



Photo: Jerome Elie / ADSP 2024 (Refugee camp – Cox's Bazar)

## About ADSP

*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 April-June 2024 newsletter from ADSP, our second newsletter of the year. These newsletters are intended to spotlight some of the issues being tackled by ADSP, and the programmatic work done to promote solutions to displacement through policy change. In addition, the newsletter provides updates on global or regional processes in which we are engaged.

Each newsletter contains information related to ADSP focus countries, exploring programme developments and regional migration trends. 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 generates future ideas and collaborations.

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

## A message from the ADSP Secretariat

### Advancing ADSP's Key Focus Areas on Solutions

Over the second quarter of 2024 the Asia Displacement Solutions Platform (ADSP) continued to work collaboratively to support solutions that extend beyond reliance on humanitarian assistance. In the current troubled times, globally, regionally and in refugee hosting countries, the development of solutions for populations affected by displacement often seems a distant objective, but it remains our goal to support the development of an enabling environment. ADSP has persistently dedicated its efforts to advancing regional dialogues on displacement, sharing crucial information and evidence, and supporting collective civil society initiatives and forums with a focus on solutions.

From April to June, ADSP has focused on exploring the critical connections between climate change, environmental hazards, displacement, and solutions. In particular, ADSP led the dissemination and discussions of the findings and recommendations from the report on the “Impact of Climate Change on the Migration and Displacement Dynamics of Rohingya Refugees”, issued through the Protecting Refugees in Asia (PRiA II) project. Those activities highlighted, both at regional and global levels, a wide range of interests, ongoing gaps in knowledge and programs, as well as appeals to prioritize this theme further. While the PRiA II project closed on 30 June, a third iteration of this multi-partner project funded by European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) started on 1 July, for a 12-month period. ADSP will continue contributing to this project in close collaboration with partners. On the Afghanistan displacement axis, ADSP has also engaged in intense activities, including publications with Samuel Hall on Solutions for Afghan nationals returned from Pakistan and on Land Allocation Schemes in Afghanistan, as well as through supporting collective initiatives and coordination among various stakeholders. In particular, in collaboration with the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) and UNHCR, ADSP supported the organization of a consultation between NGOs and the Global Core Group of the Support Platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), focused on Community-based Protection Approaches to Local Integration in Afghanistan.

Over those three months, ADSP continued to engage with NGOs and Refugee-Led Organizations, and strengthened its links and collaboration with other stakeholders, including the other two regional Solutions Platforms: the Middle East Durable Solutions Platform (ME DSP), and the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS, covering the East Africa and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes region).

Further details on the above elements are covered throughout this newsletter. As always, we wish to thank all members and stakeholders for your ongoing engagement and support.

Warm regards,  
Dr. Jerome Elie ADSP Manager  
31 July 2024

## Myanmar Displacement Workstream



Photo: Md. Tasbir Ul Islam / IRC 2024 (Cox's Bazar)

### PRiA project updates (April - June 2024)

Protecting Refugees in Asia (PRiA) is an ECHO-funded project that began in July 2021. It entered its second phase in July 2023 and current project partners include the Danish Refugee Council, HOST International Malaysia, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) – Indonesia, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) – India, Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) – Asia, and the ADSP. With its focus on solutions to displacement, ADSP leads the project's advocacy and coordination result, which fosters concerted regional advocacy, promotes regional responses to Rohingya displacement, and supports national-level advocacy in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand.

The below presents highlights of key engagements from ADSP on the PRiA project and more broadly in connected initiatives in South-East Asia.

#### Regional Rohingya Advocacy Forum (RRAF)

On 3 April, ADSP launched a workstream focused on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as part of the Regional Rohingya Advocacy Forum, with an ASEAN strategy discussion co-organised with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. The meeting discussed key principles for effective ASEAN engagement and identified potential themes for collective advocacy including: the incorporation of forced migration into the ASEAN Community's Post 2025 vision; the mid-term review of the ASEAN Declaration on the Rights of Children in the Context of Migration and Regional Plan of Action; ASEAN search and rescue capabilities; and the revision of the ASEAN-UN Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management.

