar, which has been going on intermittently since independence in 1948, and has had a devastating impact on the civilian population. The political situation, logistical difficulties and security concerns remain major challenges in reaching populations of concern in the region.

The Government has indicated its willingness to facilitate the gradual access of UNHCR to the interior of this region.

o The needs

UNHCR works with approximately 750,000 Muslim residents of northern Rakhine State who do not have citizenship. Despite this, they participated in the 2008 constitutional referendum and will be eligible to vote in the 2010 elections. In this context, temporary registration cards (TRCs) are being issued to all residents over the age of 10. Government estimates indicate that more than 85 per cent of those eligible have received TRCs, and UNHCR continues to monitor the distribution process.



UNHCR has regular discussions with the local authorities on various protection concerns, such as restrictions on Muslim individual's freedom of movement and marriage rights, as well as the repair of their religious buildings. UNHCR also works with community leaders, women, children and other groups to address the protection needs arising from within the community, such as cultural constraints on women travelling and accessing education.

Planning figures

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2010		DEC 2010 - JAN 2011		DEC 2011	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Returnees (refugees)		-	-	-	-	30,000	30,000
Internally displaced		451,000	70,000	451,000	75,000	451,000	80,000
Returnees (IDPs)		-	-	-	-	20,000	2,000
Without citizenship		735,000	100,000	735,000	300,000	747,300	350,000
TOTAL		1,186,000	170,000	1,186,000	375,000	1,248,300	462,000

UNHCR's operations in south-eastern Myanmar target the communities affected by displacement. The projects focus on rehabilitation of basic infrastructure, mainly in the water, education, and health sectors. Shelter projects target groups with specific needs such as female-headed households. In 2009, a programme on HIV and AIDS prevention and response was launched, and communities were encouraged to participate in all stages of project implementation. Other needs include mine education and clearance, as well as livelihood opportunities.

| Main objectives |

Favorable protection environment

- Promote the rights and well-being of the people of concern in northern Rakhine State by improving their legal status and treatment.
- Mitigate the vulnerability of communities affected by displacement in south-eastern Myanmar and develop strategies to enhance protection in the area.

Security from violence and exploitation

- Enable women and girls in northern Rakhine State to participate in society equally with men.

Basic needs and services

- Implement expanded programmes in water, sanitation, health, education and infrastructure.

Community participation and self-management

- Promote the integration of persons without citizenship into Myanmar society and improve their livelihoods.

| Strategy and activities |

The coping capacities of the populations in northern Rakhine State and south-eastern Myanmar will be improved by helping them gain better access to public services such as schools and hospitals, as well as through protection interventions. Community-based activities and awareness-raising programmes on gender and social issues aim to improve the status of women and girls who, in addition to official restrictions, face curbs imposed by their communities on freedom of movement, access to education and other rights.

Following the High Commissioner's visit to Myanmar in March 2009, the national authorities agreed to a significant expansion in UNHCR's activities in northern Rakhine State. New projects will cover the construction of community infrastructure, repair and building of schools and supply of medical equipment to hospitals and clinics.

UNHCR implements its education and community-development programmes through a network of community service centres in northern Rakhine State. These provide Myanmar-language training, early childhood development classes, support for school drop-outs and skills training for women. In 2009, UNHCR launched a second hostel for adolescent girls who are completing their high school education. Health and nutrition programmes conducted by UNHCR partners, including reproductive health services, will continue. UNHCR provides technical support for the maintenance of vehicles, as well as vocational training. The office will promote peaceful coexistence between various ethnic and religious groups through inter-community activities.

In south-eastern Myanmar, UNHCR will continue community-based projects, with particular attention to communities affected by displacement. These projects will restore basic services and improve the living conditions of those affected by population movements.

● Constraints

The programme in northern Rakhine State is based on the assumption that the improving relationship with the Myanmar authorities will continue in 2009 and into 2010, and that more investment in development and infrastructure programmes will lead to greater humanitarian space. The situation is not amenable to immediate resolution due to tensions between the Rakhine and Muslim populations. Progressive measures are needed to build confidence and foster co-existence.

