

KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

 **39,000**

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

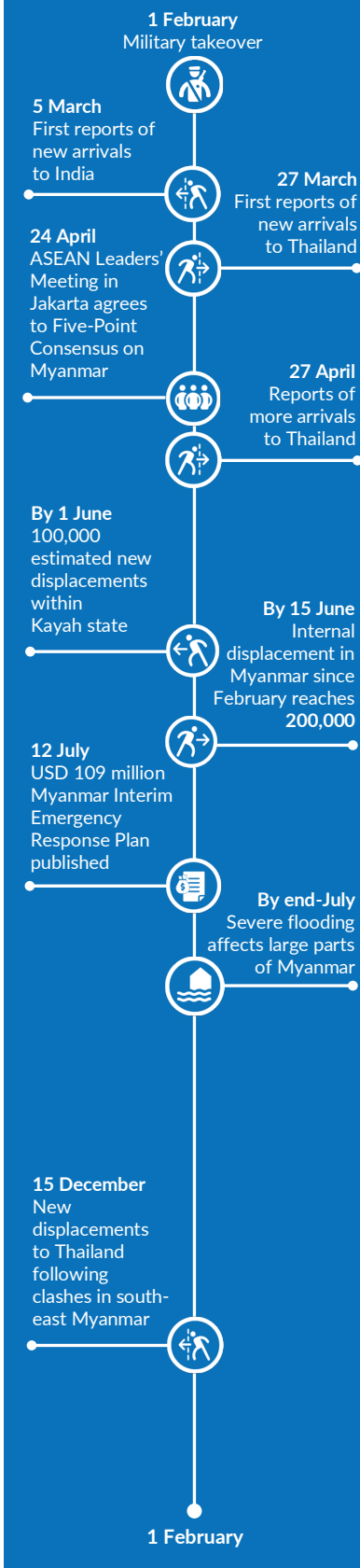
 **442,000**

Estimated total internal displacement within Myanmar since 1 February 2021

 **812,000**

Estimated internally displaced persons (IDPs) within Myanmar as of 31 January 2022

TIMELINE IN KEY EVENTS



HIGHLIGHTS

Armed clashes have escalated during the reporting period in the North West and South East, with airstrikes and shelling resulting in civilian casualties and forced displacement. As of 31 January 2022, displacement figures reached a new high of 441,500 displaced since 1 February 2021. These include 232,500 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in South-East Myanmar – 91,900 in Kayah State, 48,700 in Shan State (South-all towns except Kyethi, Laihka and Mongkaing), 81,400 in Kayin State, 7,100 in Mon State, 2,600 in Tanintharyi Region and 800 in Bago Region; 7,100 in Shan State (North). In addition, there are 136,300 IDPs in Sagaing Region, 33,800 in Chin State and 21,400 in Magway Region.

In the South-East, intense fighting - initially centred around Demoso Township, Kayah State - has triggered several waves of large-scale displacement with tens of thousands forced to flee their homes and seek refuge at places of worship, community centres, in host communities or in the jungle. The main needs are for food, healthcare services and winterization items to cope with the cold temperatures. Over 10,000 IDPs from Kayah State took refuge in Taunggyi Township, Shan State (South). Over 6,000 IDPs are now being sheltered by local host communities in overcrowded conditions. Thousands of people are still displaced by fighting in Lay Kay Kaw in the south of Myawady Township along the Myanmar-Thai border and are unable to return home. Over 9,700 individuals from Myanmar had fled the upsurge in violence in Kayin and Kayah States since 16 December into Tak and Mae Hong Song provinces in Thailand. According to the Royal Thai Government official sources, all of the individuals from Myanmar have voluntarily returned to Myanmar in various return movements.

In Kachin and Shan (North) states, the security situation remains tense and continues to pose significant challenges, such as restrictions on movements around displacement and affected sites. Access to basic services, including education for children is hindered. Nonetheless, a few returns from displacement sites to villages of origin have been observed in Kachin State. In Shan State (North), the numbers of IDPs increased in Mongkoe, Muse Township due to fighting. While some returns were recorded from Mongkaing Township of Shan State (South), there was also new displacement following inter-EAO conflict between the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) and Shan State Progress Party (SSPP).