On 6 June, ADSP facilitated the 7<sup>th</sup> quarterly hybrid meeting of the Regional Rohingya Advocacy Forum (RRAF) co-organised with IOM and UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. The meeting discussed regional implications of recent developments in Myanmar and Bangladesh, the 13<sup>th</sup> Asia Dialogue on Forced Migration



[meeting](#), and recent developments in expanding Rohingya access to third country solutions. The next meeting of the Forum is planned for September.

### Climate change and Rohingya displacement

From April to June, ADSP organised several launch events and briefings to disseminate the key findings and policy recommendations of the PRIA [Research Report and Briefing Paper](#) on the “Impact of Climate Change on the Migration and Displacement Dynamics of Rohingya Refugees.” ADSP worked closely with the [Mixed Migration Centre \(MMC\) in Asia and the Pacific](#) to finalise the report and refine the recommendations. The report examines how climate change and environmental factors affect (im)mobility for the Rohingya, and interacts with other social, economic, and political factors in driving (im)mobility, increasing protection risks, and impacting prospects for achieving durable solutions. The report provides concrete recommendations on how targeted stakeholders can build climate-resilient and sustainable responses for refugee protection.

On 30 April, ADSP delivered a briefing on the report as part of the “Protection Situation: An analysis in Rohingya Refugees, Border tension and Climate Crisis” roundtable discussion organised by the [ECHO](#) and [FCDO](#) Funded Cox’s Bazar Protection Consortium, comprised of the [Danish Refugee Council \(DRC\)](#), [Handicap International/Humanity & Inclusion \(HI\)](#), [International Rescue Committee \(IRC\)](#), and the [Norwegian Refugee Council \(NRC\)](#).

On 26 May, ADSP organised a launch event bringing together stakeholders from NGOs, international organisations, and representatives from the diplomatic community in Dhaka, Bangladesh to discuss the findings and recommendations of the “Impact of Climate Change on the Migration and Displacement Dynamics of Rohingya Refugees” research report and briefing paper. The launch event consisted of a presentation of the key report findings by MMC, a presentation of the key report recommendations by ADSP, and a moderated roundtable discussion with expert panellists from [ECHO in Bangladesh](#), the Embassy of Sweden, and [Welthungerhilfe \(WHH\)](#).

On 27 May, ADSP organised a virtual launch for the research report and briefing paper bringing together stakeholders from civil society, experts, and other humanitarian actors. The virtual launch event consisted of a presentation of the key report findings by MMC, a presentation of the key recommendations by ADSP, and a moderated roundtable discussion with expert panellists from [IOM](#), the [Stockholm Environment Institute \(SEI\)](#), and the [University of Technology Sydney](#). A [summary note of the virtual launch can be found here](#).

During meetings with NGO staff and volunteers in camps of Cox’s Bazar, on 29-30 May, security challenges featured prominently but ADSP also witnessed constructive [examples of community mobilization, especially addressing disasters and environmental issues](#), feeding into ADSP’s reflections based on the PRIA Research Report.

On 12 June, at the [2024 UNHCR Global Consultations with NGOs](#), ADSP organised a side event on ‘Supporting



Inclusion, Gender Equality and Solutions in Climate Action for Refugees, Displaced and Stateless Persons’. ADSP moderated a panel discussion with expert panelists from [MMC Asia-Pacific](#), the [International Rescue Committee \(IRC\) Pakistan](#), and the [Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre \(IDMC\)](#) on best practices to support gender equal climate resilience humanitarian programming, challenges and barriers to the inclusion of refugees into national climate action plans and policies as well as recommendations for UNHCR and NGO engagement with emerging climate financing mechanisms.

