

13,539 migrants returned

from Thailand through border checkpoints from 1 to 10 June

3,354 migrants returned

from China through border checkpoints from 1 to 10 June



IOM, in coordination with the Department of Labour and the Kachin State Government, providing WASH consumable kits and COVID-19 related items for individual use to returning migrants in a quarantine facility in Tanai, Kachin State. © IOM 2020

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Returns from Thailand and China continued in the past two weeks, with 13,539 and 3,354, respectively, from 1 to 10 June. A total of 99,058 migrants returned through border checkpoints from 22 March to 10 June, including 62,647 returns from Thailand (22 March—10 June), 36,280 returns from China (16 April—10 June), and 131 returns from Lao PDR (8 May).

An additional 4,105 Myanmar nationals returned via Government-assisted relief flights from various countries in the region and beyond, including 95 from Germany on 4 June, over 130 from Republic of Korea, Canada, and the United States on 6 June, over 80 seamen working for a Norwegian cruise liner on 7 June, and 170 from Belgium, Canada, Spain, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, France and the US on 8 June.

The Thai cabinet approved visa extensions until 31 July for about 1 million migrant workers from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar to ease potential labour shortages as the country’s economy reopens. 6,108 migrants have returned to Bago Region from Thailand, the highest number of returnees across all states and regions.

Between 5 and 12 June, five cases of COVID-19 involving returns with recent travel history from Bangladesh, were identified in Rakhine State. Four of the cases have been quarantined in Maungdaw Township, and one asymptomatic case in Buthidaung Township.



IOM partner, Metta Development Foundation, providing bed and WASH kits to a quarantine facility hosting returning migrants in Mohnyin, Kachin State. © Metta Development Foundation 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.

IOM and CSO partners are working closely with local and regional health authorities to provide targeted COVID-19 assistance around the country, including support in data collection relating to the mobility dimension of COVID19, logistics and procurement of supplies, infection prevention and control (including WASH and NFI support to migrants in quarantine), surveillance and health screenings at POEs and the development and distribution of RCCE materials. To date, IOM and partners have assisted over 100,000 returning and internal migrants and their families. IOM has directly supported the distribution of WASH/NFI kits, accessories for data collection and support in Assistance and Response Centres in Kayin State, WASH/NFI kits and support in quarantine facilities in Mon state, hygiene items, and WASH support and medical supplies in Northern Shan. IOM and CSO partners have supported the provision of hygiene items (15,000 masks and gloves, and 4,500 hygiene items), PPE and WASH kits in Mon State, and over 6,000 WASH kits in Shan State, food for migrants in transit and MHPSS pictorial booklets in Kachin State and 5,200 hygiene kits for returnees and support for quarantine facilities in Ayeyarwady Region.

From 25 May to 9 June, ILO has supported labour organisations and CSOs to provide care packages and food assistance to 32,762 returning migrants on arrival and in quarantine facilities. Myawaddy was particularly busy and ILO partner Samaritans Purse provided assistance to over 16,000 migrants. Many of the migrants returned to their home areas in Bago, where the Confederation of Trade Unions of Myanmar (CTUM) and Future Light Centre (FLC) provided care packages to over 5,000 workers returning from Thailand and China in quarantine facilities. CTUM reached a further 5,000 migrants returning to quarantine facilities in their hometowns in Mon State, Sagaing and Magway regions. The Yang Chi Oo Workers Association supported 50 internal migrants who had lost their jobs as garment workers to produce face masks, 3,000 of which were donated to the Yangon Regional Government. In total, ILO and partners have provided 80,027 migrants (34,260 women and 45,767 men) with COVID-19 related assistance.

UNHCR is providing COVID-19 related assistance in Kachin, Kayin and Kayah states, as well as in Bago and Tanintharyi regions. Recently, UNHCR delivered 260 beds to the Kachin

State Government to be used in quarantine facilities across the state – following two previous distributions of NFIs which included 385 Mattresses, 200 Bed sheets, 300 pillow cases, 300 pillows, and 700 sets of towels, toothpaste, tooth brushes, bathing cups, steel plates, spoons and cups.




ILO CSO partner, Foundation for Education and Development, preparing male and female care packages for returning migrants in Kawthaung, Tanintharyi Region. © ILO 2020

The UNOPS LIFT Fund and its UN, INGO and CSO implementing partners have delivered critical support to over half a million Myanmar internal and international migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic. Over a two-month period, interventions have been implemented across 12 states and regions of Myanmar, covering Yangon, Kayin, Mon, Shan, Tanintharyi, Bago, Chin, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Ayeyarwaddy and Kachin State. UNOPS has now reached 597,989 direct beneficiaries (64 per cent women), including 397,798 internal migrants and 200,191 international migrants and their family members. Loudspeakers have also been utilised to spread messaging and raise awareness of communities on the ground, reaching an estimated 545,546 individuals. Social media has been leveraged to disseminate information on COVID-19 prevention and response to an even larger audience, directly engaging at least 501,161 people and viewed by nearly 10.61 million more. While LIFT's initial response focused largely on prevention of the spread of COVID-19 through the distribution of information, hygiene supplies and personal protective equipment, it is increasingly shifting towards addressing the impact on livelihoods for internal migrants in peri-urban areas and returning from abroad.

