



Photo: DRC Bangladesh

# About ADSP

## Introduction

*The Asia Displacement Solutions Platform is a joint initiative of the Danish Refugee Council, International Rescue Committee, and Norwegian Refugee Council, which aims to contribute to the development of comprehensive solutions for displaced persons across the Afghan and Myanmar displacement axes.*

Welcome to the December 2022 newsletter from the ADSP, our final newsletter of the year. These newsletters are intended to spotlight some of the issues being tackled by the ADSP, and the programmatic work done by members to improve outcomes for persons affected by displacement. In addition, the newsletter provides updates on global or regional processes of which we are engaged.

Each newsletter contains articles related to ADSP focus countries, exploring interesting programme developments and regional migration trends. As we approach 2023, we encourage members and external stakeholders alike to share ideas or information that

you would like to see addressed.

These newsletters are intended to improve information-sharing between ADSP member organisations, and to highlight the work of the platform more publicly. We hope you find the content useful and that it supports your work, or spurs future ideas and collaborations.

For any questions related to the ADSP, please don't hesitate to contact the ADSP Manager, Evan Jones at [Evan.Jones@adsp.ngo](mailto:Evan.Jones@adsp.ngo).

## A message from the ADSP Manager

### ADSP 2023-2025 Strategy – a streamlined direction in support of long-term solutions

*Evan Jones, Asia Displacement Solutions Platform Manager*



As the year draws to a close, we continue to witness large-scale and protracted displacement both from Afghanistan and Myanmar. Across the two sub-regions, long-term solutions remain limited, and communities are facing a multitude of challenges in their daily lives. In response to these challenges, ADSP has continued to engage with a wide array of actors as we seek to strengthen national, regional, and global coordination and collaboration.

Over the past three months, ADSP – with the support of an external consultant – have been working towards the development of our 2023-2025 Strategy. Through a participatory process of engagement with members and external stakeholders alike, ADSP is nearing completion of this activity. In mid-November, ADSP was fortunate enough to be able to bring together nearly twenty representatives from its three member organisations in Dubai for a three-day Strategy Development and Theory of Change workshop. It is envisioned that this new Strategy will be endorsed in early January 2023 by the ADSP Steering Committee, followed by a process of work-planning and implementation. I am extremely excited about this piece of work and look forward to working with members and partners alike across both axes of our work. The final strategy will be made public following endorsement.

In addition to our Strategy process, ADSP has continued to drive forward our regional coordination and advocacy agenda with numerous closed-door engagements and coordination meetings. As it relates to Rohingya displacement, ADSP has been following up on our multi-stakeholder Rohingya advocacy approach, with several new initiatives underway and in the process of conceptualization. As we move into 2023 – and the year by which the second Global Refugee Forum will be held in Geneva – ADSP will continue to ramp up our efforts for sustained, pragmatic and solutions-focused engagements from states and the NGO community alike.

I'm also pleased to announce that ADSP has been able to bring on-board another staff member based out of Malaysia, Malini Sivapragasam. Malini brings to ADSP a wide range of experience across project management, strategic management, advocacy, partnerships, civil society engagement, and stakeholder management. Malini will be supporting ADSP's work as part of the 'Supporting Humanitarian and Refugee Protection in Asia (SHARP-Asia) project. This project - supported by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) - brings together the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), and ADSP to advocate for improved rights and protections for refugees across India, Malaysia and Thailand.

Finally, I wish to thank everyone for your continued engagement and support. As ADSP continues to push for longer-term thinking, engagement and action for persons displaced from Myanmar and Afghanistan, it is only through members and stakeholders that we will be able to realise this goal.

Wishing everyone a relaxing and peaceful holiday season.

Evan Jones  
ADSP Manager



## PRRiA project updates (October-December 2022)

ADSP, in partnership with the Danish Refugee Council, the Geutanyoe Foundation, and the Mixed Migration Centre Asia, continues to support regional advocacy and programmatic work to improve protection and response for Rohingya refugees in Southeast Asia under its two-year HIP 'Protecting Rohingya Refugees in Asia (PRRiA) 2021-2023'. Throughout the last quarter of the year, partners have worked together on a range of initiatives including:

### Research and policy dialogue

ADSP finalised the first of the three research pieces under the PRRiA project, titled "[Refugee protection, human smuggling, and trafficking in South and Southeast Asia](#)." The soft launch of the research occurred in late December 2022, and the virtual launching event will be held on 17 January 2023. More details on the research report can be found later in this newsletter.

