



Situation Analysis

MYANMAR CRISIS

Period: 09/02/26 – 15/02/26

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Introduction

Purpose

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the current humanitarian situation, focusing on both operational environment factors and sectoral analysis. It aims to support informed decision-making for humanitarian partners and stakeholders.

About GANNET

GANNET is a Generative AI Initiative from Data Friendly Space, offering AI-powered tools built to make knowledge and real-time information accessible to our community in a resource-efficient and ethical way. It provides tools such as the GANNET Virtual Assistant and GANNET SituationHub to help humanitarian actors access, analyze, and utilize critical information for their operations.

GANNET SituationHub

The GANNET SituationHub is a generative AI-powered digital public good designed to identify and analyze humanitarian data from thousands of trusted sources in real time. By transforming complex data into clear insights, it enables faster, more effective response strategies and improved coordination among stakeholders.

GANNET Virtual Assistant

The GANNET Virtual Assistant is a verified chatbot designed for humanitarian quick decision-making. Built on cutting-edge Generative AI and trained with humanitarian expert-reviewed data, it provides real-time information. The GANNET Virtual Assistant facilitates rapid data access and synthesis for crisis response.

Methodology Overview

The Situation Hub's analytical process uses a structured Human-in-the-Loop workflow that combines automated analysis retrieval through GANNET Virtual Assistant, DFS's AI-powered humanitarian assistant, with expert review by the DFS analysis team. GANNET automates the extraction and generation of crisis-related insights based on structured prompts, which are aligned with a tailored analytical framework. These outputs are then reviewed, validated, and refined by analysts to ensure accuracy, contextual relevance, and operational utility. The workflow is organized into four key phases: planning and setup, ongoing operations, quality assurance, and system evolution, ensuring a balance between speed and analytical rigor.

Planning, Setup & Quality Control

In the planning phase, analysts develop a contextualized analytical framework, largely based on the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF), and convert it into structured prompts for AI-assisted data extraction. These prompts are refined over time to improve output quality. Data sources are vetted for reliability, and translations are reviewed for accuracy. Using a centralized Content Management System (CMS), analysts review and curate AI-generated outputs, validate them against external sources, and make refinements to enhance clarity and relevance. The CMS enables collaborative editing and version tracking, ensuring outputs align with humanitarian needs.

Bias Mitigation

To minimize bias, the team diversifies data sources, cross-verifies information, and continuously evaluates the AI's performance. Analysts are crucial in identifying and correcting inaccuracies, especially in automated categorization. Future improvements aim to enhance source credibility checks and sentiment analysis, further strengthening the reliability of the Situation Hub's outputs.

Crisis Overview

The SituationHub landing pages use a standardized yet customizable template to deliver consistent, comprehensive crisis overviews. These pages integrate static content with dynamic data from sources like ACLED and DTM via open APIs, enabling interactive visuals with real-time updates. Regular reviews and verification with in-country partners ensure accuracy, while manual updates are used for sources not connected to APIs.

Media Monitoring

The media monitoring process has evolved from a manual, list-based approach to an AI-assisted system integrated into the CMS. This allows analysts to efficiently review, filter, and contextualize media narratives, while automation helps track emerging trends.

Overview

The following overview has been generated using the information available up to March 2, 2026. It provides a synthesized summary and key insights into the crisis based on the most recent data accessible at that time.

Summary

Myanmar has been in crisis since February 1, 2021, when the military (Tatmadaw) overthrew the democratically elected government. This coup sparked widespread protests and armed resistance, leading to a severe political, economic, and humanitarian crisis. The military junta, known as the State Administration Council (SAC), has responded with brutal force, resulting in thousands of civilian deaths and widespread human rights abuses.

As of December 2025, approximately 3.6 million people are internally displaced across the country—a dramatic increase from roughly 300,000 pre-2021—with displacement projected to rise toward 4 million in 2026. Intensified clashes continue in Sagaing, Magway, northern Shan, Kayah, and Mandalay, where junta forces have launched renewed ground and air offensives ahead of military-run elections starting December 28, 2025. The Arakan Army now controls all but three of Rakhine State's 17 townships, while resistance forces including the Karen National Liberation Army have consolidated influence across much of central and southeastern Myanmar. The UN's 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, released December 10, projects over 16 million people will require humanitarian assistance.

Recovery from the March 2025 earthquake remains slow, with an estimated 3.5 million tonnes of debris and reconstruction hampered by insecurity, shortages of heavy machinery (43%) and labour (40%), and limited access. Many affected communities, particularly in Magway, Sagaing, and Mandalay, continue to live in temporary shelters, while essential services remain disrupted. Approximately 24,200 houses were damaged (24% completely destroyed), and 132 health facilities were damaged—half in Mandalay.

The Rohingya crisis continues to worsen, with the junta's blockade of Rakhine preventing international aid delivery since late 2023, leaving hundreds of thousands of IDPs with severely limited assistance. On December 10, 2025, a military airstrike destroyed Mrauk-U General Hospital, killing at least 33 people and injuring 76–80—one of the deadliest attacks on healthcare in the conflict. Chronic poverty now affects over 80% of the population, the World Bank projects GDP will contract 2.0% in FY2025/26 with inflation remaining above 20%, and market disruptions have deepened food insecurity nationwide. The 2026 HNRP appeals for approximately \$890 million but reflects severely constrained funding and narrowed operational space, forcing agencies to prioritize only 2.6 million people with the most severe needs for life-saving support.

Key Insights

1. Myanmar's humanitarian crisis continues to deepen amid persistent conflict, economic collapse, and the lingering impacts of the March 2025 earthquake. An estimated 16 million people—nearly one in three citizens—are projected to require humanitarian assistance in 2026, as conflict-driven displacement, natural disasters, and funding shortages exacerbate vulnerabilities nationwide.

The March 28 earthquake remains a defining event in the humanitarian landscape. Official figures confirm 3,745 deaths and over 5,000 injuries, with the Early Recovery Cluster reporting over 24,200 houses damaged (24% completely destroyed), 4,857 apartments affected, and 132 health facilities damaged. An estimated 3.5 million tonnes of debris blocks roads and markets, with clearance impeded by shortages of heavy machinery (43%) and labour (40%). Nearly three-quarters of the most affected townships continue to face critical shelter and livelihood gaps—64% of communities reported job losses and 30–31% reported damage to crops and workplaces—while disrupted water systems (44% of groundwater sources contaminated) have fueled outbreaks of cholera and dengue.

2. Conflict has escalated dramatically ahead of junta-run elections starting December 28, 2025. The military has intensified air and ground offensives, conducting 2,165 airstrikes between January and November 2025—up from 1,716 in all of 2024. On December 10, a military airstrike destroyed Mrauk-U General Hospital in Rakhine State, killing at least 33 people and injuring 76–80—prompting UN, WHO, and Amnesty International condemnation and calls for investigation as a possible war crime.

Total displacement has reached approximately 3.6 million people as of late 2025, with projections indicating it could rise to 4 million in 2026. The Arakan Army now controls all but three of Rakhine's 17 townships, while resistance forces have captured extensive border areas in the southeast. Attacks on healthcare are widespread: Insecurity Insight recorded 1,815 attacks on health care between February 2021 and November 2025, with WHO verifying 67 attacks in 2025 alone. Access restrictions, including the junta's blockade of Rakhine since late 2023, continue to endanger civilians—particularly Rohingya communities facing persistent protection risks, restricted mobility, and limited access to aid.

3. Humanitarian access remains severely limited by insecurity and deliberate obstruction. The 2026 HNRP appeals for approximately \$890 million but reflects severely constrained funding and narrowed operational space, prioritizing only 2.6 million people with the most severe needs at a cost of \$521 million. Partners reached some 5 million people in the first nine months of 2025, but access constraints—including roadblocks, landmines, telecommunications blackouts, and the Rakhine blockade affecting 600,000 IDPs—force reliance on low-profile, community-led delivery modalities. WFP warns that hunger has reached "unacceptable" levels, with over 400,000 young children and mothers surviving on nutrient-deprived diets of plain rice or watery porridge.

4. The Food Security Cluster estimates about 8.5 million people face moderate-to-severe food insecurity in 2026, driven by conflict, displacement, rising food and fuel prices, reduced market access and supply-chain disruptions. September 2025 analyses reported "Serious" to "Critical" Global Acute Malnutrition in multiple conflict-affected townships, notably in Northern Rakhine, Kachin, Sagaing, Southern Shan, and Kayah—with nutrition and treatment services suspended or operating at minimal capacity due to access constraints.

Economic conditions continue to deteriorate: the World Bank projects real GDP will contract 2.0% in FY2025/26, with inflation remaining above 20%. Rising poverty and fear of forced conscription have driven male migration, leaving women, girls, and older people as household heads. More than four in ten households identify lack of income as their top challenge, and 83% of internally displaced families can meet half or less of their basic needs. The convergence of conflict, disaster, and economic decline continues to erode coping capacities, pushing Myanmar further toward a protracted humanitarian emergency with no signs of de-escalation.

5. International condemnation has intensified following the December 10 airstrike on Mrauk-U Hospital. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights called for an investigation, warning the attack could amount to a war crime. WHO's Director-General condemned the strike as among dozens of verified attacks on healthcare in 2025. Amnesty International and the Burma Human Rights Network have urged the UN Security Council to refer Myanmar to the International Criminal Court, impose an arms embargo, and authorize emergency cross-border humanitarian aid.

Peace negotiations remain effectively stalled: resistance leaders and the National Unity Government publicly rejected Chinese-brokered terms for northern Shan State. The junta has cancelled voting in thousands of wards where it cannot secure control, while nationwide "silent strikes" signalled popular rejection of the military's December elections. EU and Australia have declared the vote "not credible" amid junta repression. The junta denies responsibility for civilian casualties, accusing "terrorists" of being targeted, while humanitarian organizations warn the pre-election environment is driving further escalation rather than de-escalation.

Economy

Current Economic Situation

Myanmar faces a deepening economic crisis: a little more than half the population live in poverty, and the UN World Food Programme projects that more than 12 million people will face acute hunger in 2026 [4]. EU sanctions since the 2021 coup have likely exacerbated poverty and hunger while Europe has maintained Myanmar on the Everything But Arms trade schedule, a policy that has benefited the junta [4]. The US halted bilateral humanitarian aid after the Trump administration eliminated USAID and sought on 26 January to end Temporary Protected Status for Myanmar, actions that affect diaspora support and remittance-related protections; a court order temporarily blocked the TPS move [4]. Disruptions in commodity markets include junta arrests of top Yangon gold traders and junta price controls that economists say are pushing the gold trade underground rather than lowering prices [2][3]. Displacement and collapse of livelihoods are constraining household purchasing power: internally displaced people in Arakan report daily earnings as low as 5,000 MMK (some up to 20,000 MMK), while rising commodity prices and school-supply costs (a set of textbooks around 120,000 MMK) limit spending on education and basic needs [1]. The conflict-driven economy increasingly relies on illicit revenue streams—production and trafficking of methamphetamine and fentanyl fund armed actors and impose broader social and economic costs across the region—and extractive sectors remain contested, with the junta struggling to secure ruby-mining areas around Mogok, disrupting local economic activity [4][14]. Regional diplomacy has shifted toward pragmatic engagement to enable reconstruction resources, with ASEAN discussions in late January 2026 exploring ways to facilitate rebuilding without legitimising the junta—an evolution that could affect future investment and aid flows [4][7].

Conflict Economic Landscape

Conflict-driven displacement continues to devastate livelihoods and local economic activity across Myanmar. Over the past year fighting in Kyaukphyu Township has displaced more than 60,000 people, compounding local livelihood losses and displacement pressures [15]. Around 4,000 people displaced by intensified fighting in Myawaddy Township, Karen State, fled to the Thai–Myanmar border and were reported to be in urgent need of food, with new arrivals recorded on 10 February 2026 [5]. Internally displaced populations report severe food shortages after being forced to abandon harvests due to junta drone, artillery and ground operations; Saw Pa Htan IDP camp (approximately 3,000 people) has lacked donor deliveries for about eight months, pushing residents to sell assets or rely on casual labour to survive [8]. UN figures indicate roughly five million children across Myanmar are deprived of their right to education, with displaced children and older youth leaving education to support families through informal, physically demanding work such as foraging and collecting firewood, reducing prospects for future formal employment among these cohorts [1]. Illicit economies—including meth and fentanyl production, human trafficking and telecom scam operations—are financing armed actors and generating demand for informal and exploitative labour, further distorting formal job creation and labour protections [4][18]. Women's groups in Kawthoolei report limited participation and leadership opportunities across administrative, economic and social sectors, indicating gendered barriers to formal employment and decision-making in that region [18].

