KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

12,000
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

61,000
Estimated total internal displacement within Myanmar since 1 February 2021

370,000
Estimated internally displaced persons (IDPs) within Myanmar as of 31 December 2020

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

1 February
Military takeover

5 March
First reports of new arrivals to India

27 March
First reports of new arrivals to Thailand

30 March
Royal Thai Government reports returns on voluntary basis

23 April
Thai local media reports remaining refugees have returned

24 April
ASEAN Leaders' Meeting in Jakarta agrees to Five-Point Consensus on Myanmar

27 April
Reports of more arrivals to Thailand

10 May
100 days since military takeover in Myanmar

13 May
Martial law declared in Mindat Township, Chin State

14 May
Thai Prime Minister reportedly tells UN Special Envoy that Thailand will not push back people fleeing violence in Myanmar

15 May

HIGHLIGHTS

In the first half of May, heavy fighting between the Myanmar Armed Forces and ethnic armed organizations (EAOs), particularly in Kayin, Kachin and Chin states, killed dozens of combatants and internally displaced thousands of civilians. Approximately 61,000 people have now been displaced internally in Myanmar since the military takeover on 1 February 2021, of whom some 56,000 remain displaced, representing a 10 percent increase since the beginning of May. This number includes an estimated 42,000 in south-eastern Myanmar and 14,000 in Kachin and northern Shan states. Thousands of people are also additionally believed to be internally displaced in Chin State and Sagaing Region.

Since late March, some 6,900 Myanmar nationals have also sought safety from armed clashes in Thailand's Mae Hong Son province, with 1,800 refugees currently being accommodated in temporary safety areas along the Thai-Myanmar border. In India, refugees from Myanmar continue crossing into Mizoram and Manipur to seek refuge, including as the COVID-19 outbreak in the border areas becomes worse.

RESPONSE

Across Myanmar, UNHCR has received reports of concerns due to a heightened presence of security forces, increased fears of arrest, limited access to basic services, including education and healthcare — especially for pregnant women and those with serious illnesses, as well as constraints related to freedom of movement and rising prices of commodities such as fuel and cooking oil. In Rakhine State, where discriminatory movement restrictions on the Rohingya population continue to limit their access to health services, water shortages have given rise to additional protection concerns, such as women having to walk further at night to find alternative water sources.

UNHCR is bolstering its preparedness efforts through prepositioning non-food items (NFIs) such as kitchen sets, blankets, mosquito nets, and plastic mats in warehouses strategically located across the country to enable effective and timely responses to emergencies, while continuing to carry out critical humanitarian interventions, including recent distributions of NFIs to hundreds of new IDPs in the southeast and Kachin and northern Shan states as well as the distribution of NFIs and shelter materials for those displaced in Rakhine State prior to 1 February 2021. In coordination with the Myanmar Red Cross Society, UNHCR facilitated first aid and psychological first aid workshops to prepare partners who operate in areas of displacement in Kayah State. In Kachin, rapid needs assessments found gaps across several sectors including shelter, WASH, health and nutrition. To strengthen a protection-based approach to new displacement, UNHCR, in collaboration with Protection, child protection and GBV working groups, is establishing Protection Emergency Response Teams so that a protection lens is adopted during assessments and will also have the capacity to provide immediate assistance, including referrals, immediate NFI distributions and psycho-social support.

