

OVERVIEW

There are more than 240,000 people in Myanmar who remain internally displaced as a result of conflict or violence occurring since 2011. Myanmar is one of the countries at highest risk of natural disasters in South East Asia and disaster preparedness is a major challenge with the upcoming monsoon season.

KACHIN AND SHAN NORTH

Armed clashes in Kachin and northern Shan states displaced around 20,000 people within Myanmar during the first four months of 2015. The majority of people were fleeing conflict in the Kokang Self-Administered Zone. Some 13,000 of these people were migrant workers, most of whom returned to their places of origin. An additional 60,000 people reportedly crossed the border into China, also due to clashes in Kokang. According to the government, some displaced people started returning to Kokang in April 2015. The UN has not had access to Kokang and is unable to verify figures. Some newly displaced people in other parts of Kachin and northern Shan states have also been able to return home during this period.

RAKHINE STATE

In March 2015, the government initiated a Shelter upgrading project for 10,000 IDPs in Rakhine State. Shelter upgrading is urgently needed ahead of the monsoon season. In Rakhine, about 40,000 IDPs are living in camps that are within 500 meters of the coastline. Nget Chaung and Ah Nauk Ywe camps (11,000 people) are two camps in Pauktaw that are on very low land and particularly vulnerable if there is a cyclone or tropical storm. In addition to the 140,000 people displaced following inter-communal violence in 2012, some 400 people were temporarily displaced in April 2015 following armed clashes involving an insurgent group, reported in the media as the Arakan Army.