Stability of Currency and Bank System

The junta arrested top Yangon gold traders on allegations of price manipulation, and economists warned that junta price controls and detentions are pushing Myanmar's gold trade underground rather than lowering prices, undermining formal market activity and business confidence [3].

Employment

Internally displaced people and conflict-affected communities report severe livelihood losses: Saw Pa Htan IDP camp (approximately 3,000 people) has no income-generating work, with residents working as daily labourers, selling assets and facing food shortages after being unable to harvest crops due to military drone, artillery and ground operations [8]. In Arakan State many displaced households earn as little as 5,000 MMK per day while some can make up to 20,000 MMK, but incomes remain far below living costs and rising education expenses (a set of textbooks approximately 120,000 MMK) constrain household investment in education and human capital [1]. Humanitarian assistance to many IDP camps has declined sharply, worsening livelihood shocks and access to wage opportunities [1][8]. Longstanding practices of forced labour and regime-linked exploitation have been documented historically and remain relevant to labour rights in Myanmar, with past programmes using convict labour and widespread forced labour documented in the 2000s [13].

Politics

Governance Structures and Rule of Law

Myanmar remains fragmented, with the State Administrative Council (SAC) failing to exercise authority over large parts of the country while hundreds of armed groups control territory outside major cities, creating a de facto failed-state governance situation [20]. The junta-held national polls conducted in three stages from December 2025 through January 2026 were widely characterised as limited or illegitimate and have deepened divisions within ASEAN after foreign ministers meeting in Cebu on 29 January 2026 failed to agree on recognition of the outcome [23]. ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus has been largely ignored by the military government, undermining regional accountability mechanisms and producing a split that weakens a unified regional response: several ASEAN members (including Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam) have signalled willingness to engage the junta while Malaysia and some others oppose endorsement of the polls [23]. The international legal track has also advanced, with a case alleging genocide against Myanmar brought by The Gambia at the International Court of Justice underway in early February 2026, adding an external avenue of accountability [20]. Domestic rule-of-law deficits include continued arbitrary arrests, harsh crackdowns since the February 2021 coup,

and systematic repression of independent media, with journalists' licences revoked, offices raided and staff detained or forced into exile [27]. Investigations into media ownership show historical and ongoing links between military intelligence and prominent outlets—including the Myanmar Times historically—and raise transparency concerns after Frontier Myanmar's April 2025 ownership transfer to Thai owner Pichai Chuensuksawadi and his reported meetings with junta officials [27][28]. Recent enforcement actions illustrate militarised law enforcement and contested legal processes: on 9 February 2026 the junta detained top Yangon gold traders over alleged price manipulation, and regime forces confirmed full control of Banmauk in Sagaing amid military operations, reflecting the security forces' dominant role in governance and enforcement [41][39]. The junta has taken internal disciplinary steps amid corruption allegations, notably dismissing Home Affairs Minister LtGen Tun Tun Naung following a complaint from China and an internal probe by the Office of the Chief of Military Security Affairs [24][30]. Local civil society actors continue to be excluded from formal processes: district-level women's groups in Kawthoolei held a dialogue on 3–4 February 2026 calling for greater participation in administrative, judicial and legislative decision-making and rejecting the junta's election results, underlining limited access to justice and political inclusion for many stakeholders [29].

Political Freedoms and Recent Laws

Since the February 2021 coup the junta has mounted a broad crackdown on independent media—raiding offices, revoking licences, outlawing outlets and arbitrarily arresting journalists—forcing many to operate from exile; at least two journalists were arbitrarily detained and one was reportedly brutally interrogated [27]. Member-state positions on the December 2025–January 2026 national elections remain split: Malaysia publicly rejected the polls while Cambodia and Vietnam sent observers; Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam have signalled greater willingness to engage or recognise the outcome, and Philippine Foreign Secretary Theresa Lazaro visited Naypyitaw and said the election was "not recognised for now" as Manila pursues a mediation role [23]. Analysts warned that external backing—including China's support for the junta and a five-year military cooperation pact signed with Russia in early February—risks further legitimising the military government [23]. Local political contestation and constraints on civic space include protests over the National Unity Government's ban on artisanal gold mining in Banmauk recorded in early February, and the junta's recapture of parts of Banmauk in Sagaing, illustrating contested authority, selective law application and arrests linked to political and economic control [40][39].

Influence of Non-State Actors and Political Factions

The State Administrative Council (junta) lacks full territorial control; hundreds of armed groups and at least a dozen ethnic insurgent organisations exercise control in parts of the country, where some insurgent authorities tax trade and provide minimal public services [20]. Non-state armed actors active in early February include the Student Revolutionary Force (SRF)—estimated at around 500 personnel, trained by the Arakan Army and allied with other resistance forces—and multiple local People's Defence Organisations, whose tensions in Mingin Township required NUG mediation and a negotiated withdrawal of forces to avert intra-opposition fighting [34]. Intensified clashes in Karen State displaced over 4,000 people to the Thai border in early–mid February amid heavy fighting and junta airstrikes, creating urgent cross-border humanitarian needs [21]. Rights monitors report that foreign aviation fuel supplies have enabled an intensified junta air campaign; the Chin Human Rights Organisation documented coordinated airstrikes on 8 February that killed civilians and damaged religious sites and recorded at least seven civilian deaths between 1 January and 8 February [32]. Some ASEAN states (notably Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam) have signalled willingness to treat the December 2025–January 2026 polls as an opening for engagement, while Philippine special envoy Theresa Lazaro visited Naypyitaw and Myanmar's Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Hau Khan Sum attended ASEAN foreign ministers' meetings in Cebu, indicating diplomatic outreach to the junta [23][20]. China's political backing and a five-year military cooperation pact signed with Russia in early February have bolstered the junta's external support and reduced ASEAN leverage [23]. Media and informal influence networks remain significant: independent and exiled outlets face risks of capture and covert influence, with historical Military Intelligence (MI) interference in outlets and a 2025 transfer of Boomerang Media shares to Thai owner Pichai and his subsequent meetings with junta officials raising transparency and security concerns among exiled media and civil society [27][28]. These non-state actors—regional governments' pragmatic diplomacy, armed resistance groups, media owners with intelligence links, and informal economic/taxation arrangements in insurgent areas—are actively reshaping governance, legitimacy dynamics and humanitarian access across Myanmar in February 2026 [23][20][28].

Public Trust in State Institutions

The military-led government held elections in three stages from December 2025 through January 2026 that were widely characterised as "limited" because they excluded large segments of the population, geography and political spectrum [23]. ASEAN foreign ministers failed to agree on recognising the election outcome at the Cebu meeting in late January 2026, reflecting regional divisions that weaken external legitimacy for the regime; analysts describe ASEAN member states as split into camps—those willing to move on, those insisting on conditions tied to the Five-Point Consensus, and those conducting low-key diplomacy—producing an inconsistent regional response to Myanmar's authorities [23]. External alignments—including a reported five-year military cooperation pact with Russia in early February 2026 and China's public backing of the junta—have bolstered the regime internationally even as they raise regional concern about ASEAN's effectiveness [23]. Internal scandals feed perceptions of government corruption, while investigations show longstanding military intelligence influence over outlets (including use of the Myanmar Times to disseminate MI narratives), degrading trust in public information and institutions [27]. Socioeconomic grievances are acute: more than half the population lives in poverty and the World Food Programme projects over 12 million people will face acute hunger in 2026, increasing dissatisfaction with government performance [20]. Changes in ownership and reported engagement between media figures and junta officials—notably the April 2025 transfer of Frontier Myanmar ownership to Pichai and his meetings with junta figures—have further raised concerns about media independence [28].

Role of Marginalized Groups

The Doooplaya district Kawthoolei Women's Dialogue on February 3–4 convened 112 women representatives to demand greater participation in administrative, judicial and legislative sectors, urged stronger gender-equality policies, and set a target of 30 percent women's participation at the 18th KNU Congress [29]. In Sagaing's Mingin Township, an administrative-control dispute between the Student Revolutionary Force and the Mingin Township People's Defence Organisation that began on January 22 prompted mediation on February 3 and resulted in an agreement for both sides to withdraw troops to avoid civilian harm and school disruptions that had threatened examinations [34]. In Arakan (Rakhine) State areas under Arakan Army control, the United League of Arakan has permitted Islamic, Hindu and Christian religious ceremonies and attended education events on February 2–4, including providing 35 million MMK in support for a major Hindu celebration, indicating expanded religious freedom and inclusion in those territories [33]. United Nations figures indicate roughly five million children across Myanmar are deprived of their right to education, with displaced children in Arakan State especially affected by sharp declines in humanitarian assistance and prohibitive costs for school supplies (a set of textbooks cited at about 120,000 MMK) that force older children into work or care duties instead of schooling [22]. The UN World Food Programme projects more than 12 million people in Myanmar will face acute hunger in 2026, while slightly more than half the population currently lives in poverty, constraining economic inclusion and access to public services for marginalized communities [20].

Security And Stability

Security Overview

Armed clashes and an intensified junta air campaign in early February 2026 have caused widespread civilian harm, displacement and cross-border security impacts across multiple states and regions [51][53][49][69]. The Chin Human Rights Organisation (CHRO) documented coordinated airstrikes on 8 February across Kanpetlet, Mindat and Matupi that struck churches and other civilian sites, killing at least three civilians (including a child) and reporting seven civilian deaths and more than 20 injuries between 1 January and 8 February [53]. Separate recent junta strikes killed civilians in Thantlang (a 500-lb bomb killed six), Rakhine State (seven killed on Union Day), Magway Region (five killed in a strike on civilian shops) and Bago (one mother killed, one child wounded) as fighting and bombardment continued [49][69][60][70]. Heavy ground fighting around Myawaddy—including attacks for control of Wawlay Tactical Command—and daily operations by Infantry Battalion 275 forced thousands across the Thai border and prompted Thai authorities to tighten security in Mae Sot [51]. Junta drone and ground strikes continued to target resistance positions, including a drone strike that killed six resistance fighters in Bago [48]. The regime massed forces at Tagaung, regained control of Banmauk, and struggled to secure Mogok's surroundings amid ongoing resistance activity [48][50][45][44][43]. Large-scale village destruction and forced displacement have been reported countrywide: at least 11 villages in Kyaukphyu Township were destroyed by airstrikes, artillery and arson over the past year with more than 700 houses burned and civil society groups reporting over 60,000 people displaced, and junta raids and torching in central townships (e.g., Natogyi, Pwintbyu) have driven mass departures of civilians [58][62][61][63]. The Burma Women's Union reported 55 women killed in junta attacks in January 2026 and documented 792 women killed in 2025, while Nyan Lynn Thit Analytica reported 712 airstrikes between September–December 2025, with over 64% striking civilian areas [68]. Internal tensions among anti-junta armed groups led the NUG to broker withdrawals between the Mingin Township PDO and the Student Revolutionary Force in early February to avoid intra-resistance clashes and the risk of regime airstrikes [55]. The Chin rights group and other sources have accused Iranian aviation fuel shipments of enabling the junta's intensified air campaign, and regional commentary highlights links between illicit narcotics, human trafficking and armed-group financing—factors that complicate border and regional security [53][46]. Key figures and trends:

- ~4,000 people displaced to the Thai–Myanmar border from fighting around Myawaddy (Wawlay, Minletpan, Hpalu) in early February 2026 [51].
- 10,000 people fled after junta forces torched villages in Natogyi Township in February 2026 [62][61].
- More than 60,000 displaced and at least 11 villages destroyed in Kyaukphyu Township over the past year; >700 houses reported destroyed there [58].
- >3,000 displaced by junta raids in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region in February 2026 [63].
- 712 airstrikes recorded between September–December 2025, with >64% assessed as targeting civilian areas [68].
- 55 women killed in junta attacks in January 2026 and 792 women documented killed in 2025 by the Burma Women's Union [68].

