

MYANMAR | DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES TO DISPLACEMENT

Context – Displacement Situation

There are currently around 249,400 registered internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Myanmar. Of these, 94,600 people are displaced in Kachin and Shan States due to armed conflicts between the Tat Ma Daw (Myanmar Armed Forces) and ethnic armed groups; 143,800 people from the Muslim Rohingya ethnic minority are displaced by intercommunal violence; and around 11,000 people are displaced due to the July-August 2015 floods and landslides in Chin State and Sagaing region.

Most of the displaced populations are dependent on humanitarian assistance provided by UN agencies, INGOs and local NGOs. Some of the key issues affecting them are lack of livelihoods opportunities, poor access to basic services (i.e. health, education, water and sanitation) and inadequate protection of basic rights and fundamental freedoms. On-going conflict, the presence of landmines (in Kachin and Shan States), the restriction of movements and threats of attacks from extremist and nationalists (in Rakhine State) are major obstacles preventing durable solutions to displacement.

UNDPs Main Thematic Areas of Work

Key areas of UNDP support include:

Livelihoods and social cohesion – Provision of fuel-efficient cooking stoves to reduce the amount of wood used to cook and to defuse tension over scarce wood resources; cash-for-work/temporary employment for community infrastructure rehabilitation; skills and vocational training for IDPs in camps;



Resettled IDPs participating in cash for work, constructing an access road in Ngway Pyaw village, Myitkyina
(Photo: UNDP Myanmar)

RESULTS

As a result of UNDP's support, social cohesion between IDPs and local communities has enhanced; government staff have improved knowledge of planning and implementing (re)integration of IDPs; and the longer-term recovery needs of displaced populations have been analysed.

In the cash-for-work programme, 35 percent of the 4,868 people engaged in temporary employment were IDPs.

Around 3,630 IDP households benefited from skills based training. As part of the support provided for durable solutions, almost 180 resettled IDP families were supported through the provision of training, capital assistance for entrepreneurship, and construction of roads to facilitate access to livelihoods and basic services.



Motorcycle repair training for resettled IDPs, Nway Pyaw Village, Myitkyina (Photo: UNDP)

Access to justice – Support for Protection Working Group (PWG) partners in building their knowledge about matters pertaining to rule of law and access to justice for displaced persons;

Early recovery coordination – Facilitation of multi-sector ER assessments; design of a transition framework from relief to development, using assessments outcomes; and facilitation of multi-stakeholder durable solutions in collaboration with PWG and the Kachin-based Humanitarian Country Team.¹

Humanitarian Partnerships

In its capacity as global lead and national-level lead for early recovery, UNDP has established partnerships with various agencies involved in humanitarian action and development work in order to better integrate development perspectives and support resilience-building in affected communities. UNDP coordinates the Early Recovery Network, which brings together humanitarian and development actors, the government and the private sector. Some of the partnerships UNDP has developed to respond to displacements include:

- UNDP and UNHCR, as part of the implementation of the SG's Policy Decision on Durable Solutions,² coordinated actions to support Kachin State authorities in finding lasting solutions to the displacement of populations due to armed conflicts.

¹ The Kachin-based Humanitarian Country Team is composed of UN Agencies, international NGOs and local NGOs doing humanitarian work.

² Solutions to displacement are a very sensitive issue on political as well as security and safety grounds. On the political ground, one of the parties to the conflict would like the solution to displacement be

- UNDP, UNHCR, OCHA, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP and DRC conducted three joint assessments in areas of return and resettlement (relocation).
- UNDP led the recovery and reintegration part while UNHCR led the protection component of these joint assessments.
- UNDP, UNHCR, and DRC collaborated in training 57 township and district administration staff. Workshop sessions covered basic principles and standards on durable solutions, recovery and reintegration.

- A partnership with the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) facilitated a cash-for-work scheme as part of the community infrastructure project in Kachin State.
- In partnership with a local NGO, Karuna Myanmar Social Solidarity, UNDP conducted a multi-sector ER assessment, covering 11,023 IDPs across 41 IDP camps and 33 host/surrounding villages in Kachin State and Northern Shan State.
- UNDP partnered with IOM, UNHCR, DRC and OCHA to conduct an Early Recovery Multi-Sector Assessment of Mrauk-U District (Rakhine State).
- UNDP supported the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in establishing a network for disaster preparedness, response and recovery in partnership with OCHA and in collaboration with the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

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part of a negotiated agreement. On the security and safety side, guarantees for safe returns cannot be afforded because most villages of origin are either still or located near battlegrounds or are suspected to be contaminated by landmines. This is a major obstacle to sustainable solutions to displacement in Kachin and Northern Shan.