

Options for Financial Support

Online Fundraising Campaigns, using Crowd-sourcing sites

(best for: small to medium-sized donations, using credit card)

Fundraising campaigns are the best way to add your donation to a larger crowd-funded effort for bigger impact. They are well suited for people who are giving smaller donations and want to feel part of a bigger group of supporters, but who do not feel the need to know exactly how the funds are being used or which organization in Myanmar is receiving the funds.

New fundraisers are popping up all the time and many have a deadline when the campaigns have to close. The best way to see which campaigns are currently going on is to check:

<https://www.isupportmyanmar.com/>, which has a compilation of these online fundraisers.

Below are a few online fundraising campaigns I can personally vouch for since I know the organizers and know they are able to get money into the country. Also, they are mostly channeling support to places outside of Yangon, the main city. These more rural areas have a particularly hard time accessing support.

Support Myanmar Ethnic Minorities in CDM (Civil Disobedience Movement)

<https://www.facebook.com/donate/428353795132761/441220330512774/>

Mutual Aid Myanmar

(donations go through a 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor making you donation tax deductible in the US)

<https://www.mutualaidmyanmar.org/cdm-fund>

Support Civil Disobedience in Shan State, Burma

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-civil-disobedience-in-shan-state-burma>

Online Donations directly to well-respected organizations providing cross-border support

(best for: donations of any size, using credit card/paypal, people who would like to know the exact organization they are donating to and be able to learn about their work)

While it may be too risky to send funds to organizations inside Myanmar at this time, there are well established organizations that have operated for years on the Thai border that provide essential services to the people of Myanmar both as migrants in Thailand and to mostly ethnic minority communities across the border in Myanmar.

Healthcare: Mae Tao Clinic (MTC)

(Uses two 501©3 non-profits as fiscal sponsors so donations tax-deductible in the US.)

<https://maetaoclinic.org/how-to-help/donate/>

Mae Tao Clinic, founded by Dr. Cynthia Maung, has been providing critical health services , including maternal and child healthcare, to the primary ethnic minority communities living in

Eastern Myanmar for decades. Many communities, who do not have access to proper healthcare in Myanmar, cross the border to get the care they need at MTC. MTC has also trained hundreds of community health care workers who operate inside the country supporting underserved communities. With the ongoing crisis, the clinic expects to have more patients and also need more support for its community health care workers's operations inside Myanmar.

Education : BEAM

<https://beamedu.org/donate/>

(uses Paypal – need to convert to Thai Baht, current rate is approximately 31.22 Thai baht to 1 USD)

BEAM Education Foundation, based in Chiang Mai, Thailand provides education and livelihood opportunities for both Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand as well as former migrants returning back to their communities. In this time of crisis, they have activated programming that will help to support urgent needs in the country as well as continued education support to, what is expected to be, an increased number of migrant workers coming to Thailand to look for work.

Humanitarian Aid: Karen Women's Organization

<https://karenwomen.wordpress.com/>

(uses Paypal for donations from Paypal account of Credit/Debit Card)

The Karen Women's Organization is a longstanding organization that supports vulnerable populations, including women and children, in areas of Karen state along the Thai-Burma border. They are a first responder organization to emergencies, especially displacement of villagers due to armed conflict and are trusted by those communities. As the Myanmar military has ramped up its

Media: Independent Myanmar New Agencies

Myanmar Now - <https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/donate>

Frontier Myanmar - <https://www.frontiermyanmar.net/en/> (One time donation or sign up for their subscription service for informative, in-depth news briefs to your email inbox.)

Transfers to organizations and people inside Myanmar

(best for: donations over \$500, funding under-supported groups, people who want a personal update on how their donation was used)

Many organizations in Myanmar are not able to openly fundraise at this time, because publicizing their work would put them in great danger. Yet, they are also the organizations located within the communities facing the violence and threats, so are in the best position to respond to the needs of the people.

I have connections with various groups and would be able to connect donors to these groups and help arrange the transfer if needed. These are groups that I have worked with for years and trust to use donations wisely. The type of work these groups are doing include:

- Providing medical support for protestors and civilians injured in the ongoing violence
- Providing food, shelter and other humanitarian relief to those displaced or adversely affected by the crisis.
- Security (safe houses, travel expenses, etc) for protest leaders and human rights defenders who are at risk of arrest.
- Providing services and a safe house for women experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault. This kind of violence was on the rise due to COVID and now is skyrocketing. They do not have enough space or food for the current cases they have and need support to expand their services.

Other urgent needs – the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh:

As the situation inside Myanmar declines, the Rohingya – a minority ethnic group of Myanmar – many of whom have lived under very difficult conditions in refugee camps in Bangladesh, have suffered yet another tragedy. A massive fire and a series of smaller subsequent fires have raged through the camps in recent months, killing an unknown number of people (likely hundreds) and destroying the simple shack homes and belongings of over 70,000 people. While the camps will receive large scale international aid, it can take time to set up those systems and the experience of the refugee-led groups is that these systems always have gaps and people that are missed out or not able to access that support – typically these are the elderly, people with disabilities, single mothers, etc. Support to Rohingya-led groups helps them to provide direct services to their own communities in need. The Rohingya Women's Welfare Society (RWWS) is currently providing clothing to women and children who lost their homes in the fire. Needs will likely change quickly, but this organization is well placed to use your donations for the most urgent need at the time. For more about Razia Sultana, founder of RWWS, please see: <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2019/07/a-lawyer-activist-helps-rohingya-survivors-of-violence> If you would like to donate to RWWS or other Rohingya-led initiatives, please let me know.