



Briefing Notes Summary

Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration

Myanmar – January to June 2025

30 June 2025

20 January 2025

Security situation and humanitarian situation

According to media reports, around 10,000 people fled from several villages in Madaya and Thabeikkyin townships (Mandalay Region) between 04.12.24 and 09.12.24 in a bid to escape fighting between the military junta, who are being supported by the Pyu Saw Htee militia, and armed resistance groups (People's Defence Forces, PDFs). According to information provided by the research group Data for Myanmar, Pyu Saw Htee troops and junta troops had razed eight villages in Madaya to the ground and destroyed hundreds of homes in Thabeikkyin by 26.12.24.

On 22.12.24, a Chin Brotherhood spokesman announced that resistance forces had gained control of 80 percent of Chin State and were preparing to attack the remaining infantry battalions of the military junta, including in the regional capital Hakha.

In December 2024, the NGO Insecurity Insight documented that nine attacks had been carried out on healthcare professionals and facilities by the military, ethnic armies or PDFs in the states of Chin, Kachin, Rakhine and Shan as well as in the Mandalay Region.

Between 30.12.24 and 06.01.25, the military carried out at least six airstrikes on locations in the townships of Ponnagyun, Ann, Gwa and Myebon (Rakhine State), which had been captured by the Arakan Army (AA). Ten civilians were killed and at least 12 others were injured. The AA, which controls 14 of the 17 townships in Rakhine State and the entire border region with Bangladesh, had previously offered to talk to the junta. On 08.01.25, the Myanmar Air Force killed 41 civilians and wounded 52 others in an attack carried out on the village of Kyauk Ni Maw (Rakhine). Most of the victims are said to be Rohingya.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), almost four years after the military coup, an estimated 19.9 million people – more than a third of the population, including 6.3 million children – are dependent on humanitarian aid. The reasons for this are "the spread of the conflict, widespread contamination with explosive devices and landmines, climate disasters, disease outbreaks and economic collapse". Since the beginning of 2025, the military junta has limited the power supply in the major cities of Naypyidaw, Yangon and Mandalay to a few hours a day in order to prevent a collapse of the power grid affected by the destruction of power lines.¹

New cybersecurity law

On 01.01.25, a new cybersecurity law entered into force, which sets out a penalty of six months in prison and a fine of up to MMK 10,000,000 (approx. EUR 4,623, as of 16.01.25) for the use of virtual private networks (VPNs) as well as penalties for the digital distribution, transfer, copying or selling of information that is "inappropriate for the public". Furthermore, the law obliges platform providers to store personal data for up to three years and to make it

available to authorities upon request. According to Chapter I, paragraph 3 (b), all measures also apply to Myanmar nationals residing abroad who violate the provisions of the law.²

24 March 2025

Security situation

Between 01.01.25 and 14.03.25, the NGO Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED) documented 3,311 deaths nationwide in connection with the civil war between the Myanmar armed forces (Tatmadaw) and non-state armed groups, whereby ACLED does not distinguish between civilian deaths and fighter deaths. The highest number of deaths was recorded in the regions of Magway (796), Mandalay (465) and Sagaing (546), the state of Shan (347), the regions of Bago (262) and Tanintharyi (235) and the state of Rakhine (224). These regions and states are also the parts of the country in which the majority of incidents involving civilians as the main or only target were recorded during the same period. Since the beginning of 2025, the conflict between the Tatmadaw and the Arakan Army in Rakhine, where political violence increased by 64 percent in February 2025 compared to the previous month, has spread to the neighbouring regions of Ayeyarwady, Bago and Magway. The situation in the conflict areas in the northeast, southeast and northwest of the country remains tense.

This means that 13 of Myanmar's 15 states and regions are affected by ongoing fighting. At the same time, the Tatmadaw is intensifying its air campaign through the increasing use of motorised parachutes, which enables more precise attacks to be carried out at lower costs. Most recently, airstrikes carried out in the townships of Singu (Mandalay) and Nawngkhio (Shan) on 14.03.25 and 16.03.25 are said to have killed a total of 40 civilians and injured around 50 others. According to UN OCHA, the number of internally displaced persons is 3.5 million (as of February 2025).³

Humanitarian situation

According to UN figures, over 15 million people were affected by acute food insecurity at the end of February 2025, and two million people were at risk of famine. Almost half of the population lives below the poverty line.

As a result of conflict and the climate crisis, agricultural productivity has fallen by 16 percent since 2021. Inflation reached 25.4 percent in 2024. In acutely contested areas, prices rose by between 40 and 50 percent, and in Rakhine it actually rose by 200 percent. Fifty-two percent of the population had no access to electricity in 2024. Since mid-2024, there have been increasing reports of people affected by poverty selling their kidneys to illegal organ brokers. Meanwhile, the US government's cuts to aid programmes are already having an impact on the supply of food and water as well as essential medicines, including for the treatment of HIV and tuberculosis both in Myanmar and in refugee camps in Thailand.⁴