In addition, as part of ADSP's continued advocacy efforts under the project, a virtual workshop/consultation on countering xenophobic / anti-refugee rhetoric will occur in collaboration with IOM and UNHCR for 2023.

### Quarterly Regional Advocacy Roundtable

On 24 October, ADSP facilitated an inaugural quarterly regional advocacy roundtable in Bangkok. Co-hosted by IOM and UNHCR's Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, the roundtable was developed as a regular, Chatham House forum for streamlining communication and coordination among UN agencies, donors and NGOs engaged in policy advocacy to address protracted Rohingya displacement in the South and Southeast Asia. Participants in October shared updates on regional protection concerns, including risk of arrest and refoulement; irregular and unsafe movement overland and by sea; access to resettlement; and exclusion from national protection frameworks. Participants also analyzed current and prospective political shifts affecting refugee policy—chiefly Malaysia's November elections and Indonesia's chairmanship of ASEAN—and discussed advocacy strategies. The next roundtable is scheduled for early February 2023.

**Mentorship support for Rohingya refugee community-based organisations in Malaysia for building research and advocacy capacity**

PRRiA project partners have continued to provide mentorship support to Rohingya refugee-led community-based organisation in Malaysia. As part of this activity, two CBOs, Rohingya Society in Malaysia (RSM), and Rohingya Women Development Network (RWDN), are being supported with research and advocacy capacity building. A four-day training on research and advocacy was provided in July 2022.

Following the training, the CBOs developed their own research and advocacy project on Potential Contribution of Rohingya Communities in Malaysian Economy, with guidance from PRRiA partners. The objectives of the research and advocacy project is to: i) Identify current employment trends and existing income-generating activities of working-age Rohingya refugees in Malaysia, ii) Identify existing skillset(s) of Rohingya refugees that can add net value to the Malaysian labor market, iii) Rohingya refugees' access to information regarding income-generating activities and livelihood support/assistance in Malaysia, and iv) Provide policy recommendations and engage key stakeholders in policy dialogues to facilitate informed policymaking.

Data collection for the CBO research began in December and is expected to be completed in early January. ADSP will guide the CBO to develop an advocacy strategy through organising an in-person workshop in January 2023.



PRRiA PARTNERS:



PROJECT DONOR:



**Supporting Humanitarian and Refugee Protection (SHARP) project updates (October-December 2022)**

ADSP, in partnership with the International Rescue Committee and the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), also remains engaged in supporting national and regional level advocacy initiatives through a one-year grant from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). With a focus on research, advocacy, and capacity-strengthening initiatives for non-Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, the project is centered around India, Malaysia, and Thailand. Some of the notable achievements and engagements over the past three months include:

**Protection monitoring and rapid needs assessment in Thailand for new arrivals**

Since July 2022, IRC Thailand has conducted monthly protection monitoring, as well as nine rapid needs assessments for new arrivals from Myanmar. This work has been conducted with the support of eleven community leaders representing seven Chin communities. The resulting data indicated that refugees in temporary safety areas

and non-temporary safety areas prioritised basic needs i.e., food and shelter. For refugees staying in non-temporary safety areas, additional needs included transportation support, legal assistance, and information on available services along the Thailand-Myanmar border. Based on the protection monitoring and rapid needs assessments, key protection concerns for new arrivals include health referrals, legal advice, and seeking advice on resettlement. The findings further highlight that return to Myanmar is not conducive for new arrivals because of the active and ongoing conflict in the country. Thus, access and knowledge for income generation is on the rise among affected populations. IRC Thailand has planned for a crisis response to support basic emergency needs of new arrivals.

**Research for evidence-based advocacy**

Under the project, two research studies are planned – one each in India and Thailand. This will support the evidence-based advocacy conducted by partners.

**India**

This study aims to map the humanitarian response in Manipur and Mizoram, including resource, coordination and technical capacity gaps. The final report will provide targeted recommendations for legal, policy, and program responses for key actors, including community-based initiatives, host governments, civil society, donors, and international actors to better advance fundamental protections for persons seeking asylum in India. Research is underway and will be finalised in March 2023.

