

13 June 2018

Community Messaging on Chin Cessation Process

An analysis of the political, social and security development in Chin State over the course of several years has determined there are positive developments which are durable and sustainable in nature. While the situation in Myanmar is still fluid and unstable in parts of the country, the situation in Chin State is now stable and secure from a refugee protection perspective. Based on this, UNHCR presumes that ethnic Chin refugees are safely able to avail themselves to the protection of the Myanmar Government and hence are no longer in need of international protection from UNHCR.

UNHCR has therefore decided, as of 1 August 2018, to begin the process of individual cessation of refugee status for ethnic Chins from Myanmar who are assessed to not have a need for international protection. From this date onwards, Chins approaching UNHCR to renew their refugee card will be provided individual counselling and offered two options:

Option 1:

Extension of existing UNHCR identity card until the 31 December 2019 waiving the need for an individual interview. Individuals will remain under UNHCR's protection until 31 December 2019. As of 1 January 2020, the individual refugee status will automatically cease and UNHCR identity cards will no longer be renewed.

Option 2:

Individuals may request for an interview if they feel they are still in need of international protection. The UNHCR identify card will be replaced by a letter confirming refugee status and a final decision will be made within approximately two months. Based on the final decision, status will either automatically cease and the UNHCR document will no longer be extended, or refugee status will be confirmed along with further card renewal.

The cessation process for all ethnic Chin refugees will be completed by 31 December 2019. Only those individuals who UNHCR confirm are still in need of international protection beyond this date will remain registered and able to benefit from international protection by the Office.