07 April 2025

Earthquake in central Myanmar; Sagaing region worst hit

On 07.04.25, the military government announced that the death toll of the earthquake, which reached a magnitude of 7.7 on 28.03.25 with its epicentre in Sagaing and several aftershocks, which shook large areas of Myanmar, including Sagaing and the cities of Mandalay and Naypyidaw, had meanwhile reached 3,514. Another 4,809 people had been injured, and 210 were still missing. The independent news portal Democratic Voice of Burma, which reports from exile, has since documented 4,316 casualties, 6,588 injured people and 448 missing persons. Provisional model calculations carried out by the US Geological Survey indicate that the number of casualties nationwide might rise to more than 10,000. Search and rescue teams streamed into the cities of Mandalay and Naypyidaw, the hometowns of the country's Generals. The military regime announced a state of emergency for the regions Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Naypyidaw and Sagaing, as well as for the State of Shan. The earthquake destroyed more than 80 % of the city of Sagaing, which already bore the scars of the civil war. The second-largest city, Mandalay, with a population of roughly 1.5 million, was the second worst hit.

The 300,000 residents of Sagaing were initially largely left to their own devices. The region was already highly isolated and cut off from the internet as a result of the civil war. On 31.03.25, some international aid groups reached

Sagaing. Local volunteers wishing to help in the search and rescue work claimed that the military had prevented them from doing so. According to information from the independent research group Centre for Ah Nya Studies, large numbers of heavy goods vehicles containing aid have been detained overnight at military checkpoints in the city since the earthquake. Tens of thousands of buildings, including more than 1,000 schools, 48 hospitals, more than 2,600 Buddhist monasteries and pagodas, as well as 312 buildings of other religions, have been damaged or destroyed, as have major infrastructure, roads and mobile communications. Since 03.04.25, international aid deliveries have been arriving.

Despite the ceasefire announcement, fighting continues in the earthquake area between the military leadership and resistance groups. The independent Myanmar exile medium Irrawaddy reported on 03.04.25 of clashes between government troops and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA). According to information from the KIA, the military junta also launched airstrikes. The dpa news agency reported of several night-time military operations in the Sagaing Region.

The military regime under General Min Aung Hlaing has been fighting rebels for control of Sagaing since its coup d'état on 01.02.21. Armed resistance groups made the region into a resistance hotspot. The military reacted with an ongoing campaign of airstrikes, decapitations and arson attacks. According to the United Nations, the largest number of internally displaced persons in Myanmar live there, numbering one million. In 2024, resistance fighters who have been trained by some ethnic armies of Myanmar achieved major successes against the military. The central Myanmar region Sagaing is home to roughly five million people, and to the country's Buddhist Bamar majority. It is located between the Irrawaddy and Chindwin rivers, which the military use as important transport links for goods, people and military materiel. According to the independent think-tank Institute for Strategy and Policy Myanmar, at least 27 municipalities in Sagaing already had no access to clean water and electricity prior to the earthquake. More than half the houses and buildings destroyed by the civil war in Myanmar are also located in this region.⁵

30 June 2025

Situation after the earthquake

According to UN estimates, which concur with the information provided by Myanmar's state media outlets, the 7.7 magnitude earthquake on 28.03.25 with its epicentre in Sagaing killed some 3,800 people and injured over 5,000. The news portal Democratic Voice of Burma, which reports from exile, now counts more than 4,500 dead and in excess of 11,000 wounded. A total of 17 million people are affected by the consequences of the quake, nine million of them badly. The impact has been most severe in the Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway, Bago East and Naypyidaw regions, as well as in Kayin state and the southern Shan state, where the destruction of residential buildings and infrastructure, in combination with heat, monsoon rains, ongoing fighting, and still unsatisfied demand for aid deliveries and medical care, have displaced tens of thousands more people. According to recent UN estimates, the armed conflict has led to 3.5 million internally displaced persons across the country. 19.9 million people need humanitarian assistance, and another 2 million are in need.⁶

Security situation

The NGO Armed Conflict and Event Data (ACLED) documented 2,825 deaths across the country in the months of April, May and June 2025 in connection with the civil war between the Myanmar army (Tatmadaw) and non-state armed groups (as of: 20.06.25), albeit ACLED does not distinguish between civilian deaths and killed combatants. 1,901 of these people lost their lives in armed clashes. 727 people died as a result of explosions and long-distance fire, 192 from targeted attacks on the civilian population, and five as a result of violent unrest. The largest number of deaths occurred in the regions affected by earthquake and in Bago (521), Sagaing (481), Magway (369), Kayin (307) and Mandalay (271), states, followed by Kachin (199), Tanintharyi (178), Rakhine (155) and Kayah (100). Only ten and four deaths, respectively, were reported in the same period from Yangon and the capital Naypyidaw, according to ACLED. The deadliest attacks on civilian structures in the abovementioned period took place in Sagaing. These included an attack on the village of Nan Khan (Wuntho district) on 10.04.25 which left 26 dead and 23 wounded, and an attack on the village of Oh Htein Twin (Tabayin district) on 12.05.25, which claimed the lives of 23 school children and two teachers. The military junta denied reports that the incident in Oh Htein Twin had

been a Tatmadaw airstrike, and stated that the cause of the deaths had been the detonation of DIY explosives of local resistance groups. According to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the military has carried out more than 600 military strikes since the earthquake on 28.03.25, 94 % of which occurred during ceasefires intended to make it easier to provide aid, and which frequently targeted schools, religious sites and other protected places.⁷

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