



Photo credit: Abdul Khaliq Sediqi/IRC 20023 (Torkham Crossing Emergency)

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 workstreams.

Welcome to the October-December 2024 newsletter from ADSP, our fourth 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

A message from the ADSP Secretariat

Closing 2024: from challenges to resolute commitment

This newsletter covers the last part of 2024, a turbulent year in the region, marked by continued conflicts, persecution, and environmental disasters that have kept millions in situations of forced displacement. Refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and stateless populations across Asia continue to lack protection and access durable solutions. Moreover, a disruptive global situation, continued funding shortfalls and reduced attention to protracted crises means that humanitarian emergencies in the region are likely to increase in scale and complexity in 2025.

In this context, ADSP worked to sustain dialogue at regional and national level on displacement and solutions perspective, sharing thinking and evidence on aspirational but realistic options and showing that durable solutions cannot be mere afterthoughts or collateral consequences of political and humanitarian interventions. Solutions are more likely to materialize when purposefully planned for, in collaboration with displaced populations and based on their aspirations and careful consideration of the safe options available to them.

In the final quarter of the year, ADSP completed its planned activities related to the Afghanistan and the Myanmar displacement workstreams. On displacement from Myanmar, ADSP engaged in private advocacy and coordination, while continuing public-facing activities under the multi-partner project on 'Protecting Refugees in Asia (PRIA)' (2024-2025) funded by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO). Notably, ADSP co-convene the 9th quarterly meeting of the Regional Rohingya Advocacy Forum (RRAF), which particularly discussed irregular Rohingya movements and perspectives on upcoming high-level events on Myanmar. ADSP also contributed to the 2024 Asia-Pacific Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week (RHPW) in December and released two explainer papers aiming to inform NGO advocacy towards ASEAN and the Bali Process.

On the Afghanistan displacement axis, under its DANIDA-funded project, ADSP continued to work with its members and with Samuel Hall to produce evidence on displacement and solutions, with a publication focusing on the relevance of climate change and access to natural resources in the region. ADSP continued to engage with the Support Platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), co-organizing two online events, in line with the ADSP GRF pledge. At the 2024 RHPW, ADSP also co-organized – with NGOs from Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan – a discussion on the role and collaborations between local and international actors in responses to displacement.

Finally, ADSP closed the year with an internal stocktaking event, gathering its members over three days to analyse how the ADSP Strategy has been implemented so far and start considering avenues for the next strategic chapter.

On a personal note, I have now completed a full year heading ADSP and learned immensely in the process. 2025 will see a lot of changes, challenges but hopefully also progress and constructive developments, laying the groundwork for solutions in the region. ADSP is ready to continue collaborating with partners to achieve positive outcomes. Many thanks to all members and stakeholders for your ongoing engagement and support.

