

KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

 **59,000**

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

 **590,000**

Estimated total internal displacement within Myanmar since 1 February 2021

 **937,000**

Estimated internally displaced persons (IDPs) within Myanmar as of 2 May 2022

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

1 February 2021
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

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

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

12 July
USD 109 million Myanmar Interim Emergency Response Plan published

By end-July
Severe flooding affects large parts of Myanmar

15 December
New displacements to Thailand following clashes in south-east Myanmar

4 May 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

Armed clashes across Myanmar continued to trigger displacement and affect civilians. As of 2 May 2022, there were an estimated 936,700 internally displaced persons (IDPs) across Myanmar including 590,100 newly displaced since 1 February 2021.

In the South-East, the security situation continued to deteriorate with intensified armed clashes, including indiscriminate artillery shelling. Landmines continue to pose grave protection risks for civilians and restrict access to farmland, markets, hospitals and schools. In the South-East, the majority of IDPs are located in Kayah State (89,700), Kayin State (82,000), Shan State South (49,800), as well as in Mon State (18,000), Tanintharyi Region (9,100) and Bago Region (900).

In Kachin and Shan (North) states, there is increasing restriction of movement, including physical obstacles on some main roads as well as fear of arrest or detention. This in turn impacts access to basic services and livelihoods opportunities of displaced people. In Shan (North) State, while no new displacement has been reported, forced recruitment and landmines remained key protection issues for civilians.

In the North-West, the situation remained tense with continued armed clashes, including aerial attacks, and reports of human rights violations. The main needs of IDPs are food, core relief items, healthcare and shelter. In Chin State, some displaced people came back to their place of origin to check their properties. They are however unable to return home permanently because of the presence of armed groups or because their homes have been destroyed. In the North-West, displacement figures remain high with 240,600 IDPs in Sagaing Region, 50,500 in Magway Region and 36,300 in Chin State, with very limited humanitarian access.

In Rakhine State, while some return movements have been observed from Rakhine displacement sites as a result of conflict, mainly in Sittwe, Pauktaw, and Minbya townships, Rakhine IDPs continue to raise concerns related to their security. Their return is hindered by the presence of antipersonnel mines, lack of access to livelihoods and lack of reliable information for them to make informed and free decisions to return to their places of origin/choice. The Rohingya population continues to suffer serious limitations on their enjoyment of basic human rights, such as freedom of movement, education and healthcare.

RESPONSE

Myanmar

In the **South-East**, in Kayah State, UNHCR was the first UN agency granted travel authorization to distribute core relief items in Kayah State since the security situation deteriorated in June 2021. UNHCR successfully completed its one-week mission to distribute core relief items (e.g., mats, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, jerry cans), shelter materials (tarpaulins, corrugated iron sheets), Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and sanitary kits to some 30,000 individuals from about 7,000 households, including IDPs and returnees. UNHCR has requested a second travel authorization to continue the distribution of core relief items to those households in need.

In **Kayin State**, 80 female-headed households benefited from shelter material assistance. In addition, UNHCR and its partners continued to conduct rapid protection assessments in Shan (South), Kayah and Kayin states. The main findings indicate that most of the IDPs are hosted by relatives, friends or in collective centres where they live in crowded conditions without privacy. Most of the displaced people face challenges in accessing employment and are in need of relief items such as mosquito nets, clothes, mats and blankets, as well as shelter materials such as tarpaulins.

In **Rakhine State**, UNHCR and partners finalized the planning for the reconstruction of 270 longhouse, sheltering more than 13,000 IDPs, which are in urgent need of repair in Say Tha Mar Gyi and Ohn Taw Gyi North Rohingya camps. Together with partners, UNHCR continues to implement protection sensitive shelter reconstruction, prioritizing and assessing IDPs' needs. In Kyauk Ta Lone IDP camp, despite access challenges, UNHCR continues the reconstruction of shelters which will benefit approximately 440 Rohingya and Kaman IDPs. In addition, UNHCR distributed core relief items to 55 IDPs and supported its shelter partners with corrugated galvanised iron roofing sheets which will benefit 1,800 individuals living in Rohingya camps. Following a windstorm in Kawi Yadanar IDP site, Kyauktaw Township, UNHCR and partners provided emergency shelter assistance to some 80 individuals. UNHCR also conducted assessments in villages of origin of IDPs to assess the conduciveness of safe, dignified and sustainable returns. In Ponnagyun Township, issues related to livelihoods continue to be a main concern for IDPs who have returned. UNHCR and partners continue to engage with communities to understand different groups and individuals' needs and mitigate any protection risks, including gender-based violence. As part of its COVID-19 prevention and response, UNHCR distributed personal protective equipment (PPE) to over 800 individuals located in five different IDP sites in connection with the conflict in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine (North) State.

