

# READY

**Thisland is a low-income developing country that has recently suffered from a period of violent conflict. A new government was formed five months ago and is struggling to establish legitimacy and rule of law throughout the country with limited resources and ongoing social and ethnic tensions. Government capacity is limited outside the capital and corruption remains a serious problem. The country's public health infrastructure is weak throughout the country.**

### General Information

**Population:** The current population of Thisland is estimated at 18 million. Life expectancy is 66.6 years, with an infant mortality rate of 41 per 1,000 live births. The country's Human Development Index value of 0.543 places it 160th in the world.

Some 10 million Thislanders live in the Eastern Province of the country, primarily along the southern coast, while 8 million live in the Western Province. Many of the Western Province Thislanders share an ethnic kinship with the adjoining country of Neighborland, of which Thisland once formed part. Some 38% of the population of Thisland live in urban areas. Myro is the capital and largest city (2 million people) located on the eastern coast. It is also Thisland's primary port.

During a recent conflict, an estimated 280,000 persons were displaced from the Western Province to the Eastern Province. Most are now residing in informal settlements or urban areas.

**Economy:** Thisland has a Gross Domestic Product of \$3,567 per capita. Its primary exports are agricultural goods, although some natural resource extraction occurs in the western mountains. In part due to the recent conflict, unemployment is high, estimated at 12% of the labor force. Women, who form 40% of the labor force, have been most impacted by the rise in unemployment, and there are reports of increasing child labor in the informal economy. Approximately 70% of the population lives below the poverty line. Inflation is high throughout the country due to the ongoing instability.

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**History of the Current Conflict:** Thirteen months ago, contentious elections saw the apparent victory of a presidential candidate from Western Province. Following accusations of fraud, fighting erupted between rival political parties. Severe clashes occurred between militias in the Western Province and national security forces. Some members of the security forces joined one side or another. The conflict has decreased in the past five months, following mediation by the international community, and a new, power-sharing government has been established. However, a legacy of tensions between “Easterners” and “Westerners” remains, and the new government struggles to establish legitimacy, particularly in the Western Province. Throughout the country, considerable power remains in the hands of local politicians and security officials, which often disadvantages minority and marginalized communities. Fighting and insecurity still occurs in localized areas, mainly in the Western Province.

**National Public Health Emergency Capacity:** Thisland does not currently have a central national public health institution but relies on ad-hoc committees that are created for specific outbreak responses. Thisland has been working to achieve elimination status for measles. Bilateral partners are working with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to establish an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and an Incident Management System after challenges faced with coordination of the COVID-19 pandemic. A Joint External Evaluation has not been conducted yet for Thisland. The MoH and its partners have been investing in a fledgling sentinel surveillance network for measles, polio, and cholera and have funds to establish an influenza network in the coming months. Thisland depends on a regional reference laboratory for the identification of novel pathogens and is in the early stages of augmenting the capacity of a central lab to be able to identify, confirm, and sequence specimens for notifiable diseases.

## Humanitarian Situation

**Overview:** During the recent conflict, an estimated 280,000 persons were displaced from the northwest of the country to the northeast (150,000 people) and southeast (130,000 people). Across Thisland, internally displaced persons (IDPs) are located primarily in urban areas (40%), informal settlements (35%), and formal camps (25%). There are seven informal IDP settlements and two formal IDP camps in the northeast of the country, and 60,000 IDPs displaced within the city of Murrelle. Tensions are increasing between the host community and IDPs, as it is unlikely the IDPs will be able to return to their home communities soon due to the

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sporadic and ongoing conflict in the northwest. There is a high percentage of female and child-headed households in the displaced population.

**Security:** Security in major towns and cities and along the country's primary highways is adequate, except in the northwest. However, continued political tensions and the widespread availability of firearms suggest that any future eruption of political violence could rapidly escalate.