Security Forces and Law Enforcement

The junta (State Administrative Council) does not control the entire country, with hundreds of armed groups and at least a dozen ethnic insurgent groups exercising control over areas outside major cities [46]. The Shadow Resistance Force (SRF), established in October 2021, is estimated at around 500 personnel and is trained and equipped by the Arakan Army, with close alliances to other resistance formations [55]. The National Unity Government's local law-enforcement structures in Sagaing negotiated withdrawals with allied groups to defuse village-level tensions, though local sources warned such arrangements could flare up again [55]. Junta forces have recaptured towns and mounted large ground offensives—regime forces and the Shanni Nationalities Army took full control of Banmauk, and the military has massed troops, junta-sponsored militias and armoured vehicles to seize Tagaung [45][54]. The junta has intensified use of air and drone strikes, with coordinated jet attacks on 8 February striking churches and civilian areas in Chin State, killing and injuring civilians, which the Chin Human Rights Organisation linked to Iranian aviation fuel shipments enabling the air campaign [53]. Reporting and rights monitors document widespread destruction of civilian property and religious sites, reflecting the junta's capacity to deploy combined land, naval and air assets in operations against resistance forces [58].

The junta also exercises internal law-enforcement and economic control actions, arresting top Yangon gold traders over alleged price manipulation and dismissing Home Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung for corruption following an internal probe by the Office of the Chief of Military Security Affairs [47][57]. Since the 2021 coup, the military intelligence apparatus has carried out a broad crackdown on independent media—raiding newsrooms, revoking licences, arbitrarily detaining and physically abusing journalists—with several outlets and reporters operating from exile or under threat [59]. Regional commentary and analysis note that organised drug production and trafficking (methamphetamine and fentanyl) finance armed actors and complicate security dynamics across borders, exacerbating criminality in neighbouring states [46].

Demography

Demographic Overview

A little more than half of Myanmar's population currently lives in poverty, and the UN World Food Programme projects that more than 12 million people will face acute hunger in 2026 [74]. United Nations figures indicate approximately five million children across Myanmar are deprived of their right to education, with displaced children in Arakan State among the most affected [72]. Displacement remains a critical issue across multiple regions. More than 60,000 people have been displaced by fighting in Kyaukphyu Township [73], while the Saw Pa Htan IDP camp hosts around 3,000 displaced people [76]. Over 4,000 people have been displaced to the Thai–Myanmar border (Palawtapo area) following early-February fighting [71], and more than 3,000 people were displaced by junta raids in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region [75]. The Rohingya displacement situation remains particularly acute, with calls for repatriation of more than one million displaced Rohingya and reports of a dramatic decline in international aid for Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar [79]. Thailand currently hosts over 80,000 Myanmar refugees and continues to provide humanitarian and financial support for refugee assistance [77]. Territorial control in Myanmar is highly fragmented, with hundreds of armed groups and at least a dozen ethnic insurgent groups exercising authority outside major cities, while non-state administrations in parts of Arakan State have expanded religious freedoms and interfaith activities [74][78].

Socio-Cultural

Socio-Cultural Overview

Myanmar remains highly fragmented, with hundreds of armed groups and at least a dozen ethnic insurgent organisations exercising control over areas outside major cities, producing a constellation of barely functional ethnic enclaves and limiting the junta's authority [84]. This fragmentation has created a complex landscape of governance, displacement, and social transformation across the country. Fighting-driven displacement is reshaping community dynamics throughout Myanmar. In early February, fighting in Myawaddy Township forced over 4,000 people to flee to the Thai–Myanmar border by Feb 10, with many sheltering in monasteries and requiring urgent food assistance as junta airstrikes and bombardment were reported in the area [81]. Displacement and economic collapse are undermining education and social cohesion: United Nations figures indicate roughly five million children across Myanmar are deprived of education, and in Arakan State many displaced children remain out of school despite ULA-run schools due to severe financial barriers and rising costs for basic supplies [82]. In Arakan (Rakhine) State, the United League of Arakan (ULA)/Arakan Army has expanded religious freedom and promoted interfaith inclusion, allowing Islamic, Hindu and Christian ceremonies to proceed and formally supporting events such as a Christian Bible school graduation (Feb 2) and the 75th Rāmanavamī in Maungdaw (Feb 4), including a 35 million MMK ULA contribution and attendance at an Islamic university graduation (Feb 2) in AA-controlled areas [90]. In stark contrast, the Chin Human Rights Organisation reported coordinated junta airstrikes on Feb 8 across Kanpetlet, Mindat and Matupi townships that struck churches, Buddhist buildings and civilian neighbourhoods, killing at least three civilians (including a child), injuring others, and documenting seven civilian deaths and more than 20 injuries between 1 Jan and 8 Feb, while accusing foreign aviation fuel supplies of enabling the campaign [89]. Local dispute management among anti-junta armed groups illustrates evolving community priorities and governance challenges. After clashes beginning 22 Jan over village administrative control in Mingin Township, the National Unity Government mediated an agreement in early February for both the Mingin Township PDO and the Student Revolutionary Force to withdraw forces to reduce the risk of regime airstrikes and civilian harm, reflecting residents' demands that neither force remain in affected villages to preserve safety and enable schooling to proceed [91]. Women's civic mobilisation in Karen areas has emerged as a significant force calling for greater political and leadership rights. At a Kawthoolei Women's Dialogue held Feb 3–4, where 112 representatives urged KNU adoption of gender-equality policies, sought 30% female participation at the upcoming 18th KNU Congress, and publicly rejected the junta's election results [83].

Gender Dynamics

Women have borne heavy direct harm from junta operations across Myanmar. According to the Burma Women's Union (BWU), at least 55 women, including two pregnant and four under 18, were killed in January 2026 and 54 injured, with deaths in January recorded predominantly from aerial bombardments (46), artillery shelling (7) and arbitrary killings (2), and several injuries attributed to conflict-related sexual violence; the BWU also documented 792 women killed across 2025, underscoring widespread gendered victimization in the conflict [80]. Key figures from late 2025 show intensified targeting of civilians by air operations, with Nyan Lynn Thit Analytica Research Group reporting 712 airstrikes between September and December 2025 and more than 64 percent of them striking civilian targets, compounding risks to women and girls [80]. Specific gender-focused advocacy and leadership demands have emerged in response to the conflict. A district-level Kawthoolei Women's Dialogue on 3–4 February in Kawkareik Township (Karen State) called for greater participation of women in administrative, judicial and legislative sectors, urged the Karen National Union (KNU) to adopt and publicize gender-equality policies, and sought peace and security measures for women [83]. The dialogue—organized with the Kawthoolei Women's Organization and Kawthoolei Women's Network—was attended by 112 representatives and set a target of 30 percent women's representation at the upcoming 18th KNU Congress [83].

Displacement and economic hardship are deepening gendered vulnerabilities across the country. IDP women in Arakan State report daily earnings as low as about 5,000 MMK, cite inability to afford basic school supplies (a set of textbooks costs about 120,000 MMK), and describe foregoing children's education to meet survival needs, amplifying the protection and care burdens on women [82]. In other displacement sites, lack of donor access and failed harvests have left camps short of food and income, constraining women's ability to cover household and children's schooling costs in camps of several thousand IDPs [85].

Impact of Socio-Cultural Drivers on Aid

The targeting of religious and cultural sites by the junta is undermining safety and trust in affected communities. CHRO documented coordinated junta airstrikes on churches, Buddhist buildings and civilian neighbourhoods in Chin State on 8 February, causing civilian deaths, damage to schools, a hospital and homes and undermining safety and trust for faith communities in areas affected by the strikes [89]. In contrast, areas under Arakan Army/United League of Arakan control report expanded religious freedom and interfaith activities—ULA officials attended religious graduations and provided cash support for Hindu and Islamic events in early February—shaping where communities seek protection and services and affecting the cultural acceptability of non-junta service providers [90]. Prevailing gender norms and leadership gaps are creating barriers to equitable aid access. District-level Kawthoolei women's forums held on Feb 3–4 called for greater female participation across administrative, judicial and legislative bodies and for gender-equal policies, signaling that these structural inequities could bias aid access and require targeted gender-inclusive programming [83]. Internally displaced communities face worsening food and education shocks that are overwhelming formal assistance systems. Saw Pa Htan IDP camp (≈3,000 people) could not harvest crops due to military operations and has faced food shortages after donors stopped reaching the camp for around eight months, and civil society also reports over 60,000 displaced in Kyaukphyu Township—factors that increase reliance on informal coping mechanisms and limit community capacity to engage with formal assistance [85][86]. Fighting in Karen State in early February displaced about 4,000 people to the Thai–Myanmar border, with arrivals sheltering in monasteries and temporary tents and reporting urgent needs for rice and food, highlighting dependence on cross-border host community support and informal networks for survival [81]. Local tensions over armed presence and contested local governance are complicating aid delivery. Residents in Mingin township demanding both forces leave are disrupting community governance consent, hampering community participation in programs and complicating neutral aid delivery in contested areas [91].

Environment

Environmental Conditions

The UN World Food Programme projects that more than 12 million people in Myanmar will face acute hunger in 2026 [102]. Military operations—including drone surveillance, artillery, airstrikes and ground troop movements—forced IDPs to abandon cultivated rice and corn during harvest, leaving crops uncollected and contributing to acute food shortages and loss of livelihoods; donors have not reached Saw Pa Htan camp for around eight months [99]. Heavy fighting and junta airstrikes in early February 2026 displaced roughly 4,000 people to the Thai–Myanmar border (Palawtapo camp and nearby areas), creating urgent needs for food—particularly rice—and shelter after clashes around Wawlay, Hpalu and Minletpan and reported bombs on Wawlay and Hteethebale on 10 February 2026 [98]. Access to and governance of natural resources is disrupted: security operations have affected ruby mining in Mogok, protests have followed NUG restrictions on local gold mining, and control of rare-earth minerals remains contested (notably in Kachin areas), undermining livelihoods and pushing some resource activity underground [101][96][108][102].

Environmental Challenges

Intense junta air and ground attacks, arson and torching have caused widespread burning and destruction of civilian property, driving large-scale displacement and loss of housing and agricultural assets [95][93][107][98]. Conflict-related airstrikes, artillery shelling and arson destroyed at least 11 villages in Kyaukphyu Township, with data indicating over 700 houses burned; specific incidents include a drone strike that destroyed 180 homes in Ukin on 6 March 2025 and multiple airstrikes between 7–12 March 2025 that destroyed 45 houses in Kyattain [95]. Civil society groups report over 60,000 people displaced by fighting in that township [95]. Around 10,000 people fled after junta forces torched villages in Natogyi Township [93]. The Chin Human Rights Organisation documented coordinated airstrikes on 8–9 February that killed civilians and damaged or destroyed religious buildings, a school, a hospital and more than 60 homes between 1 January and 8 February [107]. Saw Pa Htan IDPs (around 3,000 people) were forced to abandon rice and corn fields during the harvest because of drone, artillery and ground operations, producing acute food shortages [99]. In Arakan State, displaced families report children foraging wild vegetables and collecting firewood from surrounding forests to survive, increasing pressure on local forest resources [100]. Collectively, these events have destroyed housing and disrupted agriculture, reduced access to livelihoods and increased reliance on forest resources, exacerbating land degradation and local environmental stress [95][99][100].

Environmental Risks and Mitigation

Conflict-related village fires, airstrikes and forced abandonment of crops are producing acute environmental and food-security hazards across Myanmar [95][99]. Approximately 4,000 people displaced from Wawlay, Minletpan and Hpalu areas have taken refuge at Palawtapo camp and nearby Thai border areas and urgently need food amid ongoing airstrikes and heavy fighting [98]. Internally displaced communities report they were unable to harvest rice and corn because of drone, artillery and ground operations, directly worsening local food shortages and reducing household coping capacity [99]. ASEAN disaster-management guidance recommends stronger regional coordination, improved information-sharing, sustained investment in preparedness, interoperable systems, joint training and community-centred approaches as applicable mitigation measures to reduce environmental risk and support sustainable humanitarian response in the region [105].

