The 2021 military coup in Myanmar has reversed years of democratic, economic and development gains. Conflict is ongoing across the country and economic and humanitarian crises are set to deepen. Despite the challenges, Australia’s assistance continues to reach communities in need throughout Myanmar and on the Thai-Myanmar border, including those displaced and in conflict-affected areas.

Strategic direction

Australia remains committed to supporting the people of Myanmar through provision of sustained development and humanitarian assistance. We support meeting immediate needs and building community resilience to respond to future challenges, with a focus on the most vulnerable. We continue to support the promotion of peace and democratic values. We work through trusted partners including the United Nations and non-government organisations. Australia does not provide any direct funding to the Myanmar military regime, and we take proactive steps to ensure Australia’s assistance does not give credibility or legitimacy to the regime.

Program highlights

- Providing life-saving assistance, including distributing basic food and non-food items, emergency food, water and shelter.
- Delivering basic education services to children living in vulnerable and conflict affected communities.
- Improving the nutrition status and food security of vulnerable populations in conflict-affected areas through agricultural and livelihoods assistance.
- Delivering primary health care, essential health supplies and mental health services through local non-government providers.
- A strong focus on gender by providing frontline services to improve women’s health and well-being including obstetrics and maternal and child health care, and support for gender-based violence support and counselling.
- Supporting efforts to mitigate conflict and its impacts and help protect space for longer-term progress on human rights, rule of law and democracy.