

KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES


32,000

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

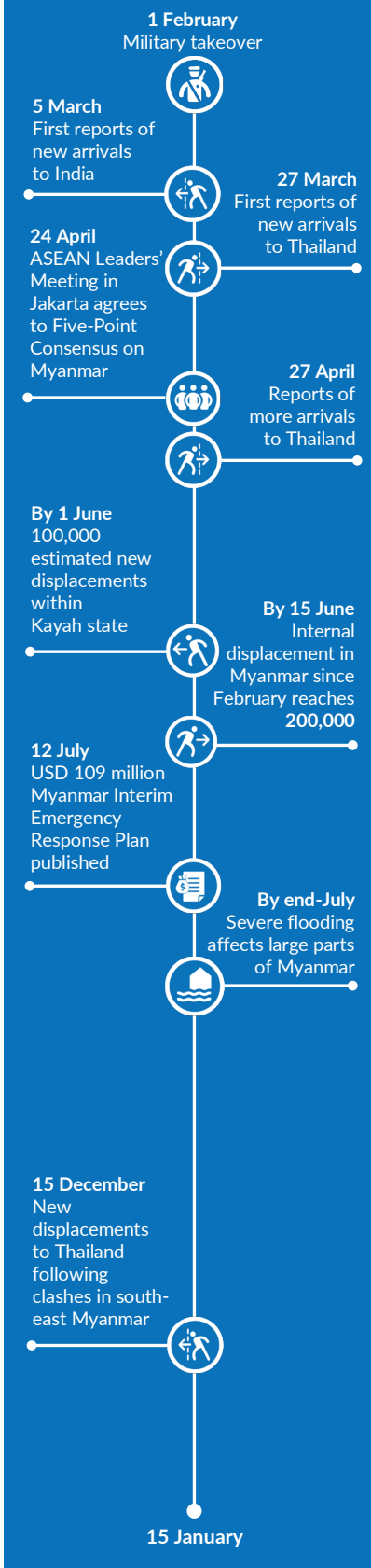

406,000

Estimated total internal displacement within Myanmar since 1 February 2021


776,000

Estimated internally displaced persons (IDPs) within Myanmar as of 17 January 2022

TIMELINE IN KEY EVENTS



HIGHLIGHTS

The month saw significant new displacement due to an alarming deterioration of the protection situation. A total of 405,700 displaced within Myanmar was recorded, as a result of armed conflict and unrest since 1 February 2021. This is an increase of 27% in just one month and the total now includes 217,900 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in South-East Myanmar – 91,400 in Kayah State, 42,600 in Shan State (South), 74,600 in Kayin State, 7,100 in Mon State, 1,600 in Tanintharyi Region and 600 in Bago Region; 7,500 in Shan State (North). In addition, there are 33,800 IDPs in Chin State, 20,100 in Magway Region and 113,900 in Sagaing Region.

Clashes intensified in the South-East and there were [reports](#) of the killing of civilians including at least 35 people in one incident – among them four children and two staff members of the humanitarian organization, Save the Children – in Kayah State. Violence in Kayin State led to fresh displacement of 16,000 people, while people also fled clashes in Shan State (South).

In the South-East, the security situation has sharply deteriorated in Kayin and Kayah states with large scale displacement reported following clashes which started on 15 December in Lay Kay Kaw in southern Myawaddy Township and surrounding areas. A substantial proportion of Kayah State's 300,000 population is now displaced, and thousands of families continue to live under makeshift tents along the Thailand-Myanmar border. Between 16 December 2021 to 17 January 2022, some 9,700 individuals sought safety in Tak and Mae Hong Son provinces in Thailand from the upsurge in violence in Kayin and Kayah. Of this number, some 1,200 individuals remain in one temporary safety area. Despite the gradual return of over 8,500 individuals, many of whom remain internally displaced in border areas, new refugees continue to cross to Thailand. UNHCR and inter-agency partners are advocating for the transfer of the remaining population to holding areas for more suitable temporary accommodation and improved humanitarian assistance

In Kachin and Shan (North) states, the situation remains volatile with sporadic clashes reported in Kachin State between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and Kachin Independence Army. In Shan State (North), clashes continue between the MAF and ethnic armed organizations (EAOs).

In the North-West: Tensions between local People's Defence Forces (PDF), the Chinland Defence Forces (CDF) and the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) remained high in Chin State, Sagaing and Magway regions, leading to increased displacement in Chin State and Sagaing Region. The largest increases were observed in southern Sagaing, where attacks on villages displaced thousands of people from Kale Township. Shortages of food, winter items, as well as fuel and medical supplies remain a concern for the displaced and the host communities, particularly in Chin State. Some 15,000 persons are estimated to remain of those that crossed into India since February 2021.