### Alternatives to Detention for displaced populations

As part of its partnership with ADSP, the [International Detention Coalition \(IDC\)](#) continued to advance advocacy efforts towards implementing Alternatives to Detention (ATD) in Thailand and Malaysia. In April, IDC organised a workshop with Thai Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) clarifying the roles and responsibilities of Thai CSOs under the MoU ATD and how they can contribute to the process of implementing ATD in Thailand. In May, IDC

engaged with a cross-learning visit by Malaysian government stakeholders to Thailand to increase understanding of Thailand's ATD approach. In Malaysia, IDC continued to coordinate the End Detention Network (EDN) and civil society advocacy on ATD. In Thailand, IDC continued their engagement with Thai Parliament to develop recommendations for how to sustainably address irregular migration in Thailand and respond to the situation of Myanmar refugees in Thailand.

### Other engagements

On 19 April, ADSP organised a briefing for the Myanmar Refugee Policy Group on the work of ADSP and the protection risks Rohingya refugees are facing in Bangladesh.

On 15 May, ADSP organised in Kuala Lumpur a brainstorming discussion with NGOs and RLOs in Malaysia on potential strategic advocacy connected to the upcoming Malaysian government's term as the chair of ASEAN next year. ADSP was also in Kuala Lumpur to attend the [Asia-Pacific Summit of Refugees \(APSOR\)](#), convened by the [Asia Pacific Network of Refugees \(APNOR\)](#), on 17-19 May, to discuss best practices, assess progress and chart a collective path forward in formulating sustainable solutions to empower and support refugee-led organizations in the Asia Pacific region.

As of June 30, the second phase of the PRiA project was completed. A new one-year project, conceived as the third phase of the PRiA project, was launched on July 1, 2024. In the third phase, ADSP will continue to lead the project's advocacy and coordination result, which fosters concerted regional advocacy, promotes regional responses to displacement, including solutions-oriented approaches, and supports national-level advocacy in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and India.



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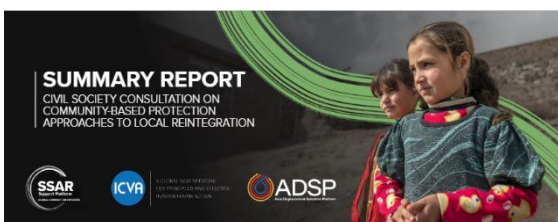
## Afghan Displacement Workstream



**Photo:** Manon Radosta / DRC 2024 (Afghan families leaving the Gazergah Transit Center (GCT) in Herat)

### Engagement on the Support Platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR)

In the second quarter of 2024, ADSP capitalized on its previous collaboration with the Asia branch of the [International Council of Voluntary Agencies \(ICVA\)](#) to further engagements with the SSAR Support Platform. This notably led to working with UNHCR to organize a consultation between NGOs and the Global Core Group of the Support Platform, held online on 30 April. Focused on Community-based Protection Approaches to Local Integration in Afghanistan, the meeting featured interventions from [Nai Qala Association \(NQA\)](#), [Welthungerhilfe \(WHH\)](#), and the [Norwegian Refugee Council \(NRC\)](#) in Afghanistan and disseminated evidence useful in view of future related meetings of the Global Core Group. The [Summary of the consultation](#) as well as [background information](#) on the contributing NGOs are now online. This represented the first meeting gathering civil society, UNHCR and the Global Core Group, a step aligned with the [SSAR Support Platform’s workplan for 2024](#), which includes consultations with civil society among its Specific Objectives.



Going forward, ADSP will continue to engage, notably seeking to sustain NGO space and contributions into the Support Platform work, including in relation to the follow-up process on the [Resilience and Solutions \(ReSolve\) Pledges](#) made for the Afghanistan Situation at the December 2023 Global Refugee Forum.

