

2,500 migrant per day to be allowed to return

through the Myawaddy-Mae Sot border gate

16,324 migrants registered online

in preparation to return through the Myawaddy-Mae Sot border gate

3,125 international migrants returned to Kachin State

mainly from the People's Republic of China



Migrants preparing to return to their communities of origin following 21 days of quarantine at Myawaddy, Kayin State. © IOM 2020

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The border with Thailand was expected to re-open on 1 May to allow a second large influx of migrants (estimated 20,000 to 50,000 returns). The Myanmar Government requested to the Thai Government to only allow 2,500 returnees per day through the Myawaddy border gate; however, due to the extension of the Emergency Decree in Thailand until 31 May, returns are delayed for a few more days to allow for the necessary arrangements to be put in place by Thai authorities. Government Ministries and Departments, the State Government, UN agencies and other actors supporting the COVID-19 response are closely observing the situation in order to quickly respond to potential large scale returns in the coming days. It is expected that approximately 2,000 returning migrants will be quarantined in Myawaddy, while the remainder will be transported from the border to their home communities for community-based quarantine.

On 25 April, the Office of the Labour Attaché at the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok, announced it would organise relief flights for Myanmar migrants stranded in Thailand (Myanmar embassies around the world also announced relief flights); and on 26 April, it also announced that migrants wishing to enter Myanmar through the Myawaddy-Mae Sot border gate following the reopening of the border, would have to register online in advance. 16,324 migrants have registered through this form so far, with the largest numbers indicating they would return to Bago and Magway regions, and Mon and Kayin states.

As of 28 April, returns into Kachin State also picked up, with 3,125 international returns, mainly from the People's Republic

of China and through the Lweje border gate, according to data from the Kachin State Government (695 internal migrants also returned from other states and regions of Myanmar). Returnees are being transported to Myitkyina, and from there, to their communities of origin where they will stay in community-based facility quarantine centres.



Distribution of WASH kits at a community-based facility quarantine centre near Myawaddy, Kayin State. © IOM 2020

As of 29 April, a total of 8,363 community-based facility quarantine facilities have been set-up across the country, according to data from the Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS).

Note: IOM is coordinating the response of the United Nations to the situation of returning migrants in Myanmar through the chairing of the UN Core Group on Returning Migrants.

The UNOPS LIFT Fund (supported by the United Kingdom, European Union, Switzerland, Australia, United States of America, Canada and Ireland) and its implementing partners, following the restructure of their projects in mid-March, have provided the largest programmatic response to the COVID-19 crisis for internal and international migrants in Myanmar, and continue delivering emergency support reaching 307,538 beneficiaries (60% of whom are women) so far, across Yangon, and Kayin, Mon, Shan and Chin states, as well as Tanintharyi, Bago, Mandalay, Magway, and Ayeyarwady regions. These interventions focus heavily on the distribution of information, education and communication (IEC) materials, hygiene supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE). LIFT partners also provide direct support to migrants who have lost their employment and/or who urgently need to return home, including through financial support, shelter, transportation, meal assistance and legal aid. Social media has also been leveraged to disseminate information on COVID-19 prevention, directly reaching at least 338,897 people and the information has been viewed by nearly 10 million more.

IOM and CSO partners in Shan, Chin, Kayin, and Mon states and Magway, Mandalay and Ayeyarwady regions, with support from LIFT and in coordination with state and local authorities, are continuing distribution of hygiene kits, WASH supplies, and IEC materials on risk communication and reducing stigma, to quarantine facilities and returning migrants, reaching a total of 106,735 (55,189 women, 51,546 men) so far, primarily returning migrants and family members from Thailand and China. This includes support to the State Governments in Kayin and Mon, through the provision of technological equipment (laptops, monitors, tablets) to Kayin's COVID-19 'Information and Response Centre', 5,000 WASH and non-food item (NFI) kits for returning migrants in facility quarantine centres in Kayin (including in Myawaddy); and 1,000 WASH and NFI kits for returning migrants, as well as additional WASH support to facility quarantine centres in Mon. The WASH and NFI kits include soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, bed sheets, mosquito nets and pillows, among others. IOM, with support from the Government of Japan, Access to Health and the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund, is also supporting MOHS through support to the Yangon Regional Health Department and State Health Departments in Kachin, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin states, including in procurement of health supplies; health screenings at points of entry; renovation of health facilities; liaison and

coordination; and risk communication and community engagement.

