

## 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


**175,000**

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

The civil unrest and conflict in Myanmar following 1 February has resulted in increased displacement and there are now an estimated half a million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the country, including those displaced before 01 February. In the last two weeks, the estimated number of new IDPs has nearly tripled from 61,000 to 175,000, largely due to new armed clashes and a rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in Myanmar's Kayah State.

In Kayah State, located in eastern Myanmar, an estimated 100,000 people have now been displaced since 1 February, most of whom have been displaced since 20 May. The security situation also continues to be particularly tense across southeast Myanmar, with explosions and shelling reported in various locations and intensified clashes also observed in Kayin State and eastern Bago Region. Many of the 149,000 total IDPs in southeast Myanmar remain in hiding.

In northern Myanmar, internal displacement has increased due to ongoing fighting between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and Kachin Independence Army, expanding across Kachin State, the northernmost state in Myanmar, and into northern Sagaing Region. In northern Shan State, armed conflict among ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) and between EAOs and the MAF continued to displace people across a number of townships.

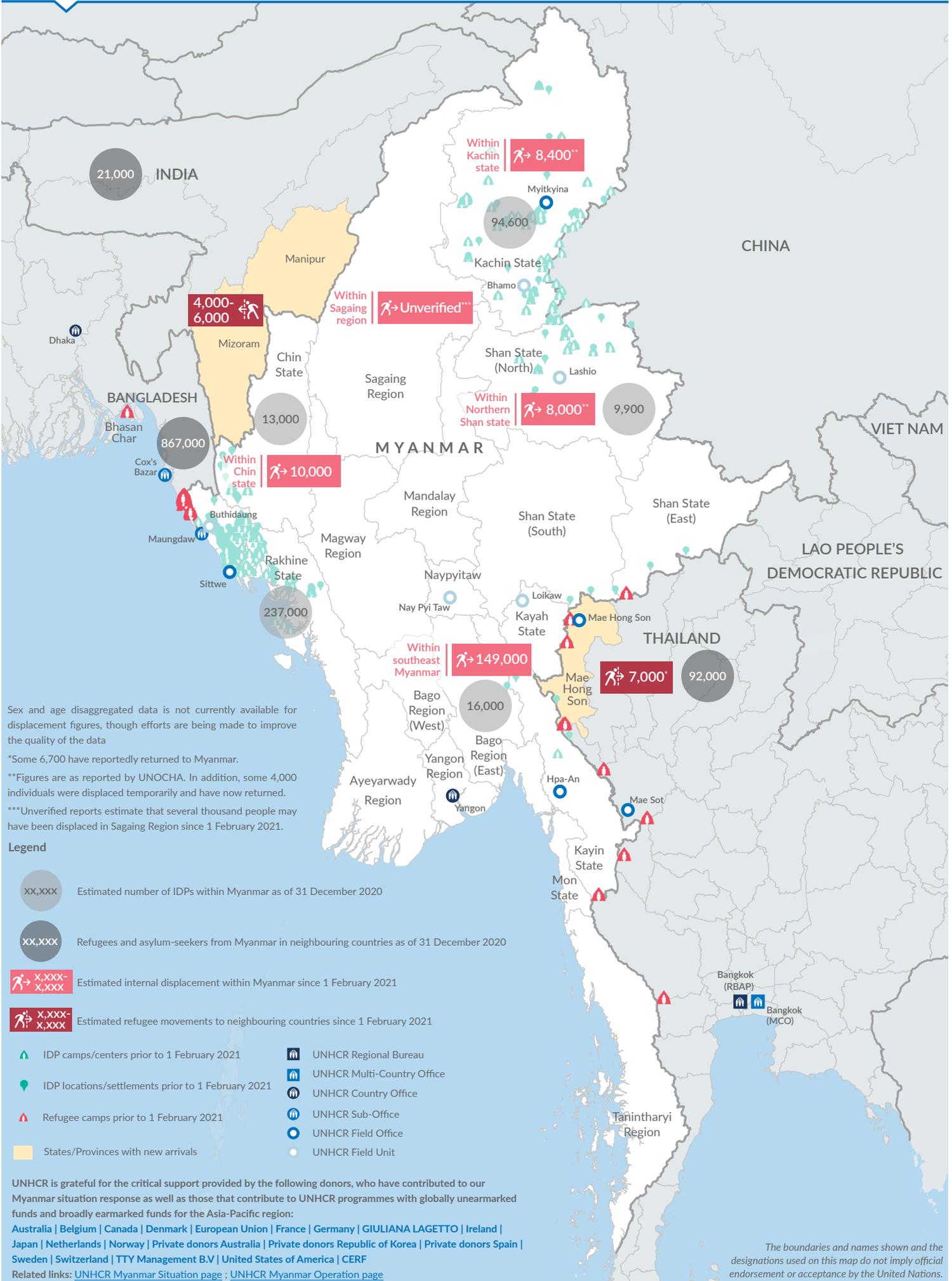
As a result of recent fighting in Kayah and Shan States, there have not yet been new reported movements from Myanmar toward Thailand. From earlier displacement from Myanmar, Mae Hong Son Province remains the most affected area in Thailand, though humanitarian actors have not yet formally been granted access. The group of over 1,700 arrivals from Myanmar reported on 13 May has now reduced to some 255, who are being accommodated in four temporary safety areas, managed by the Royal Thai Government. The remainder of the group has reportedly returned to Myanmar.

## RESPONSE

UNHCR continues to respond to the emerging needs, particularly of IDPs, across the country. In southeast Myanmar, UNHCR has supported some 4,400 new IDPs with NFIs alongside partners, including UNICEF, which has distributed child protection and first aid kits. In response to the worsening situation in Kayah State, UNHCR convened an emergency planning meeting with a number of organizations active in Kayah, introduced a displacement tracking system and plans to begin rapid needs assessments. Faith-based groups and other community members from Loikaw in Kayah State also distributed food and hygiene items to displacement sites. In northern Myanmar, UNHCR's attempts to transport NFIs to new IDPs were blocked at road checkpoints for a second time. In Rakhine State, while the security situation remains tense but calm, IDPs have been affected by Cyclone Yaas.

In Thailand, UNHCR and other humanitarian actors continue to engage with the authorities on potential support to preparedness and response efforts and to monitor the developing situation. Several humanitarian agencies conducted a site visit on 19 May to a designated "Holding Area" in the Ko Heng River area, north of Mae Sam Leap Sub-District, following a request made by Mae Hong Son Province to UNHCR for site planning support. In Tak and Kanchanaburi/Ratchaburi, the possibility of conducting site assessments continues to be explored with the local authorities. Inter-agency preparedness activities continue for potential arrivals in Mae Sariang district.

In India, UNHCR continues to liaise closely with partners in Mizoram and Manipur to understand the needs of new arrivals from Myanmar. The border areas have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and receiving host communities are facing increasingly limited resources. UNHCR continues to support medical assistance and humanitarian aid for vulnerable persons including refugees and asylum-seekers throughout India, as part of the UN response to COVID-19 in support of the Government. UNHCR is also providing documentation for new arrivals in Delhi and supporting persons with specific needs with humanitarian assistance.



Sex and age disaggregated data is not currently available for displacement figures, though efforts are being made to improve the quality of the data

\*Some 6,700 have reportedly returned to Myanmar.

\*\*Figures are as reported by UNOCHA. 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 Sagaing Region since 1 February 2021.

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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