

MYANMAR

Operational highlights

- A broadening of the humanitarian space in northern Rakhine State was demonstrated by an expansion of UNHCR's activities in the five key areas, identified by the Government, of health, education, water and sanitation, agriculture, and infrastructure.
- Two townships in northern Rakhine State where 400,000 Muslims and non-Muslims are residing benefited from the completion of UNHCR-supported infrastructure projects to construct bridges, culverts and footpaths in five areas identified by the Government.
- Temporary Registration Certificates (TRCs) issued by the authorities in the northern Rakhine State authorities have been received by an estimated 75 per cent of those entitled to them. UNHCR interventions enabled more than 1,000 persons with special needs to receive TRCs.
- In south-eastern Myanmar, approximately 50,000 people affected by displacement benefited from UNHCR projects to increase school enrolment and improve access to safe water.
- UNHCR established a protection working group with a nationwide focus in 2009 to replace the Delta Protection Working Group set up in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis.

Working environment

Preparations for the general elections, to be held in 2010, dominated the political environment throughout the year. No date for the election had been announced at the time of going to press with this report.

The difficulties faced by Muslim residents of northern Rakhine State, including problems related to their legal status, continued unabated. However, the Government has indicated that the Muslim community may benefit from an improvement in its legal status. Moreover, despite their lack of citizenship, Muslim residents of the northern Rakhine State will be eligible to vote in the 2010 elections.

Achievements and impact

Main objectives

In 2009 UNHCR aimed to promote the rights and well-being of people without citizenship in northern



Rakhine State. To meet this objective, UNHCR focused on improving the legal status and treatment of Muslim residents in the northern Rakhine State, promoting their integration into Myanmar society and access to livelihoods. UNHCR's priorities included initiatives to promote the equal participation of women and girls in community life. The Office remained prepared to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of refugees from Bangladesh and to provide assistance to returnees.

In south-eastern Myanmar, UNHCR aimed to help restore basic social and community services in order to reduce the serious vulnerabilities of persons and communities affected by population displacement.

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
IDPs	Myanmar	67,300	67,300	-	-
Without citizenship		723,600	200,000	50	56
Total		790,900	267,300		

◦ Protection and solutions

Approximately 750,000 Muslim residents in northern Rakhine State, including more than 235,000 returnees from Bangladesh, continued to experience difficulties owing to their lack of citizenship. Muslim residents face restrictions on family size, movement, permission to marry and birth registration, all of which erode their ability to provide for their families and to integrate fully into Myanmar society. The effect of these restrictions has been a deterioration of social conditions, giving rise to steady population movements out of the region.

However, ongoing dialogue with the authorities has resulted in a broadening of humanitarian space and enhanced UNHCR's ability to alleviate conditions for the population. A significant expansion of UNHCR's activities occurred in the areas of health, education, water and sanitation, agriculture, and infrastructure. In south-eastern Myanmar, UNHCR's programme has improved the access of communities affected by population movement to potable water, shelter, education and primary health care, including HIV and AIDS services.

UNHCR continued to support educational and community-development activities through a network of community centres in northern Rakhine State. These provided Myanmar-language classes, skills training for women, early childhood development training and support for school dropouts. Despite a conservative social environment, a pilot project to provide hostel accommodation for adolescent girls in order to help them complete their secondary education was expanded in 2009. UNHCR also increased its emphasis on the promotion of peaceful coexistence. For instance, it extended some services to the non-Muslim population in order to lessen tensions exacerbated by the perception that they did not receive as much attention as Muslims.

◦ Activities and assistance

Community services: In northern Rakhine State, the participation of religious and community leaders, elders and women in awareness-raising programmes has increased. A greater number of women than in the past are enrolled in

non-formal education and enjoy more job opportunities in their communities. In south-eastern Myanmar, skills training has increased livelihood opportunities. The sustainability of infrastructure projects has been improved through the strengthening of community organizations.

Domestic needs and household support: Relief materials, including house construction kits, plastic sheets and kitchen sets were provided to 478 families with special needs in northern Rakhine State. More than 18,000 blankets and 25,000 sanitary kits were also distributed

Education: While there was no reduction in the school attendance rate in northern Rakhine State, the targeted increase in female teachers was not achieved, and the strategy to achieve this goal will be reassessed. In south-eastern Myanmar, primary schools were constructed or refurbished in nine townships.