Conflict

Overview of the Ongoing Armed Conflict

Fighting intensified in early February 2026 across multiple regions—including Bago (Nattalin), Magway (Pwintbyu, Natogyi), Mandalay (Tagaung), Sagaing (Banmauk, Mingin), Chin (Thantlang, Kanpetlet, Mindat, Matupi), Rakhine/Arakan (Kyaukphyu), and Karen State (Myawaddy, Hpapun)—with repeated reports of ground offensives, air raids and drone strikes in contested areas [120][121][126][136][134][124][131][113][117]. Junta forces have employed airstrikes, drone strikes, artillery, arson and massed ground operations—including deployments by infantry units (IB275), armoured vehicles and junta-sponsored militias—while resistance groups continue offensive actions in several theatres [120][109][113][126][117]. Attacks have destroyed civilian infrastructure and property—homes, religious buildings, schools and at least one hospital—and regime forces have been reported torching villages during operations [124][113][134]. The conflict landscape includes numerous armed actors—a proliferation of resistance groups and local insurgents alongside junta forces and allied militias—complicating frontlines and humanitarian response [111][117]. Humanitarian access and basic services are severely constrained: IDP camps report acute food shortages and reduced donor assistance, and thousands have crossed or sought refuge along the Thai–Myanmar border as fighting continues [123][116][117]. Key displacement and casualty figures include: more than 60,000 people displaced in Kyaukphyu/Arakan by a year of fighting and related destruction [113]; approximately 10,000 people fled after junta raids and village torchings in Natogyi Township [134]; around 4,000 displaced from Wawlay, Hpalu and Minletpan (Myawaddy area) to the Thai border in early February 2026 [117]; over 3,000 displaced by junta raids in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region [136]. The Burma Women's Union recorded 55 women killed in January 2026, and an analytic group reported 712 junta airstrikes between September–December 2025, many striking civilian areas [109]. CHRO documented at least seven civilian deaths and damage to religious buildings, schools, a hospital and more than 60 homes in Chin State between 1 January and 8 February 2026 [124].

Conflict Stakeholders

The ruling junta (State Administration Council) and Myanmar military conduct widespread ground operations, including deployments of troops, armoured vehicles and junta-aligned militias, and have used air power and drone strikes as they attempt to retake resistance-held towns; the SAC does not exercise authority across many precincts and lacks control of the entire country [126][120][124][111]. Non-state resistance forces encompass People's Defence Forces (PDFs), local People's Defence Organisations (PDOs) and a multitude of ethnic armed groups [119]. The Student Revolutionary Force (estimated ~500 personnel) is trained and equipped by the Arakan Army and is closely allied with the Communist Party of Burma's People's Liberation Army, the People's Revolution Front and the People's Democratic Army, reflecting multi-group operational alliances among resistance actors [119]. Dozens of ethnic insurgent groups exercise territorial control outside major cities, collecting taxes and providing limited public services in their areas, while some ethnic armed forces (for example the Shanni Nationalities Army) have cooperated with the junta in operations such as the recapture of Banmauk [111][115]. The Kawthoolei Army (KTLA) controls areas along the Thai border that are hosting civilians displaced by heavy clashes around Myawaddy [117]. The National Unity Government (NUG) functions as an alternative political-military authority in contested districts, intervening to manage inter-group disputes and to limit actions that could prompt junta reprisals on civilians; NUG-facilitated negotiations led to a withdrawal agreement on 3 February 2026 between the Mingin Township PDO and the Student Revolutionary Force to avoid clashes and civilian harm [119]. External backing and diplomatic dynamics shape the conflict: China is described as backing the junta and Myanmar signed a five-year military cooperation pact with Russia in early February 2026 [110]. ASEAN member states remain divided over recognition of the junta's recent election—with Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam appearing more open to engagement and Malaysia and several others opposing endorsement, as the Philippines pursues active engagement through its chairmanship and envoy visits to Naypyitaw [110]. Humanitarian and material enablers noted by rights groups include allegations that Iranian aviation fuel shipments have facilitated recent junta air campaigns in Chin State, and international policy measures (EU sanctions, continuation of EverythingButArms provisions, and recent shifts in U.S. assistance and migration policy) have had mixed effects on the conflict environment and humanitarian access [124][111].

Peace Negotiations

Local talks led by the National Unity Government's Ministry of Defence commander for Kalay District produced a negotiated withdrawal agreement on 3 February 2026 for the Student Revolutionary Force (SRF) and Mingin Township People's Defence Organisation (PDO), with withdrawals to begin at 6pm that evening [119]. The dispute began on 22 January over administrative control of villages along the Chindwin River, escalated by 25 January when residents sent an open letter demanding both forces leave, and both SRF chair San Tin Tun and Mingin PDO head Nyo confirmed the subsequent troop withdrawals while some village tract PDO and PAO members remain in place [119]. At the regional diplomatic level, ASEAN foreign ministers meeting in Cebu on 29 January failed to reach consensus on recognising Myanmar's election held in stages from December 2025 through January 2026, leaving the FivePoint Consensus contested and member states split between engagement and nonrecognition positions [110]. The Philippines, as 2026 ASEAN chair, deployed Foreign Secretary Theresa Lazaro as special envoy and made a controversial visit to Naypyitaw while publicly stating the election was "not recognised for now," signalling a push for calibrated engagement [110]. Several states, including Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, have shown greater willingness to engage with the junta or accept the poll outcome, while Malaysia and aligned members insist on withholding recognition absent broader political conditions and inclusive dialogue [110]. Myanmar's Permanent Secretary Hau Khan Sum attended the Cebu meeting, indicating limited reengagement by junta officials in ASEAN processes [111]. Analysts warn ASEAN currently lacks the leverage and unified will to enforce the FivePoint Consensus, and that shifting regional priorities risk producing a fragmented mediation approach rather than a coherent, binding peace process [110].

Conflict Outlook

The short-term outlook points to a high likelihood of conflict intensification driven by sustained junta air and ground operations, continued territorial contests, and external military support. The regime has mounted concentrated offensives to regain or secure towns and strategic areas—deploying large forces to Tagaung on the Ayeyarwady's east bank, moving to take the last resistance-held

town in parts of Mandalay Region, and the junta has recaptured control of Banmauk, while heavy fighting continues in Hpapun as resistance forces seek to dislodge the last junta base [126][115][128]. The junta's use of drones and airstrikes has produced steady tactical gains and high civilian harm, including a drone strike that killed six resistance fighters in Bago and a separate junta airstrike that killed a mother and wounded a child near Saw Phyu Hill on 13 February 2026 [120][122]. CHRO and other monitors have accused foreign suppliers of enabling the junta's air campaign, citing evidence of Iranian aviation fuel shipments reaching Myanmar despite sanctions, which could sustain further aerial operations [124]. Early-February 2026 security ties with external powers—such as a reported five-year Russian military cooperation pact and continued Chinese backing—risk emboldening the junta and weakening ASEAN influence [110]. Humanitarian needs and protection risks are rising: the UN World Food Programme projects that more than 12 million people in Myanmar will face acute hunger in 2026, IDP camps report acute food shortages and disrupted livelihoods, and roughly five million children across Myanmar are deprived of education, with displaced children in Arakan State particularly affected [111][123][116]. Intensified frontline fighting has driven new waves of displacement: Thai authorities have tightened security in border areas such as Mae Sot, and conflict in Kyaukphyu has destroyed villages with over 700 houses burned across at least 11 villages over the past year [117][113]. Intra-resistance tensions have shown risks of fragmentation but were temporarily de-escalated by NUG mediation in Sagaing's Mingin Township, reducing the immediate risk of fighting between anti-junta forces while underscoring command-and-control challenges within the broader resistance movement [119]. Prospects for a negotiated settlement remain limited in the near term: ASEAN remains deeply divided over recognition of the December 2025–January 2026 junta-led elections and the utility of the Five-Point Consensus, limiting a coherent regional strategy [110]. However, ASEAN chairmanship engagement and selective diplomacy could offer narrow windows for de-escalation if coupled with concerted humanitarian access and pressure from key external actors [110]. Regional spillovers—acute refugee burdens on neighbouring Thailand (which already hosts large numbers of Myanmar refugees), tightened border controls, and transnational criminal risks such as trafficking and drug flows—are likely to persist and strain regional stability absent significant diplomatic or humanitarian interventions [110][117][111].

Displacement

Displacement Overview

Around 4,000 people displaced by intensified fighting in Myawaddy Township (Wawlay, Minletpan, Hpalu) have taken refuge at Palawtapo camp and nearby areas, with roughly 2,000 displaced earlier from Hpalu and Minletpan and a further ~2,000 forced out by fighting for the Wawlay Tactical Command on 10 February; some displaced crossed into Thailand, took temporary shelter in villages along the Thaungyin (Moei) River or in Thai-side monasteries, and Thai authorities tightened security as civilians were reported injured by junta airstrikes [144]. Additional key displacement figures and locations include: more than 60,000 people displaced in Kyaukphyu Township, Arakan (Rakhine) State, following airstrikes, artillery shelling and arson over the past year [148]; Saw Pa Htan IDP camp hosting around 3,000 displaced people from Demoso and nearby border areas and experiencing acute food shortages after donors stopped reaching the camp for about eight months [143]; more than 3,000 people displaced by junta raids in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region [153]; approximately 10,000 people who fled after junta forces torched villages in Natogyi Township [146]; and thousands forced to flee their homes by daily clashes and a junta airstrike near Saw Phyu Hill in Bago [160]. Displacement is reported as both recent (early–mid February localized surges) and protracted in conflict-affected areas such as Kyaukphyu and Arakan State where humanitarian assistance has declined and needs (including education access for displaced children) are rising [148][141]. Cross-border displacement and repatriation dynamics include calls by Bangladeshi leadership for safe, voluntary return of more than one million Rohingya refugees to Rakhine State amid declining international aid and concerns about long-term encampment, highlighting significant regional displacement and return challenges [150].

Living Conditions of the Displaced Population

Recent reporting documents acute deficits in food, education, shelter and safety among internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees across multiple regions of Myanmar [141][143][144]. Food and nutrition needs are acute nationally and among displaced populations: the WFP projects over 12 million people in Myanmar will face acute hunger in 2026 [149], and displaced groups report inability to harvest crops, depletion of rice supplies, and reliance on asset sales, daily labour or borrowing to survive. At Saw Pa Htan IDP camp residents were forced to abandon harvests due to drone, artillery and ground operations, while donor support to the camp has been absent for roughly eight months, leaving families facing acute food shortages and reports of inadequate water even for cooking [143][141]. Health and basic services are strained, with reporting of inadequate healthcare among displaced families in camps [141]. Education access for displaced children is severely disrupted: UN figures indicate about five million children across Myanmar are deprived of their right to education [141], many displaced children in Arakan State are out of school or forced into caregiving and hard labour, and rising costs of school supplies — with a set of textbooks cited at around 120,000 MMK while displaced parents report daily incomes as low as about 5,000 MMK (with some earning up to 20,000 MMK) — and declining humanitarian support limit schooling despite some ULA-run schooling initiatives in AA-controlled areas [141][161]. Security threats to civilians and IDPs are pervasive, with frequent airstrikes and ground operations causing civilian injuries and deaths, including reports that 55 women were killed in junta attacks in January 2026 and that hundreds of airstrikes between September–December 2025 heavily impacted civilians, while ongoing frontline fighting has caused border-area injuries and casualties [156][144]. Humanitarian access and assistance gaps persist: reporting notes a sharp decline in aid to many IDP camps and a "dramatic decline" in international aid for Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, exacerbating protection and livelihood vulnerabilities among displaced populations [141][150].

