

16,880 migrants returned from China

from 16 April to 13 May

12,788 migrants returned

through Nan Taw, Chin Shwe Haw and Mongla in Shan State

4,092 migrants returned

through Kan Paik Ti and Lwegel border gates in Kachin State



Distribution of WASH consumable kits to returning migrants quarantining for 21 days at a quarantine facility in Myawaddy, Kayin State. © IOM 2020

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Starting in April, the number of migrants returning from China through border gates in Kachin and Shan States has been increasing, with 16,880 returns from 16 April to 13 May. The major entry points also seem to be shifting from Kachin to Shan State, mainly to Muse and Chin Shwe Haw border checkpoints.

Returns from Thailand through official channels remain low, due to the extension of travel restrictions as part of emergency measures. Few returns were observed in April, however, 481 returns occurred through official border crossings in Myawaddy and Tachileik, from 1 to 13 May. An additional 200 people returned through relief flights from Bangkok in the last 7 days.

The Government of Myanmar is preparing for a second wave of returns from Thailand of up to 150,000 migrants returning through Kayin and Mon states and Tanintharyi region. Thailand is also starting to ease the lockdown and migrants moving in both directions may create challenges in terms of planning a response.

131 migrants also returned from Lao PDR through Won Pang checkpoint in Shan State, on 8 May.



Distribution of WASH consumable kits to returning migrants in Dawei, Tanintharyi Region. © 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.

IOM continues engaging with State Health Departments to support the COVID-19 response, and in Kachin, IOM is distributing testing booths to all official points of entry to support Government health teams' COVID-19 testing. IOM has also provided 200 PPE sets, including surgical gloves and gowns, to public health authorities in Kachin, and it is currently supporting the renovation of an isolation ward at Lwelgel to support migrants returning from China. IOM and CSO partners continue the distribution of hygiene kits, PPE items, and WASH kits to quarantine facilities (QFs) and health centres, and reached 14,591 returning migrants and members of migrant-sending communities in Chin, Mon and Kayin states, from 4 to 10 May. Community awareness-raising activities also continue, and IOM and CSO partners reached an estimated 156,559 members of migrant-receiving communities in Chin State and Magway and Mandalay regions with COVID-19 risk communication messages via loudspeakers on cars, from 4 to 10 May.



IOM partner, Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO), distributing COVID-19 risk communication IEC materials in Chin State. © CHRO 2020

UNICEF and partners, in coordination with state authorities in Kachin, Shan and Kayin states are providing lifesaving information on COVID-19 to children, women and the general population, supporting infection prevention and control measures and mitigating the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable populations, through the continuation of education, child protection and social protection services. UNICEF support is inclusive of migrants and other vulnerable populations, and specific initiatives include installing 289 handwashing stations at 210 quarantine facilities across Kachin that are currently accommodating over 2,800 migrants; installing 1,093 handwashing stations, along with soap and IEC materials to 602

QFs in 39 townships in Shan; supporting the Shan State Minister to develop a costed plan for migrant workers returning from China; and providing IEC materials on home quarantine guidelines and COVID-19 protection to migrants returning to Kayin.



IOM partner, Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO), disseminating COVID-19 risk communication messages via loudspeaker. © CHRO 2020

ILO and its partners in Shan, Kayin, Mon states and Tanintharyi, Bago and Yangon regions, are providing IEC, masks and water to returning migrants in QFs and at border crossings, body temperature testing devices, hand sanitizer, soap, wash basins, care packages and counselling to migrants who are trying to recoup their recruitment costs from local brokers/recruitment agencies, and this support reached 4,676 beneficiaries from 5 to 12 May. Preliminary findings on Myanmar of a regional ILO study on returning migrants, show that 50 per cent of women migrants and 67 per cent of men migrants in Shan (Lashio, Taungyi, Kengtung, and Tachilek), Kayin (Myawaddy), Tanintharyi (Kawthaung), Bago (Bago) and Yangon, plan to re-migrate to their previous jobs in Thailand.

WFP and its partners are providing food assistance to returning migrants in quarantine centres in Kayin and Mon states. Assistance includes reaching 399 returnee migrants who will undergo facility quarantine for 21 days and distributing one-time meal box at Myawaddy border gate in Kayin State in response to requests from the State Government. Along with partners, WFP is also providing three cooked meals a day for 327 returnees in Kayin QFs, including 312 in Myawaddy and 15 in Hpa-An. To date, WFP has provided food assistance sufficient for the needs of 7,000 returnees in Kayin and Mon states. WFP is also providing food assistance to returnees in Shan State and is planning for similar assistance in Kachin State.