**Thailand**

IRC Thailand has carried out a desk review on existing government policy, as well as a preliminary stakeholder analysis to identify and conceptualize a niche research focus as it relates to camp-based refugees from Myanmar. Next, a stakeholder engagement workshop with government will be held in January 2023, and discussions will further guide research design. The generated evidence will be used to support consultations with government authorities as it relates to livelihood opportunities for Thailand’s camp-based refugee populations.

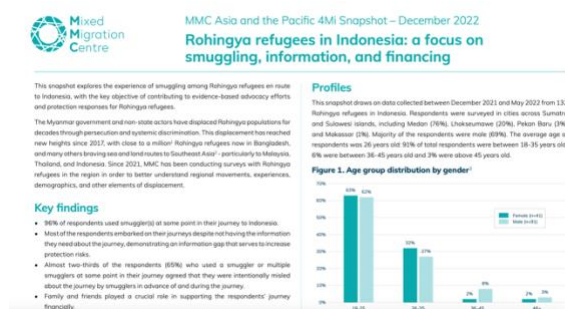
**Capacity building for refugee-led organisations to strengthen national and regional advocacy**

In India, one capacity building session has been held thus far, with two further sessions scheduled in the coming months. The first workshop saw 11 refugee leaders representing 7 communities participate in capacity building that covered issues including UNHCR procedures and legal services available from NGOs. In Malaysia, the first session in February 2023 will include sessions on: awareness of local laws and rights as asylum seekers, how to engage with the media, UNHCR processes and an introduction to advocacy.

## REGIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

### 4Mi Snapshot December 2022: Rohingya refugees in Indonesia: a focus on smuggling, information, and financing

Mixed Migration Centre Asia and PRRiA partners



**Mixed Migration Centre**  
**MMC Asia and the Pacific 4Mi Snapshot – December 2022**  
**Rohingya refugees in Indonesia: a focus on smuggling, information, and financing**

**Key findings**

- 96% of respondents used smugglers at some point in their journey to Indonesia.
- Most of the respondents embarked on their journey despite not having the information they need about the journey, demonstrating an information gap that serves to increase protection risks.
- Almost two-thirds of the respondents (65%) who used a smuggler or multiple smugglers at some point in their journey agreed that they were intentionally misled about the journey by smugglers in advance of and during the journey.
- Family and friends played a crucial role in supporting the respondents' journey financially.

**Profiles**  
 This snapshot draws on data collected between December 2021 and May 2022 from 132 Rohingya refugees in Indonesia. Respondents were surveyed in cities across Sumatra and Sulawesi islands, including Medan (76%), Lhokseumawe (20%), Pekanbaru (3%) and Makassar (1%). Majority of the respondents were male (85%). The average age of respondents was 26 years old (51% of total respondents were between 18-35 years old, 8% were between 36-45 years old and 2% were above 45 years old).

**Figure 1. Age group distribution by gender\***

Age Group	Male (%)	Female (%)
18-35	51	49
36-45	8	8
46+	2	2

This snapshot explores the experience of smuggling among Rohingya refugees en route to Indonesia, with the key objective of contributing to evidence-based advocacy efforts and protection responses for the Rohingya. This snapshot draws on data collected between December 2021 and May 2022 from 132 Rohingya refugees in Indonesia. Respondents were surveyed in cities across Sumatra and Sulawesi islands, including Medan (76%), Lhokseumawe (20%), Pekanbaru (3%) and Makassar (1%).

This snapshot forms part of the work under the PRRiA 2021-2023 project, and the full snapshot can be found on the Mixed Migration Centre’s [website](#).

**About MMC:**

The Mixed Migration Centre is leading source of independent and high-quality data, research and analysis on mixed migration. MMC aims to increase understandings of mixed migration, to positively impact global and regional migration policies, to inform evidence-based protection responses for people on the move and stimulate forward thinking in public and policy debates on mixed migration. The MMC’s overarching focus is on human rights and protection for all people on the move.

