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SECURITY TIGHTENED ALONG INDO-MYANMAR BORDER AMID ESCALATING CLASHES ACROSS BORDER

Following clashes between CDF-H and CNDF in Myanmar, Mizoram Police and Assam Rifles are on high alert along the Indo-Myanmar border, says Home Minister Pu K Sapdanga. Following clashes between CDF-H and CNDF in Myanmar, Mizoram Police and Assam Rifles are on high alert along the Indo-Myanmar border, says Home Minister Pu K Sapdanga.



Following intense clashes between the Chinland Defence Force-Hualngoram (CDF-H) and the Chin National Defence Force (CNDF) inside Myanmar, the Mizoram Police and Assam Rifles have been deployed with heightened alertness along the Indo-Myanmar border to prevent any breach, according to Mizoram Home Minister Pu K Sapdanga.

The violent conflict between the two Chin armed groups began on the night of July 5 in Khawmawi, the last village on

the Myanmar side of the border. The fighting has since intensified, forcing hundreds of civilians from Khawmawi and surrounding areas to flee into Mizoram through the Zokhawthar border. So far, nearly 3,000 refugees have reportedly taken shelter in Zokhawthar.

The Mizoram government is closely monitoring the situation. The Home Minister stated that both the Police and Assam Rifles personnel are continuously patrolling the border to maintain security.

Arrangements are being made by the Young Mizo Association (YMA) to provide temporary shelter for the refugees, and the Champhai District Deputy Commissioner has already been instructed to initiate necessary relief measures. Although the Government of India requires all entrants from Myanmar to register and provide valid identification, the Home Minister expressed concern that many of the recent arrivals are fleeing armed conflict and may not be in a position to comply with such protocols. (ANI)

Source: sentinelassam.com

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WHY REFUGEE-LED ORGANISATIONS ARE KEY TO THE HUMANITARIAN RESET

Almost four million refugees in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda are living with the day-to-day uncertainty of whether their basic needs will be met as global aid cuts slash rations and services.

Yet there is some light. The refugee policies of all three countries are shifting from the traditional camp-based approach, which is expensive and demeaningly restrictive, to integration within host communities that encourages self-reliance.

Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia have all granted refugees the right to work. They have also authorised, to varying degrees, freedom of movement and the right to own property.

However, administrative and bureaucratic hurdles temper many of these freedoms, and the growing cost-of-living woes in all three countries narrow the economic opportunities available to refugees.

Clearly, there is still a journey to make. As a first step, refugees and Refugee-Led Organisations (RLOs) need to be recognised as central to the implementation and

effectiveness of these progressive policies. For too long, they have been sidelined by governments, refugee agencies, and donors – despite being key to understanding and overcoming the barriers to refugee inclusion.

Refugees bear the burden of aid cuts

The aid squeeze, as Western governments shift their priorities from foreign assistance to security and defense, makes policy reform all the more urgent, especially as refugees are bearing the brunt of these cuts.

In Kenya, the World Food Programme (WFP) has reduced its food basket for more than 800,000 refugees to just 28% of a full ration – the lowest level ever recorded in Kenya. It has also suspended cash transfers, a key measure for boosting people’s nutrition. If the agency does not secure additional funding, further reductions in aid are expected, which will likely deepen frustrations. Ration cuts earlier this year sparked protests and clashes with the police in the Kakuma refugee camp.

For more than 18 months, WFP has been able to provide only 60% of the standard ration to the 800,000 refugees it assists in Ethiopia and has halted all its cash and in-kind support in the country. Reflecting the broader crisis, Ethiopia’s 2024 humanitarian plan received just 29% of its requested \$3.2 billion.

The hardships have been equally felt in Uganda. The UN refugee agency, UNHCR, is only 17% funded, while WFP was forced to halt food aid in May to nearly one million of the 1.6 million refugees it was assisting. Cash transfers were stopped altogether.

The cuts in basic aid leave camp-based refugees stranded without access to adequate food rations or other essential humanitarian services, such as medical care and education. They also affect refugees transitioning from camps to host communities, who still need support to integrate, undermining progress toward self-reliance.

■ Source: thenewhumanitarian.org