

KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

 **22,000**

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

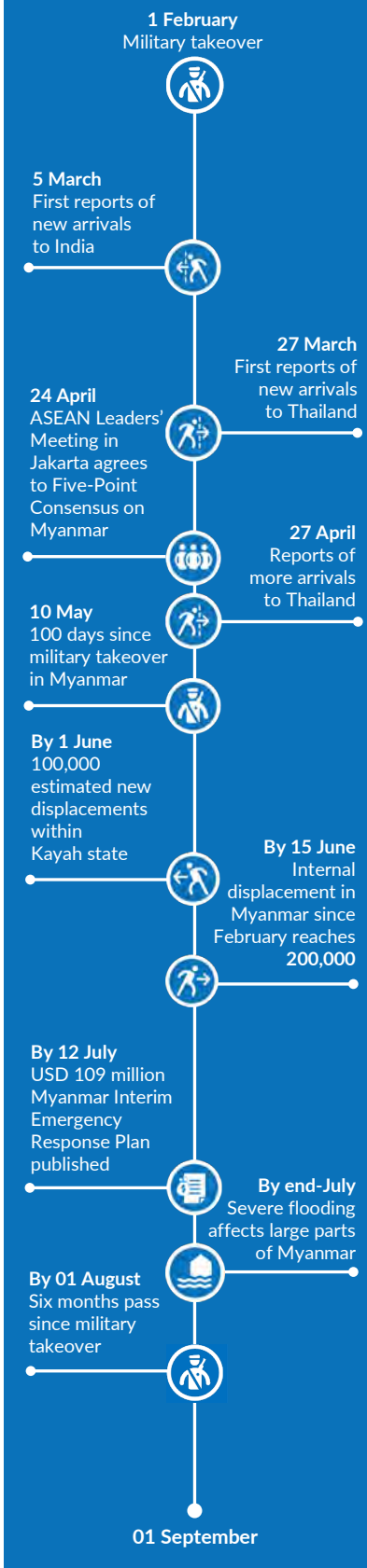
 **176,000**

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 IN KEY EVENTS



HIGHLIGHTS

Approximately **176,000 people** are now displaced within Myanmar due to conflict and unrest since 1 February 2021. Total displacement declined slightly in recent weeks as some of those displaced in Kayah State and Shan State (South) temporarily returned to their areas of origin to tend to their farms or access healthcare, which was unavailable in areas of displacement. No significant displacement across Myanmar's borders has been observed in the reporting period. In Thailand, borders remain closed as part of measures related to preventing the spread of COVID-19, though five temporary border crossing points are reportedly operational in Mae Hong Son province for the transport of goods only.

Recurrent internal displacement can be expected, however, as the security situation remains volatile inside Myanmar. Armed clashes increased in August across Southeast Myanmar, prompting **new displacement in Shan State (South) and Tanintharyi Region**. Intensifying conflict displaced hundreds in Waingmaw Township, Kachin State, with civilians reportedly killed and homes and livestock destroyed, while thousands of IDPs in the State were also affected by heavy rains and flooding. In Chin State, key transport routes and Mindat town remain insecure due to continued fighting, resulting in food and medicine shortages.

The **COVID-19 pandemic** continues to affect IDPs in all States and Regions, with ongoing restrictions on their access to basic needs, health services, and livelihoods, as well as on humanitarian agencies' access to IDPs. COVID-19 vaccinations are being administered to some IDPs, prioritizing individuals over 65 years old, and in Rakhine State this has included some Rohingya.

RESPONSE

In **Southeast Myanmar**, given fluid and unpredictable displacement trends, UNHCR is pre-positioning additional core relief kits to ensure maximum preparedness. UNHCR and partners are conducting remote protection monitoring of IDP locations to ensure that needs and gaps are identified and responses are coordinated.

In **Kachin State**, UNHCR field missions are assessing the needs of IDPs displaced in Waingmaw Township, as well as conditions in COVID-19 isolation centers set up by partners. Core relief items are being delivered to such centers, and UNHCR is also assisting partners with the provision of shelter material to repair shelters damaged by heavy rains.

In **Rakhine State**, after a halt due to the COVID-19 situation as well as enhanced vaccination requirements to access sites, travel authorizations and UNHCR field activities have resumed. During the reporting period, a total of 2,349 families (11,700 people) in Kyauktaw and Mrauk-U received either NFIs or shelter items (or both) based on identified needs.

In **Thailand**, humanitarian actors, including UNHCR, continue to take preparedness measures in support of the Royal Thai Government (RTG)'s efforts to ensure that potential arrival could receive support in a timely and coordinated manner. The members of each sector, as part of the inter-agency efforts, have positioned and planned humanitarian assistance based on the possible influx scenario of 4,000 new arrivals per month over the next six months.

In **India**, the situation of Myanmar nationals in the bordering states of Manipur and Mizoram reportedly remains unchanged with some back-forth movement across the border. Civil society and host communities have focused their interventions on vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly, and persons with specific needs. Efforts are being made by authorities and civil society to provide life-saving support and services to persons with specific needs. In view of the ongoing COVID-19 situation, WASH needs remain some of the most critical.

