



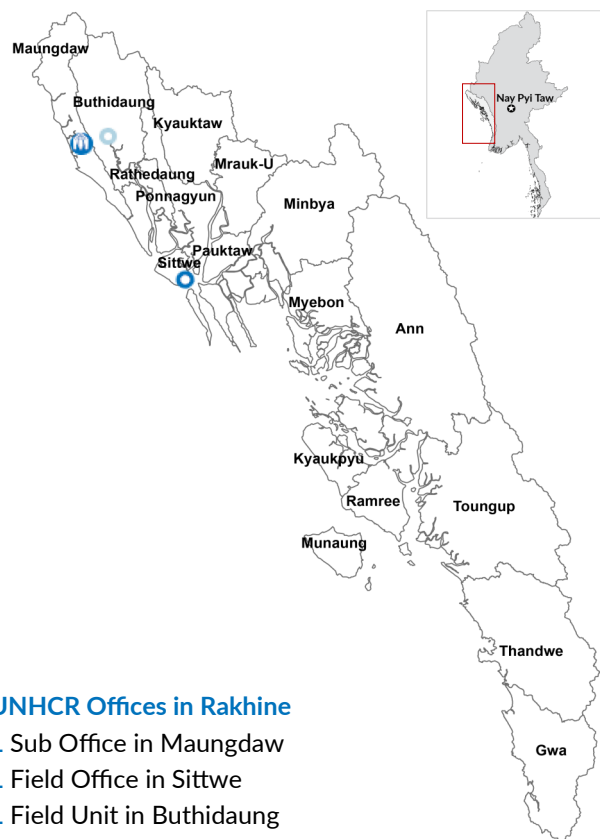
## Overview

Rakhine State has experienced several waves of violence and displacement since the early 1990s. Among the most significant were intercommunal fighting between the Rakhine and Rohingya communities in 2012, an outbreak of violence that forced hundreds of thousands of Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh in 2017, and armed conflict between the Arakan Army (AA) and Tatmadaw which commenced in 2016.

Thus, 708,000 people from different ethnicities, spread across camps, villages and displacement sites are in need of humanitarian assistance. Of this figure, 630,000 Rohingya live in particularly precarious conditions after decades of being denied basic rights, including citizenship, freedom of movement and access to basic services.

About 157,000 Rohingya remain displaced including 147,000 in Rakhine's central townships since 2012 and an additional 10,000 in northern townships since 2017. They remain highly dependent on humanitarian aid. In addition, there are presently 78,000 largely ethnic Rakhine people displaced by the AA-Tatmadaw conflict in 168 sites. UNHCR also monitors the welfare of 31,000 returnees from this conflict.

UNHCR has been present in Rakhine State since 1994 and works under its mandate to protect and support stateless populations, returnees, internally displaced people (IDPs), and other vulnerable groups. With offices in Maungdaw, Sittwe and Buthidaung, UNHCR carries out an extensive range of work, from humanitarian assistance, to coordination of relief efforts, rights advocacy and promotion of sustainable longer-term solutions for all communities.



### UNHCR Offices in Rakhine

- 1 Sub Office in Maungdaw
- 1 Field Office in Sittwe
- 1 Field Unit in Buthidaung

### Total Population of Concern

# 708,000

as of 31 Dec 2022

### AA-Tatmadaw Conflict IDPs

# 78,000\*

exclusive of 31,000 returnees

### Stateless People

# 630,000

of which 157,000 are displaced

\*This figure does not include some 9,000 IDPs affected by the same conflict in southern Chin State.

## Protection

Protecting the rights of displaced and stateless people and ensuring adherence to international humanitarian norms are key priorities. For stateless populations, UNHCR advocates for fundamental rights, notably, access to citizenship, civil documentation and freedom of movement. For displaced people, UNHCR works to facilitate durable solutions in line with the principals of safety, dignity, and voluntary and informed choice.

Field visits are undertaken on a regular basis to understand the needs and concerns of IDPs and stateless populations. We support communities by consulting them and placing them at the centre of decisions that impact their lives. In addition, UNHCR closely monitors incidents that affect safety and security, including arbitrary detention, forced returns or relocations, extortion, assault and landmines.

In addition to risk identification, UNHCR works closely with partners in advocating for principled camp closure and solutions, including through the protection cluster which it leads. UNHCR also implements interventions to address protection issues and mitigate threats of violence against high-risk groups, expand programming on key legal areas such as civil documentation, birth registration and housing, land and property rights, along with targeted activities for children and people with specific needs.

## Shelter and Relief Distributions

UNHCR aims to provide displaced and stateless people with safe, dignified and appropriate living conditions. We work with partners on the ground to regularly distribute core relief items such as mosquito nets, kitchen sets, jerry cans, clothing items, soap bars, sleeping mats, blankets and solar lights.

Another key aspect of UNHCR's mission is to ensure access to adequate shelter. Apart from distributing shelter materials, UNHCR also carries out shelter reconstruction work to rehabilitate dilapidated structures that do not offer adequate protection from the elements, particularly during the monsoon season. Strengthening and weatherproofing shelters allow for the restoration of personal security, self-sufficiency and dignity. Such support is provided as an interim measure while longer term solutions are being sought in places of origin.

## Durable Solutions

UNHCR aims to create conditions conducive for displaced people to voluntarily return to places of origin or choice in safety, dignity and peace. To foster such conditions, UNHCR works with partners on initiatives to build resilience. In northern townships, efforts are coordinated through the Maungdaw Inter-Agency Group (MIAG) co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and UNHCR.

At the community level, UNHCR promotes dialogue and peacebuilding activities to mitigate the effects of potential inter-communal tensions. Inter-village committees for development projects have been set up between Rakhine, Rohingya, Kaman and Chin villages. These committees are trained on life skills, project management and entrepreneurship so that solutions to shared challenges could be jointly sought. Cash grants are also disbursed for communal activities and village improvement works, along with microgrants for individuals to reestablish small-scale enterprises.

In addition, UNHCR implements community projects which promote peaceful coexistence while generating social and economic gains among communities. They include infrastructural projects such as roads, footbridges, water pumps, solar lights, markets and schools, along with on-the-job skills training and small-scale livelihood projects that create employment and income-generating opportunities, benefitting all communities regardless of background.

## Camp Management and Coordination

To ensure displaced and stateless populations in camps receive appropriate and timely humanitarian assistance and protection, UNHCR works together with other humanitarian actors such as UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) in coordinating service provision.

As the lead agency for the combined shelter/non-food item/camp coordination and camp management cluster, UNHCR leads planning and coordination of approaches and standards across all camps. With partners, UNHCR also carries out programming to support camp management community groups with training and technical advice on efficient provision of essential services and specialized referral of people with specific needs. Community leaders are also empowered with facilitation skills and included in decision-making processes so that they have a say on matters that affect their lives.

## Our Donors in Myanmar



UNHCR's work is entirely humanitarian and non-political, guided by the principles of humanity, impartiality and independence.

## UNHCR Representation in Myanmar

No.11, 11th Floor, Kantharyar Office Tower, Mingalar Taung Nyunt Township, Yangon  
Tel: 01-9376195 to 98 | Fax: 01-9376194 | Email: myaya@unhcr.org



@UNHCRMyanmar