

# MYANMAR

## | Operational highlights |

- In northern Rakhine State, UNHCR assisted 120,000 individuals, expanding its activities in the areas of health and education.
- UNHCR successfully advocated for the inclusion of people affected by displacement in south-eastern Myanmar in the 2011 – 2015 National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS.
- In south-eastern Myanmar, some 62,000 people affected by displacement benefited from UNHCR projects to improve water supplies, basic health facilities and primary education.
- UNHCR coordinated and provided emergency assistance to 27,000 households affected by natural disasters in Rakhine State.

## | Working environment |

Preparations for the first general elections in two decades defined the operational context in Myanmar in 2010. Elections held in November were contested by 37 political parties. The Government's Union Solidarity Democratic Party won an overwhelming majority.

In preparation for the elections, the authorities accelerated the issuance of Temporary Registration Cards to Muslim residents of northern Rakhine State, who are without citizenship, so that they could vote in the elections. Pre-election indications that the Muslim community might benefit from improvements in its legal status had not materialized by the end of the year.

In June, more than 150,000 people in northern Rakhine State were affected by severe flooding. In October, Cyclone Giri hit parts of Rakhine State, damaging or destroying some 50,000 houses and leaving 80,000 people without shelter.

## | Achievements and impact |

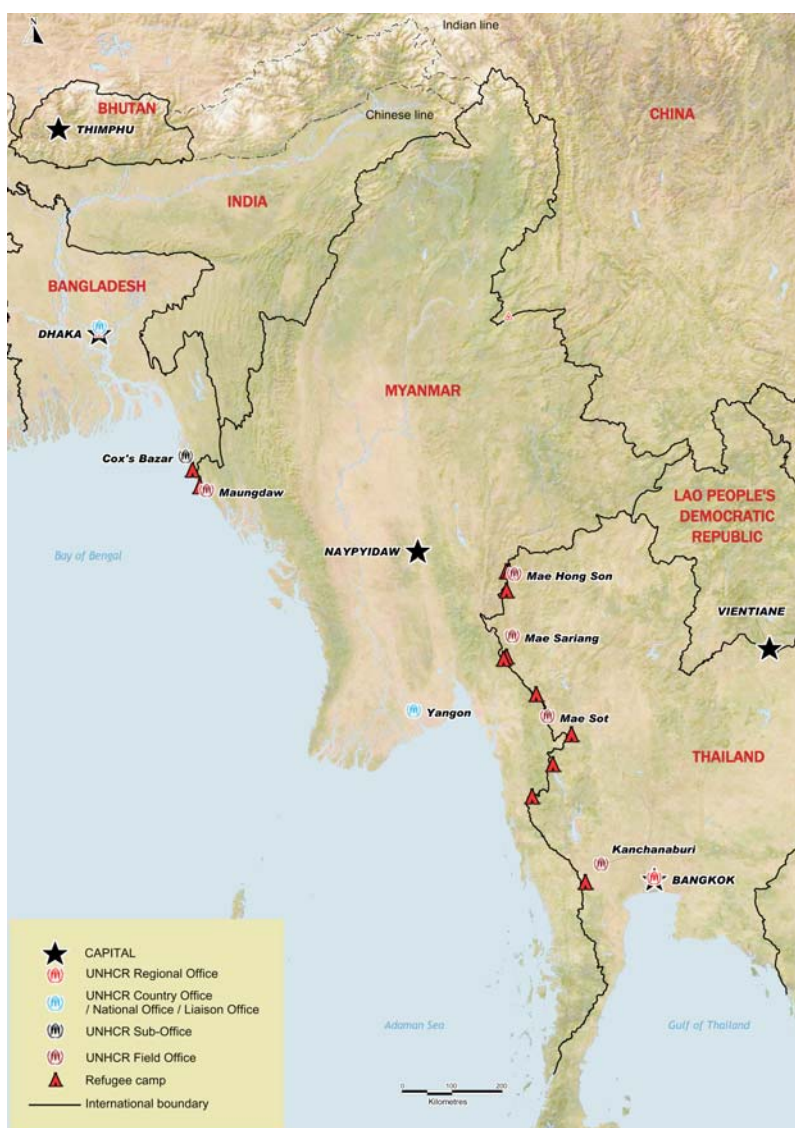
### • Main objectives and targets

In 2010, UNHCR aimed to promote the rights and well-being of people of concern in northern Rakhine State by improving their legal status and treatment. In particular, it focused on promoting the integration of people without citizenship into Myanmar society and improving their livelihoods. UNHCR's priorities included initiatives to enable

women and girls in northern Rakhine State to participate in society on an equal basis with men; programmes to foster inter-ethnic harmony; and projects in areas such as water, sanitation, health, education and infrastructure.