UNHCR continues providing assistance in Kayin, Kayah, Kachin and Shan states, and is providing technical assistance to the Kayin State Government and NGO, Local Resource Centre (LRC), to develop an interactive geographic information system (GIS) interface aiming to map existing and planned quarantine facilities to support future interventions. Seven sites of community-based and/or IDP camp-based quarantine facilities have also reportedly been setup and managed by Camp Management Committees, and are being offered technical support to assess conditions and needs. Activities in Kachin include a protection assessment on the conditions of seven quarantine facilities in Bhamo, Myitkyina, and Hpakant (persons and returnees quarantined in these sites voiced a need for hygiene and NFI kits; access to food; lighting for toilets and bathrooms; and better accessibility for persons with disabilities), as well as the building of laundry areas in quarantine facilities in Myitkyina. UNHCR also distributed NFI (50 mosquito nets, blankets and sleeping mats) to a quarantine facility in Lashio, Shan State.



WFP distributing meal boxes to returning migrants near Myawaddy, Kayin State. © WFP 2020

WFP continues providing food assistance to returning migrants in quarantine centres in Kayin State in response to requests from the State Government, providing 12.5 metric tons of rice in April (enough for 2,500 returnees), and on 21 April, WFP delivered meal boxes to 800 people who completed quarantine period in Hpa-An. In May, WFP plans to provide meal boxes targeting up to 45,000 returnees in Kayin. WFP is also providing food assistance in Mon State, and as of 25 April, it provided food assistance to meet the needs of 3,000 returnees in quarantine centres in Mawlamyine.