Health and nutrition: In northern Rakhine State, more than 14,000 women benefited from ante-natal and post-natal services, and the number of attended births increased. Some 19,000 children under the age of five and 6,000 pregnant or lactating women were screened for nutritional deficiencies and provided with therapeutic feeding and other assistance as needed. In south-eastern Myanmar, nine rural health sub-centres were constructed.

Legal assistance: The authorities continued to issue TRCs in northern Rakhine State and have reached an estimated 75 per cent of the population. UNHCR's interventions and targeted assistance at the village level enabled more than 1,000 persons with special needs to receive TRCs.

Operational support (to agencies): 24 hours radio coverage increased security communication and fire drill exercises for UNHCR's partner were conducted. In addition, UNHCR supported implementing and operational partners to ensure effective delivery of services.

Sanitation: Nearly 900 household latrines were constructed in northern Rakhine State and hygiene training was provided for beneficiary families.

Shelter and other

infrastructure: In northern Rakhine State, a number of bridges and roads were rehabilitated and 54 families provided with new shelter. In south-eastern Myanmar, 150 families with special needs were provided with newly constructed shelters. In the areas affected by Cyclone Nargis, over 1,300 shelters were constructed and 5,400 repaired.

Transport and logistics: To facilitate monitoring and assistance activities, UNHCR maintained its



Plastic sheeting was provided after a cyclone destroyed houses in the village of Thamada Kan Chay, Yangon Division.

capacity for transportation on the Naf River. Non-food relief materials were procured, stockpiled and distributed to vulnerable families affected by Cyclone Nargis in the Delta region.

Water: In northern Rakhine State, five wells were constructed, four existing water points renovated, 2,000 water filters distributed. In south-eastern Myanmar, 32 new water points were completed, each with a trained water point committee.

o **Constraints**

The difficult situation in northern Rakhine State has been made worse by growing tensions between the Rakhine and Muslim populations. UNHCR has begun to implement confidence-building programmes to foster co-existence between the communities.

In south-eastern Myanmar, the working environment remained constrained due to a lack of access to areas affected by population displacement. The limited number of humanitarian agencies in the region made the delivery of comprehensive assistance challenging. Delays in the processing of visas and travel authorizations have been exacerbated in the pre-election period, hindering operations in south-eastern Myanmar and northern Rakhine State.

| **Financial information** |

The annual budget was increased in 2009 in order to implement projects in the priority areas of health, education, water and sanitation, agriculture, and infrastructure. Expenditure against the supplementary budget for Cyclone Nargis was reduced in 2009 following the completion of most emergency assistance projects in 2008.

| **Organization and implementation** |

In 2009, UNHCR had 71 staff in Myanmar, including nine international and 62 national employees as well as 14 national UNVs. Operations were managed by the offices in Yangon and Maungdaw; a field unit in Buthidaung in northern Rakhine State; three field units in Mawlamyine, Taungoo and Myiek in the south-east; and two field units in the Delta in Bogale and Labutta. In south-eastern Myanmar, the establishment of a field unit in Taungoo, in the Bago Division, in late 2009 helped to facilitate operations in the Thandaung Township of northern Kayin State.

| **Working with others** |

UNHCR established a nationwide protection working group in 2009. As the lead agency in northern Rakhine State, it coordinates the provision of essential assistance by UN agencies and NGOs. Initiatives for new funding opportunities brought stronger inter-agency collaboration in 2009. Coordination between donors and the United Nations culminated in the decision by the latter to establish a Joint Humanitarian Initiative for northern Rakhine State. The humanitarian response programme in the Ayerawaddy Delta area affected by Cyclone Nargis was phased down in 2009. Toward the end of the year, the Tripartite Core Group, made