In **Kachin State**, over 70 shelters were damaged by strong wind and heavy rain in various IDP camps. UNHCR and its partners are responding to the urgent needs by providing tarpaulins to the affected families. In Waingmaw Township, 92 IDP families were supported with solar lamps in three camps which will provide them safety and reduce protection risks. In Katha town, Sagain Region, UNHCR and its partner distributed core relief items to 55 displaced families. As part of its COVID-19 response, UNHCR distributed 200 blankets, 150 mosquito nets and 300 face masks to two quarantine site centres in Myitkyina hosting migrant workers returning from China. Furthermore, UNHCR conducted various training and workshops on protection in the emergency setting, community engagement and youth leadership to increase the community's capacity to respond adequately to emergencies, which were attended by 128 displaced women and men.

In **Shan State (North)**, UNHCR and its partners distributed core relief items to 29 individuals in Tangyan Township who had been displaced since the end of March due to the fear of forced recruitment in their place of origin. There are unconfirmed reports that armed groups are increasingly targeting children for recruitment.

Thailand

Altogether 1,631 Myanmar refugees remain in Temporary Safety Areas (TSAs) and some 50 refugees with relatives and self-provided accommodation out of 2,655 individuals who have sought safety in Thailand since 17 March. While partners continue to advocate for direct access to the TSAs, refugees receive humanitarian assistance through local partners and the authorities, including food assistance by the Food Sector partners through local communities and faith-based organizations and home-based learning kits for children by Education Sector partners. More adequate transitional shelters are required in Nong Luang to replace the current makeshift and emergency shelters made from plastic sheets where the refugees have been accommodated for over a month. The Health Sector partners have been coordinating with hospitals for material support as adequate information on health assistance available for individuals staying in the southern areas is lacking.

India

As of 1 May 2022, it is estimated that over 39,150 Myanmar nationals have arrived in India to seek safety and protection, 70% being women and children. In Mizoram, 65% stay in villages, with relatives, friends or community members, while 35% stay in temporary relief settlements across the state, supported by local community-based organizations and village authorities; in Manipur, new arrivals reportedly stay with their relatives.

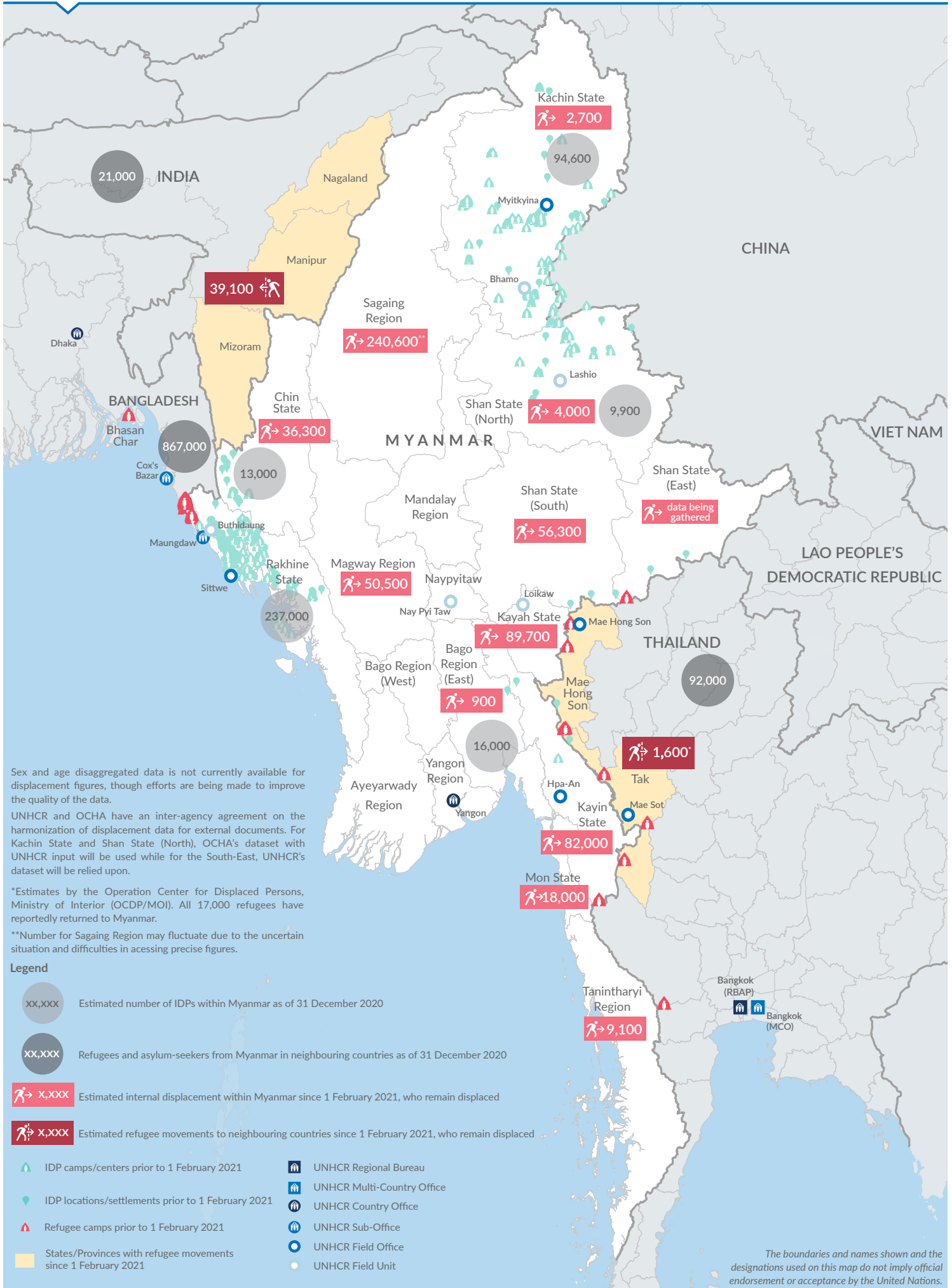
New arrivals continue to inform of the deteriorating security situation in Myanmar and their inability to return. As the situation protracts, with more new arrivals coming in, food, core relief items, dignity kits for women and educational support for children are being flagged as urgent needs. Refugee communities are also requesting sustainable shelter materials such as galvanized iron sheets, as tarpaulins are not likely to withstand the strong winds and rains of the impending monsoon. UNHCR partner Action Aid held consultations with the District Commissioner, Village Council Presidents, and Village Refugee Committees in four districts of Mizoram to strengthen COVID-19 and seasonal response.