### **Building the evidence base to inform solutions**

The collaboration between ADSP and Samuel Hall continued, preparing a series of publications centered on providing evidence, analysis and recommendations to support solutions programming in Afghanistan, including in the context of major involuntary returns in the last quarter of 2023 and in early 2024. The first publication features a Briefing Note on '[Solutions for Afghan nationals ordered to return from Pakistan](#)'; the second features a Research Brief on '[Land Allocation Schemes for the Displaced in Afghanistan](#)'. Those will be followed shortly by another Research Briefs focusing on a 'Durable Solutions Analysis on Jalalabad/Nangarhar'. Those publications, along with an Expert Commentary on 'Water, climate, and refuge across Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran' will soon be available on [ADSP's website](#) and disseminated through various channels.

### **Introduction to Advocacy for stakeholders in Afghanistan**

In April, the ADSP Manager, provided a third online training on 'the fundamentals of advocacy' to a variety of humanitarian actors, this time located in the Southern and Eastern regions of Afghanistan. The training gathered about 25 participants, mainly from non-governmental organizations. As in March, it covered the fundamentals of advocacy and aimed to provide participants with advice and basic tools to engage in advocacy work relevant to the operational context, identify priorities and manage potential risks.

### **Engaging with Members covering the Afghanistan Situation**

Over the second quarter of 2024, ADSP continued to exchange with its members with operations in Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan and supported advocacy, exchanges on key messaging and, in line with the [2023-2025 ADSP Strategy](#), worked to draw on the operational experience of ADSP members to elevate issues affecting people displaced from and in Afghanistan.



## Other Activities

### 2024 Global UNHCR Consultations with NGOs

As outlined above in the section on the Protecting Refugees in Asia (PRiA) Project, ADSP contributed to the [2024 Global UNHCR Consultations with NGOs](#) (Geneva, 11-13 June). In addition to convening a side event on ‘Supporting Inclusion, Gender Equality and Solutions in Climate Action for Refugees, Displaced and Stateless Persons’, the ADSP Manager also acted as Facilitator for a working group on the Consultations’ recommendations and as member of the preparatory Steering Group that was convened by UNHCR and ICVA ahead of the Consultations. This year, the Consultations focused on the following themes: Solutions, inclusion and gender equality. ADSP also contributed to debriefing discussions organized by ICVA at global and regional levels.

## Highlights from the other regional Solutions Platforms

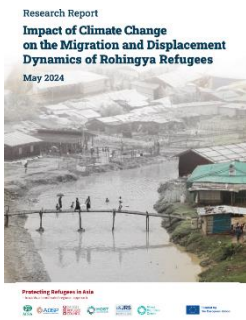
Since 2023, a concerted effort has developed to strengthen exchanges and collaborations between the three existing regional Solutions Platforms: the [Asia Displacement Solutions Platform](#) (ADSP), the [Middle East Durable Solutions Platform](#) (ME DSP), and the [Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat](#) (ReDSS, covering the East Africa and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes region). This section of ADSP’s Newsletter will aim to provide highlights from our sister platforms’ activities as well as showcase our collaborations.

- In June, ReDSS organized an **online training on durable solutions** for 53 internal and roster staff members of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), calling on contributions from ADSP and the ME DSP, thus providing cross-regional perspectives on challenges and opportunities for durable solutions programming. Participants left the training with useful ideas on promoting solutions in the contexts that they work in, and the session provides an opportunity for future discussions with SDC to shape their thinking on solutions across the different regions.
- In the second quarter of 2024, ME DSP Coordinator, Amy Rodgers, and Matthew Hemsley (Danish Refugee Council) finalized a Working Paper on ‘[Solutions from the Start: Adapting the Deliverables for Humanitarian Country Teams to Ensure Better Outcomes for Internally Displaced Persons. Learnings from Responses in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen](#)’, published through the Researching Internal Displacement website. The paper analyses the degree in which best practice guidance from the durable solutions approach was applied in the formative years of humanitarian responses in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen, and finds that more emphasis should be placed on translating decades of collective experience into improved implementation of the durable solutions approach.