Sincere regards,
Dr. Jerome Elie – ADSP Manager
31 December 2024

Myanmar Displacement Workstream

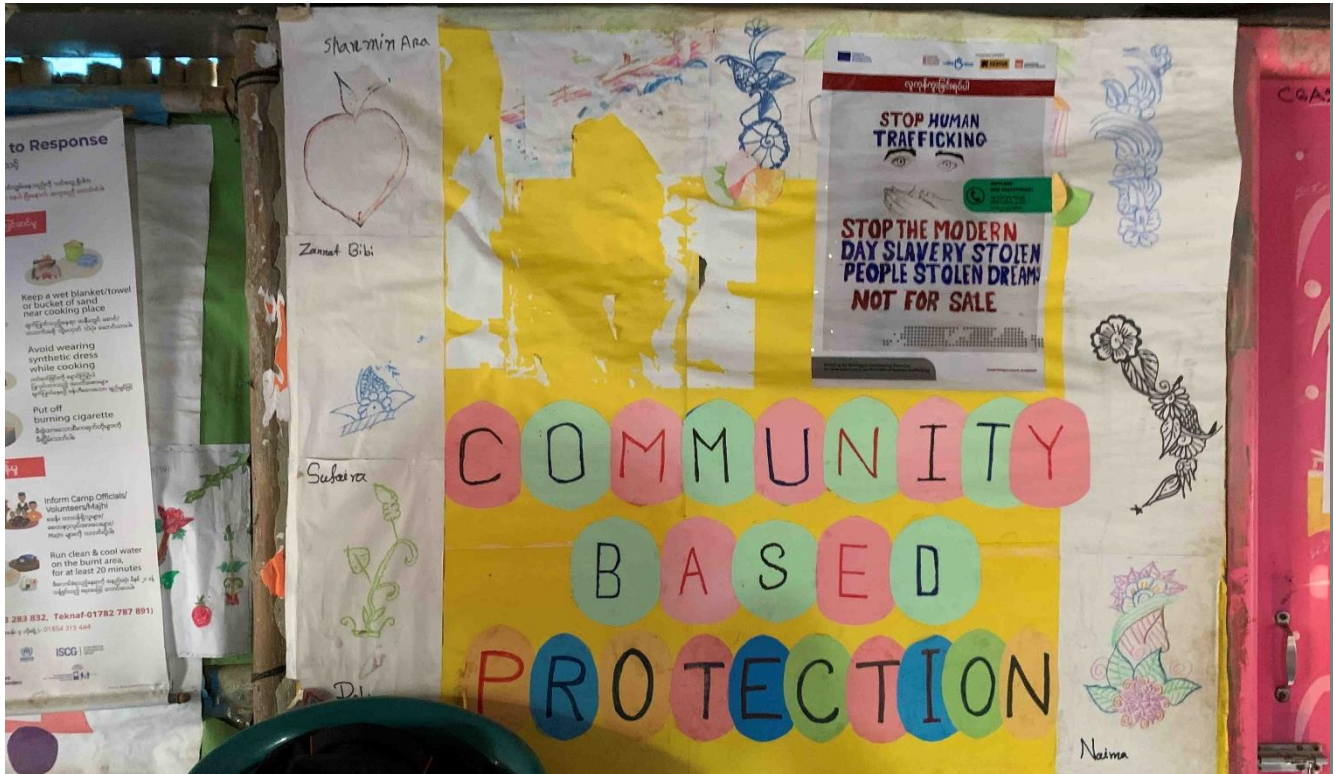


Photo credit: Jerome Elie / ADSP 2024 (Refugee camp - Cox's Bazar)

PRiA project updates (October - December 2024)

Protecting Refugees in Asia (PRiA) is an ECHO-funded project that began in July 2021. It entered its third phase in July 2024. Current project partners include the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), HOST International Malaysia, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) – Indonesia, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) – India, Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) – Asia, and ADSP. With its focus on solutions to displacement, and adopting a ‘one-refugee approach’, ADSP leads the project’s advocacy and coordination result, which fosters concerted regional advocacy, promotes regional responses to displacement, and supports national-level advocacy in Indonesia, India, Malaysia, and Thailand.

The below paragraphs present 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 16 December, ADSP facilitated the 9th quarterly hybrid meeting of the Regional Rohingya Advocacy Forum (RRAF) co-organised with IOM and the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. The meeting primarily addressed key developments and advocacy priorities on irregular Rohingya maritime and overland movement, expected stakeholders’ engagement and advocacy at the upcoming ‘High-level conference on the situation of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar’ and other opportunities for engagement locally, regionally and internationally. The next meeting of the Forum is planned for March 2025.

ASEAN Advocacy

On 4 December, ADSP co-organised and moderated a hybrid panel discussion on ‘Barriers and Opportunities for ASEAN Advocacy by Myanmar I/NGOs’ with the Myanmar INGO Forum. The panel discussion addressed the evolution of ASEAN’s approach to the Myanmar crisis, Malaysia’s approach to Myanmar as ASEAN Chair,

and potential opportunities for strategic advocacy and engagement with ASEAN to support regional solutions to the Myanmar crisis.

ADSP attended the [Regional Humanitarian Partnerships Week – Asia Pacific](#) from 10 to 12 December to discuss and share best practices and exchange on how to strengthen and improve humanitarian partnerships in the Asia-Pacific Region. During the event, ADSP Regional Advocacy Specialist, Paul Vernon, participated as a speaker in a side event co-organized by the Norwegian Refugee Council, Penabulu Foundation, and the Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation titled "New Frontlines, Old Challenges: Untangling Humanitarian Diplomacy with Cases from Indonesia and ASEAN." In this event, ADSP shared key insights and recommendations from an explainer for NGOs published in December on ASEAN, [A guide for NGOs: Utilising ASEAN to promote solutions for Rohingya communities](#). This presentation provided a brief overview of ASEAN's structure and approach to refugee protection, discussed barriers to stronger ASEAN responses, and identified advocacy opportunities and strategic entry points for promoting solutions for Rohingya communities. The ASEAN explainer is also complemented by a similar guide published in December supporting NGOs considering or engaging in regional advocacy toward the Bali Process to promote solutions for Rohingya communities: [A guide for NGOs: Utilising the Bali Process to improve protection of Rohingya communities](#).



