

11,326
migrants
returned

from Thailand
through border
checkpoints from
15 June to 2 July

3,819
migrants
returned

from China
through border
checkpoints from
15 June to 2 July



Community consultation meeting with youth at Bethlehem Baptist Church IDP camp in Myitkyina, Kachin State. © IOM 2020

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Returns from Thailand and China continued in the second half of June, with 11,326 and 3,819, respectively, from 15 to 2 July. A total of 118,565 migrants returned through border checkpoints from 22 March to 2 July, including 76,859 returns from Thailand (22 March—2 July), 36,280 returns from China (16 April—2 July), and 317 returns from Lao PDR (8 May—24 June).

An additional 7,240 Myanmar nationals returned via Government-assisted relief flights from various countries in the region and beyond from 4 April to 1 July, including (among others) 228 from Korea, 500 from UK, 440 from Malaysia, 272 from UAE, and 356 from Singapore, from 15 June to 1 July.

The National Level Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 extended COVID-19 restrictions until 15 July. This includes the temporary suspension of overseas employment processes (including MOU recruitment procedures) and all pre-departure orientation and skills trainings.

At a press conference on 26 June, the Deputy Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population estimated that the number of jobless Myanmar workers, including migrant workers, reached 250,000 in June. The number of unemployed workers includes 140,000 workers previously employed in the 5,658 factories in Myanmar that shut down due to COVID-19.



Fever screening and surgical mask provision before community consultation meeting at Ziun IDP camp, Myitkyina, Kachin State © IOM 2020

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

As one part of the broader IOM COVID-19 response, IOM's Migrant Health Programme is working closely with local and regional authorities to provide targeted COVID-19 assistance around the country, including supporting health care messaging through loudspeaker announcements in urban areas where positive cases have been found in Maungdaw Township, northern Rakhine State. IOM is also supporting Township Health Departments for contact tracing at Kye Hnote Thee Village in Maungdaw, and the distribution of masks and soap, purified water for hospitals and isolation facilities, and COVID-19 IEC materials. IOM is also assisting with the distribution of face masks for quarantined ethnic minority groups (Mro and Dynet) at community quarantine centres in Myo Thugyi Rural Health Centre and supporting the installation of partitions in isolation wards at Maungdaw Hospital. IOM is providing per diem, food, personal equipment and hygiene kits to COVID-19 positive patients hospitalized in Maungdaw and Buthidaung hospitals, as well as nutrition support for HIV positive migrants returning from Thailand to Mawlamyine Township in Mon State. Testing booths supported by IOM are playing a crucial role in collecting swabs of people under investigation in Kachin, while in Kayin, IOM is supporting the renovation and installation of an isolation ward in Myawaddy Hospital with the purpose of creating a hospital quarantine.



Taunggyi MRC staff providing food support to migrant women in Kauku, Shan State. © ILO 2020

ILO supported CSOs have joined with local authorities and other CSOs in providing care packages and food aid to quarantine centres and supporting migrants who have been deported from Thailand. Mawk Kon Development Organisation, Samaritans Purse, Confederation of Trade Unions, Northern Shan State Baptist Convention have distributed assistance in Tachilek and Kengtung, Myawaddy, Yangon and Lashio respectively. In addition, Foundation for Education and Development assisted with workshops for migrants regarding their health and safety in quarantine centres and trainings on safe operations for volunteers providing services to returning migrants in Kawthuang. The Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs) supported by ILO in Taunggyi, Mandalay and Dawei labour exchange offices also provided care packages to quarantine centres during this period. The largest numbers reached were in Bago, where Future Light Centre distributed 7,538 care packages to returning migrants. Since migrants started returning, the projects supported by ILO have reached a total of 96,916 migrants and members of migrant-sending communities (41,871 women and 55,045 men) with 16,135 new migrants being reached in this period.

WFP and its partners are providing food assistance sufficient for 55,000 returning migrants placed under quarantine in Kachin, Kayin, Mon and Shan states; as well as Bago, Magway, Tanitharyi and Yangon regions.



House-to-house fever screening in Kyein Chaung Village, Maungdaw Township, Rakhine State. © IOM 2020

IOM'S COVID-19 RESPONSE IS SUPPORTED BY...