In south-eastern Myanmar, UNHCR aimed to mitigate the vulnerability of communities affected by displacement by restoring basic social services. The Government agreed to a request that two new international humanitarian agencies be allowed to work in the region under UNHCR's sponsorship.

UNHCR conducted a household survey in northern Rakhine State to collect information on civil registration, water and sanitation, health, education, land and livelihoods.



## Persons of concern

Type of Population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
IDPs <sup>1</sup>	Myanmar	62,000	62,000	51	38
Without citizenship <sup>2</sup>	Myanmar	797,400	200,000	53	56
<b>Total</b>		<b>859,400</b>	<b>262,000</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Refers to IDPs assisted by UNHCR only. The total IDP population is estimated at a higher number.

<sup>2</sup> Muslim residents of northern Rakhine State.

## Favourable protection environment

- Approximately 800,000 Muslim residents of northern Rakhine State continued to face serious difficulties in their daily lives as a result of their lack of citizenship. Restrictions on family size, movement, marriage and birth registration have eroded their ability to provide for their families and have led to a deterioration in social conditions, fuelling population movements out of the region.
- UNHCR maintained a positive dialogue with the authorities to expand the humanitarian space and improve general conditions for the population. During the year, UNHCR assisted some 120,000 individuals in northern Rakhine State and visited over 17,000 households.
- In south-eastern Myanmar, some 62,000 displaced people benefited from UNHCR's efforts to alleviate the effects of displacement by addressing basic needs and providing essential social services. More than 1,400 monitoring missions were conducted by partner and UNHCR staff.

## Fair protection processes

- The authorities accelerated the issuance of Temporary Registration Cards for Muslim residents in northern Rakhine State prior to the elections. UNHCR estimates that up to 90 per cent of the eligible population obtained these cards by the end of 2010. Holders of the cards were able to vote in the elections, but their citizenship status remained unchanged.
- In the Delta, UNHCR helped two local immigration offices to issue National Registration Cards to victims of Cyclone Nargis. Women and children were the primary beneficiaries of this registration project.

## Security from violence and exploitation

- In northern Rakhine State, UNHCR provided financial support for legal representation in some 20 cases affecting people of concern. Five survivors of sexual and gender-based violence were assisted with medical or legal

advice. Awareness sessions on sexual and gender-based violence were integrated into various community-based activities, involving religious leaders, village elders, students and youth.

## Basic needs and services

- In northern Rakhine State, UNHCR improved access for people of concern to basic services, such as health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation. It also developed basic infrastructure and provided reproductive-health services. Almost 1,900 high-risk pregnancies were referred to hospitals during the year. UNHCR provided equipment to rural health facilities and conducted health-awareness sessions which reached several thousand people. These activities contributed to a measurable decrease in infant mortality, from almost 11 per 1,000 in 2009 to six per thousand in 2010.
- In response to the floods in northern Rakhine State, UNHCR provided emergency shelter materials to some 590 households and assisted another 370 vulnerable Muslim and Rakhine families with shelter materials, household utensils, cash grants and income generation opportunities. UNHCR also distributed non-food items (NFIs) to some 24,000 households and sets of sanitary materials to some 21,500 households.
- Following Cyclone Giri, UNHCR gave emergency assistance to 44,000 individuals living in Rakhine State, including shelter materials for 5,200 households and NFIs for 3,000 families. With the increase in needs due to the cyclone, the budget for the provision of household items to flood- and cyclone-affected families, as well as other vulnerable families in northern Rakhine State, grew to almost 30 per cent of the overall budget.
- In south-eastern Myanmar, UNHCR recorded an increase in school enrolment; a reduction in the distance travelled to reach safe water sources; positive changes in hygiene practices, good parenting and improved family planning; and a rise in the number of safe births attended by a trained midwife. Access to primary and reproductive-health care for an estimated 10,000 people was improved with the construction of four rural health sub-centres, the provision of child-delivery equipment and the distribution of 250,000 condoms.
- Targeting communities affected by displacement, some 40 water points were constructed or repaired within 50 metres of the dwellings of 10,800 beneficiaries. One primary school was constructed, benefiting 270 children. Some 100 basic shelters were constructed for families who had been living in inadequate accommodation. In response to a request from the local authorities to assist those displaced due to conflict, UNHCR provided 3,700 newly displaced individuals with NFIs.



UNHCR-funded sewing courses for women from different ethnic groups in Maungdaw, northern Rakhine State, promote inter-ethnic harmony and provide livelihood opportunities.

