

## KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES


**22,000**

Estimated refugee movements to neighbouring countries since 1 February 2021


**980,000**

Refugees and asylum-seekers from Myanmar in neighbouring countries as of 31 December 2020

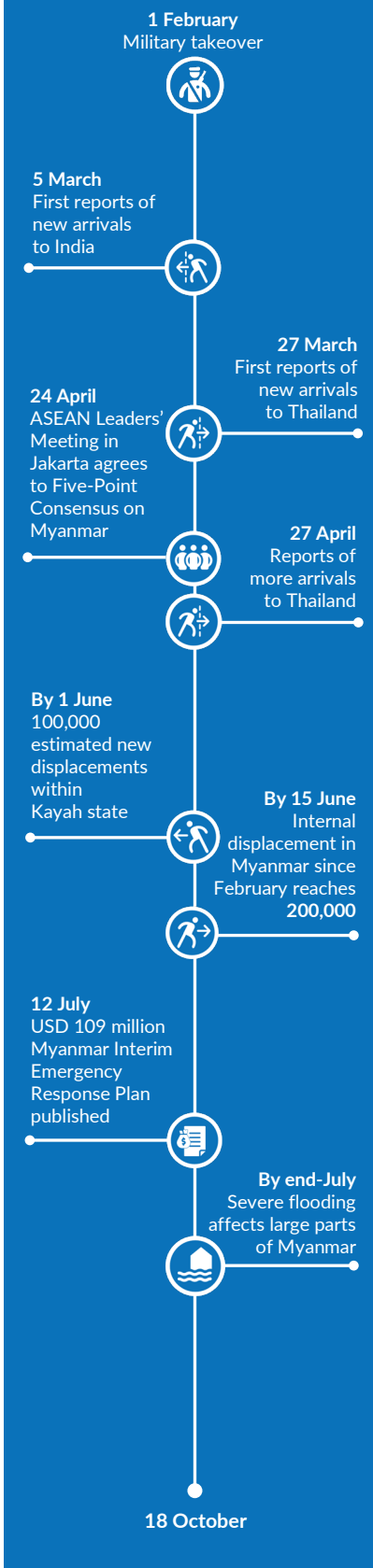

**219,000**

Estimated total internal displacement within Myanmar since 1 February 2021


**589,000**

Estimated internally displaced persons (IDPs) within Myanmar as of 18 October

## TIMELINE IN KEY EVENTS



## HIGHLIGHTS

Of the total 589,000 internally displaced people in Myanmar, approximately 219,000 have been displaced by armed conflict and unrest since 1 February 2021, while numbers of refugees who have fled to neighboring countries remained steady at some 22,000. The majority of those displaced internally since 1 February—some 155,000 IDPs—remain displaced in South-East Myanmar and Shan State (South), including over 4,000 people newly displaced in the last two weeks by clashes between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) or people's defence forces (PDFs) in Thayetchaung Township, Tanintharyi Region, and between the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) and Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) in Mongkaing Township, Shan State (South). New displacement was also observed in Thantlang and Matupi townships, Chin State, as armed conflict escalated. Small-scale returns have been observed in some parts of the country, such as Yebyu Township, Tanintharyi Region, and Myaung and Kani townships in Sagaing region, following a pattern of temporary and fluid displacement in which people seek immediate refuge in nearby forests or safe locations, then return home once fighting in their villages subsides.

With fuel and other commodities becoming scarce as prices rise sharply, IDPs and other vulnerable communities—such as the Rohingya in Rakhine State—are at risk of becoming increasingly isolated due to transport challenges that impact both humanitarian access and livelihood opportunities. Electricity cuts and communications disruptions continue in much of South-East Myanmar, while prolonged internet shutdowns have been reported in Sagaing Region and Kachin State's Hpakant Township. The COVID-19 pandemic also continues to spread among IDPs, with new cases reported in Demoso and Hpruso townships in Kayah State, despite COVID-19 positive rates declining nationally. At the same time, ongoing security concerns—ranging from increasing explosions and landmines in the South-East to vandalism and destruction of private property and religious sites in the North-West—continue to make it extremely difficult for IDPs to meet their basic needs.

## RESPONSE

### Myanmar

In the **South-East**, UNHCR conducted protection monitoring in 11 IDP locations in Kayah and Shan (South) states, identifying critical needs such as lack of food, medicines and shelter. In **Kayin State**, following the easing of some movement restrictions, UNHCR partners resumed six small-scale community-based projects—five water system supply projects and one school renovation in Myawaddy and Kyainseikgyi townships, for the benefit of some 5,300 people. On 12 October, UNHCR delivered 402 mosquito nets and 201 sanitary kits for 201 households to a community-based women's group, for distribution to 955 people displaced in September in 12 villages of Thandaunggyi Township. A local UNHCR partner in Shan State (South) also distributed non-food items (NFIs) to 2,700 IDPs.

## Myanmar contd.

Meanwhile, UNHCR protection monitoring in nine locations in Demoso Township in **Kayah State** and two locations in Pekhon Township in **Shan State (South)** revealed that IDPs' key concerns currently include communication and transportation challenges; poor living and shelter conditions; inadequate supplies of medicine, food, and potable water; and lack of income.

In **Kachin State**, UNHCR protection monitoring and non-food items (NFI) distributions are ongoing. UNHCR's local partners distributed NFIs to over 450 recently displaced IDPs in Hpakant Township and started distributions to 2,600 IDPs displaced in Waingmaw Township since August, in addition to ongoing NFI replenishment distributions for IDPs in protracted displacement. In **Shan State (North)**, soap has been distributed to over 2,000 IDPs, and NFIs to 1,600 IDPs in Kyaukme Township.

In **Rakhine State (North)**, travel authorizations for IDP response activities have been granted in some new locations. In October so far, UNHCR distributed more than 1,300 masks to IDPs in rural sites in Buthidaung and Rathedaung townships. Shelter construction monitoring is also ongoing in IDP camps in Sittwe and Pauktaw townships, while awareness sessions for COVID-19 prevention are ongoing in Rohingya IDP camps and displacement sites. UNHCR also carried out information sessions on citizenship and statelessness for local and international organizations, as well as UN agencies active in Rakhine State, to ensure that such issues are mainstreamed across programming, response, and advocacy initiatives.

## Thailand

In **Thailand**, humanitarian agencies continue to take key preparedness actions to ensure that complementary activities are delivered in a timely and coordinated manner. During the reporting period, non-food items have been prepositioned in Mae Hong Son as part of inter-agency preparedness measures for possible influx. Various educational tools have also been made available in local languages, including minimum standards for parental education and positive parenting.

## India

As the situation of those fleeing Myanmar into **Mizoram and Manipur** continues to evolve in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and the escalating conflict in Myanmar, reports indicate that access to Government-run COVID-19 vaccination is available to new arrivals. Indications of fresh displacement are being reported and basic needs such as food and shelter are becoming more urgent. While UNHCR does not have access to the refugee population on the border, civil society organization and local communities continue their efforts to support new arrivals despite the increasingly protracted nature of the crisis and to provide basic orientation on COVID-19 prevention.

