

## 65,613 migrants

express intentions to re-migrate to Thailand once the border reopens

## 4,000+ migrants return to Kachin State

mainly from the People's Republic of China

## 6,207 returns to northern Shan State

through Muse Nan Taw, Muse Chinshwehaw and Mongla



IEC materials provided by IOM with COVID-19 risk communication messaging, being distributed to community members by Government health staff at Pauktaw, Rakhine State. © IOM 2020

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

**Only 218 returns through official channels occurred from 1-7 May, according to the Department of Labour. This is due to the delayed re-opening of the Thai-Myanmar border** following the Myanmar Government's request to Thai authorities to allow for only 2,500 returns per day, the Thai Government's extension of the Emergency Decree until 31 May, and subsequent ongoing talks between the two governments to manage a potential second influx of returnees.

**The delay in the border re-opening is also delaying returns of Myanmar migrant workers into Thailand. So far, around 65,613 migrants** have expressed intentions to re-migrate to Thailand once the border reopens.

**Returns continue from the People's Republic of China into Kachin and Northern Shan states, with the overall number of returns now to Kachin having exceeded 4,000,** with over a further 1,000 having returned through Kachin to other states/regions of Myanmar. In addition, since 19 April until 6 May, 6,207 migrants returned from the People's Republic of China to Myanmar through three border checkpoints in northern Shan State (Muse Nan Taw, Muse Chinshwehaw, and Mongla).



IOM-donated testing booth for collecting nasopharyngeal swab and blood samples for COVID-19 testing, at a quarantine facility in 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. .

The focal points for the UN Core Group on Returning Migrants in Kachin, IOM, UNDP and WHO, have done an initial mapping of the support that the 12 UN Agencies and partners have provided and are able to provide to returning migrants in Kachin. This has been done in collaboration with actors in the COVID-19 Task Team and the Area Humanitarian Country Team (AHCT). This initial mapping of support includes assistance to returning migrants at points of entry and during quarantine, and other medium to long-term assistance is still to be determined.

IOM and CSO partners provided hygiene kits and WASH supplies to returning migrants, including in quarantine facilities in Shan, Chin, Kayin, and Mon states and Magway, Mandalay and Ayeyarwady regions, directly reaching 6,188 returning migrants who came primarily from Thailand and the People’s Republic of China, from 27 April to 4 May. IOM and CSO partners continued distributing IEC materials with risk communication messaging to quarantine centres, directly reaching 7,331 returning migrants and community members in quarantine in Chin and Mon states, from 27 April to 4 May. Public service announcements via loudspeakers on cars, also reached an estimated 154,328 members of migrant-receiving communities across Chin State and Mandalay and Magway regions, with COVID-19 prevention messages.

IOM continued providing procurement and supply support to the Ministry of Health and Sports, and from 29 April to 6 May, provided 6,000 medical grade PPE sets to the Rakhine State and Yangon Health Departments, as well as continued providing financial support for the transportation of nasal/nasopharyngeal swabs to the National Laboratory in Yangon. The swabs come from returning migrants and community members tested for COVID-19 in Kachin and Rakhine states.

ILO and local partners provided hygiene items (masks, gloves, hand sanitizer) and IEC materials on COVID-19 prevention in Kachin, Shan and Kayin states, in Bago and Tanintharyi regions, as well as in Yangon, and reached an estimated 6,681 beneficiaries from 29 April to 5 May. ILO also began conducting surveys in ASEAN countries on the situation of migrant workers who were in the process of migrating but who were stopped due to the COVID-19 lockdowns. 100 surveys were held in Myanmar as part of this regional initiative — in Shan (Lashio, Taungyi, Kengtung, and Tachilek) Kayin (Myawaddy) states, in Tanintharyi (Kawthaung) and Bago (Bago) regions, and in

Yangon — and these will inform a regional overview that will be released on 18 May.

UNHCR continues providing assistance in Kachin, northern Shan State and in the Southeast, and in Kachin, it provided 26 sheets of CGI roofing to the Kachin State Health Department to support construction of laundry facilities; 100 mosquito nets, 100 blankets and 100 sleeping mats to Karuna Mission Solidarity to support quarantine facilities in southern Kachin; and 50 tarpaulins and 100 sleeping mats to the General Administrative Department in Momauk, to support the quarantine facilities in Man Nau Village. UNHCR also delivered 300 mosquito nets, 300 blankets and 300 sleeping mats, as well as 100 tarpaulins to the Department of Health in Laukkai and Chinshwehaw in northern Shan State. UNHCR, through the Inter Agency Coordination body in the Southeast, is also working with the PSEA Network to offer on-line training courses on PSEA Code of Conduct for quarantine facility staff.



An ILO survey enumerator interviewing a migrant worker in Tachileik, Shan State. © ILO 2020

WFP continues coordinating closely with the Kayin State Government to provide meal boxes to returning migrants, and it provided food assistance (3 meals per beneficiary) to 179 returning migrants in four quarantine facility centres in Myawaddy since the last situation report. WFP is also providing food assistance at points of entry, and it extended food assistance (1 meal box + 1 water bottle) to 182 returning migrants arriving at the Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge 2. WFP also continues coordinating with the State Government to provide meal boxes to quarantine facilities in Hpa-An and Kyarinsaikgyi, in preparation for a second wave of returns.

## IOM’S COVID-19 RESPONSE IS SUPPORTED BY..



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