In Asia MMC’s 4Mi survey is currently conducted in Malaysia, Indonesia, and Afghanistan. For more information and access to MMC data please see 4Mi interactive or reach out to [Themba.lewis@mixedmigration.org](mailto:Themba.lewis@mixedmigration.org)

## ADSP workshops and external engagements

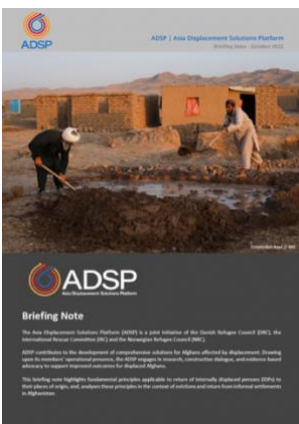
### ADSP Strategy Process and Dubai workshop



In October, ADSP brought on board an external consultant to support with the development of the Platform’s 2023-2025 Strategy. As part of this process, ADSP’s Steering Committee, Technical Committee, Country Working Groups and ADSP Secretariat staff met in Dubai for a three-day planning workshop from the 15-17 November. The meeting provided the space for members to input into the ADSP Strategy, as well as craft two Theories of Change (ToC), for the Afghan and Myanmar displacement axes respectively. The Strategy is currently with the Steering Committee for endorsement, and is expected to be disseminated widely in early 2023.

## ADSP Publications

### BRIEFING NOTE: IDP returns in Afghanistan: are durable solutions possible?



As of December 2021, there were an estimated 3.5 million IDPs displaced due to conflict. Whilst displacement due to conflict has decreased since the Taliban de facto authorities assumed power, deepening poverty and a dire humanitarian situation continues to act as push factors for IDPs.

To address prolonged internal displacement, the Taliban authorities have been increasing pressure on IDPs in some informal settlements to return, and for humanitarian actors to support returns from informal settlements to areas of origin. The humanitarian response architecture currently in place in Afghanistan, however, remains ill-equipped to provide comprehensive long-term support. With most development funding to Afghanistan suspended since mid-August 2021 because of international sanctions, the current response is almost exclusively geared towards the provision of short-term emergency interventions to displaced and host communities.

The reasons for Afghanistan’s protracted IDP populations are complex and cannot simply be attributed to conflict and insecurity. Whilst this may be the reality for some, for many it is only one element affecting their decision to leave and remain displaced. For millions of Afghans, disasters, climate change, and conflict provide a complex web of factors that result in their areas of origin being untenable places to live. These factors may be the reason for leaving, as well as the reason for being unable to return. In Badghis, the area proposed for pilot returns, approximately 74% of households are affected by drought. As such, with the resultant food insecurity, inability to practice traditional livelihoods, and lack of essential needs such as water – for many – return is untenable.

ADSP stresses the importance of the principle of voluntariness in all efforts to facilitate the return of IDPs to areas of origin. Return must only be made in conditions that are safe, informed, orderly, regular, dignified, and voluntary. Moreover, IDPs must have autonomy in their decision-making regarding relocation, and must be free from coercion, pressure, or intimidation to return.

Should cash assistance be utilised, it must be accompanied with a comprehensive suite of other services in areas of return. This should include livelihoods, economic recovery, education, food security, water and sanitation, healthcare, and protection. Moreover, population movements must also be considered in the context of traditional seasonal migration within the country. A 'one-size-fits-all' approach to cash for return is far too simple and does not bring a comprehensive approach to developing solutions.

This Briefing Note highlights four elements that must be considered when addressing IDP displacement in Afghanistan:

- Durable solutions are only possible if all stakeholders – including the Taliban authorities and humanitarian and development actors – work together systematically to facilitate the fulfilment of IDPs' intentions, whether these include return, local integration, or relocation, without discrimination nor impediments.
- Return initiatives need to be sufficiently resourced and must extend beyond 'cash for return' modalities. A holistic response that keeps durable solutions central is required, as is the need for multi-year funding.
- Returns cannot be seen as the only viable durable solution for IDPs. Greater investment and engagement are needed to support a range of initiatives that supports the broader durable solutions agenda.
- International organisations need to define, articulate, and share how the success of any pilot will be measured. This must be accompanied by clear timelines and monitoring frameworks for how such an assessment will be done.

Please see the full briefing note [here](#).