In Rakhine State: IDPs across Rakhine State, as well as non-displaced Rohingya communities, continue to face challenges in accessing basic services, livelihoods, and humanitarian assistance, exacerbated by rising commodity prices and strict COVID-19 prevention measures. The tension between the Arakan Army and Tatmadaw continues in Rakhine State. Incidents of arson were reported in Rakhine and Rohingya villages in Mrauk-U, causing concern among communities about the potential for resumption of conflict. In Sittwe and Pauktaw IDP camps, a household verification exercise is conducted by authorities/Camp Management Committees going door to door and cross-checking or verifying the names and number of persons in household lists.

RESPONSE

Myanmar

In the **South-East**, UNHCR conducted rapid protection assessments targeting some 70 IDPs from Bilin Township, Mon State and Hpa-An Township, Kayin State who were displaced recently to Hpapun Township, Kayin State. The main needs are food, clothes, kitchen, and hygiene items. Following armed clashes in Myawaddy Township, Kayin State, UNHCR and partners are now working to access the affected areas to support displaced persons from Lay Kay Kaw.

In **Kachin State**, UNHCR distributed winter items, including clothing, to over 220 displaced people who had returned to their village of origin in Mansi Township.

In **Shan State (South)**, UNHCR and its partner conducted a rapid assessment and distributed NFIs (non-food items) to 2,200 newly internally displaced people in Mongkaing Township.

In **Rakhine State**, UNHCR and its partners constructed 20 longhouses in IDP camps in Sittwe. Together with the Danish Refugee Council, UNHCR will provide over 350 individuals with 1,280 corrugated galvanised iron roofing sheets for shelters. UNHCR distributed winter NFIs to some 1,280 vulnerable families in Sittwe and Pauktaw townships and NFI kits to 365 families living in 24 different IDP sites in Myebon, Sittwe, and Kyauktaw townships. UNHCR has conducted a field mission to Kyauk Ta Lone IDP camp, to carry out shelter assessments, focus group discussions, and has monitored the rehabilitation of a centre for the elderly. UNHCR has provided support to hospitals in Sittwe, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun, Kyauktaw, Mrauk U, Minbya, Myebon, Ann, and Kyaukphyu townships by distributing personal protective equipment (PPE) including 20,000 respiratory masks and 4,750 gloves. In Rakhine State (North), UNHCR distributed COVID-19 related items to over 7,860 individuals in Buthidaung and Rathedaung townships. The provision of these items contributed to curbing the potential of a fourth wave of the virus hitting the country. In collaboration with OCHA, UNHCR partook in a village of origin assessment pilot in Minbya villages of origin for AA-MAF conflict-affected IDPs.

Thailand

A remote Rapid Needs Assessment conducted on 29-30 December 2021 highlighted concerns over the close location of the site to the border, insufficient or inadequate Core Relief Items and food notably to children under 5, access to information due to limited connectivity, risks of GBV, need for mental health and psycho-social support, and the possible presence of unaccompanied or separated children (UASC) and persons with specific needs. Given the lack of access to humanitarian partners, the protection sector is advocating with government agencies to address immediate protection needs. UNHCR and partners have supported the government-led response with personal protective equipment for Covid and emergency shelter. In Mae Hong Son, blankets, tarpaulins, hygiene sets, kitchen sets, candles, sleeping mats, and mosquito nets were delivered through the camp committee and local communities. In Mae Sot, a community kitchen for refugees was established with pots, pans, steamers, gas, and cooking stoves, in addition to water tanks and filters to secure access to clean water.

India

Over the reporting period, community-based organizations (CBOs) delivering response in the border areas reported increased pendular movements across the India-Myanmar border that could be associated with the festive season. As COVID-19 surges across India, including in Mizoram and Manipur States, UNHCR continued to provide aid for refugees and host communities in support of the Government-led response. Civil society and non-governmental organizations on the frontlines of the refugee response were trained by UN partners on various aspects of mental health and psychosocial well-being. The increasingly protracted nature of the crisis is continuing to strain the limited resources of the local community and CBOs operating along the border, which is compounded by the persisting socio-economic impact of COVID-19.