In the North-West, UNHCR protection monitoring revealed an increase of displacement in Sagaing Region due to ongoing clashes. Shortages of food, winter items, fuel and medical supplies continue to be reported. At least 3,000 people from 30 villages in Matupi Township in Chin State have been displaced by fighting. On 18 January, up to 1,000 villagers fled their homes to surrounding areas following attacks in Gangaw Township in Magway Region.

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. Some return movements continue to be observed from areas of conflict, albeit small scale. Returns continue to be promoted by de facto authorities, including instances where village leaders in some displacement sites were instructed to encourage returns of IDPs. Recent privatization of land at IDP camp areas and land sales to private individuals in Sittwe and Pauktaw have led to an increase in IDP households having to reside in makeshift shelters. IDPs have also been asked to pay rent for use of land.

The privatization of land has also impacted the work of humanitarian agencies, where humanitarian infrastructure is under threat of relocation and demolition. The increase in military presence in Kyauktaw and Ponnagyung townships has raised concerns among communities, both Rakhine and Rohingya, fearing potential resumption of clashes. This fear also triggered some temporary displacement from Kyauktaw Township.

It is estimated that some 7,000 new arrivals have crossed into India from Myanmar in the past two weeks.

RESPONSE

Myanmar

In the **South East**, UNHCR has stepped up its emergency response in Shan State (South) where thousands of IDPs have sought safety following clashes. UNHCR set up a temporary base in Taunggyi town to coordinate and facilitate distribution of emergency supplies. In the past two weeks, UNHCR and partners distributed non-food item (NFI) kits consisting of tarpaulins, blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, buckets, sleeping mats and winter items to over 5,800 IDPs from Kayah State currently living in IDP collective centres in Taunggyi and Hsihseng townships, Shan State. In addition, UNHCR and partners distributed NFI kits to over 2,000 IDPs in 25 locations in Hpruso and Demoso townships within Kayah State.

In **Rakhine State**, UNHCR supported its shelter partner with corrugated galvanised iron roofing sheets for 32 shelters supporting over 250 families living in Sittwe Rohingya camps. UNHCR distributed non-food items (NFIs) to over 870 persons living in displacement sites in Mrauk U Township. This marked the first time Shaw Mae has been reached by an international humanitarian agency. Furthermore, UNHCR and partners distributed shelter materials to 45 families in Shaw Mae. Through active camp coordination and management, UNHCR and partners are able to identify and address protection concerns such as equitable access to services in IDP camps hosting 133,000 displaced Rohingya.

In **Kachin State**, UNHCR conducted shelter and protection monitoring visits to IDPs displaced since August 2021 to understand IDPs' return intentions and any concerns in Waingmaw Township.

In **Shan State (North)**, UNHCR's local partners distributed tarpaulins and mosquito nets to 60 households and plastic mats to over 70 households as well as mosquito nets, blankets, kitchen sets and plastic mats to 165 households for newly displaced communities in Hsipaw, Kyaukme, and Muse townships. UNHCR and partners provided portable solar lamps to 365 IDP households in six protracted camps in Kutkai Township.

Thailand

As of 27 January 2022, according to Royal Thai Government (RTG) official sources, all individuals from Myanmar who had fled the upsurge in violence in Kayin and Kayah States since 16 December have since returned to Myanmar. Despite continuing advocacy and demarches, throughout the period neither UNHCR nor NGO partners were granted access to the temporary safety areas (TSA) which were placed under the overall jurisdiction of the Royal Thai Army in accordance with procedures established by the RTG in March 2021. In total in December 2021 and January 2022, according to RTG sources, 9,735 refugees crossed into Thailand, of whom 8,769 went to Mae Sot District, Tak Province and 966 to Mae Hong Son.

The Protection Sector has developed a protection checklist to assist those managing the Temporary Safety Areas, endorsed by the Inter-Sector Working Group. The checklist presents guiding principles and provide the framework for possible protection activities which would strengthen the protection environment in case of influx."

