Forced Migration and Burma

40,000 Chin refugees have fled to India since 1988.

250,000 Rohingya refugees fled to Bangladesh in 1991; 20,000 remain.

6,000 Rohingyas have been trafficked to Thailand and Malaysia since October 2006.

Over 1,000,000 IDPs in Burma

140,000 Karen and Karenni refugees in Thailand.

1,000,000 Burmese migrants in Thailand, of whom many are unregistered refugees.

23,000 Burmese refugees and asylum seekers in Malaysia.
Over 3,200 villages destroyed, forcibly relocated or abandoned between 1996 and 2007 in eastern Burma, including 167 villages displaced in the past year.
76,000 people forcibly displaced in past year. 43,000 in the conflict-affected, northern Karen areas alone.
There are currently at least 503,000 internally displaced persons in Eastern Burma.

- 99,000 in hiding sites
- 109,000 in relocation sites
- 295,000 in ceasefire areas
Conflict-Induced Displacement
5 SPDC regional military commanders control 273 permanent infantry and light infantry battalions in eastern Burma.

Militarisation facilitates the occupation of ethnic lands.

Counter-insurgency operations target civilians in violation of international humanitarian laws.
Threats to Safety and Security (2005-07)

- Military Attack: 16% (2005), 17% (2007)
- Torture or Beatings: 13% (2005), 14% (2007)
- Arbitrary Arrest or Detention: 10% (2005), 15% (2007)
- Forced Portering: 15% (2005), 23% (2007)
Development-Induced Displacement
State-sponsored development consolidates military control & undermines livelihoods via:

- Forced labour
- Land confiscation
- Forced relocation
- Asset stripping
- Procurement quotas
- Production quotas
- Extortion & arbitrary taxes

Geographic features include:

- Dams
- Mining
- Gas pipelines
- Asia Highway
- Road construction
- Logging
- Agricultural Project
Common Threats to Livelihoods (2004 - 2007)

- Extortion or Arbitrary Taxation: 52% (2004), 20% (2005), 21% (2007)
- Forced Labour: 57% (2004), 34% (2005), 26% (2007)
- Travel Restrictions: 23% (2004), 23% (2005), 39% (2007)
- Destruction or Theft of Food Items: 17% (2004, 2005, 2007)
- Destruction of Housing or Forced Eviction: 19% (2004), 10% (2005), 11% (2007)
The nation is impoverished, but vulnerabilities are most severe in conflict-affected areas.

**Acute Malnutrition in Children**
(2007 Sample = 663 children aged 12-59 months)
Humanitarian access, monitoring and policy level dialogue about protection concerns are severely restricted.
The Responsibility to Protect

“The international community, through the United Nations... (is) prepared to take collective action, in a timely and decisive manner, through the Security Council... should peaceful means be inadequate and national authorities are manifestly failing to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.”

United Nations General Assembly, World Summit Statement, October 2005
The challenge is to promote coherency between the promotion of democracy, human rights and humanitarian aid.