## PRESS RELEASE: Rescue efforts urgently needed as hundreds of Rohingya refugees continue to struggle to stave off dehydration and starvation while stranded at sea in Asia

*On 23 December, ADSP – in partnership with other members of the PRRiA project – issued an urgent press release in response to the emergency needs of more than 100 Rohingya stranded at sea.*

***Governments across Asia must immediately undertake coordinated search and rescue operations for the hundreds of Rohingya refugees - including women and children - currently adrift at sea.***

'Protecting Rohingya Refugees in Asia' (PRRiA) project partners, including the Asia Displacement Solutions Platform (ADSP), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Geutanyoë Foundation Malaysia, HOST International Foundation, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Indonesia, and Mixed Migration Centre (MMC), echo the call from ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR) and others for governments in the region to immediately undertake search and rescue operations for the reported hundreds of Rohingya refugees aboard a boat that has been adrift for weeks off the coasts of India, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand.

Lifesaving efforts cannot be delayed any longer, as reported deaths continue to mount among those aboard due to starvation and dehydration. Lillianne Fan, International Director and Co-Founder of Geutanyoë Foundation, notes that the collective inaction of governments in the region "has already resulted in needless suffering including death. Only through comprehensive and coordinated regional action can the lives of Rohingya on this boat - and others - be saved".

According to reports from relatives of those on the boat, at least 16 people have already died due to the dire conditions. Meanwhile, more than one million additional Rohingya and other refugee groups continue to suffer amid protracted conflict and climate-related disasters across the region exacerbated by humanitarian funding cuts.

Last month at its annual summit, ASEAN leaders affirmed “the importance of upholding international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, as well as ASEAN’s shared values and norms as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter.” The regional body must support search and rescue coordination efforts to immediately address this situation. “PRRiA partners recommend immediately triggering the regional emergency response mechanism established within the Bali Process to save lives”, said Mikkel Trolle, Regional Director of DRC Asia. “With support from the wider international community, Asian governments must endeavor to ensure all people across the region can fully realise their fundamental human rights and freedoms.”

The press release can also be found [here](#).

## Research Report: Refugee protection, human smuggling and trafficking in Bangladesh and Southeast Asia



As part of the PRRiA project, this research – the first of three reports under the project – was designed to support partners and other actors with identifying, understanding, and addressing protection risks and needs of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and Southeast Asia. The report is entitled *Refugee protection, human smuggling, and trafficking in Bangladesh and Southeast Asia*, and critically assesses the risks and needs of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and Southeast Asia across three thematic domains: protection, human trafficking, and human smuggling. The research draws from three national contexts: Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

The research presented 26 findings. Through close consultations between the research team and PRRiA project partners, these findings informed the development of a series of conclusions and recommendations. The primary conclusions are:

**Conclusion 1:** Smuggling networks enable Rohingya to leave deteriorating living conditions in Myanmar and Bangladesh and seek access to social services and economic opportunities in host countries.

**Conclusion 2:** An important catalyst in the adoption and architecture of national protection policies are the ASEAN Declaration on the Rights of Children in the Context of Migration, the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, and respective Plans of Action.

**Conclusion 3:** National governments have the responsibility to address protection needs by establishing clarity between smuggling and trafficking including through stronger policies with consistent messaging, implementation, and enforcement.

**Conclusion 4:** Civil society actors and stakeholders are limited in advocating for change in national governments due to power imbalances in partnerships, barriers to resources, and lack of political will.

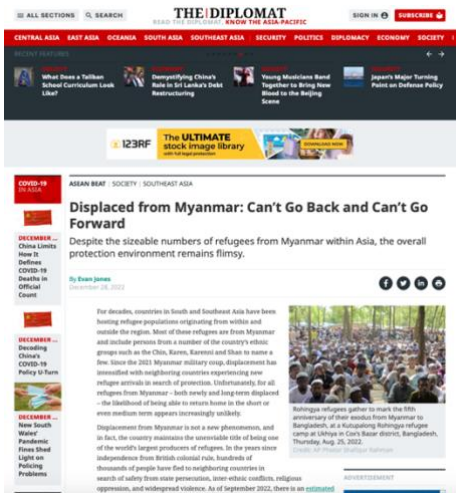
**Conclusion 5:** The lack of national rights that recognise and safeguard refugee status is a fundamental barrier to protection in Thailand and Malaysia. Across the region, national governments must continue to address restrictions on work for refugees and access to basic services.

The full report, including key takeaways and policy recommendations can be found on the ADSP website [here](#).