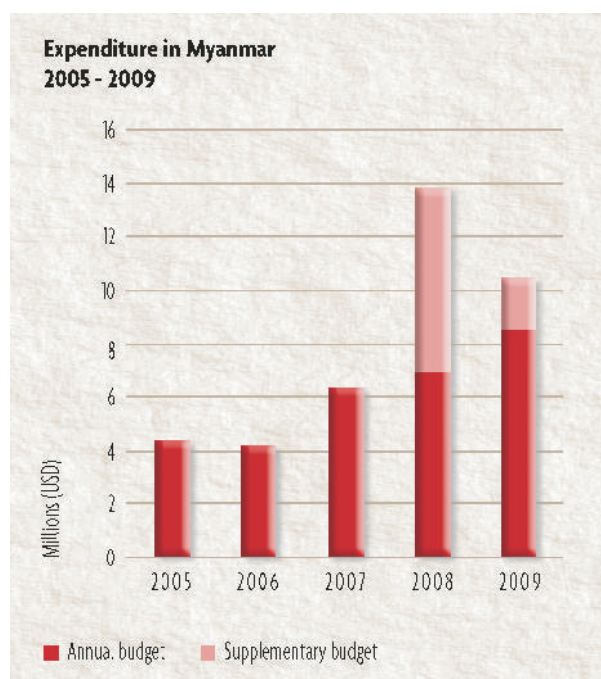
up of the regional bloc ASEAN, the Government of Myanmar and the United Nations, decided to continue support for the Nargis-affected population for an additional six months in 2010.

| **Overall assessment** |

Continuing cooperation with the Government led to the extension of UNHCR's agreement with the Ministry of Home Affairs to operate in northern Rakhine State. The agreed expansion of UNHCR's activities in five key areas and the creation of a Joint Humanitarian Initiative for northern Rakhine State represent an important broadening of humanitarian space in the region that will advance efforts to stabilize the population.

In south-eastern Myanmar, limits on access to the affected population continued to be a constraining factor. While UNHCR was able to implement projects aimed at reducing the vulnerability of communities affected by population movements in a number of sectors, their scope was limited.

Partners	
Implementing partners	
Government:	Immigration and National Registration Department, Ministry of Immigration and Population, Government of Myanmar
NGOs:	Alliance, <i>Action contre la Faim</i> , <i>Aide Medicale Internationale</i> , International HIV/AIDS Alliance, Bridge Asia Japan, Community and Family Services International, Malteser Hilfsdienst Germany, Myanmar Red Cross Society, <i>Welthungerhilfe</i> , <i>Solidarites Internationales</i> , Norwegian Refugee Council
Operational partners	
Government:	Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department (PBANRD) of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs
NGOs:	International Organisation for Migration, <i>Médecins Sans Frontières Netherlands</i> , <i>Médecins Sans Frontières Suisse</i> , Population Services International, Save the Children UK, World Concern, World Vision
Others:	FAO, ILO, IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP/CDRT, WFP, ICRC



Budget, income and expenditure in Myanmar (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual budget	8,875,416	7,615,806	1,395,641	9,011,447	8,509,655
Tropical Cyclone Nargis SB	2,152,656	1,098,611	1,109,931	2,208,542	1,891,846
Avian and human influenza preparedness SB	76,613	0	76,613	76,613	76,613
Supplementary budget subtotal	2,229,269	1,098,611	1,186,544	2,285,155	1,968,460
Total	11,104,685	8,714,417	2,582,185	11,296,602	10,478,115

Note: Supplementary programmes do not include seven per cent support costs that are recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR. Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

Financial report for UNHCR's operations in Myanmar (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current years' project			Previous years' project
	Annual budget	Supplementary budgets	Total	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,476,130	344,660	1,820,790	0
Community services	267,360	0	267,360	61,885
Domestic needs and household support	292,763	43,100	335,863	0
Education	355,122	0	355,122	166,722
Food	0	0	0	38,408
Health and nutrition	754,461	2,869	757,330	386,162
Legal assistance	369,851	69,738	439,589	128
Operational support (to agencies)	281,014	19,636	300,650	127,901
Sanitation	11,358	0	11,358	27,801
Shelter and infrastructure	300,915	1,384,273	1,685,188	460,243
Transport and logistics	463,566	8,214	471,781	153,081
Water	264,652	0	264,652	126,188
Instalments to implementing partners	2,004,289	95,968	2,100,257	(1,548,519)
Subtotal operational activities	6,841,479	1,968,460	8,809,939	0
Programme support	1,668,177	0	1,668,177	0
Total expenditure	8,509,655	1,968,460	10,478,115	0

Cancellation on previous years' expenditure	(1,441)
--	----------------

Instalments with implementing partners

Payments made	4,213,054	1,272,050	5,485,104
Reporting received	(2,208,765)	(1,176,082)	(3,384,847)
Balance	2,004,289	95,968	2,100,257

Previous year's report

Instalments with implementing partners:			
Outstanding 1st January			1,669,747
Reporting received			(1,548,519)
Refunded to UNHCR			(137,348)
Currency adjustment			0
Outstanding 31st December			(16,120)