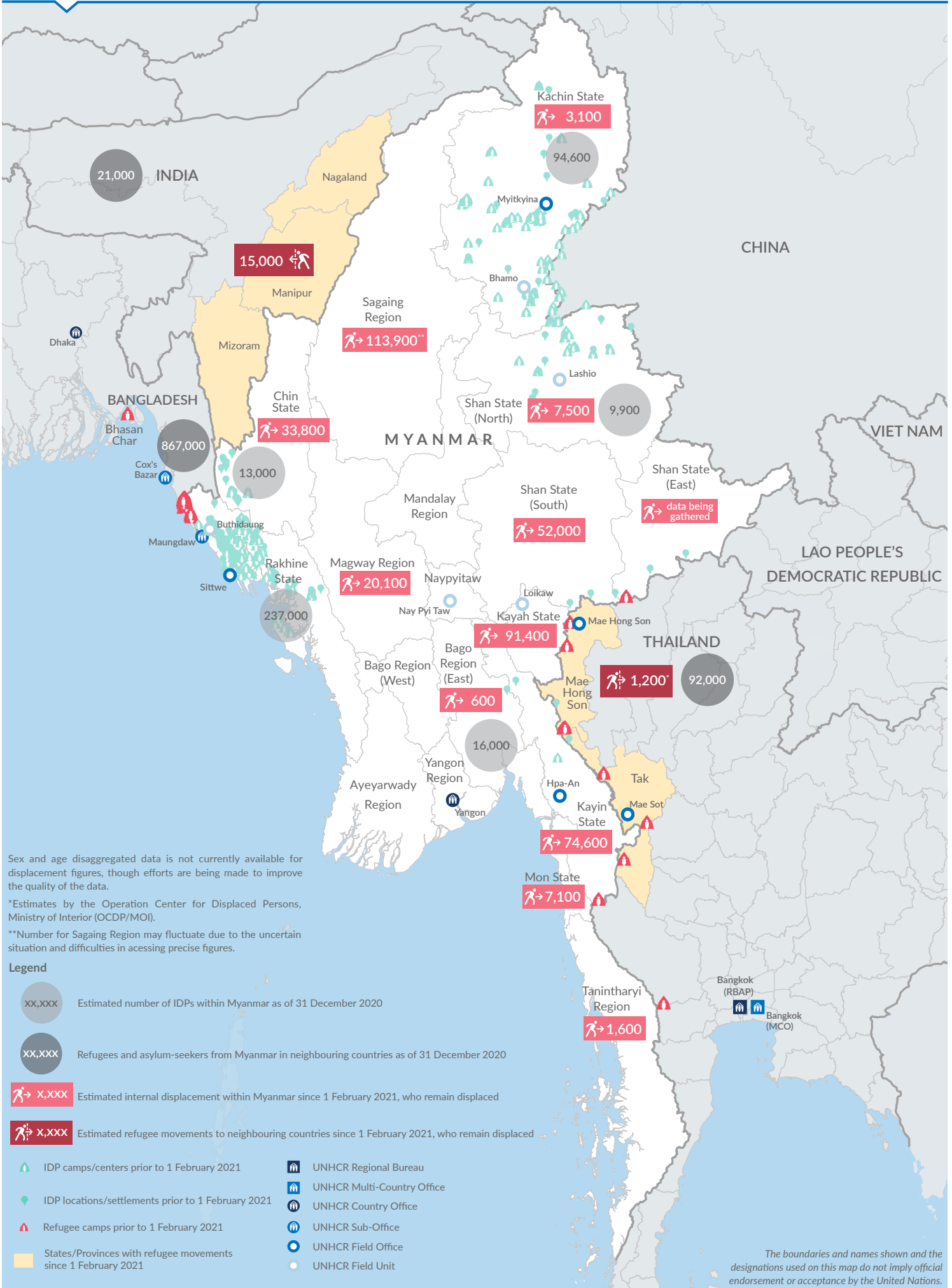
Photos from the field



Winterization assistance in Zay Di Taung, Myanmar. ©UNHCR



Winterization assistance and NFI distribution targeting 200 families in Zay Di Taung East, Myanmar. ©UNHCR

