



## **European Union launches new programme to support sustainable solutions for Myanmar displaced persons in Thailand**

**Bangkok, 20 April 2026** - The European Union (EU) has launched a new programme titled *“Supporting Thailand’s Transition to Self-Reliance & Inclusion: Preparing Myanmar Displaced Persons for Inclusive Future”*, with a total financial support of EUR 15 million (approx. THB 570 million).

Today, H.E. Mrs. Luisa Ragher, Ambassador of the European Union to Thailand and representatives from UNHCR, International Rescue Committee’s consortium, and Expertise France signed the new agreement, supporting Myanmar displaced persons in nine temporary shelters across Mae Hong Son, Tak, Kanchanaburi, and Ratchaburi provinces, as well as migrants residing outside the temporary shelters in Tak province, as they transition towards greater self-reliance and inclusion in the Thai society.

The initiative comes at a pivotal moment, as Thailand advances policies enabling displaced persons to access legal employment and national services. The programme will support this transition by strengthening healthcare systems, enhancing child protection mechanisms, and expanding livelihood opportunities, while reinforcing coordination between humanitarian actors and Thai institutions. It contributes to a shift from long-term humanitarian assistance towards more sustainable and locally anchored solutions.

H.E. Mrs. Luisa Ragher, Ambassador of the European Union to Thailand, said:

“The European Union remains committed to supporting Thailand in advancing sustainable and inclusive solutions for Myanmar displaced persons. At this critical moment of transition, our partnership seeks to ensure that refugees are not only protected, but also empowered to become self-reliant and active contributors to society. Together with our partners, we are building pathways towards dignity, resilience, and shared prosperity.”

Ms. Pinsuda Jayanama, Director-General of the Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said:

“Thailand highly appreciates the European Union’s decision to increase its programme’s funding from 12 million euros to 15 million euros for 2026 – 2028. This enhanced contribution is very timely as we are transitioning from aid dependency for the Myanmar Displaced Persons to a more self-reliant and inclusive path.”

Tammi Sharpe, UNHCR Representative in Thailand, said:

“This programme represents an important step towards advancing protection and inclusion for refugees in Thailand. By strengthening child protection systems and supporting access to national services and employment opportunities, we are helping refugees to transition safely and with dignity, while laying the foundations for longer-term solutions.”

Darren Hertz, Country Director, International Rescue Committee, said:

“Through this programme, we aim to ensure that refugees have equitable access to essential services while building the skills and opportunities needed for self-reliance. Supporting livelihoods and social inclusion will help families navigate this transition with greater confidence and resilience.”

Eric Fleutelot, Technical Director, Pandemic Cluster, Health Department, Expertise France, said:

“Improving access to quality healthcare is central to enabling inclusive and sustainable solutions. This programme will strengthen local health systems, support frontline workers, and expand access to care for vulnerable populations, contributing to a more resilient and inclusive response.”

### **About the programme**

The programme includes a EUR 10.5 million consortium project led by the International Rescue Committee supporting essential services and employment readiness for Myanmar Displaced Persons across nine temporary shelters. The consortium partners are Save the Children Thailand, COERR, Malteser International, ADRA, and Humanity and Inclusion.

A EUR 2 million initiative led by Expertise France, together with Borderland Health Foundation, Dreamlopmments, Mae Tao Clinic, and the International Organization for Migration, to improve access to healthcare in Tak province.

Additionally, a UNHCR-led action of EUR 2.5 million focused on strengthening child protection systems and supporting displaced persons inclusion in national frameworks. The programme will support displaced persons and migrants, improving access to healthcare, child protection, and essential services, while expanding livelihood and employment opportunities aligned with Thai policies. Particular attention will be given to individuals in vulnerable situations, including children, persons with disabilities, and women facing heightened risks, while strengthening national systems and coordination mechanisms.

### **Background**

Thailand hosts one of the world’s longest-standing refugee situations, with over 80,000 Myanmar displaced persons residing in temporary shelters along the border.

Recent policy developments, including granting displaced persons’ access to legal employment, represent a significant step towards more sustainable solutions. Continued support is essential to ensure a safe, orderly, and inclusive transition.

The European Union is a long-standing partner in supporting displaced persons and host communities in Thailand, working closely with government authorities, UN agencies, and civil society.

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