

KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

 **64,000**

Estimated refugee movements to neighbouring countries since 1 February 2021

 **1,055,000**

Refugees and asylum-seekers from Myanmar in neighbouring countries as of 31 December 2021

 **897,000**

Estimated total internally displaced persons (IDPs) within Myanmar, displaced since 1 February 2021

 **1,244,000**

Estimated total internally displaced persons (IDPs) within Myanmar as of 1 August 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

1 Aug 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

Armed clashes across Myanmar continued to trigger displacement and affect civilians. As of 1 August, there were an estimated 1,244,000 internally displaced people (IDP) across Myanmar, including some 897,000 people who have been displaced within the country since 1 February 2021.

In the South-East, small-scale IDP returns to their place of origin were reported in areas where fewer clashes have occurred in the last few weeks in Kayin State. Overall, the security situation remained dynamic with armed clashes continuing to trigger new displacements, mainly in Bago (East) Region and Kayin State. Local partners still face security risks and access challenges in areas of active conflict. UNHCR is monitoring the situation in these locations despite the challenges this unpredictable context has on displacement data collection and information verification and the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance.

In the North-West, the situation remained increasingly volatile following an intensification of armed clashes. Artillery fire, aerial attacks and airstrikes, security operations, destruction of houses and properties as well as use of landmines continued to pose significant risks to people's safety and security.

In Kachin and Shan (North), armed clashes and airstrikes risks further exacerbating an already fragile humanitarian situation with displaced families finding safety in churches and monasteries in nearby villages. The situation has been worsened by heavy seasonal rains and flooding in Kachin State, where affected civilians are now staying in collective centres. Daytime robberies, thefts and burglaries are also reportedly on the rise in urban areas.

In Rakhine State, humanitarian activities in the north of Maungdaw, Rakhine State (North), have been temporarily suspended since 18 July due to clashes. In Rakhine (Central), civilian arrests (including youth), increased military checkpoints and road and waterway closures were reported. The capacity to meet basic needs have also been diminished by rising commodity and fuel prices and reduced livelihoods.

RESPONSE

Myanmar

In the South-East, UNHCR provided capacity-building training on the protection of displaced people with specific needs and civil documentation for five key partners currently operating in Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Shan (South) states and Bago (East) and Tanintharyi regions. In Shan State (South), UNHCR is planning a multi-sectoral joint distribution together with other UN agencies in the coming weeks. UNHCR and partners also distributed information, education and communication materials to some 1,000 IDPs in Kayah and Kayin states and Tanintharyi and Bago (East) regions.

In Rakhine State, UNHCR and partners distributed emergency shelter materials to 4,200 IDPs living in AA-Tatmadaw displacement sites. Shelter reconstruction in camps located in Sittwe is ongoing with some 3,550 IDPs receiving corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) roofing sheets to strengthen their transitional shelters. UNHCR also delivered a contingency stock of 700 core relief item kits to partners, which are ready for distribution. In Rakhine State (North), travel authorization was granted to UNHCR and UNDP to continue their activities in Maungdaw. Plans for staff return are now underway and will take into consideration the prevailing security situation following recent clashes in northern Maungdaw.

Myanmar cont'd

In Buthidaung Township, UNHCR and partners distributed various core-relief items to 2,500 people in four different locations, including mosquito nets, blankets and kitchen sets. In addition, UNHCR distributed 10,900 face masks to IDP families as part of prevention and response measures to COVID-19.

In the **North-West**, UNHCR received travel authorization to conduct needs assessments in Magway Region in July 2022. These assessments – the first since 1 February 2021 – are aimed at better understanding and responding to the various needs of affected populations.

In **Kachin and Shan (North)**, UNHCR and partners distributed 600 CGI roofing sheets to rehabilitate existing shelters for 60 IDP families in Namtu Township, Shan State (North). 294 IDP families in eight different camps also received solar lamps. Moreover, UNHCR and partners provided some 1,400 face masks to children living in camps in Kutkai Township. In Kachin State, 36 IDP families from camps in Myitkyina and Waingmaw townships moved to Palana resettlement site, west of Myitkyina. UNHCR is currently conducting an assessment to identify and respond to the group's most pressing needs.

Thailand

The situation at the border remains fluid as refugees continue to seek safety in Thailand for short periods due to sporadic clashes before returning to Myanmar once fighting has reportedly subsided. 1,590 new arrivals were recorded by authorities in Thailand between 29 June and 26 July – of which 121 people were sheltered in a temporary safety area (TSA) in Kanchanaburi and the remainder in Tak province. Clashes in Myawaddy town on 29 July also sparked new outflows of some 222 refugees who currently reside in one TSA in Mor Ker, Pho Pra District. In the last three months, local community-based organizations (CBOs), village chiefs and partners have reported an increase in the number of refugees residing outside TSAs. However, this group is not included in the cumulative number of new arrivals quoted by Thai authorities, which is estimated to be around 6,000 people since January 2022. In the meantime, UNHCR and partners continued to provide life-saving assistance to refugees, including plastic sheeting, mats and blankets to new arrivals sheltered in TSAs. In addition, 77 households – of which there were 200 children aged between 5 and 15 years – received home-based learning kits and psychological first aid training.