Drivers of Displacement

Armed conflict is the primary driver of displacement in Myanmar, with intense ground operations, artillery, drone strikes, jet airstrikes and deliberate arson/torchings forcing civilians to flee across multiple states in early February 2026 [144][147][146][162][163][159]. In Myawaddy area, fighting in early February displaced over 4,000 people after arrivals from Minletpan, Hpalu and Wawlay, including a February 10 offensive for the Wawlay Tactical Command base [144]. In Magway (Pwintbyu), more than 3,000 people were displaced by junta raids and ensuing clashes [153], while in Natogyi Township around 10,000 people fled after junta forces torched villages since the

start of the month [146]. In Kyaukphyu (Rakhine), civil society reports indicate more than 60,000 people displaced by conflict in the area as airstrikes, shelling and arson destroyed villages [148]. Political drivers include junta targeting of civilian areas and religious sites: the Chin Human Rights Organisation documented coordinated airstrikes on 8 February across Kanpetlet, Mindat and Matupi that killed civilians, damaged churches and schools, and linked such attacks to aviation fuel supplies enabling the regime's air campaign [147]. Conflict has disrupted agriculture and livelihoods, with IDPs in Saw Pa Htan unable to harvest replanted rice and corn because of drone, artillery and ground operations, producing acute food shortages and a near-absence of donor assistance for about eight months [143]. The World Food Programme projects that more than 12 million people in Myanmar will face acute hunger in 2026, amplifying displacement and vulnerability linked to food insecurity [149]. Social and intra-resistance tensions have also caused local displacement and schooling disruptions, as clashes or threatened clashes between allied resistance groups in Mingin Township prompted residents to flee and schools to close in late January–early February [157]. International dynamics (e.g., alleged foreign fuel supplies enabling air operations) and declines in humanitarian assistance have compounded secondary displacement and hampered returns, as displaced populations remain unable to cultivate or access basic services [147][143].

Integration

In Arakan State the United League of Arakan (ULA) has opened schools and begun implementing a more systematic education administration, and observers report that in AA-controlled areas religious freedom has expanded and the ULA is promoting equal movement and economic opportunities for residents regardless of ethnicity or religion [141][161]. However, many displaced children remain out of school due to severe financial and social constraints, with displaced parents reporting daily incomes as low as about 5,000 MMK (with some earning up to 20,000 MMK) and rising costs for school supplies — a set of textbooks was cited at around 120,000 MMK — making education unaffordable for many families [141]. Observers have urged the ULA and domestic and international humanitarian organisations to strengthen support for education initiatives to help displaced children regain access to learning in Arakan State [141]. Humanitarian assistance to IDP camps has declined sharply, leaving residents facing food shortages and inadequate healthcare [141]. Local armed tensions in Sagaing's Mingin Township disrupted education as forces negotiated withdrawal on February 3 to reduce the risk of regime airstrikes, but schools remained closed and students faced exam disruptions [157]. Bangladesh's chief adviser called on UNHCR to remain actively engaged to facilitate safe, voluntary and dignified return of Rohingya refugees as a longterm solution amid declining international aid and pressures on host communities [150].

Humanitarian Access

Humanitarian Access Overview

Humanitarian operations in Myanmar face severe constraints amid intensifying conflict and fragmented territorial control. Active frontline hostilities, aerial surveillance and strikes prevent safe access to farmland and settlements, acting as primary drivers that limit donor access and humanitarian delivery [167][178][165]. The UN World Food Programme projects that more than 12 million people in Myanmar will face acute hunger in 2026, underscoring the scale of need amid constrained access [168]. Cross-border assistance to Thailand and local non-state provision remain key modalities where international access is restricted. Humanitarian operations are active at the Thai–Myanmar border, where Palawtapo camp on the Thai side hosts over 4,000 people displaced by intensified fighting in early February and is reporting urgent food needs, particularly rice [165]. Fighting in Wawlay, Minletpan and Hpalu in Myawaddy Township in early February forced around 4,000 people to flee to the border and local shelters, increasing pressure on cross-border assistance and camp services [165]. IDP sites inside Myanmar face sharply reduced humanitarian access and growing needs: Saw Pa Htan camp reports food shortages and that donors have not reached the camp for about eight months after junta drone, artillery and ground operations forced abandonment of crops [167]. Non-state local actors are filling service and protection roles in areas outside junta control: the United League of Arakan/Arakan Army has opened schools, provided administrative support and cash assistance in AA-controlled Rakhine areas, while displaced people have sheltered in territory controlled by the Kawthoolei Army along the Thaungyin River, affecting where and by whom aid is delivered [173][165]. UNHCR has warned of a dramatic decline in international aid for Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar and urged continued engagement on repatriation and self-reliance, indicating reduced external assistance flows for refugee populations linked to Myanmar [182]. ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus has largely not been implemented by the junta, limiting regional diplomatic leverage to secure more consistent humanitarian access inside Myanmar [176].

Barriers to Humanitarian Access

Junta airstrikes, artillery, drones and arson have destroyed villages—including more than 700 houses across at least 11 villages in Kyaukphyu Township—and civil society groups report over 60,000 people displaced by fighting there [170]. Escalating clashes in Karen State in early February 2026 forced around 4,000 people from Myawaddy Township to flee to the Thai border, with heavy ground fighting and junta airstrikes impeding access and prompting tightened Thai border security [165]. The Chin Human Rights Organisation documented coordinated junta airstrikes across Kanpetlet, Mindat and Matupi on 8 February, recording at least seven civilian deaths, more than 20 injuries and damage to religious buildings, schools, a hospital and over 60 homes between 1 January and 8 February 2026 [178]. CHRO and other rights actors say foreign aviation-fuel shipments—including reported Iranian fuel—have enabled the junta's intensified air campaign, further complicating civilian protection and humanitarian access [178]. High civilian casualty rates and intensive air campaigns create severe security risks for aid operations: the Burmese Women's Union reported 55 women killed and 54 injured in January 2026 and documented 792 women killed in 2025, while Nyan Lynn Thit Analytica recorded 712 airstrikes between September–December 2025 with over 64% targeting civilians [179]. Military drone, artillery and ground operations prevented harvests and produced acute food shortages in IDP sites, forcing people to sell assets or borrow [167]. Humanitarian assistance and education services have declined in places such as Arakan State and UN figures indicate roughly five million children across Myanmar are deprived of education [164].

Political and bureaucratic obstacles further impede a coordinated response: ASEAN remains divided over recognition and engagement following the 2025–26 elections, undermining regional consensus, and international policy choices—such as EU sanctions dynamics and reported US reductions in humanitarian engagement—have produced mixed effects on aid delivery and access [176][168].

Humanitarian Access Gaps

Saw Pa Htan IDP camp (about 3,000 people) has received no donor deliveries for around eight months and is facing acute food shortages after residents were forced to abandon harvests due to junta drone, artillery and ground operations [167]. Around 4,000 people displaced from Wawlay, Minletpan and Hpalu in Myawaddy Township fled to the Thai–Myanmar border in early February and are reported to be in urgent need of food, particularly rice, following intensified fighting and junta airstrikes on and around Feb 10 [165]. At least 11 villages in Kyaukphyu Township have been destroyed by airstrikes, shelling and arson over the past year, more than 700 houses were reported destroyed, and civil society groups estimate over 60,000 people have been displaced, severely constraining access and shelter options in Arakan (Rakhine) State [170]. Coordinated junta airstrikes on Feb 8 in Chin State struck churches, a school and damaged a hospital and homes, with CHRO documenting civilian deaths, injuries and destruction that undermine local healthcare and humanitarian access [178]. Displaced children face an escalating education crisis in Arakan State where many remain out of school because of severe financial barriers, rising costs for supplies and a sharp decline in humanitarian assistance; UN figures indicate approximately five million children across Myanmar are deprived of education [164]. IDP camps report inadequate healthcare and wellbeing support while medical facilities have been damaged in recent bombardments, further limiting service delivery [164][178]. The Burma Women's Union reported at least 55 women killed and 54 injured in January 2026, and documented 792 women killed in 2025, underscoring acute protection and gender-specific assistance gaps [179]. The World Food Programme projects more than 12 million people in Myanmar will face acute hunger in 2026, signalling large-scale food assistance shortfalls nationally [168]. Local non-state actors such as the United League of Arakan have opened schools and provided administrative, security and some financial support in AA-controlled areas, but these local measures have not prevented widespread unmet needs and do not substitute for declining external humanitarian access and funding [164][173]. Many displaced households report they cannot afford basic necessities including stationery, water and cooking fuel, and some are selling assets or borrowing food to survive, illustrating gaps in livelihoods, water and basic non-food item support where donor access has waned [167][164].

Information, Communication and AAP

Information Landscape

Independent and local civil society actors provide much of the on-the-ground reporting in Myanmar, but the domestic information environment is heavily compromised by decades of junta manipulation. Military Intelligence historically placed stories, controlled access for certain outlets, and used nominally independent papers as propaganda channels, undermining the credibility of domestic news sources [195]. This pervasive censorship and propaganda by intelligence-linked actors, combined with reduced donor access to some camps and reliance on local civil society for situational reporting, limits the availability, accessibility and reliability of crisis information inside Myanmar [200][197][195].

The Chin Human Rights Organisation documented coordinated junta airstrikes across Kanpetlet, Mindat and Matupi on 8 February, reporting at least seven civilian deaths, more than 20 injuries, and damage to religious buildings, schools, a hospital and over 60 homes between 1 January and 8 February [207]. Heavy fighting around Myawaddy in early February forced over 4,000 people to flee to the ThaiMyanmar border from Minletpan, Hpalu and Wawlay, with intensified clashes and airstrikes reported on 10 February [197]. Civil society groups report prolonged displacement in Kyaukphyu, where more than 60,000 people have been displaced by fighting over the past year [204].

In eastern Myanmar, Saw Pa Htan IDP camp hosts approximately 3,000 residents and faces acute food shortages after residents abandoned crops during last year's harvest and no donors reached the camp for roughly eight months, severely reducing humanitarian access and information flows from the site [200]. United Nations figures indicate approximately five million children across Myanmar are currently deprived of education, with displaced children in Arakan State lacking basic materials and humanitarian assistance to IDP camps declining [186]. The UN World Food Programme projects more than 12 million people in Myanmar will face acute hunger in 2026 [193]. Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus urged UNHCR to maintain active engagement on Rohingya repatriation and highlighted a dramatic decline in international aid to refugees in Cox's Bazar [202].

Communication Channels

Independent and exiled media operate from Thailand, including Frontier Myanmar, and rely on online platforms and physical event spaces in Chiang Mai such as the Greenhouse coworking space to exchange information with Myanmar audiences and diaspora members [192][195]. A dataanalysis agency linked to Frontier monitors and collects what people say online and, according to Sonny Swe, counts embassies among its clients, raising transparency and security concerns about digital information flows [192][195]. The Independent Press Council Myanmar and member organisations reported Frontier did not inform the IPCM of its recent change of ownership to a Thai owner, fuelling distrust about informationsharing and participant safety in exiled media forums [192][195].

Historical evidence of state media manipulation and surveillance—including the Myanmar Times publishing intelligenceservice content, use of IT services tied to military intelligence, and intelligence agencies supplying stories—demonstrates a persistent risk of propaganda, misinformation and surveillance that undermines timeliness and accuracy of publicly shared information [195]. These concerns have made exiled journalists and presscouncil members cautious about participation in shared activities and prompted calls for greater transparency on media ownership and datahandling to protect sources and audiences [195][192].

Barriers to Information

Since the February 2021 coup the junta has carried out a broad crackdown on independent media—raiding newsrooms, revoking licences, outlawing outlets, arbitrarily detaining and interrogating journalists, and forcing many to operate in exile in neighbouring countries such as Thailand [195][192]. Military Intelligence has directly shaped coverage in some outlets by providing story ideas and MI-written content, receiving regular payments listed as "censorship fees," and using ISP-linked IT services that enabled monitoring of reporters' emails and search histories [195]. The junta's strict censorship regime has barred publications from reporting on sensitive incidents and allowed MI narratives to replace independent reporting [195]. Recent changes in media ownership and documented links between new owners and military-connected figures, together with a media-associated data agency that collects online speech for clients, have raised concerns about continued surveillance and indirect regime influence over exiled and private media [192][195].

Misinformation and Rumors

Myanmar's military intelligence ran a long-running influence operation that planted stories, supplied articles and editing to the Myanmar Times, enforced strict censorship, and presented the paper as independent to shape international opinion and deflect criticism of human rights abuses [195]. Leaked internal documents and testimony show MI figures, including Colonel Thein Swe, personally censored drafts, placed MI-authored material in news pages, and sometimes had the paper publish MI-supplied narratives disguised as independent reporting [195]. These practices successfully influenced diplomats, NGOs and foreign readers by normalising military narratives and obscuring the junta's abuses, giving propaganda credibility through a glossy, ostensibly independent outlet [195]. MI also contracted external PR firms—notably the Washington, D.C.-based DCI Group in 2002—paying a documented fee to burnish the regime's image abroad and lobby US audiences [195].