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## Community participation and self-management

- UNHCR focused on peace-building and education to foster cooperation and dialogue between the different ethnic groups in northern Rakhine State. Emphasis was placed on the participation of women and girls in community life on an equal basis with men. More than 30 Community and Inter-Ethnic Youth Centres (of which two were constructed and six extensively renovated in 2010) provided venues for activities aimed at improving girls' and women's participation in decision-making and peaceful coexistence. The centres were managed by community committees and offered programmes in early childhood development and parenting, literacy and Myanmar language, vocational skills, peace education, arts and sports.
- UNHCR opened a third hostel for girls, which will enable them to complete secondary school and attend university. In addition, 18,000 individuals were assisted to become self-reliant through income-generating activities, access to training and the provision of shelter materials. Many of the beneficiaries were members of female-headed households.
- In south-eastern Myanmar, the number of communities with strengthened capacities to deal with displacement and maintain community infrastructure grew, thanks to UNHCR's activities. Health and water committees composed of both men and women were established, and approximately 700 villagers participated in some 20 hygiene and sanitation training sessions. Some 170 early-childhood development courses were held for about 20,000 individuals. More than 180 life-skills sessions were conducted and almost 400 individuals were trained in carpentry, bookkeeping, masonry and building maintenance.

## Logistics and operations support

- UNHCR maintained its own boat and vehicle fleet to facilitate monitoring and assistance activities in northern Rakhine State. It also provided logistical and radio-communications support to humanitarian agencies operating in the area. UNHCR and its partners made more than 2,000 trips for monitoring and assistance purposes.
- Many people stranded by the floods were saved by UNHCR's boats. Some 20 medical evacuations of beneficiaries, staff of UNHCR and partners were carried out, and speedboats were loaned to the authorities for one month to provide emergency assistance in the areas affected by Cyclone Giri.

## | Constraints |

UNHCR's response to the two natural disasters in Rakhine State, which caused severe damage to housing and infrastructure, was to provide immediate assistance to the victims of the disasters. This necessitated the diversion of already limited resources, as a result of which some planned activities could not be implemented. In south-eastern Myanmar, the working environment remained constrained

by a lack of access to all areas affected by population displacement.

Preparations for the elections diverted the attention of government officials at all levels, reducing their availability to discuss matters relating to UNHCR's work. Delays in the processing of visas and travel authorizations were exacerbated before and after the elections, hindering operations in south-eastern Myanmar and northern Rakhine State.

## | Financial information |

Activities in northern Rakhine State were well funded. The most critical unmet needs were in the areas of nutrition, health and infrastructure. In south-eastern Myanmar, however, funding constraints that lasted till mid-year necessitated the strict prioritization of projects. Additional shortfalls were caused by exchange-rate losses and a rise in construction costs, which reduced the scope of projects and the number of assisted persons. Unmet needs remained for livelihoods assistance, water points, latrines and shelters, as well as access to health and education.

The Delta operation had not been included in 2010 planning, as the post-Nargis operation was scheduled to be phased out by the end of 2009. However, UNHCR's assessment showed important unmet needs in registration and shelter, and these activities resumed in 2010.

## | Organization and implementation |

Operations were managed by the offices in Yangon and Maungdaw, a field unit in Buthidaung in northern Rakhine State and three field units in Mawlamyine, Taungoo and Myeik in south-eastern Myanmar. Two field units in the Delta, in Bogale and Labutta, were closed in June 2010, ending UNHCR's response to Cyclone Nargis.

## | UNHCR's presence in 2010 |

□ Number of offices	<b>2</b>
□ Total staff	<b>101</b>
International	<b>9</b>
National	<b>58</b>
JPOs	<b>1</b>
UNVs	<b>0</b>
Others	<b>33</b>

## | Working with others |

UNHCR continued to act as the coordinating agency in its two operational areas, participating in all relevant countrywide inter-agency coordination mechanisms and ensuring that the needs of people of concern were considered in the programming interventions of members of the humanitarian country team.

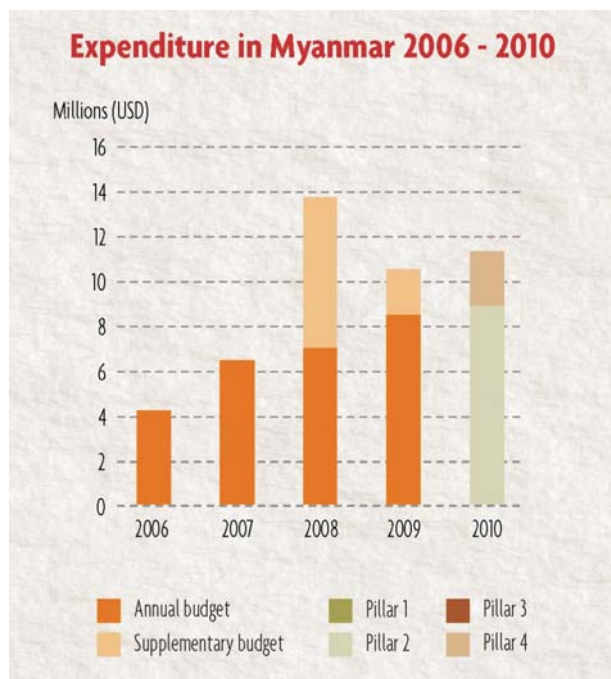
The Joint Humanitarian Initiative for northern Rakhine State was co-led by UNHCR and provided a platform for discussions with a large group of stakeholders. The Office commenced joint activities with two new partners in south-eastern Myanmar, where few humanitarian agencies are present.