India

As of 1 August, the estimated total number of people from Myanmar who arrived and currently remain in India stands at 42,000, including an estimated 659 new arrivals in July. Over 77 per cent who entered India stay in Mizoram and 13 per cent in Manipur. In view of the increasing COVID-19 infection rate in both states, new arrivals continue to have access to healthcare through governmental facilities, including vaccination. However, local CBOs have reported a shortage of COVID-19 testing kits and an urgent need to scale up access to basic medical support, food, shelter, clean drinking water and sanitation facilities.

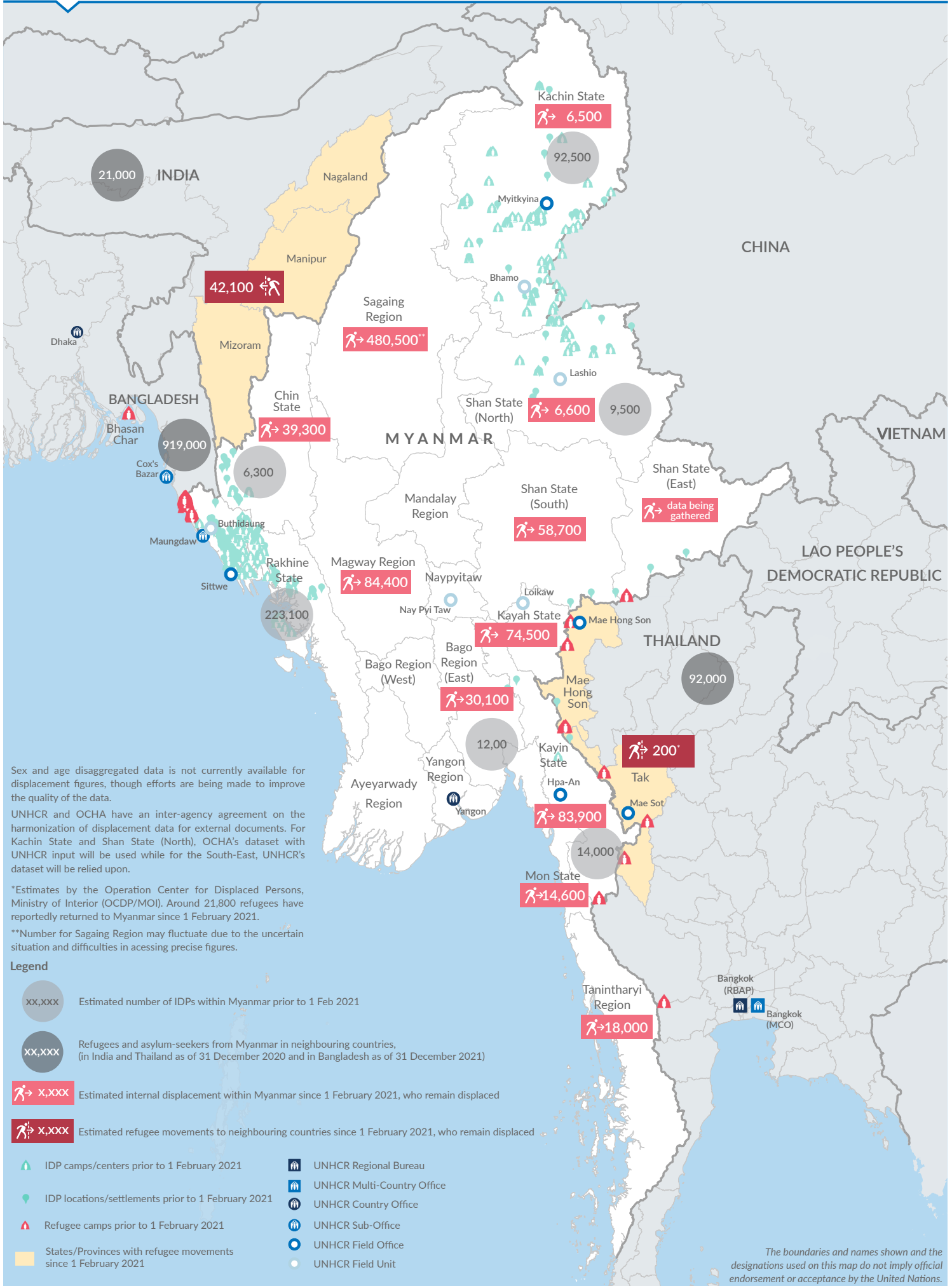
Although newly arrived children from Myanmar have access to schools in Manipur and Mizoram, language barriers and different curricula present obstacles to their learning. In response, bridge and tuition classes are being promoted by CBOs to support students. However, due to a lack of government-recognized documentation, children are unable to access free textbooks and school uniforms provided in government schools.

Efforts to strengthen the capacity of local CBOs by partners to enhance data collection and response programmes for people with disabilities and those with other specific needs are ongoing. Scaling up mental health and psychosocial support for both adults and children are also other priorities.

Some 4,239 individuals (10 per cent) from Myanmar have made their way to Delhi for registration by UNHCR, including 391 unaccompanied or separated children for whom best interest assessments have been initiated. In the meantime, partners continue to assist and conduct protection monitoring.



Chaw Su Win, 22, stands next to her shelter in a displacement site in northeastern Myanmar hosting some 200 people. She was forced to flee her village in July with her parents and brother due to conflict and insecurity. © UNHCR



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:

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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.