

Jesuit Mission appeals for help as the crisis in Myanmar escalates

Myanmar's youth are sacrificing their lives today for future generations. Following decades of turmoil, since Myanmar's military coup in 2021 the humanitarian crisis has escalated and is worsening every day.

Myanmar's military junta commenced compulsory conscription this year, triggering new levels of tragedy as young men and women are forced to fight or flee. In the past six months, the violence has drastically worsened, with a major increase in indiscriminate airstrikes and artillery shelling targeting civilians, schools, hospitals and public places every day.

Amidst the escalating violence, turmoil and fear, Jesuit Mission Australia is appealing to Australians to make their tax-time donation before 30 June to ensure they can respond immediately to this ever-changing crisis with humanitarian aid and ongoing support.

"The military junta has commenced compulsory conscription for Myanmar's young men and women. Sadly, this has further destabilised the country, leading to mass displacement and uncertainty," said Helen Forde, CEO of Jesuit Mission Australia.

"Over 3 million people have been displaced, seeking refuge from violence and persecution. Our local partners' reports are chilling, yet they are determined to continue providing emergency relief, including shelter, medicines and food, education and livelihoods."

Khine* (aged 17) lives in desperate fear of being conscripted when she soon turns 18.

Fleeing from violence, Khine became separated from her family. Where once she lived in a peaceful, loving home, studying at school and dreaming of becoming a nurse, she now hopes only to survive. *"I live in constant fear, uncertain of what will happen next,"* said Khine.

"Since the coup my school has been closed. I no longer live with my family as before. My life was peaceful, but now I am always afraid. The village where I live now is not safe. I pray I will not be conscripted. I want to run away but I have nowhere to go."

As the end of the financial year approaches, Jesuit Mission Australia is appealing to Australians to make a tax-deductible donation to assist our sisters and brothers in desperate need in Myanmar. To donate visit <https://jesuitmission.org.au/myanmar/> or call 02 8918 4109.

With compassionate and generous support from Australians, Jesuit Mission will continue to stand strong and remain by the side of the people of Myanmar, ready to provide vital aid and support as this crisis unfolds.

- \$375 could provide learning materials for 30 students forced to study in camps
- \$150 could provide emergency shelter for a family forced from their home
- \$60 could provide emergency food and medical packages for a displaced family

-END-

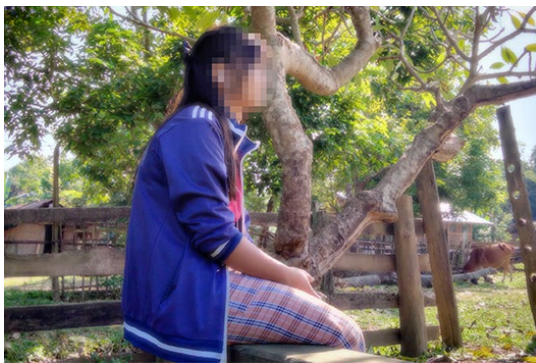
**name changed for security*

Media Contact:

Angela Ford, Fundraising & Engagement Director, Jesuit Mission Australia,
angela.ford@jesuitmission.org.au, 02 8918 4109



Caption: 17-year-old Khine fears being conscripted.



Khine says: *"Since the coup my school has been closed. I no longer live with my family as before. My life was peaceful, but now I am always afraid. The village where I live now is not safe. I pray I will not be conscripted. I want to run away but I have nowhere to go."*

Since the military coup in February 2021:

- Displaced people: 2.8 million
- People living in urgent need: 18.6 million (around one third of Myanmar's population)
- Approx one third of all school age children are not enrolled in any form of learning
- Imminent threat to 13 million young men (18-35) and young women (18-27) of compulsory conscription

Source: <https://www.unocha.org/myanmar> (UN Ocha, March 2024)

Supporting Links:

Myanmar Emergency: <https://jesuitmission.org.au/give/myanmar/>
Donate to Myanmar: <https://jesuitmission.org.au/myanmar/>



About Jesuit Mission Australia

Jesuit Mission Australia works in over 10 countries across Asia and Africa to uphold the innate dignity of people living with the effects of poverty, especially the most marginalised and vulnerable.

Funds from our supporters:

- Break cycles of poverty through teaching and education
- Protect the health of communities by providing medical care and programs that improve access to clean water and toilets
- Develop independent, sustainable communities through livelihood training and income-generating projects
- Provide vulnerable individuals with pastoral care, social inclusion and advocacy
- Support refugees in crisis
- Enable effective disaster response and relief.