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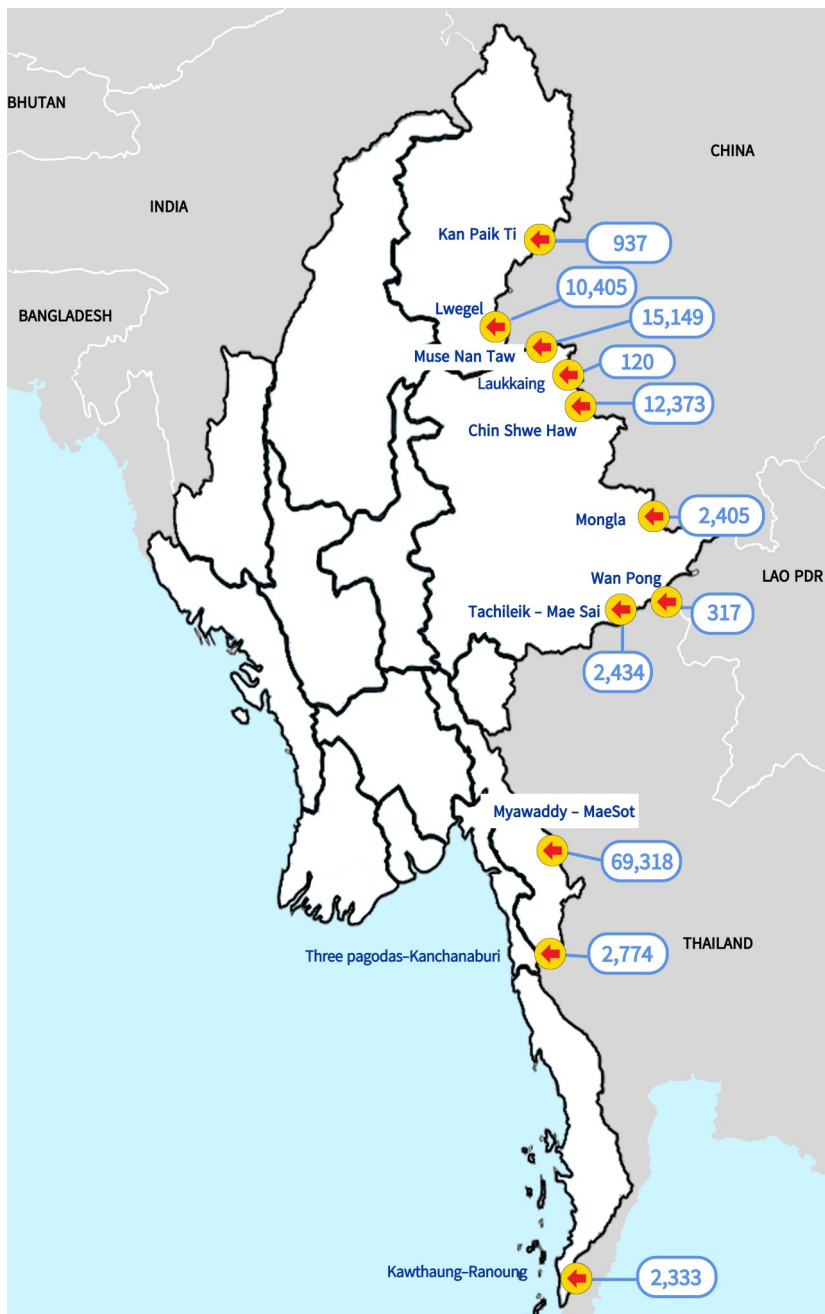


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MISSION IN MYANMAR

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Returns from China, Thailand and Lao PDR by Points of Entry



Border gate	Male	Female	Total
Returns from China (16 April - 1 July)			
Kan Paik Ti	618	319	937
Lwegel	7,257	3,148	10,405
Muse Nan Taw	10,633	4,516	15,149
Chin Shwe Haw	6,846	5,527	12,373
Laukkaing	75	45	120
Mongla	1,499	906	2,405
Returns from Lao PDR (8 May - 24 June)			
Wan Pong	197	120	317
Returns from Thailand (22 March - 2 July)			
Tachileik - Mae Sai	1,347	1,087	2,434
Myawaddy - Mae Sot	43,456	25,862	69,318
Kawthaung-Ranong	1,285	1,048	2,333
Three Pagodas-Kanchanaburi	1,715	1,059	2,774

Source: Department of Labour