

# Floods force thousands from homes in Myanmar

July 27 2018

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Heavy monsoon rains have pounded the southeast of the country and show no sign of abating, raising fears that the worst might be yet to come

Floodwaters have forced thousands from their homes in southeast Myanmar, local police said Friday, as authorities and volunteers

scrambled to provide food and aid to the victims.

Heavy monsoon rains have pounded Karen state, Mon state and Bago region in recent days and show no sign of abating, raising fears that the worst might be yet to come.

Photos and videos showed residents of Karen's state capital Hpa-an boating down streets that had turned into rivers while others were forced to escape on foot through waist-deep water.

Vast swathes of the surrounding land lay submerged while 11 temporary camps have been set up around the city.

"There are more than 6000 people displaced in Hpa-an and about 4000 in Myawaddy," the head of Karen State police force Kyi Linn told AFP, referring to a second town on the border with Thailand.

A social welfare ministry official previously said 16,000 people had been displaced across eight townships in Karen State.

The number of affected in Mon State and Bago Region has not yet been confirmed.

State-run media published pictures on Friday of civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi visiting Karen State the day before, talking to victims, relief workers and volunteers.

The Global New Light Of Myanmar said her government had freed up 200 million kyat (140,000 USD) to help those displaced and that rebuilding destroyed bridges would be a priority.

"We are now delivering food to [flood](#) victims who don't want to leave their homes," said volunteer Ni Ni Aung in Kyonedoe town, adding they

would have no choice but to leave if the rains worsened.

So far no casualties have been reported.

Like its neighbours, Myanmar faces severe flooding every year and climate scientists in 2015 even ranked it top of a global list of nations hardest hit by extreme weather.

That year more than 100 people died in floodwaters that also displaced hundreds of thousands across the country.

Some 138,000 people were killed in 2008 when Cyclone Nargis lashed vast stretches of Myanmar's coast.

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