More recent reporting in February 2026 by Myanmar Now revealed that Frontier Myanmar's ownership was transferred in April 2025 to Thai owner Pichai Chuensuksawadi, who has engaged with junta officials—a change and engagement that have increased distrust among exiled media and raised security concerns about the outlet's independence [192]. Investigations also report that Frontier-linked companies operate a data agency collecting online speech and producing intelligence-style reports for clients reportedly including embassies, prompting fears among journalists and activists that monitored data could be accessible to intelligence actors [195][192]. As a result, humanitarian and rights experts have withdrawn from events tied to Frontier and exiled journalists warn against using Frontier-linked spaces, while some donors later said they were not aware of prior MI links when funding the outlet, illustrating damage to trust and increased risk of misinformation in Myanmar's information environment [195].

Accountability Needs and Transparency

Humanitarian assistance to IDP camps has declined sharply, leaving displaced communities struggling to meet basic needs. Donor-access gaps include Saw Pa Htan camp, where no donors have reached the site for around eight months, worsening food shortages after residents were forced to abandon crops because of junta drone, artillery and ground operations [200]. Around 4,000 people displaced by fighting in Myawaddy Township, Karen State, fled to the Thai–Myanmar border and Palawtapo camp following clashes and airstrikes in early February, and arrivals continued on 10 February with urgent needs for food, especially rice [197].

Local non-state actors have partially filled service gaps. The United League of Arakan opened schools and began implementing a more systematic education administration in Arakan State this year, but severe financial barriers—high costs of school supplies and very low household incomes—keep many displaced children out of school [186]. Civil society demands for greater transparency and participation were voiced at the Kawthoolei Women's Dialogue held 3–4 February, where 112 representatives urged the Karen National Union to adopt and publicize gender-equality policies, make the Kawthoolei charter available for public feedback, and target 30 percent women's representation at the 18th KNU Congress [201].

Reported accountability gaps include reduced humanitarian reach to camps, prolonged absence of donors at some sites, financial and access barriers that prevent beneficiaries—notably children and women—from accessing services or participating in decision-making, and reliance on non-state actors to provide basic services [186][200][201].

Legal and Policy

Legal and Policy Framework

ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus, drafted in April 2021, calls for an immediate end to violence, constructive dialogue, appointment of a special envoy, humanitarian assistance, and a visit by a regional delegation, but Myanmar's military government has largely ignored these provisions [213]. ASEAN member states are divided into camps—some willing to accept the recent election outcome and move on, others warning that recognition would signal impunity for atrocities, and a third group maintaining nonrecognition while engaging in lowkey diplomacy—undermining unified enforcement of the consensus [213]. Philippine Foreign Secretary Theresa Lazaro made a controversial visit to Naypyitaw as the ASEAN chair's special envoy and Manila stated the grouping was "not recognising the Myanmar election for now" during the Cebu meetings on Jan 29, 2026 [213]. Some ASEAN members (Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam) are reported to be leaning toward recognising the election outcome or engaging the junta, while Malaysia opposed certification; only Cambodia and Vietnam formally sent observers to the polls [213]. Vietnam signalled support for considering new measures to advance the FivePoint Consensus, while Laos reportedly expressed support for the election and intended to send observers, reflecting shifting intraASEAN positions [213]. Myanmar's Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hau Khan Sum, attended the ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting in Cebu, indicating limited reengagement by regime officials in regional fora [211]. Myanmar and Russia signed a fiveyear military cooperation pact in early February 2026, and China has publicly backed the junta, complicating regional pressure and potential enforcement of international norms [213]. Gambia has initiated a genocide case against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice, increasing international legal scrutiny of the junta's conduct [211].

The Chin Human Rights Organisation reported coordinated junta airstrikes in Chin State on 8 February and linked the intensified air campaign to foreign-supplied aviation fuel, calling for sanctions on aviation fuel supply chains after Reuters documented Iranian fuel

shipments reaching Myanmar despite sanctions [214].

Humanitarian Impact of Legislation

The junta's intensified air campaign has struck protected civilian objects—churches, Buddhist and Catholic sites, schools, a hospital and homes—with the Chin Human Rights Organisation (CHRO) documenting at least seven civilian deaths and widespread damage between 1 January and 8 February 2026 [214]. CHRO reported coordinated strikes on 8 February across Kanpetlet, Mindat and Matupi townships, including a strike on a Baptist church in Chinpiang that killed at least three civilians (including a child) [214][212]. Humanitarian assistance to displacement sites has sharply declined, with IDP camps in Arakan reporting reduced support and some camps (e.g., Saw Pa Htan) saying donor access has effectively stopped for around eight months [215][212]. Fighting and junta airstrikes in early February forced around 4,000 people to flee to the Thai–Myanmar border near Palawtapo camp, creating urgent food needs and constrained crossborder assistance options [216]. Key figures and impacts include:

- WFP projects more than 12 million people in Myanmar will face acute hunger in 2026 [211]
- ~4,000 people displaced to the Thai border around Palawtapo in early February 2026 [216]
- 55 women killed in January 2026 as a result of junta air and ground attacks, and 54 injured, according to the Burma Women's Union (BWU) [227]
- 712 airstrikes recorded between September–December 2025, with more than 64% reportedly targeting civilians, per analytic reporting cited by BWU sources [227]
- 792 women killed by military attacks during 2025, per BWU reporting [227]
- More than 700 houses destroyed across at least 11 villages in Kyaukphyu Township over the past year [218]

Failure to harvest crops because of junta drone, artillery and ground operations has left IDPs without food or livelihoods, forcing asset sales and reliance on borrowing [212]. At the international-policy level, the United States moved on 26 January to end Temporary Protected Status for some Myanmar beneficiaries (a decision temporarily blocked by a court order), directly affecting legal residency protections for refugees from Myanmar [211]. Commentators also note mixed effects from Western measures: EU sanctions aimed at the junta and other actions may have aggravated civilian hardship even as trade arrangements such as Everything But Arms continued to benefit the regime, complicating the humanitarian landscape [211]. UN-related reporting indicates approximately five million children across Myanmar are deprived of their right to education, with displaced children in Arakan State among the most affected [215]. Together, these developments point to widespread breaches of International Humanitarian Law through attacks on protected civilian objects and to legal and practical barriers—donor access constraints, contested regional engagement, and shifts in refugee-protection policies—that are restricting assistance, protection and basic rights for displaced and crisis-affected populations in Myanmar [214][218][227].

International Agreements Impacting the Crisis

ASEAN foreign ministers failed to agree to recognise the junta-led election at their Cebu meeting on 29 January 2026, reflecting deep division within the bloc over how to engage Naypyitaw despite the Five-Point Consensus framework established in April 2021 [213]. Western measures have complicated aid flows and political leverage, with reports that the US cut some humanitarian funding after USAID was eliminated and sought to end TPS for Myanmar nationals in late January 2026 (a move temporarily blocked by a court order) [211]. International agencies remain engaged on parallel issues, with UNHCR and other UN actors flagged as involved in Rohingya repatriation discussions and reporting declines in international aid to refugee camps, prompting calls for renewed engagement to enable voluntary returns and sustain assistance [225].

Limitations of Current Policies

ASEAN remains divided over engagement with Myanmar: foreign ministers failed to agree on whether to recognise the junta-led December 2025–January 2026 elections, reflecting weakening enforcement of the Five-Point Consensus and limited collective leverage to secure a cessation of hostilities, inclusive dialogue, or meaningful humanitarian access [213]. This incoherent regional policy risks pragmatic concessions which could further legitimize the junta and enable escalating violations. Escalating junta air campaigns have caused civilian deaths and damage to religious buildings, schools and homes, and rights groups have linked foreign aviation fuel supplies to enabling these strikes, revealing gaps in enforcement of fuel and arms-related controls [214][229]. Corruption and political interference undermine policy enforcement inside the regime, exemplified by the dismissal of the home affairs minister on corruption charges following a foreign complaint about Myanmar-based online scam operations [217]. Civic space and accountability mechanisms have been eroded since the 2021 coup by systematic crackdowns on independent media, licence revocations and arrests of journalists, weakening remedies and protections for human rights violations [221]. The cumulative effect is deteriorating civilian protection and basic services across multiple sectors.

Food Security and Livelihoods

Access to Food and Market Functionality

The UN World Food Programme projects that more than 12 million people in Myanmar will face acute hunger in 2026 [236]. Humanitarian assistance to IDP camps in Arakan State has declined sharply, while very low daily incomes (reported as about 5,000 MMK for some, up to 20,000 MMK for others) and soaring commodity prices leave families unable to afford basic food, water or school-related expenses [234]. Airstrikes and arson over the past year have destroyed villages in Kyaukphyu Township and displaced more than 60,000 people, adding to acute food needs in that area [238]. The Saw Pa Htan camp, which hosts around 3,000 displaced people, has not received donor deliveries for about eight months, with rice supplies especially difficult to obtain [233]. Heavy fighting in early February displaced over 4,000 people from Myawaddy Township to the Thai–Myanmar border, where those in Palawtapo camp urgently need food—rice in particular [230].

Coping Mechanisms

In Saw Pa Htan camp, households are coping by selling remaining assets (land, cattle, farms), working as daily labourers when available, and borrowing food to survive [233]. Foraging and other informal survival strategies have been curtailed by drone surveillance, limiting access to wild foods and previous coping options such as collecting fish, small snails and cow dung for sale [233]. In Arakan State, sharply reduced humanitarian assistance and very low daily incomes are forcing many displaced children out of school to care for siblings or engage in foraging and firewood collection to support households, and rising education costs (e.g., textbooks around 120,000 MMK) further impede schooling [234]. United Nations figures indicate about five million children across Myanmar are currently deprived of their right to education, with displaced children in Arakan among the most affected [234].

Livelihood Disruption

A little more than half the population of Myanmar currently live in poverty [236]. In Arakan State, many internally displaced people report earning about 5,000 MMK per day, while some can earn up to 20,000 MMK—levels widely reported as insufficient to cover basic food costs and school expenses [234]. The rising cost of school supplies (a set of textbooks reported at ~120,000 MMK) and inability to afford stationery are major barriers to children's schooling in IDP camps [234]. Civil society organisations report more than 60,000 people displaced by fighting in Kyaukphyu Township, reflecting large-scale disruption to local livelihoods and markets [238]. More than 3,000 people were displaced by junta raids in Pwintbyu Township, leaving at least five villages deserted and affecting local farming communities [242].

Impact on Agricultural Activities and Production

Internally displaced people in Saw Pa Htan camp were unable to harvest replanted rice and corn because military junta drone, artillery and ground operations forced them to abandon cultivated fields during harvest, leaving crops unharvested and contributing to current food shortages [233]. Military surveillance and insecurity have prevented traditional coping activities such as collecting fish, small snails and cow dung for sale, further reducing food and income sources for displaced households [233]. In Kyaukphyu Township, junta airstrikes and arson have destroyed at least 11 villages and more than 700 houses since February 2025, displacing over 60,000 people and causing widespread property destruction that has disrupted rural livelihoods and agricultural production [238]. Heavy fighting in early February 2026 around Wawlay, Minletpan and Hpalu displaced over 4,000 people to the Thai–Myanmar border, where arrivals reported urgent need for food—rice in particular—amid ongoing airstrikes and clashes [230].

Food and Livelihood Needs and Current Response

Heavy fighting in early February displaced over 4,000 people from Wawlay, Minletpan and Hpalu in Myawaddy Township to the Thai–Myanmar border and Palawtapo camp, creating urgent demand for food—particularly rice [230]. Donor support to Saw Pa Htan camp (around 3,000 residents) has reportedly ceased for about eight months, limiting humanitarian food assistance to that camp and leaving IDPs who were unable to harvest rice and corn crops due to junta operations facing acute food shortages [233]. Humanitarian assistance to IDP camps in Arakan State has declined sharply, leaving residents struggling to meet basic survival needs and reducing capacity to support children's education and household livelihoods [234]. Key gaps identified include newly displaced populations at the Thai border and camps with suspended donor support, limited reach of food assistance, and loss of harvests and income-generating opportunities for agricultural households [230][233][234].