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



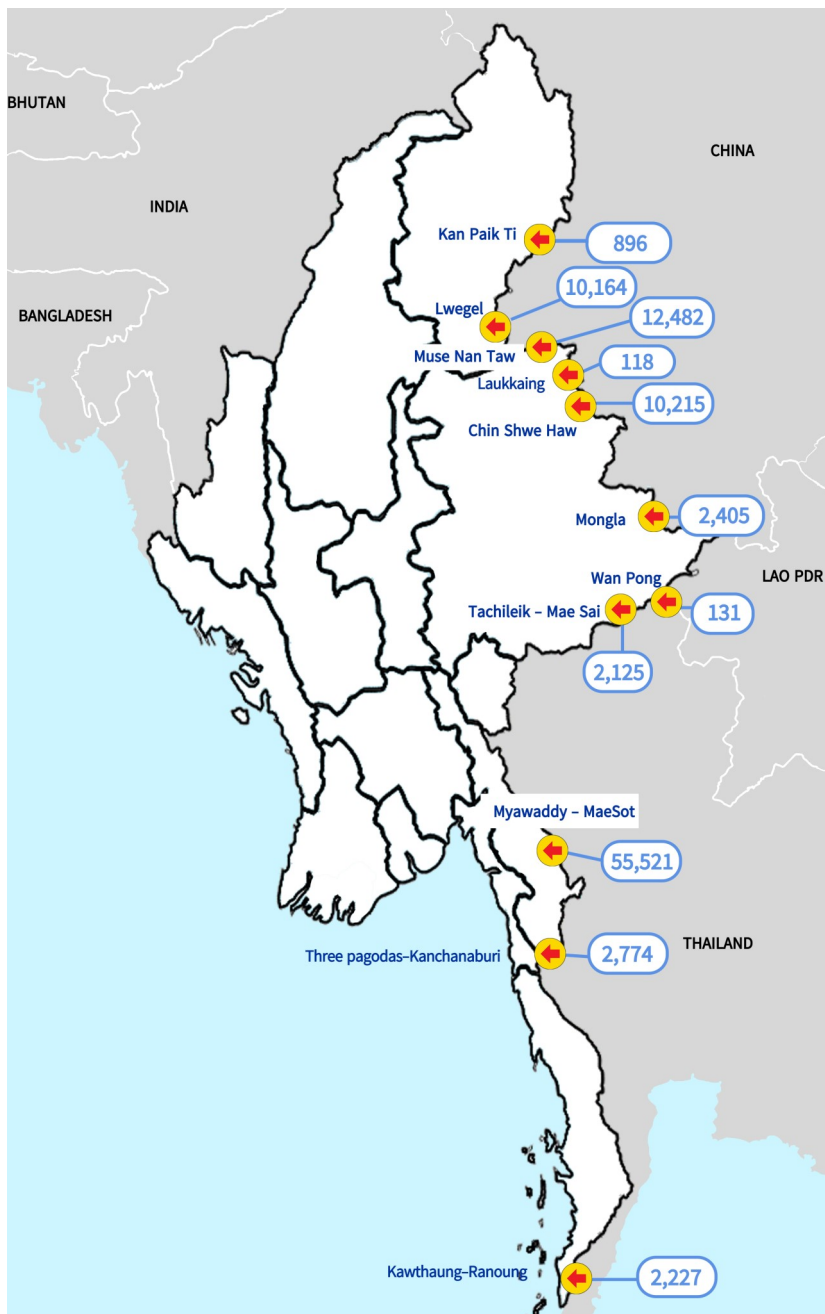
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Returns from China, Thailand and Lao PDR by Points of Entry



| Border gate | Male | Female | Total |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Returns from China (16 April - 10 June) | | | |
| Kan Paik Ti | 595 | 301 | 896 |
| Lwegel | 7,128 | 3,036 | 10,164 |
| Muse Nan Taw | 9,004 | 3,478 | 12,482 |
| Chin Shwe Haw | 5,777 | 4,438 | 10,215 |
| Laukkaing | 74 | 44 | 118 |
| Mongla | 1,499 | 906 | 2,405 |
| Returns from Lao PDR (8 May) | | | |
| Wan Pong | 78 | 53 | 131 |
| Returns from Thailand (22 March - 10 June) | | | |
| Tachileik - Mae Sai | 1,193 | 932 | 2,125 |
| Myawaddy - Mae Sot | 35,258 | 20,263 | 55,521 |
| Kawthaung-Ranong | 1,193 | 1,034 | 2,227 |
| Three Pagodas-Kanchanaburi | 1,715 | 1,059 | 2,774 |

Source: Department of Labour

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.