## ADSP Publications

### Impact of Climate Change on the Migration and Displacement Dynamics of Rohingya Refugees (Research report and Briefing Paper, May 2024)

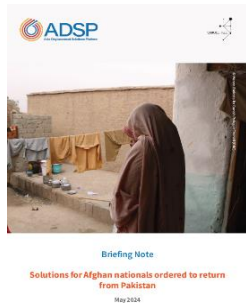


This research examines the complex ways in which climate change specifically affects (im)mobility for the Rohingya, and to what extent environmental factors interact with other social, economic, and political factors in driving (im)mobility, increasing protection risks, and impacting prospects for achieving durable solutions. The research produced concrete recommendations for targeted stakeholders towards building climate-resilient and sustainable responses for refugee protection.

Commissioned by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) under the the “Protecting Refugees in Asia” (PRiA) project funded by ECHO, the research was produced with the overall supervision and support from the Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) Asia and ADSP, with feedback from PRiA partners.

The Research Report and Briefing Paper can be found [here](#), together with a Summary Note on the Virtual Launch of the Research Report, [here](#).

### Solutions for Afghan nationals ordered to return from Pakistan (Briefing Note: May 2024)

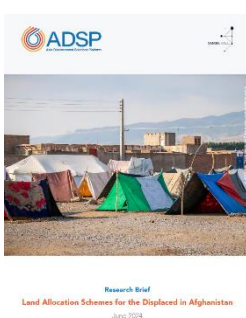


Developed by ADSP and [Samuel Hall](#), this Briefing Note focuses on the state of returns of Afghan nationals from Pakistan in the last quarter of 2023. Finalized in late April 2024, it presents data collected from a mission in Afghanistan, to Torkham and Jalalabad, in November 2023, protection monitoring data collected by DRC and the Protection Cluster, and additional data from organisations working closely on the issue.

This Note calls for: Learning from past lessons on returns and understanding the pressures of evictions on reintegration prospects; Influencing and informing the authorities’ policies on durable solutions; Investing in information sharing and harmonising humanitarian and basic needs data to better protect Afghan nationals in host countries and returnees in Afghanistan.

This Briefing Note can be found [here](#).

### Land Allocation Schemes for the Displaced in Afghanistan (Research Brief, June 2024)



In Afghanistan, the displaced and returnees live often in informal settlements (ISETs) with no right to their land or housing, and at risk of forced evictions. Access to land or shelter has been for decades, and remains today, a fundamental challenge underscoring the need to examine responses to landlessness for the displaced.

Developed by ADSP and [Samuel Hall](#), this Research Brief takes stock of past ‘Land Allocation Schemes’ in Afghanistan to better plan ahead. It provides an overview of these schemes, including their capacity to accommodate returnees, their shortcomings and successes, appropriateness and accessibility, notably as communicated by residents themselves. This is followed by a presentation of best practices and recommendations for meaningful engagement with the land-related needs of returnees and Internally Displaced Persons.

The Research Brief is available [here](#).

## ADSP Members' Publications

- [Five ways to safeguard protection in development-oriented approaches to solutions to internal displacement](#), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), April 2024
- [Replenish, Disburse and Deliver: How the World Bank IDA21 can better serve communities impacted by fragility, conflict and violence](#), International Rescue Committee (IRC), April 2024
- [Afghans increasingly forced to return from Iran, an overlooked population in dire need of protection](#), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), May 2024
- [Afghan authorities evict thousands of internally displaced people in Kabul amid growing humanitarian crisis](#), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), June 2024
- [HLP challenges in Rohingya camps: identifying strategies to improve security of tenure for Rohingya](#), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), June 2024
- [IRC in Bangladesh: 2023 Annual Report](#), International Rescue Committee (IRC), May 2024
- [The environment is in peril. Act now](#), Hasina Rahman - IRC Country Director in Bangladesh, *The Daily Star*, International Rescue Committee, 5 June 2024
- [A call for true solidarity with the Rohingya community](#), Hasina Rahman - IRC Country Director in Bangladesh, International Rescue Committee, *The Daily Star*, 20 June 2024