

MYANMAR

As of 14 March 2022, there were an estimated 889,900 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) across Myanmar, including 519,500 people newly displaced since the military takeover on 1st February 2021 and 370,400 IDPs in protracted displacement from previous crises. Civilians continue to bear the brunt of the conflict, which has further escalated in northwest and southeast Myanmar.

Women, children and people with disabilities are particularly vulnerable amid this economic and security crisis, which has exposed them to risks of exploitation and abuse. Learning has been disrupted for almost 12 million children due to widespread COVID-19 school closures. Needs that were unmet in 2020 and 2021 because of access constraints have directly contributed to escalating needs heading into 2022.

In a country that already had 980,000 refugees and asylum seekers who have fled to neighbouring countries since December 2020, the political, socioeconomic, and security crisis in Myanmar is fuelling growing humanitarian needs, with more than 14.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.

UNHCR is “calling on countries across the region to offer refuge to all those fleeing for safety. It is vital that anyone crossing the border, seeking asylum in another country, is able to access it. Children, women and men fleeing for their lives should be given sanctuary. They must not be returned to a place where their lives or freedom may be at risk. The principle of non-refoulement is a cornerstone of international law and is binding on all states”.

The outlook for 2022 remains dire, with the key drivers of need – conflict, COVID-19, economic stress and statelessness – all continuing to negatively affect the population. The political and security situation is expected to remain volatile, with increased displacement anticipated. The general trend of price hikes of basic food items and agricultural inputs is expected to continue, reducing food affordability.

We unite our voices to Pope Francis: “I too kneel on the streets of Myanmar and say: stop the violence! I too extend my arms and say: let dialogue prevail!”

For further information:

Institutional Websites and NGOs

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<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OCHA%20Myanmar%20-%20Humanitarian%20Update%20No.12.pdf>

OCHA - Statement from ERC Martin Griffiths regarding the increasing violence and humanitarian need in Myanmar

<https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/statement-erc-martin-griffiths-regarding-increasing-violence-and-humanitarian-need>

OCHA-*Global Humanitarian Overview, 2022*

<https://gho.unocha.org/myanmar>

OCHA- *Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan 2022*

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Vatican News

Pope prays for peace in Myanmar

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Vatican News

Cardinal Bo denounces Myanmar's leaders who fail in their responsibilities

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Myanmar Catholics urged to speak out to their country

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Vatican News- *Pope Francis prays for Myanmar on coup anniversary*, 2 February 2022
<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2022-02/pope-francis-myanmar-appeal-coup-anniversary.html>

UNHCR, *Myanmar Emergency Update*, 1 November 2021
<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/89473>

UNHCR, *Myanmar displacement overview*, 8 november 2021
<https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/89569>

UNHCR, *Myanmar refugee emergency*, 10 May 2021
<https://www.unhcr.org/protection/migration/609932274/myanmar-refugees-key-protection-messages-definitions.html>

UNHCR Myanmar Humanitarian Snapshot - *May 2021*
<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Myanmar%20Humanitarian%20Snapshot%20-%20May.pdf>

UNHCR calls on Myanmar's neighbours to protect people fleeing violence, *31 March 2021*
<https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2021/3/60648c304/news-comment-unhcr-calls-myanmar-s-neighbours-protect-people-fleeing-violence.html>

UN News - Myanmar: Three million in urgent need of life-saving assistance, protection, *19 October 2021*
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UNHCR- *Myanmar: OCHA Myanmar - Humanitarian Update - No.16*, 15th February 2022
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