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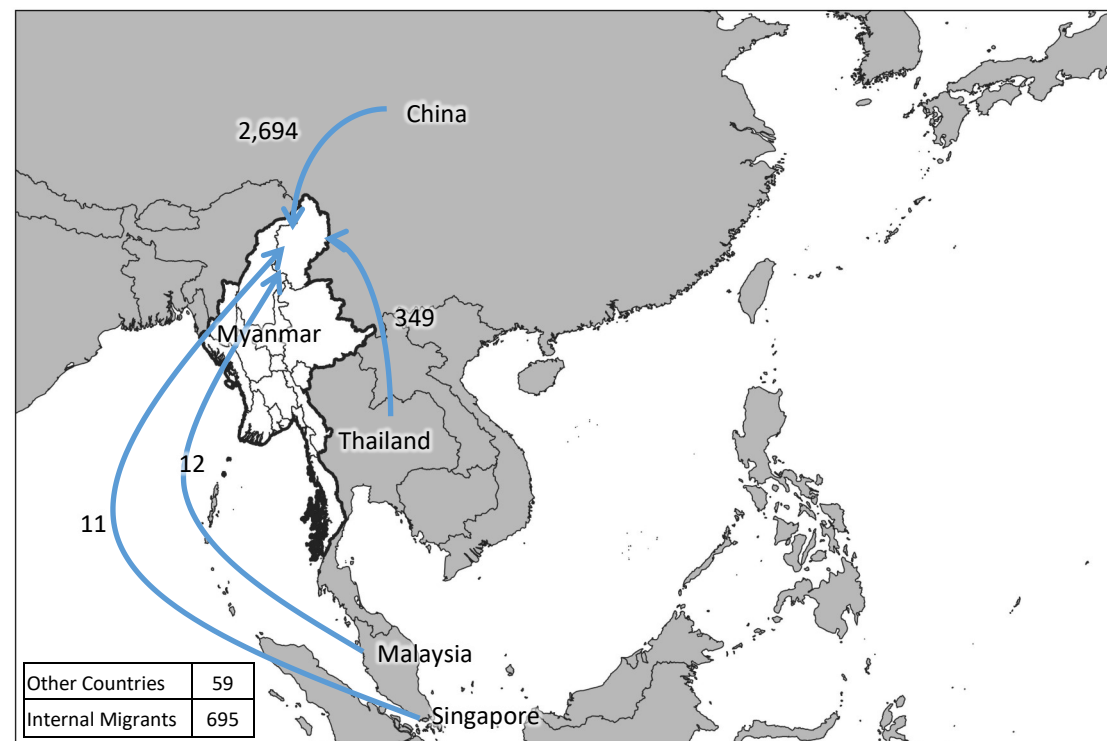
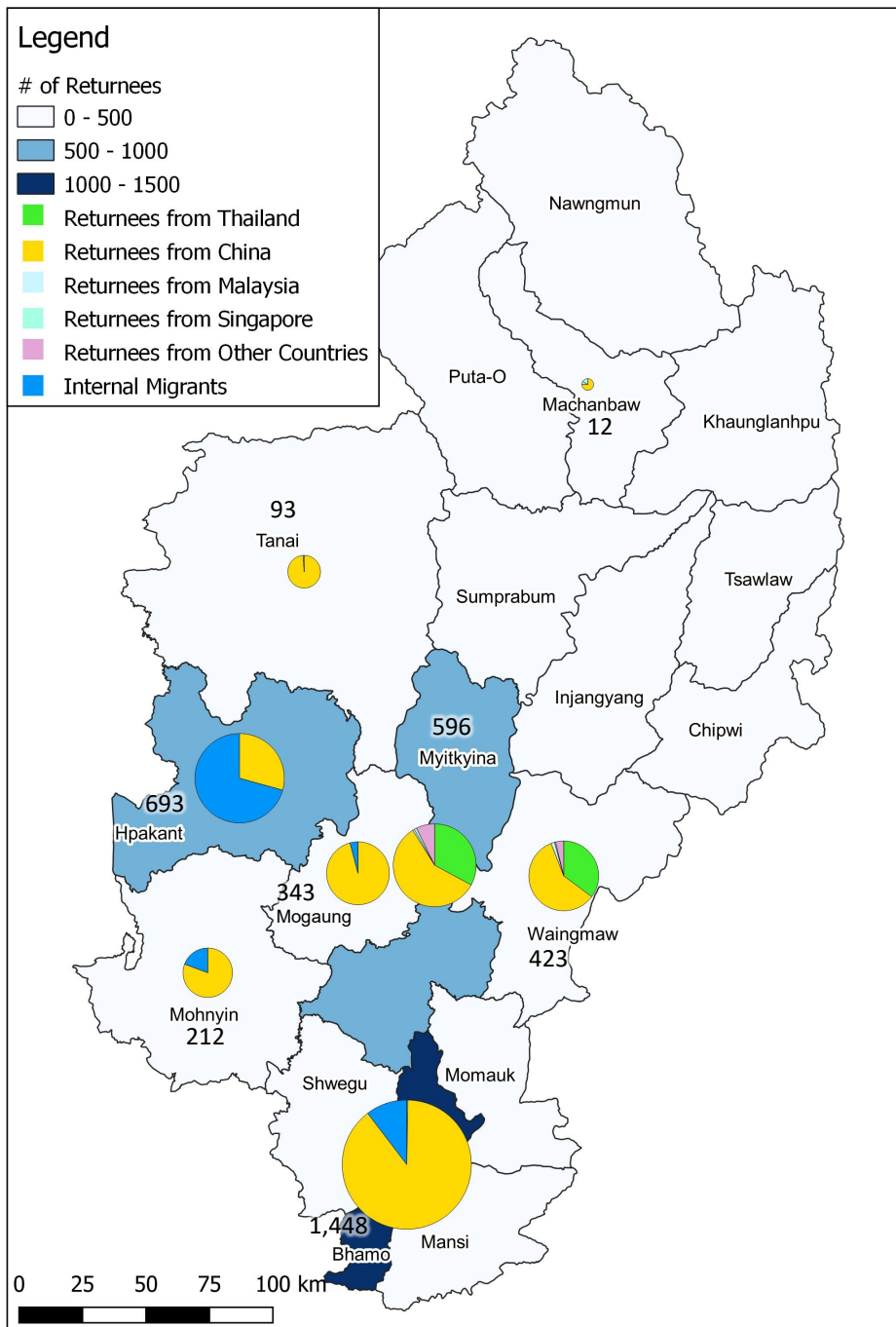
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International and Internal Returnees and People in Quarantine in Kachin State

As of: 29 April 2020



Township	Home Quarantine			Community based facility Quarantine			COVID 19 Confirmed cases
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Bhamo	0	2	2	368	422	790	0
Hpakant	83	118	201	309	183	492	0
Machanbaw	7	5	12	0	0	0	0
Mogaung	9	9	18	230	95	325	0
Mohnyin	3	10	13	143	56	199	1
Myitkyina	258	197	455	110	31	141	0
Tanai	39	23	62	24	7	31	0
Waingmaw	157	147	304	82	37	119	0

Disclaimer: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration

Data source - Department of Labour, Kachin State.