Education

Learning Environment and Facility Conditions

Conflict and displacement in Arakan State have devastated educational infrastructure and learning conditions. Repeated airstrikes, artillery shelling, and arson in Kyaukphyu have caused widespread destruction and displaced more than 60,000 people, forcing civilians to flee and disrupting access to education in affected areas [245]. United Nations figures indicate approximately five million children across Myanmar are currently deprived of their right to education, with displaced children in Arakan State among the most affected [243]. Many displaced children lack basic learning materials such as books and pencils, and those approaching final examinations face severe shortages of essential supplies [243]. The United League of Arakan (ULA) has opened schools and begun a more systematic education administration this year, yet significant barriers persist [243]. The wider collapse of public services has left Myanmar's education system devastated, with generational impacts if gaps are not addressed [247].

Access to Education and Barriers

Displacement and financial hardship constitute the primary barriers preventing IDP children in Arakan State from accessing education. Although the ULA opened schools and began more systematic education administration this year, many displaced children remain out of school due to severe financial and social challenges [243]. Humanitarian assistance to IDP camps has declined sharply, leaving parents unable to afford school supplies; many IDP households report daily incomes as low as 5,000 MMK and up to 20,000 MMK, while a set of textbooks costs around 120,000 MMK [243]. In Saw Pa Htan IDP camp (hosting around 3,000 people), families unable to harvest rice and corn due to military drone, artillery, and ground operations now face food shortages and cannot cover children's school expenses, while donor support to the camp has effectively stopped for around eight months [244]. Older children frequently drop out to care for younger siblings or undertake physically demanding work such as foraging and gathering firewood to support families [243].

Education Needs and Current Response

Displaced children in Arakan and Kayah States require urgent support to resume education, yet humanitarian response remains severely limited. While the United League of Arakan (ULA) has opened schools and begun more systematic education administration, extreme poverty, rising costs, and sharply reduced humanitarian assistance make school attendance impossible for many families [243]. IDP camps across Arakan State report that children routinely lack basic materials and overall donor assistance has declined sharply [243]. Observers have called for the ULA together with domestic and international humanitarian organizations to strengthen education support and interventions [243]. In Kayah State's Saw Pa Htan camp, families who replanted rice and corn were forced to abandon harvests because of drone, artillery, and ground operations, leaving crops uncollected and contributing to food shortages, while families now cannot afford children's school expenses or even basic water for cooking, further blocking access to education [244].

Health

Availability and Access to Healthcare Services

Displaced populations in Arakan State face inadequate healthcare and sharp declines in humanitarian assistance, leaving many IDPs unable to access basic medical services [248]. Financial hardship among IDPs, including very low daily incomes and soaring commodity prices, further limits their ability to seek care and meet basic health needs [248]. Heavy fighting in early February around Myawaddy Township, including airstrikes and clashes that displaced over 4,000 people to the Thai–Myanmar border and nearby camps, resulted in civilian injuries and increased urgent need for medical assistance [249]. In Mingin Township, treatment provision and clinic operations have been affected after a local doctor was detained on 30 November 2024, reducing available medical personnel in the area [253].

Disease Outbreaks

Major risk factors for communicable disease transmission across Myanmar include rising displacement, food and water shortages, inadequate healthcare, and reduced humanitarian access [248][249][251]. Around 4,000 people were displaced to the Thai–Myanmar border after fighting intensified in early February, with another 2,000 forced to flee on 10 February during clashes for the Wawlay Tactical Command base [249]. Civil society organisations report more than 60,000 people displaced in Kyaukphyu Township over the past year [252]. Saw Pa Htan IDP camp hosts around 3,000 people and is facing food shortages after residents were unable to harvest crops; donor assistance has not reached the camp for about eight months [251]. The UN World Food Programme projects that more than 12 million people in Myanmar will face acute hunger in 2026 [250]. These conditions, together with reported inadequate healthcare services and halted donor support, heighten the risk of communicable disease spread and weaken local health response capacity [248][251].

Health System Challenges

Myanmar's health system faces severe challenges driven by sustained conflict and deteriorating infrastructure. Sustained junta attacks in Kyaukphyu over the past year destroyed at least 11 villages and more than 700 houses, contributing to widespread displacement [252]. Humanitarian assistance to IDP camps has declined sharply, and Saw Pa Htan camp reported no donor deliveries for around eight months, producing rice shortages and forcing residents to sell assets or rely on unstable daily labour [248][251]. Drone, artillery and ground operations have prevented IDPs from harvesting crops or accessing areas for food and water, undermining livelihoods and access to basic services and health-supporting needs [251]. Targeted actions against medical personnel—including the detention of a clinic doctor in Mingin Township on 30 November 2024—have raised concerns about the healthcare workforce's capacity [253]. These systemic disruptions, combined with the projection that more than 12 million people will face acute hunger in 2026, increase pressure on health services and humanitarian budgets [250].

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

No information available on mental health and psychosocial support services or needs in the reporting period.

Health Needs and Current Response

Heavy fighting between resistance forces and the junta in early February, including airstrikes and a 10 February attack on Wawlay Tactical Command base, caused civilian injuries and casualties and forced thousands to flee toward the Thai–Myanmar border [249]. Palawtapo camp and nearby areas now host over 4,000 displaced people who are in urgent need of food—particularly rice—as arrivals from Hpalu, Minletpan and Wawlay continued through 10 February [249]. Displaced people have taken temporary shelter along the Thaungyin (Moei) River and in monasteries on the Thai side, with frontline sources reporting civilians injured by junta airstrikes [249]. In Saw Pa Htan camp, inability to harvest rice and corn because of junta drone, artillery and ground operations left residents facing food shortages, exacerbating gaps in essential services [251].

Overall, acute needs exist for emergency medical care for conflict-related injuries and critical nutrition support, combined with deteriorating humanitarian access and reduced donor assistance that have left health and basic services under-resourced [249][251][248].

Nutrition

Availability and Access to Nutrition Services

Displaced communities across Myanmar are facing acute food shortages and sharply reduced humanitarian assistance, constraining access to basic nutrition and coping mechanisms [258][259]. In Saw Pa Htan camp, IDPs were forced to abandon rice and corn at harvest time due to junta drone, artillery and ground operations and have been unable to collect crops, while donor support to the camp has not reached residents for around eight months [258]. Around 4,000 people displaced by fighting in early February fled to the Thai–Myanmar border and Palawtapo camp – with arrivals on 10 February bringing the camp population to over 4,000 – and are reported to be in urgent need of food, particularly rice [261]. Household purchasing power is severely constrained, with some IDPs reporting daily earnings as low as about 5,000 MMK (and up to 20,000 MMK for a few), and rising commodity prices, loss of livelihoods and asset sales further reducing food affordability [259][258].

Nutrition Needs and Current Response

The UN World Food Programme projects more than 12 million people in Myanmar will face acute hunger in 2026 [257]. Internally displaced people in Saw Pa Htan camp (around 3,000 residents) are experiencing severe rice scarcity after being prevented from harvesting last year's crops due to junta drone, artillery and ground operations [258]. As a result, families are selling assets, borrowing food, and those who previously foraged or collected small goods can no longer do so because areas are under drone surveillance [258]. Around 4,000 people displaced by fighting in Myawaddy Township in early February are in urgent need of food, especially rice, after clashes on 10 February forced additional displacements and disrupted access to assistance [261]. Humanitarian assistance to IDP camps has declined sharply while household incomes remain extremely low, heightening unmet nutrition needs [259].

WASH

Availability of Water Sources

Humanitarian assistance to IDP camps in Arakan State has declined sharply, leaving residents struggling to meet basic survival needs. Displaced families report they cannot afford water for cooking and daily use, with Saw Pa Htan IDP camp hosting around 3,000 people facing these critical water shortages [264][265]. Around 4,000 people displaced by early-February fighting in Myawaddy Township have fled to the Thai–Myanmar border and are sheltering in temporary tents along the Thaungyin (Moei) River, where access to safe and reliable water sources remains uncertain [262].

Access to Sanitation Facilities and Hygiene Practices

Families in the Saw Pa Htan IDP camp lack income to buy rice, cover school expenses, or even purchase water for cooking and daily use, severely constraining basic hygiene and sanitation practices for residents [265].

Waste Management and Vector-Borne Disease Risks

No specific information is currently available regarding waste management systems or vector-borne disease risks in the affected areas.

Main WASH Needs and Humanitarian Response

The decline in humanitarian assistance to IDP camps in Arakan State has created critical gaps in meeting basic WASH needs, with displaced populations unable to cover essentials such as food and water [264]. Key needs include restoring access to affordable water supplies for cooking and daily use, as families in camps like Saw Pa Htan report being unable to purchase water despite hosting around 3,000 displaced people [265].

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

Damage to Housing and Shelter Needs

Over the past year, at least 11 villages in Kyaukphyu Township were destroyed by airstrikes, artillery shelling and arson, with more than 700 houses reduced to ashes and over 60,000 people displaced by the fighting [272]. A drone strike on 6 March 2025 destroyed 180 homes in Ukin Village, and airstrikes between 7–12 March 2025 destroyed 45 houses in Kyattain Village [272]. In early February, intensified fighting around 10 February forced roughly 4,000 people from Wawlay, Minletpan and Hpalu in Myawaddy Township to cross to the Thai border or shelter in temporary tents along the Thaungyin River and in monasteries on the Thai side [269]. Raids in Pwintbyu Township displaced more than 3,000 people, adding to regional shelter needs [271]. The widespread use of airstrikes, artillery and arson against civilian areas is a primary driver of housing destruction and complicates safe return and rebuilding efforts [272].

Living Conditions in Camps or Settlements

Displaced families face extreme financial strain in camps across Myanmar, with many IDP families in Arakan State reporting daily earnings sometimes as low as 5,000 MMK and rarely exceeding 20,000 MMK, forcing children out of school [268]. Displaced children in Arakan State face severe disruptions to education, with United Nations figures indicating approximately five million children across Myanmar are deprived of schooling, and many displaced students lack basic materials and support to sit exams [268]. Food shortages are acute in some camps: Saw Pa Htan hosts roughly 3,000 IDPs who face shortages after being unable to harvest crops because of military drones, shelling and ground operations, and the camp has had little donor access for about eight months [273].

Many displaced from Myawaddy Township in early February are sheltering in temporary tents and monasteries near the Thai border and are in urgent need of food and other assistance after junta airstrikes and clashes in the area [269]. Air and ground attacks continue to threaten safety in displacement-affected areas, with the Burma Women's Union reporting 55 women killed in January 2026 and analysts documenting 712 airstrikes between September–December 2025, over 64 percent of which reportedly targeted civilians, exacerbating protection risks for camp populations [270].

NFI and Shelter Needs and Current Response

Humanitarian assistance to IDP camps has declined sharply, reducing available support for basic survival needs among displaced communities [268]. In Saw Pa Htan IDP camp near Demoso, donor support has effectively stopped with no donors reaching the camp for around eight months, forcing residents to sell assets or borrow food [273]. Fighting in early February displaced around 4,000 people from Wawlay, Minletpan and Hpalu in Myawaddy Township to the Thai–Myanmar border, where many report urgent needs for food, particularly rice [269].

Protection

Impact on civilians

Heavy frontline fighting and junta air operations have driven repeated mass displacement across Myanmar throughout early 2026. More than 4,000 people fled to the Thai–Myanmar border from Wawlay, Minletpan and Hpalu village tracts in early February, concentrating in Palawtapo camp and nearby areas, and are in urgent need of food assistance [290]. Around 10,000 people fled after junta forces torched villages in Natogyi Township this month [293], and more than 3,000 were displaced by junta raids in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region [282]. In Rakhine's Kyaukphyu Township, civil society groups report over 60,000 people displaced and at least 11 villages destroyed with more than 700 houses reduced to ashes during the past year, with displacement continuing into 2026 [287]. Local IDP sites are facing acute food shortages. Saw Pa Htan camp, hosting roughly 3,000 displaced people, reports failed harvests after residents abandoned cultivated rice and corn due to junta drone, artillery and ground operations, and the camp has received no donor access for about eight months, forcing families to sell assets or borrow food [289]. Humanitarian assistance to IDP camps in Arakan State has declined sharply, limiting access to basic supplies [277]. Junta airstrikes and artillery have killed and injured civilians with alarming frequency in February 2026. The Chin Human Rights Organisation documented coordinated airstrikes across Chin State on 8 February that hit churches and other civilian sites, recording at least seven civilian deaths (including three children), more than 20 injuries and damage to religious buildings, schools, a hospital and over 60 homes between 1 January and 8 February [278]. A junta airstrike near Thantlang killed six civilians and injured seven [279], a Magway attack on civilian shops killed five people [280], a junta strike in Bago killed a mother and wounded a child [296][303], and airstrikes on Union Day killed seven in Rakhine State [281]. The Burma Women's Union reported 55 women killed in January 2026 and 54 women injured that month, including five injured in conflict-related sexual violence [284].

