

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


206,000

Estimated total internal displacement within Myanmar since 1 February 2021


370,000

Estimated internally displaced persons (IDPs) within Myanmar as of 31 December 2020

TIMELINE IN KEY EVENTS

1 February
Military takeover



5 March
First reports of new arrivals to India



27 March
First reports of new arrivals to Thailand



24 April
ASEAN Leaders' Meeting in Jakarta agrees to Five-Point Consensus on Myanmar



27 April
Reports of more arrivals to Thailand



10 May
100 days since military takeover in Myanmar



By 1 June
100,000 estimated new displacements within Kayah state



By 15 June
Internal displacement in Myanmar since February reaches 200,000



By 12 July
USD 109 million Myanmar Interim Emergency Response Plan published



15 July

HIGHLIGHTS

Although displacement figures have remained steady in recent weeks—some 206,000 people are displaced within Myanmar since 1 February—continued armed conflict and unrest across the country have meant that the needs of the internally displaced are increasing. Their needs and the challenges of addressing them have been further exacerbated by the rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in Myanmar, which has added to existing restrictions on humanitarian actors' access to internally displaced persons (IDPs). With Myanmar reporting record numbers of COVID-19 cases and deaths in the last two weeks, either the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) or ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) have imposed movement restrictions in areas of displacement.

There have not been significant refugee movements from Myanmar to neighboring countries in the past month, but UNHCR and other humanitarian actors continue advocacy efforts to ensure any new refugee arrivals would have access to protection measures and assistance. Thai authorities continue to regularly arrest Myanmar nationals attempting to enter Thailand irregularly through Tak and Kanchanaburi provinces, without systematic identification of whether such individuals are seeking or in need of international protection. Local communities in India, meanwhile, are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain their support of Myanmar refugees who have now been in Mizoram and Manipur for months.

NEEDS

Sporadic armed clashes between the MAF and EAOs or People's Defence Forces (PDFs) were reported across southeast Myanmar, Kachin State, and Chin State, as well as among different EAOs in Shan State. In southeast Myanmar, road blockages and now COVID-19-related restrictions continue to make it difficult for IDPs to access basic needs and services, particularly shelter material, and IDPs stranded in remote areas in Bago (East) and Kayah State are in urgent need of health care and food. In Kachin and Shan States, IDPs remain fearful of arrest and detention, while also struggling with livelihoods and rising food prices. Even amidst a relative lull in violence in Chin State, key transport routes are still insecure, maintaining barriers to the transport of goods, including humanitarian supplies.

RESPONSE

The COVID-19 situation in Myanmar has curtailed UNHCR activities in many parts of the country, with most staff and partners now working remotely, but UNHCR is nevertheless undertaking whatever humanitarian activities remain possible. UNHCR has also been granted travel authorizations to deliver lifesaving non-food items (NFIs) and shelter material in Mindat Township in Chin State for the remainder of July. In southeast Myanmar, UNHCR and partners track displacement on a weekly basis. In Kachin State, UNHCR is training UN and INGO staff of protection emergency response teams on how to manage humanitarian access, while in northern Shan State, COVID-19 mitigation measures have included the distribution of masks, gloves, hand sanitizers, soap, and thermometers to four IDP camps.

UNHCR also continues to deliver assistance in Rakhine State, distributing NFIs to 700 households in central Rakhine and personal protective equipment (PPE) to nearly 2,800 households and township hospitals in northern Rakhine.

The Humanitarian Country Team in Myanmar has developed an Interim Emergency Response Plan that prioritizes emergency humanitarian response activities that have emerged since 1 February 2021 and are beyond the scope of the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan.