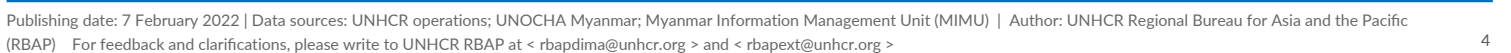
India

According to reports from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) responding in India's north-eastern areas, around 7,000 individuals are estimated to have arrived in Mizoram and Manipur in the second half of January 2022. UNHCR continues to support the Government of India's COVID-19 response in order to meet humanitarian needs. As of January 2022, some 2,050 Myanmar nationals have approached UNHCR's office in New Delhi of whom 1,939 have been registered for documentation and assistance. With the sharp increase in new arrivals from Myanmar, the urgent needs for food, shelter, WASH and health assistance are surpassing the host communities' ability to respond to the influx.

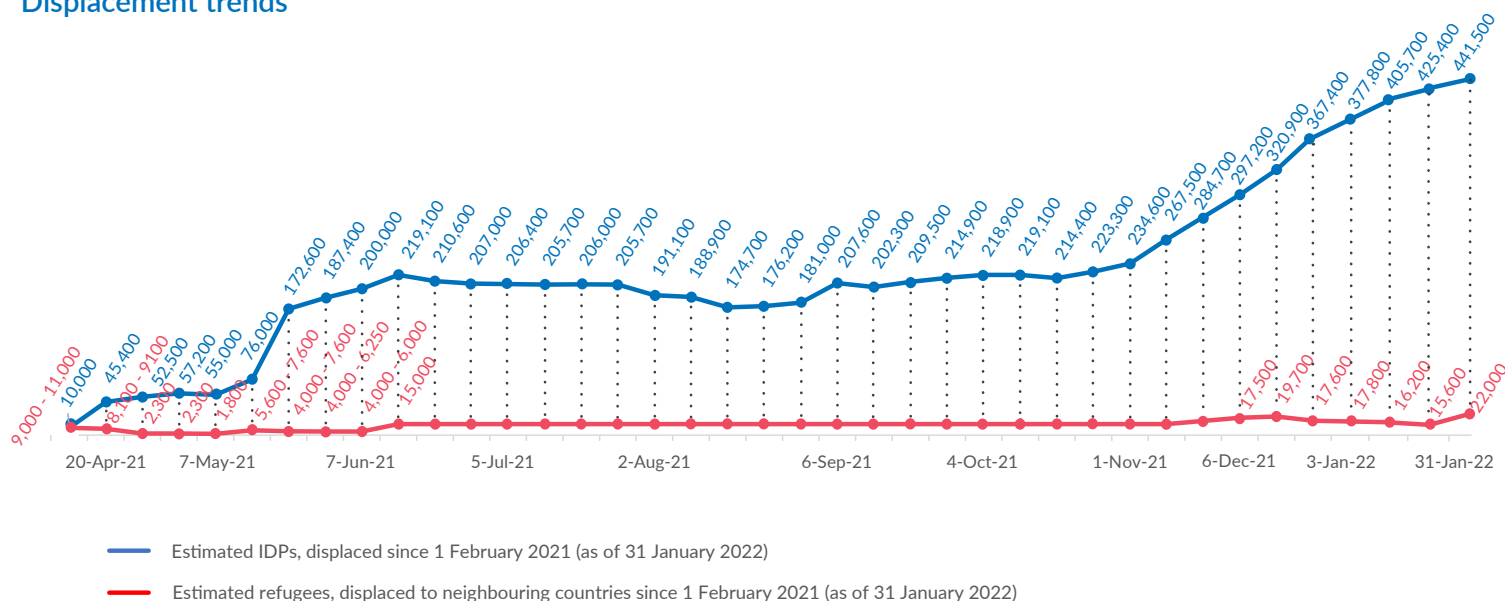
Photo from the field



UNHCR distributing non-food items in Shan State (South) in response to IDPs arriving from Kayah State © UNHCR



Displacement trends



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