

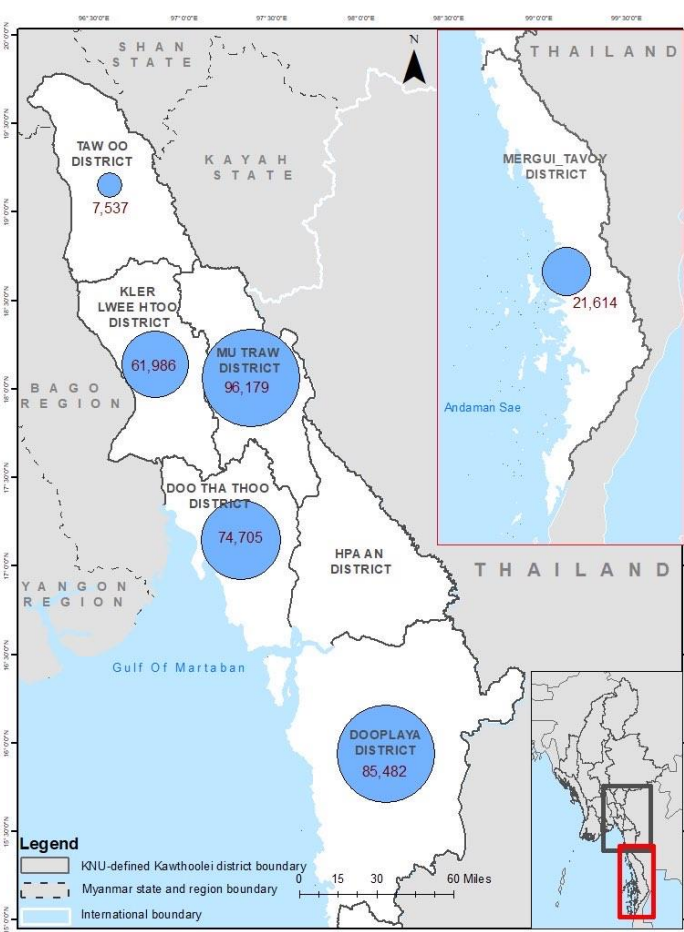


Kawthoolei IDP Update

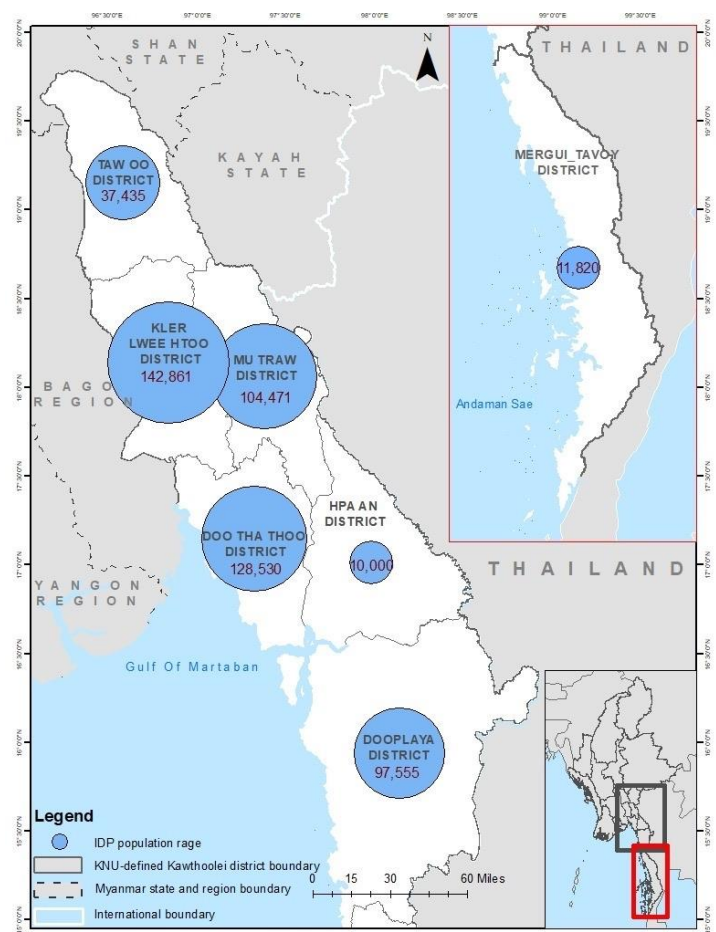
By the Karen Peace Support Network

The number of villagers displaced in Kawthoolei since the February 2021 coup has increased by over 185,000 since KPSN's last update in August 2022. This large surge in IDP numbers mainly occurred in the northern and western Kawthoolei areas of Taw Oo (Taungoo), Kler Lwee Htoo (Nyaunglebin) and Doo Tha Thoo (Thaton) districts, while there was a slight decrease in the Mergui-Tavoy (Tanintharyi) district.

