

ADSP Strategy 2023 – 2025



Photo: The International Rescue Committee

We believe that all forcibly displaced people have the right to live in safe, humane and dignified conditions, with access to human rights, basic services and long-term solutions.

With approximately 12.9 million people currently displaced from Afghanistan and Myanmar alone, the need for effective policy to provide protection and access to basic services to displacement-affected people is greater than ever.

Who We Are

ADSP was established in 2018 to respond to the increasing number of people displaced across the Asia region who do not have adequate protection or opportunities for sustainable and dignified solutions. It draws on the operational experience of its three member organisations – the [Danish Refugee Council \(DRC\)](#), [International Rescue Committee \(IRC\)](#) and [Norwegian Refugee Council \(NRC\)](#) – to identify and advocate for regional policies and practices that enable displaced people to access their rights in a predictable and sustainable way. With a targeted focus on displaced people from Afghanistan and Myanmar, ADSP’s overall goal is to ensure pathways to solutions that extend beyond reliance on humanitarian assistance.

Our Ambition

We are seeking to ensure that regional governments, donors, UN agencies, civil society and other key stakeholders contribute to responsibility-sharing arrangements that enable people displaced from Myanmar and Afghanistan to enjoy fundamental human rights and access long-term displacement solutions in Asia.

In collaboration with its members, regional stakeholders and most importantly affected populations, ADSP has two ongoing workstreams contributing to two key aims:

1. To engage with the Support Platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), and ensure other key multilateral policy frameworks are strengthened and implemented with consistent and meaningful input from civil society and non-government organisations (NGOs)
2. To ensure national governments in Southeast Asia are taking meaningful steps to provide displaced people from Myanmar with legal status and equitable access to basic services



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What ADSP Offers

Humanitarian perspectives, specifically the interests and priorities of displacement-affected people, constitute a valuable part of solutions but are under-represented in existing processes. ADSP's added-value lies in the composition of its member organisations – three major humanitarian displacement organisations with response coverage across the region and ability to generate valuable programme learning, mobilise advocacy action and ensure voices of displacement-affected people are brought into policy discussions and processes.

ADSP's work and approaches include:

1. Analysing contextual drivers of displacement, conducting relevant research, and amplifying the needs and perspectives of displaced people.
2. Working with affected populations, governments, multilateral organisations, and civil society to understand barriers and identify pathways to solutions.
3. Working with affected communities and other stakeholders to identify practical solutions to displacement, with a focus on safety, protection and access to basic services.
4. Seeking and building momentum on policies and practices that enable long-term solutions, either or both with relevant national governments and by way of regional, or in some cases global mechanisms.

Why You Should Support

The significant number of people displaced from Afghanistan and Myanmar speaks to the need for more coherent, cohesive, and coordinated approaches to long-term solutions for refugees and displaced people across the region. However, relatively few countries in Asia are signatories to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol¹. In addition, there is an absence of clear and consistent legislation which exposes displaced persons to significant risks. Without legal identity and / or residency, displaced populations have no foundation on which to make informed, voluntary choices about their lives, access basic services and enjoy livelihood opportunities. Few are offered pathways to local integration or resettlement, and many face the prospect of indefinite limbo or forced return.

ADSP is concerned that:

1. An increasing number of people from Afghanistan and Myanmar are displaced for protracted periods without adequate protection and basic services.
2. Solutions to displacement in Asia are not adequately informed by the perspectives of affected people and local civil society or by the operational experience of humanitarian organisations.
3. There are sustained barriers to meaningful implementation of the Global Compact for Refugees, Global Compact on Migration, and other multilateral solutions frameworks.
4. An overarching lack of equitable responsibility-sharing for displacement within the Asia region leaves millions of people unable to enjoy their rights.

1. States Parties to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol, <https://www.unhcr.org/protection/PROTECTION/3b73b0d63.pdf>



Regional displacement snapshot: *Afghanistan*

Decades of political, social, economic, and climatic shocks have created ongoing waves of internal and cross-border displacement in Afghanistan, the overwhelming responsibility for which has been shouldered by neighboring Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan. By the end of 2021, as many as 11 million Afghans were reportedly displaced from their homes, including 3.5 million within Afghanistan, 2.6 asylum seekers and refugees, and an estimated five million others with varied documented or undocumented legal status². Just over one year since the Taliban took control of the country, the prevailing drivers of Afghan displacement are changing but the scale of displacement holds: Afghans continue to be pushed from their homes by factors of economic collapse, the erosion of social safety nets, serious protection concerns, the denial of access to basic services, and recurrent climatic disasters, with extremely limited prospects for sustainable, predictable long-term solutions.

2. UNHCR (November 2022) Afghanistan Situation: Global Appeal 2023 – Population Planning Figures

DRC DANISH
REFUGEE
COUNCIL



NRC
NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL

Regional displacement snapshot: *Myanmar*

By mid-year 2020, UNHCR reported a total of 1.9 million persons of concern from Myanmar in the Asia-Pacific region, constituting the world's fourth largest refugee group by country of origin,³ and likely a dramatic underestimate given persistent barriers to the registration and accurate reporting of numbers across the region. The overwhelming majority of those displaced from Myanmar are from the Rohingya ethnic minority, deprived of citizenship, legal identity, and associated protections within Myanmar, and in turn exposed to acute protection risks in neighboring countries. In addition to 950,000 Rohingya living in overcrowded camps in Bangladesh, UNHCR has registered over 100,000 Rohingya in Malaysia, and a total of just under 20,000 officially registered across India, Indonesia, Thailand, Nepal and other countries. UNHCR has registered a further 166,500 non-Rohingya Myanmar refugees across Malaysia, Thailand and India, likely among significant numbers in other countries about whom no official data is available. While all people displaced from Myanmar face significant protection risks, the Rohingya experience the most immediate and pronounced concerns, rooted in statelessness that excludes Rohingya populations from relevant protection frameworks and reinforces seemingly intractable barriers to solutions.

3. UNHCR (January 2021) The Displaced and Stateless of Myanmar in the Asia-Pacific Region – An overview of the current situation for Rohingya and other persons of concern from Myanmar and UNHCR's response across the region

