

MYANMAR



Decades of persecution of ethnic minority groups by the government of Myanmar dramatically escalated in 2017 when the military carried out widespread and systematic attacks and genocide against the Rohingya people.

Country Context

The 2017 genocide against the Rohingya forced the majority of the population to flee to Bangladesh, while many remain displaced in camps within the country. In 2019, Myanmar faced genocide charges for the treatment of the Rohingya at the United Nations International Court of Justice in the Hague. Separate from the Rohingya, more than 106,000 Myanmar remain displaced in Kachin and northern Shan states, where ongoing conflict continues, and heavy restrictions on aid persist. As Myanmar's elections approach in 2020, the country faces deepening social tensions and divisions.

How is the U.S. Involved?

The United States has provided over \$542 million in humanitarian aid for the Rohingya response and directed resources toward organizations supporting democratic transition measures.

Key Figures



986,000

in need of humanitarian assistance



600,000

Rohingya people remain inside Myanmar



Over 120,000

are living in camps for internally displaced people



Over 400,000

displaced people remain in Myanmar



744,400

Rohingya have fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh since August 2017

On-the-Ground Perspective

- NGO access is limited in Myanmar, leaving vulnerable populations with inadequate food and essential health services.
- The Myanmar government continues razing Rohingya villages, abusing civilians with impunity, and denying Rohingya citizenship.
- Landmines and explosives from operations continue to pose a significant threat to civilians and hinder their freedom of movement and access to livelihoods and sustainable solutions.

Responses and Actions

- Grants from the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Rights, and Labor support engagement and coordination of ethnic civil society in the run-up to the 2020 election.
- USAID/OFDA provides \$3.5 million to UNICEF to support protection, health, water, hygiene, and sanitation programs for conflict-affected areas.
- Action Against Hunger reached 76,312 people in Myanmar in 2018, including 26,751 with nutrition and health programs; 19,460 with water, sanitation, and hygiene programs; and 23,790 with food security and livelihood programs.

InterAction has a Rohingya Response working group; to request a briefing, contact policy@interaction.org. References available at [interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport](https://www.interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport).

