



[CHIN ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND, INC.](http://www.chinmd.org)

Tel. 443-936-8616 • [info@chinmd.org](mailto:info@chinmd.org) • [www.chinmd.org](http://www.chinmd.org)

## **PRESS RELEASE: Report on the Chin Association of Maryland Trip to Mizoram, India (April 6 to April 23, 2024)**

**May 16, 2024**

**Washington, DC** ---- The Chin Association of Maryland, Inc. (CAM) is releasing a report, [\*Report on the Chin Association of Maryland Trip to Mizoram, India \(April 6 to April 23, 2024\)\*](#). This is the seventh report that CAM has published since the military coup on February 1, 2021. The previous reports can be found on [CAM's website](#).

The key findings and recommendations of this [report](#) are highlighted below.

### **KEY FINDINGS**

- Local political and civil society actors in Mizoram and Chin State, Burma are eager for U.S. assistance and cross-border aid, as well as the official presence of United Nations agencies in the area; their main question is how aid deliveries can reach them.
- U.S. assistance has gone mainly through the UN and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) in other parts of Burma, including via the Thai-Burma border. However, these actors do not have an official presence in Mizoram or unhindered access to Northwest Burma.
- The Indian government may be re-evaluating its policy on the refugee situation in Mizoram State and the conflict in Burma due to resistance victories, which could enable more direct aid delivery.
- The new Chief Minister of Mizoram is close to high-level policymakers in the center, in particular External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, and has made several efforts to get more support from New Delhi and to oppose suspension of the Free Movement Regime.
- The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has shown an increased interest in engaging and supporting its officials elected to state and local offices in Mizoram, particularly in the Mara Autonomous District Council and other ethnic minority areas

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **To the United States Government**

*Engage with the Indian central government:*

- to enable more direct humanitarian assistance to Mizoram's host community and refugees as well as cross-border aid to Chin State, Magway, and Sagaing Region
- to allow the official presence of UN agencies and international NGOs in Mizoram

*Consult with local Mizo and Chin actors as well as the Chin refugee community when developing plans for allocation of funds, aid delivery, and facility expansions, in particular:*

- the Chinland Council and Chinland Government
- the Interim National Chin Consultative Council
- local Chinland Defense Force administrators

### **To the Mizoram State Government**

1. Explore deeper partnership with UN offices such as the World Food Programme, including a role as an implementing partner with a Memorandum of Understanding and physical presence in Mizoram.
2. Advocate for the presence of a UNICEF office similar to the one in Assam, which would provide assistance to the Mizoram host community as well as child refugees.
3. Explore opportunities to collaborate with UNDP on [localization](#), particularly for the Sustainable Development Goals where Mizoram's progress has been slower (SDG 5, SDG 12, SDG 13).
4. Advocate with the Indian central government to allow international NGOs, including UNHCR partners, to operate openly in Mizoram.
5. Encourage and provide technical support for local NGOs, such as the Central YMA, to apply for grants from the U.S. government and access the \$75 million in humanitarian funding [appropriated](#) for Burma crisis response in India and Thailand.
6. Encourage and facilitate cross-border assistance to Northwest Burma, where large populations of internally displaced people do not have access to aid.

#### **Contact:**

Zo Tum Hmung

Tel. 443-936-8616

[zotumhmung@chinmd.org](mailto:zotumhmung@chinmd.org)

[www.chinmd.org](http://www.chinmd.org)

*The Chin Association of Maryland (CAM) is a non-profit organization based in Ellicott City, Maryland with an office in Washington, DC. CAM advocates for Chin and other refugees and internally displaced persons in Burma, religious freedom, and human rights. CAM also works to empower the local Chin community in Maryland to successfully integrate into American society.*