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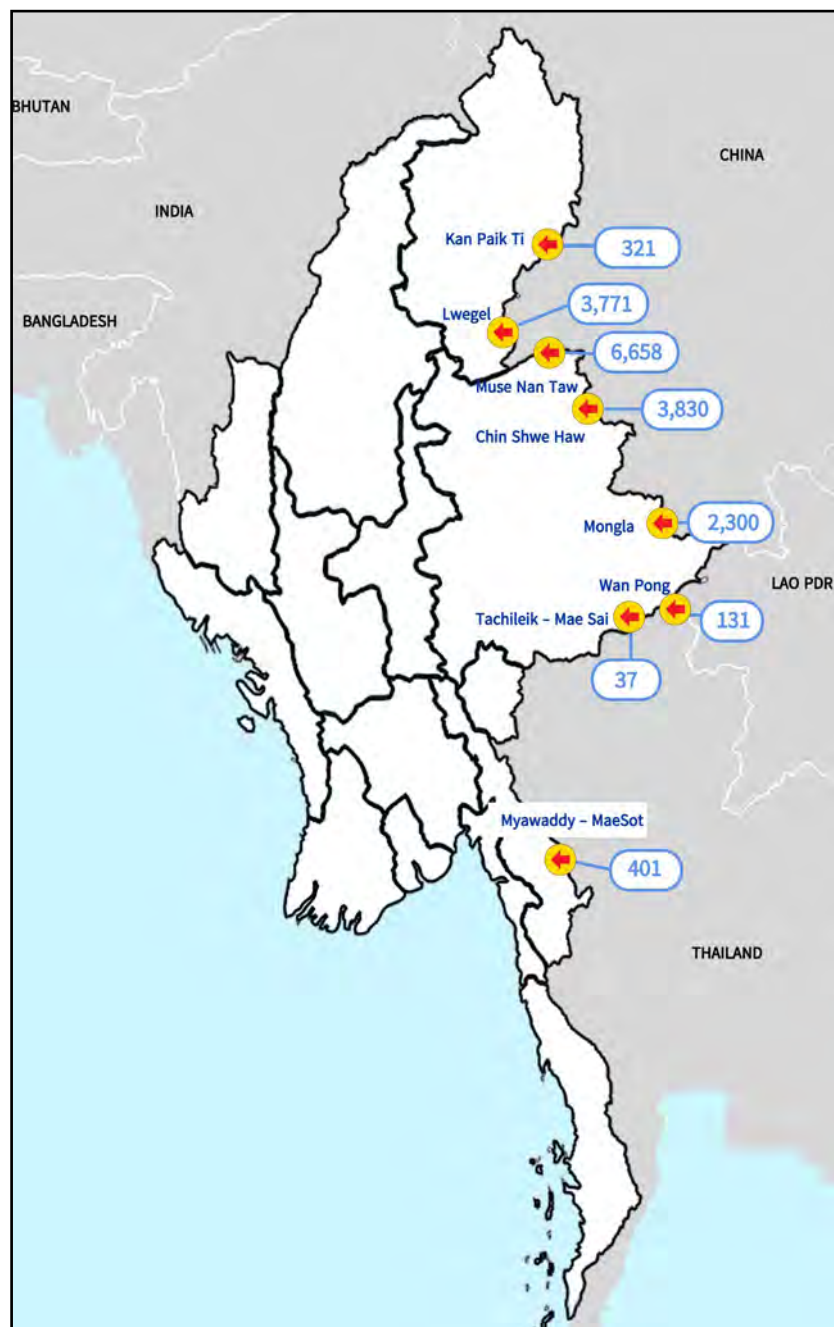
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Returnees from China, Thailand and Lao PDR by Points of Entry

As of 13 May 2020



Border gate	Male	Female	Total
Returns from China (16 April - 13 May)			
Kan Paik Ti (Kachin State)	216	105	321
Lwegel (Kachin State)	2,571	1,200	3,771
Muse Nan Taw (Shan State)	4,939	1,719	6,658
Chin Shwe Haw (Shan State)	2,275	1,555	3,830
Mongla (Shan State)	1,431	869	2,300
Returns from Lao PDR (8 May)			
Wan Pong (Shan State)	78	53	131
Returns from Thailand (1 May - 13 May)			
Tachileik - Mae Sai (Shan State)	28	9	37
Myawaddy - Mae Sot (Kayin State)	265	136	401

Source: Kachin, Shan and Kayin states' Departments of Labour