3,197 individuals have approached UNHCR's office in Delhi for registration, of which 298 are unaccompanied minors and separated children. Best Interest Assessments have been initiated for the children and they are being provided support by UNHCR partner in Delhi, BOSCO. Many claim to be in India without their parents, as they came to India with their extended family.

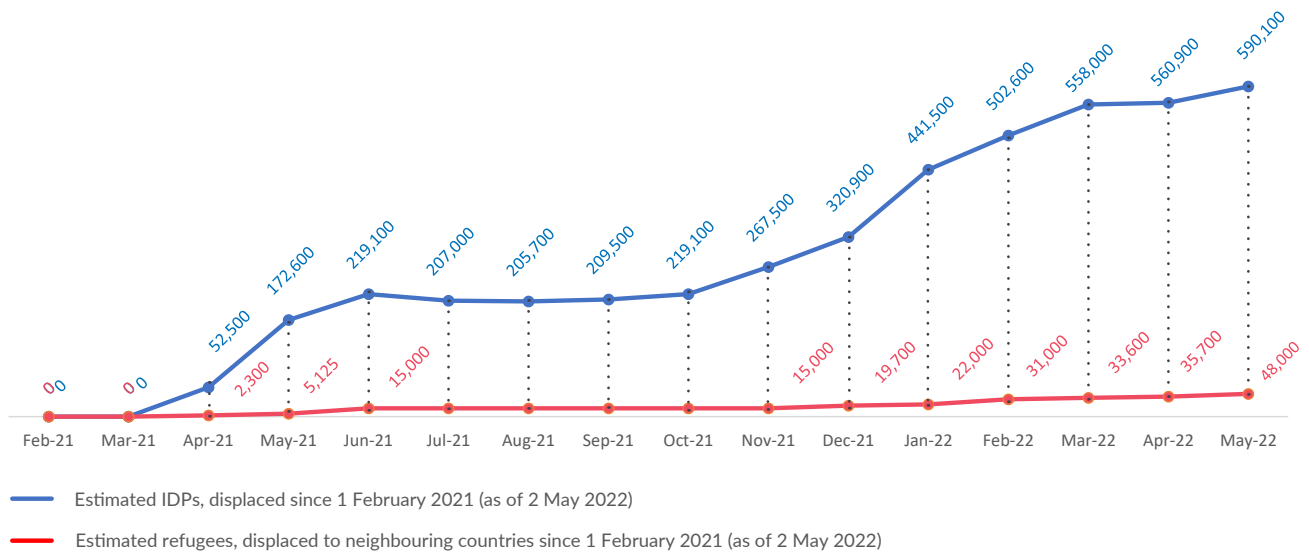
Photo from the Field



As part of its COVID-19 prevention response, UNHCR distributes face masks to displaced families in Rakhine State, Myanmar.
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Displacement trends



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¹ UNHCR and OCHA have an inter-agency agreement on the harmonization of displacement data for external documents. For Kachin State and Shan State (North), OCHA's dataset with UNHCR input will be used while for the South-East, UNHCR's dataset will be relied upon.