

## **What is the Best Policy for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Refugees in Burma?**

Rudyard Kipling once stated, 'this is Burma, and it will be quite unlike any land you know about.' It is valid for the perilous situation in Burma for IDPs and refugees, too, because Burma poses unique problems to humanitarian relief for a variety of reasons. The HART Foundation is one of the instrumental organizations that help displaced persons who live in Burma, and we can see their successful approaches in other countries, such as Sudan. However, we should understand that Burma is a unique place and that understanding the unique circumstances in the nation are vital if we want to assist those who live there. There also has to be a realization that many groups are working together to resolve the situation in Burma. The shared effort is the best hope for IDPs and refugees.

The situation in Burma is dire, with the HART Foundation estimating that 450,000 children have been impacted by the humanitarian crisis in the country in 2020 (HART Foundation, 2021). The approach to helping Burma should be building more relief sites and focusing on the plight of children in the country. The presence of children in this crisis is one of its most crucial aspects, as it should always be a focus of humanitarian efforts to focus on children. One scholar notes how children in Myanmar should be at the center of relief efforts, and relief sites should focus on giving them help (Khai, 2021). Other groups, such as the UNHCR, analyze the situation in Burma, too, and highlight the effect on young people, and should be the focus of any humanitarian efforts (UNHCR, n.d.). The way to go about these efforts should take inspiration from similar success stories in the region, including in Sudan. The scale of the issue always plays a vital role in defining humanitarian efforts, which is estimated to be 587,000 IDPs by the UNHCR (Burma Link, 2015). The devastation to children and IDPs shows that there needs to be a shared effort by many organizations. However, the apparatus for this herculean task already exists.

The HART Foundation has existed for decades and has been a significant reason for successes in other crises, such as in Sudan. When analyzing the types of IDPs in Burma, they are similar to those in Sudan (Thelwell, 2021). We can tell from this information that many of the same approaches that worked in Sudan by the HART Foundation should be successful in Burma. It includes the ongoing project of building relief sites in Myanmar, which has been part of the humanitarian effort for years (ReliefWeb, 2021). The building of these sites takes considerable time but helps humanitarians help a large number of IDPs and refugees at once. The scale should instruct the approach to the Burma effort, as it requires that many IDPs be processed at once. The HART Foundation should play a significant role as an organization that partakes in these efforts in other countries.

As touched on earlier, the Burma humanitarian effort incorporates many different humanitarian organizations. These include the UNHCR, the HART Foundation, and OCHA (OCHA, 2021). In the same way, as many relief sites are helpful to processing the many IDPs and refugees, organizations are crucial to help in a large-scale problem such as in Burma. Another organization, the IDMC, helps track the internal number of IDPs in the country (IDMC, n.d.). The logistics of the problem means that many individuals, and organizations, are necessary to fully handle all of the persons affected by the Burma crisis. Fortunately, many organizations already exist that are part of this effort. As part of the effort, a peace-building effort is handled by groups such as the Myanmar Peace Monitor,

promoting an end to the war in the region(Myanmar Peace Monitor, 2013). Many of the Burmese issues result from conflicts, and peace would resolve many of the issues affecting IDPs. When the conflicting sides resolve their issues, it will mean that Burma will be able to concentrate fully on dealing with its serious IDP and refugee crises with the help of humanitarian organizations.

In conclusion, the Burma crisis revolves around helping children, building relief sites, and bringing together many humanitarian organizations such as the HART Foundation, UNHCR, and OCHA.

These organizations already work together, with some providing essential data for relief workers, while others work directly with IDPs on the ground in Burma. The presence of children as one of the most affected groups requires special attention. These vulnerable groups are some of the most victimized from the conflict. There should be an effort to try and resolve the conflicts in Burma with peace-making, as conflict is one of the reasons for the crises. Once resolved, a peaceful Burma will be better able to handle these crises alongside the many humanitarians who are ready and able to help IDPs and refugees in their time of need.