## Op-Ed: Displaced from Myanmar: Can't Go Back and Can't Go Forward

*Despite the sizeable numbers of refugees from Myanmar within Asia, the overall protection environment remains flimsy.*



For decades, countries in South and Southeast Asia have been hosting refugee populations originating from within and outside the region. Most of these refugees are from Myanmar and include persons from a number of the country's ethnic groups such as the Chin, Karen, Karenni and Shan to name a few. Since the 2021 Myanmar military coup, displacement has intensified with neighboring countries experiencing new refugee arrivals in search of protection. Unfortunately, for all refugees from Myanmar – both newly and long-term displaced – the likelihood of being able to return home in the short or even medium term appears increasingly unlikely.

Displacement from Myanmar is not a new phenomenon, and in fact, the country maintains the unenviable title of being one of the world's largest producers of refugees. In the years since independence from British colonial rule, hundreds of thousands of people have fled to neighboring

countries in search of safety from state persecution, inter-ethnic conflicts, religious oppression, and widespread violence. As of September 2022, there is an estimated 1,055,000 refugees from Myanmar scattered across the region – 200,000 of them non-Rohingya from Myanmar.

Despite the sizeable numbers of refugees from Myanmar within Asia, the overall protection environment remains flimsy. Across India, Malaysia, and Thailand, international treaty ratification related to refugees is absent, domestic legal protection frameworks are weak, and access to healthcare, education, livelihoods, and other basic services is unavailable or ad hoc at best. Refugees are stuck in positions where they cannot return home, most cannot access resettlement countries, and cannot thrive where they are. In Malaysia, the threat of arrest, detention and deportation for Myanmar nationals looms large.

For one member of the Chin ethnic group currently displaced in Manipur, India, displacement is “challenging and without an end in sight.” He said “the local people have been warm, and understand our plight, and for this we are thankful. But that hasn't meant things are easy.” He acknowledges the challenges for refugees in India such as an inability to access livelihoods and other basic services, but at the same time, he describes the return to Myanmar as “simply not an option that I can consider for me and my family right now. Our only hope is for the kindness of the Indian people to support us at this time of need.”

### Local Responses to Refugee Protection

In India and Malaysia, refugees receive little to no assistance from host governments and for the most part must fend for themselves. Most often, they find some form of support through informal community networks, local NGOs, or through the diaspora. In northeast India, refugees – primarily from the Chin ethnic group – have found support through friends or family that have been resettled abroad, or from local community organizations. Similarly, in Malaysia, refugees receive help through community groups, local NGOs, and through informal employment.

Whilst this informal and ad hoc support helps many refugees to “get by,” it leaves significant protection concerns and simultaneously precludes them from becoming truly self-reliant. As the primary means of assistance – and in the absence of other opportunities – these local support networks need strengthening and resourcing. Only by donors supporting NGOs and local groups that have the trust and understanding of refugee communities, can those persons most in need of support be reached.

### The Crucial Role of Donors and Host Countries

Across the world, political contexts remain fluid, and receptivity and openness toward refugees and migrants continues to fluctuate. On the back of COVID-19, many global economies are facing uncertainty, precarious levels

of inflation, high cost of living, and expectations to respond to global crises such as Afghanistan and Ukraine. Governments are under increasing pressure to respond to domestic concerns, whilst simultaneously trying to address their humanitarian obligations to persons in need.

For some nations like Canada, the United States and Australia, the past year has brought about renewed commitments to maintain support for refugees and displaced communities. The United States for example has begun to build back its resettlement program and its intake from Asia, whilst Australia has created additional humanitarian spots for persons from Afghanistan and simplified its community sponsorship arrangements. These positive movements should be applauded, supported, and where possible expanded.

However, such efforts from a select few donor states are not enough, with regional governments needed to also step forward in their important role as host countries with refugees inside their borders. Governments in the region, including Malaysia and India, have hosted refugees for many years. Over this time, they have provided safety for hundreds of thousands of refugees and have ensured that were not sent back to harm's way. Whilst this is laudable, due to their lack of formal accession to relevant international instruments – and their comparatively limited resourcing – they have not fully taken on board the responsibility for refugees in their borders.