In south-eastern Myanmar, the lack of reliable statistics and difficulties in reaching remote areas affected by population displacement pose a variety of challenges for UNHCR. The presence of a limited number of humanitarian agencies in the region also makes it difficult to provide comprehensive assistance.

Key targets for 2010

In northern Rakhine State:

- The final phase of the Government's distribution of TRCs is monitored and advocacy on status and documentation issues is continued.
- Persons without citizenship see improvements in their basic rights, and serious protection cases receive adequate support.
- More infrastructure projects, such as bridge and road repair and construction of schools and health centres, improve basic services and answer the Government's request for expanded operations in five priority areas; health, education, water and sanitation, agriculture and infrastructure.
- Training in reproductive health is increased and health services strengthened.
- Supplementary feeding reduces malnutrition, and good infant-feeding practices are promoted.
- Workshops on gender-related topics and women's self-reliance are held and activities emphasizing the education of girls are expanded.
- The number of people without citizenship who can speak the Myanmar language grows.

In south-eastern Myanmar:

- The living conditions of persons affected by displacement with specific needs are improved and protection strengthened through support in shelter construction, livelihood assistance, mine-risk education and HIV and AIDS awareness-raising.
- Communities affected by displacement are provided basic services in health, education and water. Schools are properly equipped and the number of water points increased.
- The humanitarian space is increased through targeted awareness-raising and regular dialogue with the Government.
- Training on community-based participatory approaches to sexual and gender-based violence and protection monitoring enhance the capacity of UNHCR staff and partners.
- Greater access to the interior of the region enables UNHCR to provide assistance to vulnerable communities in remote areas.

UNHCR's presence in 2010

□ Number of offices	4
□ Total staff	97
International	9
National	68
JPOs	1
UNVs	9
Others (UNOPS)	10



A returnee family in Phur Wat Chaung, Myanmar.

UNHCR/C. SCHWETZ

Organization and implementation

• Coordination

UNHCR participates in coordination mechanisms at both the local and national level. The cluster approach that was used in response to Cyclone Nargis in 2008 was phased out in 2009 as the emergency receded. UNHCR chairs the protection working group and participates in other groups related to shelter, child soldiers and land issues.

In northern Rakhine State, UNHCR is the lead agency and hosts monthly inter-agency meetings. UNHCR also heads a gender task force attended by other UN agencies, NGOs, community members and the Government and participates in

coordination mechanisms on health, food, security and education.

In south east Myanmar, UNHCR is the lead agency and strives to develop a positive working relationship with the Government and to gain the trust of communities in need of international assistance.

Financial information

In 2008 and 2009, the budgetary increases over the previous years reflected UNHCR's involvement in assisting survivors of natural disasters, leading the protection cluster and helping people without citizenship. Increases to the 2010-2011 budgets reflect the enlargement of UNHCR's programme on behalf of displaced populations as well as those without citizenship.

PARTNERS

Implementing partners

Government agencies:

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

NGOs:

Action Contre la Faim
Aide Médicale Internationale
Community and Family Services International
Bridge Asia Japan
Myanmar Red Cross Society
Malteser International

Operational partners

Government agencies:

Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs

NGOs:

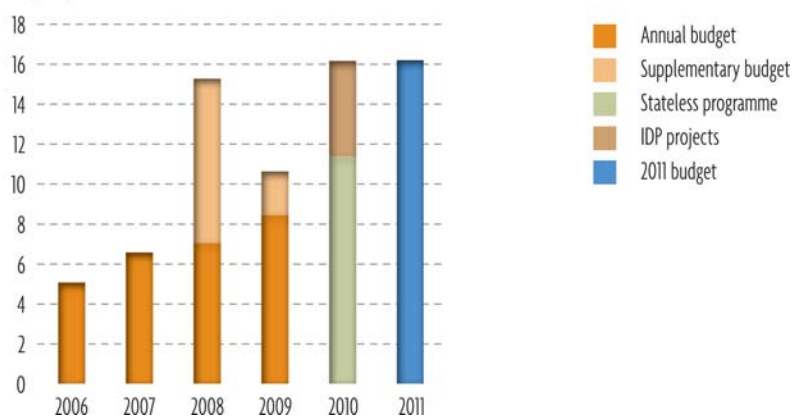
CARE
Médecins Sans Frontières (Netherlands and Switzerland)
World Vision
Save the Children

Others:

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

UNHCR's budget in Myanmar 2006 - 2011

Millions (USD)



2010 UNHCR Budget for Myanmar (USD)

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	IDP PROJECTS PILLAR 4	TOTAL
Favourable protection environment			
National legal framework	0	19,239	19,239
National administrative framework	65,556	0	65,556
Policies towards forced displacement	0	166,338	166,338
Prevention of displacement	0	19,239	19,239
Prevention of statelessness	297,746	0	297,746
Cooperation with partners	0	26,239	26,239
Public attitudes towards persons of concern	363,302	161,338	524,641
Environmental protection	0	19,239	19,239
Emergency management	0	21,239	21,239
Subtotal	726,605	432,873	1,159,478
Security from violence and exploitation			
Impact on host communities	0	46,325	46,325
Effects of armed conflict	0	51,325	51,325
Gender-based violence	266,135	61,325	327,460
Freedom of movement	213,397	0	213,397
Non-arbitrary detention	219,048	0	219,048
Access to legal remedies	219,880	0	219,880
Subtotal	918,460	158,974	1,077,435
Basic needs and essential services			
Nutrition	924,441	0	924,441
Water	417,328	540,625	957,953
Shelter and other infrastructure	2,272,738	235,235	2,507,973
Basic domestic and hygiene items	933,803	0	933,803
Primary health care	1,886,283	760,625	2,646,908
HIV and AIDS	0	275,625	275,625
Education	896,803	825,625	1,722,429
Sanitation services	344,803	75,625	420,429
Services for groups with specific needs	524,085	0	524,085
Subtotal	8,200,285	2,713,363	10,913,647
Community participation and self-management			
Participatory assessment and community mobilization	0	61,082	61,082
Community self-management and equal representation	0	54,931	54,931
Self-reliance and livelihoods	0	142,629	142,629
Subtotal	0	258,642	258,642
External relations			
Donor relations	63,750	335,035	398,785
Resource mobilization	66,225	48,806	115,031
Subtotal	129,976	383,840	513,816
Logistics and operations support			
Supply chain and logistics	984,158	444,020	1,428,179
Programme management, coordination and support	419,561	413,070	832,631
Subtotal	1,403,719	857,091	2,260,810
Total	11,379,044	4,804,783	16,183,827

2011 Budget	16,233,300
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2009 Revised budget	
Annual budget	8,484,772
Supplementary budget	2,152,656
TOTAL	10,637,428

Consequences of a 20 – 40 per cent funding shortfall

Northern Rakhine State

- There will be no supplementary feeding for 5,000 people, and 5,000 lactating mothers will not be helped to adopt appropriate infant-feeding practices.
- Nutrition education projects for 50,000 persons will not be implemented.
- Primary health care for 45,000 persons will not be provided and no health facilities will be rehabilitated.
- Only 500 instead of 3,000 persons will benefit from the health referral system.
- Some 4,000 extremely poor households with specific needs among the Muslim population will not be provided with sewing machines, livestock and seed money for small businesses or NFIs.

South-eastern Myanmar

- The provision of preventive and curative health services to some 14,000 people in the communities affected by population movements in south-eastern Myanmar will be curtailed.
- Vocational training and start-up assistance will be limited.
- The absence or reduction of livelihood opportunities will give rise to social problems in communities affected by displacement.