Alternatives to Detention

In the third phase of the PRiA project, ADSP continues its advocacy partnership with the [International Detention Coalition \(IDC\)](#) to advance advocacy efforts towards implementing Alternatives to Detention (ATD) in Thailand and Malaysia. In Thailand, IDC continued to coordinate between civil society to develop feedback and recommendations to strengthen the NSM, including the organization on 22 October of a debrief session on the September 2024 review of the National Screening Mechanism conducted by the Thai government. In Malaysia, IDC continued to coordinate civil society advocacy initiatives towards the Malaysian government on the implementation of the ATD, particularly in the lead-up to Malaysia assuming the 2025 ASEAN Chairmanship.



Funded by the European Union

Other engagements

Aside from but connected to the PRiA Project, ADSP regularly joins multi-stakeholder fora and coordination meetings relevant to displacement and solutions from Myanmar, in particular the Cox's Bazar Protection Consortium (Bangladesh) roundtables and the UN-led regional inter-agency coordination and protection meetings.

Afghanistan Displacement Workstream



Photo credit: Abdul Khaliq Sediqi/IRC 20023 (Torkham Crossing Emergency)

ADSP’s Afghanistan displacement workstream is supported through generous funding from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) and adopts a focus on evidence-based advocacy, capacity development, and regional coordination. In keeping with its vision and mission, ADSP maintains a strong focus on promoting durable solutions for displaced Afghans within Afghanistan and for those in neighbouring countries.

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

As part of its commitment under the GRF ReSolve Multi-stakeholder Pledge, ADSP continued to engage with the SSAR Support Platform. On 2 October, the ADSP Manager, Jerome Elie, co-facilitated an orientation session for NGOs on pledging under ReSolve, and made a short intervention highlighting the role of NGOs in the Global Compact on Refugees. The session provided information about the ReSolve Multistakeholder Pledge, pledging options and mechanisms, while providing an opportunity for NGOs to ask questions and share their perspective on ReSolve and the situation in the region.



Following the [Official Transition of Chairmanship of the SSAR Support Platform from the State of Qatar to the Kingdom on the Netherlands](#) on 22 October, the [first session of the new ReSolve Multi-Stakeholder Engagement Forum](#) was organized online on 28 November. This session aimed at providing the opportunity for national organizations from Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan who have either made GRF pledges or

intend to formalize a pledge under ReSolve to provide insights into their work, which will include multi-sectoral programming to prevent and respond to GBV and support survivors. The following NGOs spoke about their work: [Kabul Orthopedic Organisation from Afghanistan \(KOO\)](#), the [Association for Protection of Refugee Women and Children \(HAMI\)](#) from Iran, and [INSPIRE](#) from Pakistan. As co-convenor of this Forum, ADSP co-facilitated the discussion. The [Concept Note](#) and [Summary Note](#) of this session are available online on the [Support Platform website](#).

Building the evidence base to inform solutions

As part of its collaboration with Samuel Hall, ADSP released a new publication on [‘Water, climate, and refuge across Afghanistan and the sub-region’](#). Written by Dr. Sanaa Alimia, this expert analysis provides three country profiles, with focused recommendations, demonstrating that any durable solution for Afghan displacement in the region must integrate concerns related to climate change, and resources, including – and especially – water.

During this quarter, on 21 October, ADSP and Samuel Hall were also invited to present and discuss the previously published [Durable Solutions Analysis focused on Jalalabad/Nangarhar](#) at a meeting of the Data and Analysis for Solutions Technical Working Group in Afghanistan. ADSP intends to continue building the evidence base through Durable Solutions Analysis, for example now considering a similar study covering the Herat province, in Western Afghanistan.

2024 Asia-Pacific RHPW event: ‘Supporting Displaced Populations in Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan: the Role of NGOs’

From 10 to 12 December, ADSP attended the [Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week \(RHPW\) – Asia Pacific 2024](#), contributing through chairing and co-organizing, with [Association for Protection of Refugee Women and Children \(HAMI\)](#) and the [Society for Human Rights & Prisoners’ Aid \(SHARP-PAKISTAN\)](#), a session on ‘Supporting Displaced Populations in Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan: the Role of NGOs’. While both HAMI and SHARP intervened in person, the event also featured an online presentation from [New Way Social & Development Organization \(NSDO\)](#). All three NGOs reflected candidly on their local and national contexts, the added value such local actors can bring to responses and solutions approaches, while sharing their perspectives on collaboration with international entities. The Q&A session allowed for positive feedback from the audience and an exchange of views and information on how to achieve more realistic and constructive partnerships among various stakeholders. Concluding remarks were provided by the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific.



Engaging with members covering the Afghanistan situation

Over the fourth quarter of 2024, ADSP met regularly with its operational members in Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan and discussed how displacement dynamics (notably returns) impact solutions perspectives and response capacities. Such discussions notably took place at the December ADSP Stocktaking event in Bangkok and will inform ADSP’s reflections, positioning and evidence-based advocacy activities in the year to come and for the next ADSP Strategy.