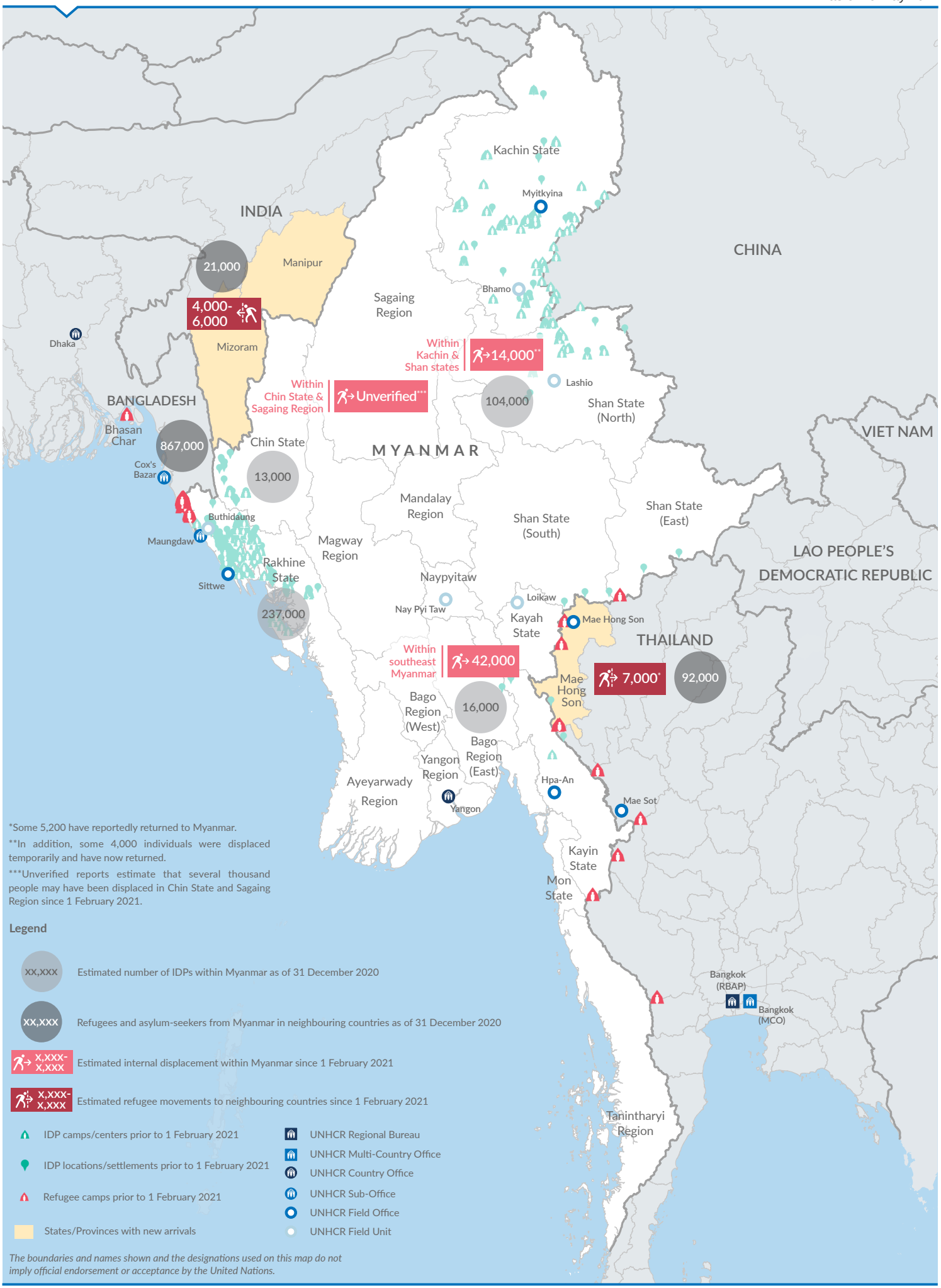
In India, local community-based organizations have been supporting new arrivals Mizoram and Manipur with life-saving assistance though the humanitarian needs are growing, particularly in relation to the health response. As part of the UN response to COVID-19 in support of the Government, UNHCR is supporting the scale-up of medical assistance and humanitarian aid for vulnerable persons including refugees and asylum-seekers throughout India. UNHCR is also providing documentation for new arrivals in Delhi and supporting persons with specific needs with humanitarian assistance.

In Thailand, arriving refugees from Myanmar are currently being accommodated in government-managed temporary safety areas along the Thai-Myanmar border. UNHCR and humanitarian partners are engaging with the Royal Thai Government on potential support to complement response efforts and have established an inter-sector Working Group at Bangkok and field levels to coordinate preparedness measures. UNHCR leads the Protection Sector, co-leads the NFI sector, and collaborates with humanitarian partners to ensure inter-sector coordination. Other sectors are led by NGOs with relevant areas of expertise. UNHCR and humanitarian partners stand ready to support the assessment of protection needs, site planning and coordination, relief assistance, and registration of arrivals. UNHCR has prepositioned emergency NFI stocks for 5,000 households and a contribution of 10,000 face masks.

UNHCR REGIONAL BUREAU FOR ASIA AND PACIFIC (RBAP)

MYANMAR EMERGENCY - REGIONAL OVERVIEW MAP

as of 19 May 2021



*Some 5,200 have reportedly returned to Myanmar.

**In addition, some 4,000 individuals were displaced temporarily and have now returned.

***Unverified reports estimate that several thousand people may have been displaced in Chin State and Sagaing Region since 1 February 2021.

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-X,XXX — Estimated internal displacement within Myanmar since 1 February 2021
- X,XXX-X,XXX — Estimated refugee movements to neighbouring countries since 1 February 2021
- 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 new arrivals
- 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.