Factors Driving protection risks

Intense and widespread violence continues to drive displacement and civilian harm across Myanmar. Heavy fighting in early February forced people to flee after clashes around Wawlay and operations by IB-275 [290]. Junta forces have conducted large-scale raids and arson operations, torching villages and triggering mass displacement [293]. Air and drone strikes have killed civilians and combatants, including a 500-pound bomb near Thantlang and multiple deadly strikes in Bago and Bago Region that hit marketplaces and resistance outposts [297][296][302]. The Chin Human Rights Organisation warned that foreign-supplied aviation fuel has enabled the junta's air campaign [278]. The Nyan Lynn Thit Analytica Research Group reported the military carried out 712 airstrikes between September–December 2025 with more than 64% targeting civilians [284]. Displacement and battlefield disruption have caused sharp declines in food security and livelihoods. The UN World Food Programme projects that more than 12 million people in Myanmar will face acute hunger in 2026 [285]. Displaced populations face food shortages after being unable to harvest crops because of drone, artillery and ground operations, and some camps have received no donor support for months [289]. Educational and social protection structures are eroding. United Nations figures indicate roughly five million children across Myanmar are deprived of education, and displaced families in Arakan State report extremely low incomes (as little as 5,000 MMK) and prohibitive school costs (textbooks cited at about 120,000 MMK), forcing children out of school to work or care for siblings [277]. The junta's continued use of arbitrary arrests and economic controls—including recent detentions of top Yangon gold traders—and ongoing crackdowns on independent media and critics contribute to legal and institutional weaknesses that heighten protection risks [294][299]. Landmines and explosive hazards remain present, with injuries documented among women and civilians [284]. International protection pathways have also been weakened: the US sought to end Temporary Protected Status for Myanmar on 26 January, potentially affecting about 4,000 beneficiaries, a move later temporarily blocked by a court, illustrating risks for refugees and legal residents [285].

Psychological and mental health impacts

Recurring airstrikes, arson and deliberate village destruction, large-scale displacement, severe food shortages, interrupted schooling, and incidents of conflict-related sexual violence represent ongoing stressors for populations across Myanmar [287][289][290][284]. The Burma Women's Union documented 792 women killed in 2025, underscoring the scale and persistence of violence that generates trauma across affected communities [284]. Children in IDP camps are frequently out of school, forced into caregiving or arduous work, and face barriers to returning to education, increasing their psychosocial vulnerability [277]. Reduced humanitarian assistance and halted donor support in several camps have intensified hardships that are likely to exacerbate stress and trauma among displaced populations [289][277].

Protection Needs and Current Response

Mass displacement, reduced humanitarian access, food insecurity, and attacks on civilians have created immediate and urgent protection needs across Myanmar. Approximately 4,000 people displaced to the Thai–Myanmar border in early February require food assistance and safe shelter after junta airstrikes caused civilian injuries and casualties [290]. More than 60,000 people displaced by fighting in Kyaukphyu Township over the past year require sustained humanitarian support [287]. Saw Pa Htan IDP camp, hosting approximately 3,000 people, is facing acute food shortages and has not received donor support for around eight months [289]. United Nations figures indicate approximately five million children across Myanmar are deprived of their right to education, with displaced children in Arakan State among the most affected [277]. Although the United League of Arakan has opened schools this year, many displaced children remain out of school because families cannot afford rising costs [277]. Bangladesh's chief adviser urged UNHCR to maintain strong engagement amid a "dramatic decline" in international aid for Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar and called for coordinated efforts to facilitate safe, voluntary, and dignified repatriation to Rakhine State [298].

Child Protection concerns

Displaced children face sharply reduced access to education and are exposed to harmful coping mechanisms including child labour. Parents report daily incomes as low as 5,000 MMK while a set of textbooks can cost around 120,000 MMK, creating prohibitive economic barriers to schooling [277]. Older children are being pulled from classes to care for younger siblings or to undertake physically demanding work such as foraging and gathering firewood [277]. The Burma Women's Union reported on 9 February that at least 55 women were killed in January 2026, including four who were under 18, indicating child casualties in recent military attacks [284]. Local tensions in Sagaing's Mingin Township have disrupted schooling and examinations, with schools unable to open and students forced to travel to other villages to sit exams, further undermining children's access to education [291].

Violence against women and girls

The Burmese Women's Union reported 55 women were killed in January 2026 as a result of junta air and ground attacks, including two who were pregnant: 46 women were killed in aerial bombardments, seven by artillery shelling, and two in arbitrary killings [284]. Fifty-four women were injured in January 2026: 41 in air strikes, five by landmines and five as a result of conflict-related sexual violence [284]. By location, Sagaing Region recorded 20 women's deaths in January, Rakhine State 10 and Kachin State eight; an airstrike on 22 January in Kaungja village (Bhamo Township) killed eight women [284]. The district-level Kawthoolei Women's Dialogue (held 3–4 February) called for greater women's participation in administrative, judicial and legislative sectors, urged the KNU to adopt and publicize gender equality policies, requested peace and security measures for women, sought 30% women's participation at the 18th KNU Congress, and was attended by 112 representatives [295].

Vulnerable Groups / Special Needs Groups

Unaccompanied and Separated Children

United Nations figures indicated approximately five million children across Myanmar are deprived of their right to education, with displaced children in Arakan State among the most affected [305]. Humanitarian assistance to IDP camps has declined sharply, exacerbating families' inability to cover children's school expenses and basic needs [305][316]. Rising costs of school supplies—a set of textbooks cited at around 120,000 MMK—are reported to prevent attendance, with many displaced students approaching final examinations lacking basic materials such as books or pencils [305]. Older children in IDP camps are frequently forced to leave school to care for younger siblings or help support their families, with some undertaking physically demanding work such as foraging wild vegetables and gathering firewood [305]. More than 60,000 people have been displaced by fighting in Kyaukphyu Township over the past year, increasing the population of displaced children in the area [306]. Saw Pa Htan IDP camp hosts around 3,000 displaced people and is experiencing food shortages that limit families' capacity to pay for children's schooling and school-related costs [316].

Pregnant and Lactating Women

The Burma Women's Union reported that at least 55 women were killed in January 2026, including two who were pregnant, and that 54 women were injured that month—including five injured in conflict-related sexual violence [308]. The organization documented 792 women killed in 2025, indicating elevated risks to women including pregnant and lactating individuals in conflict-affected areas [308]. Heavy fighting in early February 2026 forced over 4,000 people to flee to the Thai–Myanmar border around 10 February, with urgent needs for food and shelter reported by aid workers and camp officials [309].

Adolescents and Youth

The Burma Women's Union reported at least 55 women killed in junta attacks in January 2026, including four victims under 18, underscoring adolescents' exposure to lethal violence [308]. Parents report daily wages as low as about 5,000 MMK (some can earn up to 20,000 MMK), which prevents children from attending school even where facilities have opened [305]. Older children in IDP camps are frequently forced to leave school to care for younger siblings or to undertake physically demanding work such as foraging and gathering firewood [305]. In Mingin Township, local tensions have prevented schools from opening and students were reported likely to travel to other villages to sit mid-year exams [319]. Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus warned that a "frustrated and angry young generation" is growing up in Rohingya camps and highlighted the urgent need for livelihoods and self-reliance to reduce long-term risks for youth in displacement [311].

People with Disabilities

No specific information available for this subcategory.

Elderly

No specific information available for this subcategory.

Displaced

Displaced populations across Myanmar face acute shortages of food, inadequate healthcare, and disrupted education, with humanitarian assistance to IDP camps declining sharply [305][316]. Many IDP households report extremely low daily incomes—around 5,000 MMK for some, with a few earning up to 20,000 MMK—and cannot afford basic necessities [305]. Saw Pa Htan IDP camp, hosting around 3,000 people, is experiencing food shortages after residents were unable to harvest last year's rice and corn because of junta drone, artillery and ground operations that forced them to abandon fields [316]. Donor support to Saw Pa Htan has largely stopped for about eight months, pushing residents to sell assets, seek intermittent daily labour, borrow food, or rely on limited coping strategies [316]. Civil society organisations report that more than 60,000 people have been displaced by fighting in Kyaukphyu Township over the past year [306]. In early February, intensified fighting and junta airstrikes around Wawlay, Minletpan and Hpalu in Myawaddy Township forced about 4,000 people to flee to the Thai–Myanmar border and Palawtapo camp, with civilians reportedly injured by airstrikes [309]. Junta raids in Magway's Pwintbyu Township displaced more than 3,000 people, leaving several villages deserted [310]. Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus called for UNHCR engagement to facilitate safe, voluntary and dignified return of more than one million displaced Rohingya to Rakhine State, while UNHCR representatives and officials warned of a dramatic decline in international aid for Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar and the need to enhance livelihoods in the settlements [311]. Many refugees reportedly left Bhasan Char and blended into mainland populations, creating additional pressures on host communities [311]. The United States moved to end Temporary Protected Status for Myanmar on Jan 26, 2026—a decision temporarily blocked by a court order—which would affect around 4,000 beneficiaries in the US and risk deportation for those individuals if the termination proceeds [312]. Protecting displaced people is further constrained by ongoing hostilities including airstrikes, declining humanitarian access to camps, and limited livelihood opportunities that increase risks of exploitation and erode prospects for safe return or sustainable local integration [309][316][305].

Minorities

In Arakan (Rakhine) State areas under Arakan Army/United League of Arakan control, religious freedom reportedly expanded: the ULA has allowed Islamic, Hindu and Christian ceremonies to take place, attended graduations of Islamic and Christian institutions on 2–4 February and provided financial support (35 million MMK) for a Hindu celebration in Maungdaw Township [307]. Despite the ULA opening some schools, displaced children in Arakan face a worsening education crisis as many remain out of school due to severe financial pressures and the rising cost of supplies, while UN figures indicate roughly five million children across Myanmar are deprived of their right to education [305]. The Chin Human Rights Organisation reported coordinated junta airstrikes on 8 February struck churches, Buddhist buildings and civilian neighbourhoods in Kanpetlet, Mindat and Matupi townships, killing at least three civilians including a child, injuring others and damaging schools, a hospital and more than 60 homes, and documented at least seven civilian deaths between 1 January and 8 February; CHRO also linked the attacks to foreign aviation–fuel supplies facilitating the junta's air campaign [315]. In Kyaukphyu Township, conflict-related junta attacks and arson over the past year destroyed at least 11 villages, reduced over 700 houses to ashes and have contributed to more than 60,000 people being displaced, aggravating risks to minority communities there [306]. Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus and UNHCR contacts highlighted a "dramatic decline" in international aid for Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar and urged renewed UNHCR engagement to support safe, voluntary repatriation and enhanced self-reliance measures for the Rohingya, whom Yunus described as needing a durable return solution [311]. Kawthoolei women's representatives met at a Doooplaya district dialogue on 3–4 February calling for greater participation and leadership rights across administrative, judicial and legislative structures, urging the KNU to adopt gender-equality policies and targeting 30% women's participation at the upcoming 18th KNU Congress [313]. The Burma Women's Union reported at least 55 women, including two pregnant and four under-18, were killed in January 2026 and 54 injured, documenting concentrated impacts on women with Sagaing, Rakhine and Kachin among the worst-affected areas and recording 792 women killed during 2025, underscoring gendered harms in the conflict [308]. Around 4,000 people displaced by fighting in Myawaddy Township at Wawlay, Minletpan and Hpalu have fled to the Thai–Myanmar border and face urgent food needs after junta offensives and airstrikes; casualties and cross-border displacement continue to rise in the area [309].

Operational Environment

Economy

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