Other Activities

2024 ADSP Stocktaking Event

Following intense preparations, from 2 to 4 December, ADSP convened an internal retreat in Bangkok with its members, gathering DRC, IRC and NRC Regional Directors as well as Country Directors and Advocacy staff from Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar. The aim of this meeting was to take stock of the implementation of ADSP’s 2023-2025 Strategy, discuss collaboration modalities and initiate reflections on the process leading to the next ADSP Strategy. Participants shared their perspectives on the value-added of ADSP in the current regional and global context, validated the current strategic objectives while pointing to possible future evolutions.



In 2025 ADSP will put in place a light process to develop a new Strategy for the period starting in 2026, leading to the 10th anniversary of ADSP, including targeted discussions with partners and stakeholders. The Bangkok retreat was also an opportunity to discuss 2025 objectives and workplans for ADSP’s two axes of focus: the Afghanistan and Myanmar displacement situations. While durable solutions remain mostly elusive in those contexts, ADSP will continue to advocate for policies and practices that enable displaced people to access their rights and basic services in a predictable and sustainable way and for increased responsibility-sharing, thus supporting pre-conditions to solutions.

ADSP Publications

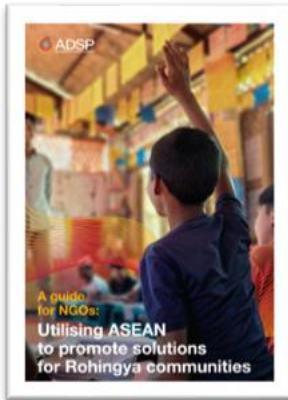
Expert Analysis: Water, climate, and refuge across Afghanistan and the sub-region (October 2024)



For over 40 years, Afghanistan’s neighboring countries have been home to Afghan refugees and other displaced populations. The region also ranks as high or very high among countries at risk to impacts of climate change – where water, as a resource, is especially scarce. Drawing on a variety of sources, this expert analysis provides three country profiles, with focused recommendations, demonstrating that any durable solution for Afghan displacement in the region must integrate concerns related to climate change, and resources, especially water. This publication was developed in collaboration between ADSP and [Samuel Hall](#) and written by Dr. Sanaa Alimia. It is available [here](#).

Note: Views and opinions expressed in the expert analysis are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the positions of ADSP, nor of its members.

A guide for NGOs: Utilising ASEAN to promote solutions for Rohingya communities (December 2024)

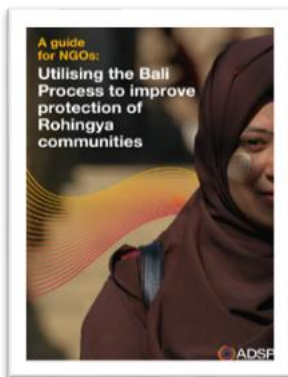


Formed in 1967, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is the primary intergovernmental institution for promoting integration and cooperation in Southeast Asia. Given the transnational nature, scale and protractedness of Rohingya displacement, many actors have discussed the potential role of ASEAN in addressing related challenges.

In this perspective, this guide is intended to support NGOs advocating for Rohingya refugees across Southeast Asia. It maps out the ASEAN's structure, key bodies for addressing human rights and humanitarian assistance, and advocacy opportunities for promoting solutions for Rohingya communities. The guide also provides concrete recommendations for advocacy towards ASEAN.

This guide is available [here](#).

A guide for NGOs: Utilising the Bali Process to improve protection of Rohingya communities (December 2024)



Founded in 2002, the Bali Process is designed to 'facilitate cooperation and collaboration, information-sharing and policy development on irregular migration in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond'. The Bali Process exclusively focuses on issues related to migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons. In relation to Rohingya displacement, it has been considered as an important mechanism when discussing regional responses to identify sustainable approaches that more equitably share responsibility across the region.

In this perspective, this guide supports NGOs considering or engaging in regional advocacy to undertake advocacy toward the Bali Process to promote solutions for Rohingya communities.

This guide is available [here](#).

ADSP Members' Publications

Here are some of our members' publications over the last quarter of 2024, relevant to ADSP's geographic and thematic areas of focus:

- [Meet the team that travels 3 hours to deliver medical care in Afghanistan](#), International Rescue Committee (IRC), November 2024
- [Struggling against the tide: Afghanistan's battle against climate change and displacement](#), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), November 2024
- [Here are five crises you should know about in 2025](#), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), December 2024
- [The top 10 crises the world can't ignore in 2025](#), International Rescue Committee (IRC), December 2025
- [Bleak future for children, youth](#), by Adnan Junaid and Hasina Rahman, International Rescue Committee (IRC), December 2024