

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

 **200,000**

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



HIGHLIGHTS

Tens of thousands of people have been newly displaced within Myanmar in recent weeks, as fighting broke out between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and local defence groups, particularly in Kayah State, Shan State (south), Chin State and Magway Region. There are now an estimated 200,000 people who have been displaced within Myanmar since 1 February, a nearly 15% increase since two weeks ago. In southeast Myanmar, the security situation remains volatile, with intense armed clashes in Kayah State, Kayin State and eastern Bago Region, as the MAF clashed with both the Kayah People's Defense Forces and Karen National Union. Among over 160,000 people displaced in or from the southeast since 1 February, some 97,000 are in Kayah State and 48,000 in Kayin State. Following an outbreak of conflict in an area of Kayin State, some 400 Myanmar nationals crossed into Thailand's Tak Province in early June, but have since returned to Myanmar.

In Chin State, new fighting between the MAF and local defence groups has further increased displacement and spread into Magway Region, where an additional 5,000 people have recently been displaced. Violence has also continued in Kachin State, with more armed clashes between the MAF and the Kachin Independence Army, as well as instances of explosions and arson. As a result of the situation in Chin State, Indian state authorities have been reported in the media as estimating that the border states neighbouring Myanmar are currently sheltering around 15,000 new arrivals, although UNHCR is unable to verify precise figures.

RESPONSE

The most urgent humanitarian needs in Myanmar's Kayah State remain pressing and relate to protection, shelter and non-food items (NFI). With IDPs in Kayah State dispersed across a large geographical area and living in precarious, mostly rural conditions, other needs include healthcare, food, security, access to services, psycho-social support and support for the elderly, women-headed households, persons with disabilities and separated children. UNHCR has delivered NFIs to some 7,000 new IDPs in southeast Myanmar since 1 February. In Kachin State and Shan State (North), UNHCR has delivered NFIs to nearly 8,000 new IDPs and emergency shelter support to 240 individuals and, in Chin State, has prepositioned NFIs and shelter materials.

The 400 Myanmar nationals who arrived in Thailand from 1-2 June were hosted in a temporary safety area by the Moei River close to the border. They received assistance from the local community and humanitarian and civil society organizations before returning to Myanmar, reportedly on a voluntary basis, by 6 June. All other Myanmar nationals – some 7,000 – who had previously sought safety in Thailand's Mae Hong Son Province since March are reported to have returned to Myanmar by 12 June, though most are still reportedly internally displaced in south-east Myanmar.

Ongoing unrest and conflict in Myanmar highlight the need for continued preparedness measures by a number of humanitarian actors in coordination with the Royal Thai Government. Meanwhile, shelter material, essential food and maternal and child nutrition items are being prepositioned, while support of a network of local CSOs to provide food and plastic sheeting for refugees in Mae Sariang, proximal to the border, is ongoing. An operational plan to ensure WASH contingency stocks and delivery of assistance in areas where operational presence cannot be guaranteed is under development. Planned health response includes communicable and non-communicable disease, child, sexual and reproductive health, injury and trauma, and mental health care with COVID-19 screening, quarantine management and referral to hospitals for case management. The Protection sector is mapping capacity building needs.

In India, UNHCR is not present at the border though continues to liaise closely with partners in Mizoram and Manipur to understand the needs of new arrivals from Myanmar. The border areas have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and receiving host communities and local response actors are facing increasingly limited resources. UNHCR continues to support with medical and humanitarian aid for vulnerable persons including refugees and asylum-seekers throughout India, in support of the Government of India. UNHCR is also providing documentation for new arrivals in Delhi and supporting persons with specific needs with humanitarian assistance.