IDPs in Kawthoolei - August 2022



IDPs in Kawthoolei- February 2023



(This IDP data was collected from KPSN members involved in IDP humanitarian aid operations and was then cross checked and verified with KNU district leaders)

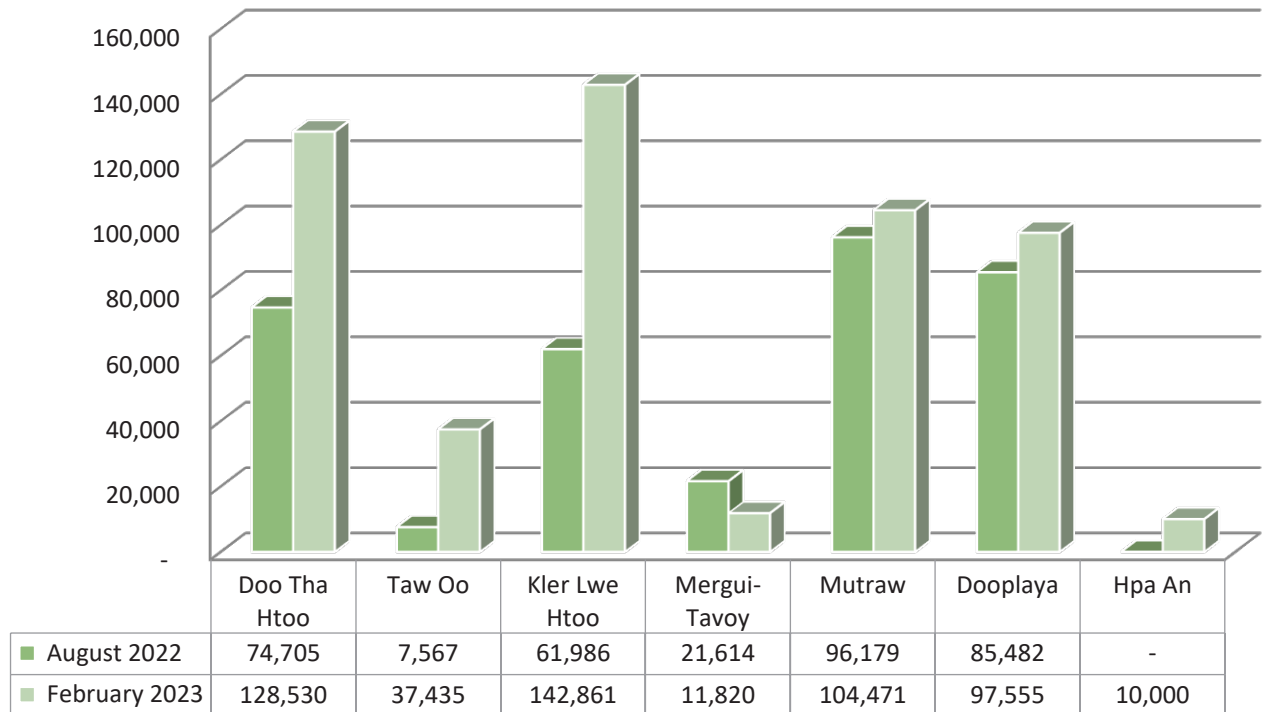


About KPSN

Karen Peace Support Network (KPSN) is the largest network of Karen civil society organizations in Burma/Myanmar. KPSN member organizations have facilitated humanitarian support for vulnerable conflict-affected Karen communities, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and refugees for decades. KPSN works to empower local Karen communities, raise awareness of the peace process, document human rights issues, and facilitate advocacy for a sustainable and equitable peace in Karen areas of Burma.

February 27, 2023

Increase in Karen IDPs by District



Total displacement since coup - Feb 2023

District	No. IDPs
Doo Tha Thoo (Thaton)	128,530
Taw Oo (Taungoo)	37,435
Kler Lwe Htoo (Nyaunglebin)	142,861
Mergui-Tavoy (Tanintharyi)	11,820
Mutraw (Papun)	104,471
Dooplaya	97,555
Hpa An	10,000
Total	532,671

The large increase in IDPs was mainly due to the SAC regime's intensification of artillery and air attacks in northern and western Kawthoolei over the past few months. Since last November, in Kler Lwe Htu (Nyaunglebin) district alone there have been nearly 500 shelling incidents, 20 airstrikes and 7 drone attacks, inflicting 29 civilian casualties.

Urgent funding needs

Based on the increased numbers of IDPs and the need for 6 months' rice per person, it is now estimated that at least US\$36 million is needed over the next 12 months to address the current food crisis.

In addition to this basic food item, there remains an urgent need for non-food items such as shelter, medicines, school support, as well specific assistance for women and children.

The only way to comprehensively assist these IDPs is through local border-based humanitarian aid organisations, such as members of the Karen Emergency Relief Team (KERT)

Calls to international humanitarian donors

1. To shift their humanitarian aid strategy and prioritize border-based assistance for IDPs in Kawthoolei.
2. To provide direct funding, via INGOs if necessary, to local Community Based Organizations and EROs' existing structures/departments so they can deliver emergency humanitarian aid cross border to IDPs in a low-profile way.

Calls to the Thai government

1. To allow refugees to stay on Thai soil until the situation in their homeland improves and they feel safe to return.
2. To allow humanitarian agencies to access the small number of displaced persons who have crossed over into Thailand and are staying in temporary camps.
3. To allow the referral of patients to Thai hospitals.

Overall calls to the international community

1. To deny legitimacy to the SAC military regime.
2. To suspend all political and financial support to the military regime and impose immediate sanctions on military owned and controlled companies.
3. To impose a global arms embargo on the regime.
4. To stop selling aviation fuel to the regime.
5. To ensure justice and accountability.
6. To provide political and humanitarian support to the people of Burma.