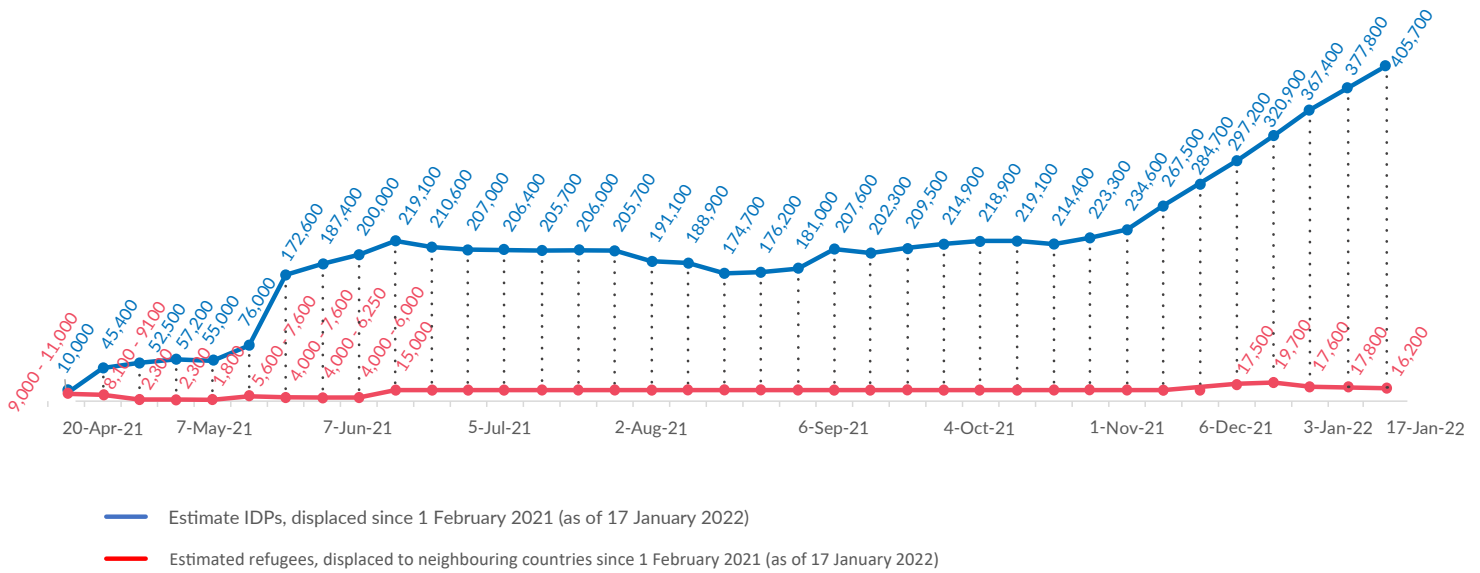


Sex and age disaggregated data is not currently available for displacement figures, though efforts are being made to improve the quality of the data.
*Estimates by the Operation Center for Displaced Persons, Ministry of Interior (OCDP/MOI).
**Number for Sagaing Region may fluctuate due to the uncertain situation and difficulties in accessing precise figures.

- Legend**
- XX,XXX Estimated number of IDPs within Myanmar as of 31 December 2020
 - XX,XXX Refugees and asylum-seekers from Myanmar in neighbouring countries as of 31 December 2020
 - ➔ X,XXX Estimated internal displacement within Myanmar since 1 February 2021, who remain displaced
 - ➔ X,XXX Estimated refugee movements to neighbouring countries since 1 February 2021, who remain displaced
 - ▲ IDP camps/centers prior to 1 February 2021
 - ▲ IDP locations/settlements prior to 1 February 2021
 - ▲ Refugee camps prior to 1 February 2021
 - States/Provinces with refugee movements since 1 February 2021
 - 🏠 UNHCR Regional Bureau
 - 🏠 UNHCR Multi-Country Office
 - 🏠 UNHCR Country Office
 - 🏠 UNHCR Sub-Office
 - 🏠 UNHCR Field Office
 - 🏠 UNHCR Field Unit

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Displacement trends



UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by the following donors, who have contributed to our Myanmar situation response as well as those that contribute to UNHCR programmes with globally unearmarked funds and broadly earmarked funds for the Asia-Pacific region:

[Australia](#) | [Belgium](#) | [Canada](#) | [Denmark](#) | [European Union](#) | [France](#) | [Germany](#) | [Ireland](#) | [Italy](#) | [Japan](#) | [Netherlands](#) | [New Zealand](#) | [Norway](#) | [Private donors Australia](#) | [Private donors Germany](#) | [Private donors Italy](#) | [Private donors Japan](#) | [Private donors Republic of Korea](#) | [Private donors Spain](#) | [Private donors Sweden](#) | [Private donors Thailand](#) | [Republic of Korea](#) | [Sweden](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [United States of America](#) | [CERF](#)

Related links: [UNHCR Myanmar Situation page](#) ; [UNHCR Myanmar Operation page](#)