## Overall assessment

Ongoing partnership with the Government in the key areas identified in 2009 underpinned UNHCR's efforts to maintain the limited humanitarian space and stabilize the

population of northern Rakhine State. Despite the devastation wrought by flooding and Cyclone Giri, strong donor support in 2010 allowed UNHCR to provide needed services to the population of concern.

In south-eastern Myanmar, restricted access to the affected population remained a constraining factor. Nonetheless, continuing cooperation with the Government led to an increase in the number of people assisted by UNHCR and the authorization of two new humanitarian partners to work in the area.



Partners	
<b>Implementing partners</b>	
<b>Government:</b>	Immigration and National Registration Department, Ministry of Immigration and Population
<b>NGOs:</b>	Action Aid, <i>Action contre la Faim</i> , Bridge Asia Japan, Community and Family Services International, International Rescue Committee, <i>Malteser Hilfsdienst Germany</i> , Myanmar Red Cross Society, Samaritan's Purse, Save the Children UK
<b>Others:</b>	UNOPS
<b>Operational partners</b>	
<b>Government:</b>	Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs
<b>NGOs:</b>	<i>Médecins sans Frontières</i> (Netherlands), <i>Médecins sans Frontières</i> (Switzerland), Norwegian Refugee Council
<b>Others:</b>	FAO, ICRC, ILO, IOM, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP

## Budget, income and expenditure in Myanmar | USD

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
<b>FINAL BUDGET</b>	<b>3,919,024</b>	<b>8,923,959</b>	<b>3,400,000</b>	<b>16,242,983</b>
Income from contributions <sup>1</sup>	3,511,921	5,992,389	760,456	10,264,766
Other funds available	(3,511,921)	2,894,336	1,646,724	1,029,139
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,886,724</b>	<b>2,407,181</b>	<b>11,293,905</b>

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN				
<i>Favourable protection environment</i>				
National administrative framework	0	245,219	0	245,219
Policies towards forced displacement	0	0	44,608	44,608
Prevention of displacement	0	0	151,760	151,760
Co-operation with partners	0	0	44,608	44,608
Public attitudes towards persons of concern	0	97,718	0	97,718
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>342,938</b>	<b>240,976</b>	<b>583,914</b>
<i>Fair protection processes and documentation</i>				
Individual documentation	0	0	92,271	92,271
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>92,271</b>	<b>92,271</b>
<i>Security from violence and exploitation</i>				
Gender-based violence	0	283,497	0	283,497
Non-arbitrary detention	0	282,295	0	282,295
Access to legal remedies	0	284,013	0	284,013
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>849,805</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>849,805</b>

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
<i>Basic needs and essential services</i>				
Nutrition	0	269,436	0	269,436
Water	0	105,708	295,577	401,285
Shelter and other infrastructure	0	958,245	111,967	1,070,212
Basic domestic and hygiene items	0	971,870	15,762	987,632
Primary health care	0	530,024	81,290	611,314
Education	0	497,193	139,700	636,893
Sanitation services	0	85,026	0	85,026
Services for groups with specific needs	0	0	17,097	17,097
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,417,503</b>	<b>661,393</b>	<b>4,078,895</b>
<i>Community participation and self-management</i>				
Participatory assessment and community mobilisation	0	0	48,542	48,542
Community self-management and equal representation	0	352,383	144,555	496,938
Self-reliance and livelihoods	0	0	48,542	48,542
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>352,383</b>	<b>241,639</b>	<b>594,021</b>
<i>External relations</i>				
Donor relations	0	75,638	57,364	133,002
Resource mobilisation	0	68,196	57,364	125,560
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>143,833</b>	<b>114,729</b>	<b>258,562</b>
<i>Logistics and operations support</i>				
Supply chain and logistics	0	1,089,748	170,960	1,260,707
Programme management, coordination and support	0	459,159	546,705	1,005,864
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,548,906</b>	<b>717,665</b>	<b>2,266,571</b>
Instalments to implementing partners	0	2,231,356	338,509	2,569,865
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,886,724</b>	<b>2,407,181</b>	<b>11,293,905</b>

<sup>1</sup> Income from contributions includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the "New or additional activities - mandate-related" (NAM) reserve. Contributions towards all pillars are included under Pillar 1.