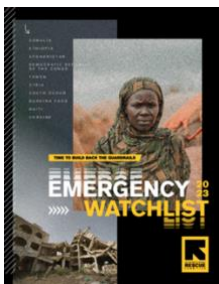
As countries within the region continue to grow economically, the time has come for increased responsibility sharing – even in the absence of formal legal frameworks at this stage. Whether that be through opening spaces for livelihood opportunities, increased access to education, supporting access by UNHCR to affected populations or other initiatives, there are numerous ways that refugees together with their host communities can be supported.

The NGO community, academia, civil society, and other stakeholders remain allies to host governments in this endeavor. By working together as a collective and coordinated group of actors for the betterment of people's lives, we all have the power to institute positive change to support refugees from Myanmar and other vulnerable groups.

This article was originally published in The Diplomat magazine and can be found in its original form [here](#).

## ADSP Member Publications

### Emergency Watchlist 2023



The annual Emergency Watchlist 2023 report by the International Rescue Committee came out in December 2022. The report provided a list of the 20 humanitarian crises to watch and expected to deteriorate the most over the next year. For the past decade, this report has helped humanitarian actors determine the focus of emergency services and lifesaving support to make the greatest impact. This year's watchlist highlighted that the human and economic costs of these crises and disasters are not equally shared. While the countries on the 2023 Watchlist are home to only 13 percent of the global population, they account for 90 percent of people in humanitarian need and 81 percent of the forcibly displaced population.

The report identified three key accelerators of humanitarian crisis to be conflict, economic turmoil and climate change. Conflict was found to remain the key accelerator of 80 percent of humanitarian need, increasing in both duration and size. Food insecurity and poverty are deepening in the watchlist countries due to rising economic turmoil exacerbated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine as well as the aftereffects of Covid-19 pandemic. Finally, lack of climate preparedness of the watchlist countries leave them vulnerable to climate induced humanitarian emergencies, despite these countries contributing less than 2% of the global CO2 emission. The report also provided specific recommendations to tackle these three key challenges in the coming year.

The full report can be accessed [here](#).

## ADSP events

### Professional Development Short Course on Evidence-Based Advocacy for the Afghan Diaspora

ADSP, the Centre for Asia Pacific Refugee Studies (CAPRS), the Danish Refugee Council Diaspora Programme, and the MMC jointly organised the “Professional Development Short Course on Evidence-based Advocacy for Afghan Diaspora” on 3-7 November 2022 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The objective of the training programme was to strengthen participants’ capacity, expertise and knowledge on advocacy processes and challenges to provide an interdisciplinary overview of forced migration issues covering political, legal, social, and economic aspects.



The course brought together 25 participants who are part of the Afghan diaspora in Europe and beyond. The course was designed to help participants develop a comprehensive understanding of the different roles of key stakeholders including government, civil society, humanitarian agencies, UN bodies, and media to leverage effective advocacy and to promote the rights of displaced Afghans. The course was delivered through a series of structured presentations,

facilitated discussions and participatory group work exercises.

The course began with a refresher on international human rights laws and policies, and discussion of concepts related to human rights, refugee rights, identity, culture, and intercultural dialogue in the context of forced displacement. Discussion on advocacy strategy and tools, successful (and unsuccessful) advocacy models and use of research for evidence-based advocacy were held in the following days, including group exercises and presentation of elevator pitches from participants to help them gain better understanding and in-depth perspective on their current advocacy work and future goals.

Participants joined the course from across Europe (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Czech Republic, Sweden, and the United Kingdom), as well as Canada. Throughout the course, all participants exhibited an incredible energy, talent, inspiration, and ability to further enhance their work both nationally, regionally, and globally – especially in the context of the new operating environment in Afghanistan.

A special advocacy opportunity was incorporated in this year’s course where Lars Bo Møller, the Danish Special Representative for Afghanistan and Mads Hovøre Andersen, Special Advisor for Afghanistan attended lunch on the second day. One of the participants facilitated a discussion and Q&A session discussing Danish engagement in Afghanistan, the situation of Afghan asylum seekers and refugees in Denmark and the situation of marginalized groups in Afghanistan.

ADSP would like to thank all resource persons who kindly supported the course. A big thank you to ACBAR, AYEDI, CAPRS, MMC, DRC, DEMAC, Aziz Rafiee, Reshad Jalali, International Media Support, and UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe. We look forward to the continued engagement in supporting the activities of the Afghan diaspora in working towards durable solutions for displaced Afghans.