

8 April 2021

***** STATEMENT *****

THAILAND: COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT, HUMANITARIAN ACTORS, ASEAN STATES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS CRITICAL TO MEETING THE PROTECTION AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OF REFUGEES FROM MYANMAR

Renewed fighting between the Myanmar military and armed ethnic groups near the Myanmar-Thai border has displaced thousands of civilians. If fighting continues in Myanmar's border states, thousands of civilians could be forced to seek refuge in Thailand.

The Asia Displacement Solutions Platform (ADSP) urges the Royal Thai Government (RTG) to continue its long-standing tradition of providing protection and humanitarian assistance to displaced people fleeing unrest. We note that the RTG recently finalised standard operating procedures for supporting displaced people arriving from Myanmar. In implementing these SOPs, we encourage the RTG to demonstrate commitment to the principle of *non-refoulement*, and closely coordinate with humanitarian agencies to ensure lifesaving aid and other services are available to people in need.

We also call on all ASEAN States and the international community to support the RTG and its humanitarian partners. Should the situation in Myanmar continue to deteriorate, there will be even greater need for collaborative approaches that establish shared responsibility for protecting and meeting the basic needs of refugees arriving in Thailand.

##END##

The Asia Displacement Solutions Platform (ADSP) is a joint initiative launched by the Danish Refugee Council, the International Rescue Committee, the Norwegian Refugee Council and Relief International, which contributes to the development of solutions for populations affected by displacement in the region.

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