

## 21,291 migrants returned from China

from 16 April to 21 May, mainly through border checkpoints Kachin and Shan states

## 1,004 migrants returned from Thailand

From 1 to 9 May, mainly through border checkpoints in Kayin State



Migrants practicing social distancing during a COVID-19 risk communication session at Shwe Myawaddy Quarantine Centre in Kayin State. © IOM 2020

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

Returns from China continue, with a total of 21,291 returns from 16 April to 21 May, according to data from the Department of Labour (DOL). The major entry points were in Kachin and Shan states, with most returns from China in May occurring through Nan Taw, Chin Shwe Haw and Mongla border crossings in Shan State.



ILO partners distributing water and food to migrants who arrived from China, in Keng Tung, Shan State. © ILO 2020

No major large-scale returns from Thailand through official border crossings occurred this week due to the extension of travel restrictions, with only 1,004 returns from 1 to 19 May, mainly through the Myawaddy-Mae Sot border gate. Though travel restrictions remain for now, the Myanmar and Thai Governments are cooperating on facilitating the return of migrants from Thailand, and a daily inter-provincial bus service

to facilitate the movement of Myanmar migrants from Bangkok to Mae Sot, is being prepared, and it will consist of 10 buses per day with a capacity for 21 people per bus (210 returnees per busload). The first busload of 210 migrants returned safely, arriving in Myanmar on the morning of 23 May.



IOM staff and Migrant Resource Centre Counsellor distributing assistance to returning migrants at Kyauk Lone Gyi Quarantine Centre in Myawaddy, Kayin State. © IOM 2020

The Thai Ministry of Interior issued a visual overview of re-migration procedures which require a fit-to-travel certificate, a COVID-19 test, a written consent form authorizing 14-days in quarantine upon arrival, and health insurance covering at least USD 100,000 for COVID-19 treatment.

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 working closely with state and regional health authorities to provide targeted COVID-19 assistance around the country.** IOM provided 50 portable loudspeakers to the Kachin State Health Department for COVID-19 risk communication at the community level, as well as provided PPE items, surgical gowns and hand sanitizers, thermometers and 1,000 bottles of liquid soap. In Rakhine, IOM continues financial support for the transportation of nasal swab samples from Buthidaung, Maungdaw and Pauktaw, to Sittwe. From 11 to 20 May, IOM and CSO partners also distributed hygiene kits, PPE items and WASH consumables to quarantine facilities and health centres, reaching 8,709 returning migrants and members of migrant-sending communities in Chin State and Mandalay, Magway and Ayeerwady regions.

**UNICEF continues to work with the Myanmar Government and partners in response to the evolving COVID-19 situation.** Specific initiatives supporting migrants include the installation of 1,000 handwashing stations in Shan, 150 of which are installed at points of entry, checkpoints and night stop-over points supporting an estimated 12,000 migrants. UNICEF is also supporting the Shan State Government's Social Protection Committee, including collating and circulating data related to migrants to partners; as well as providing 210 Child Protection Kits to the Kayin, Mon and Tanintharyi Governments, 44 of which are being used to support migrants arriving through Myawaddy in May.

**ILO and its partners in Shan, Kayin and Mon states, as well as in Tanintharyi, Bago and Yangon regions,** continued the distribution of IEC materials, masks, food and water to returning migrants and their families at points of entry and communities of origin, and from 13 to 20 May, this support reached 365 returning migrants in Shan, including 116 migrants returning from China; 250 members of migrant-sending communities in Tanintharyi; and 303 returning migrants in quarantine facilities in Bago. ILO assistance has reached a total of 43,792 people from 22 March to date.

**WFP and its partners are providing food assistance to returning migrants in quarantine centres in Kayin and Mon states,** reaching 787 returnee migrants who will undergo facility quarantine for 21 days, and distributing one-time meal boxes at Myawaddy border gate, as requested by the Kayin government. WFP has reached 455 returnee migrants in facility quarantine

centres in Kayin State (440 in Myawaddy and 15 in Hpa-An) and in May provided 3 cooked meals a day. In northern Shan State, WFP is providing food provisions, including meals at points of entry for 4,150 people, including 3,000 people in quarantine facilities. To date, WFP has provided food assistance sufficient for the needs of 12,700 returnee migrants in Yangon, Kayin, Mon and Shan State, while also planning food and nutrition assistance to returnees in Kachin State.




IOM CSO partner, Swan Saung Shin (SSS), distributing COVID-19 response items to health staff supporting migrant-sending communities in Labutta Township, Ayeerwady Region. © SSS 2020

**UNHCR continues providing COVID-19-related assistance in Kachin, Kayin and Kayah states, as well as in Bago and Tanintharyi regions,** and provided 500 sets of bedding and 175 sanitary kits for quarantine centres in Loikaw, Kayah State. In east Bago Region, UNHCR is delivering sets of blankets, mosquito nets and plates. In Kachin and the northern Shan states, UNHCR is delivering material support to the Kachin State COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee, including 220 plastic mats and 65 mosquito nets for quarantine facilities in Myitkyina Township. A further 490 mattresses, 1,085 bed sheets, 1,310 pillow cases, 1,335 pillows, towels, toothpaste, tooth brushes, bathing cups and steel cutlery are being provided in support of the Kachin State Health Department, and partner Karuna Mission Solidarity (KMSS), is supporting the State Health Department in constructing laundry facilities. KMSS-Lashio is also distributing material support to quarantine facilities in Kutkai and Hseni Townships. UNHCR partner, Kachin Baptist Convention, is also providing support to quarantine facilities in Bhamo, including 70 blankets, 70 sleeping mats and 70 mosquito nets.

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



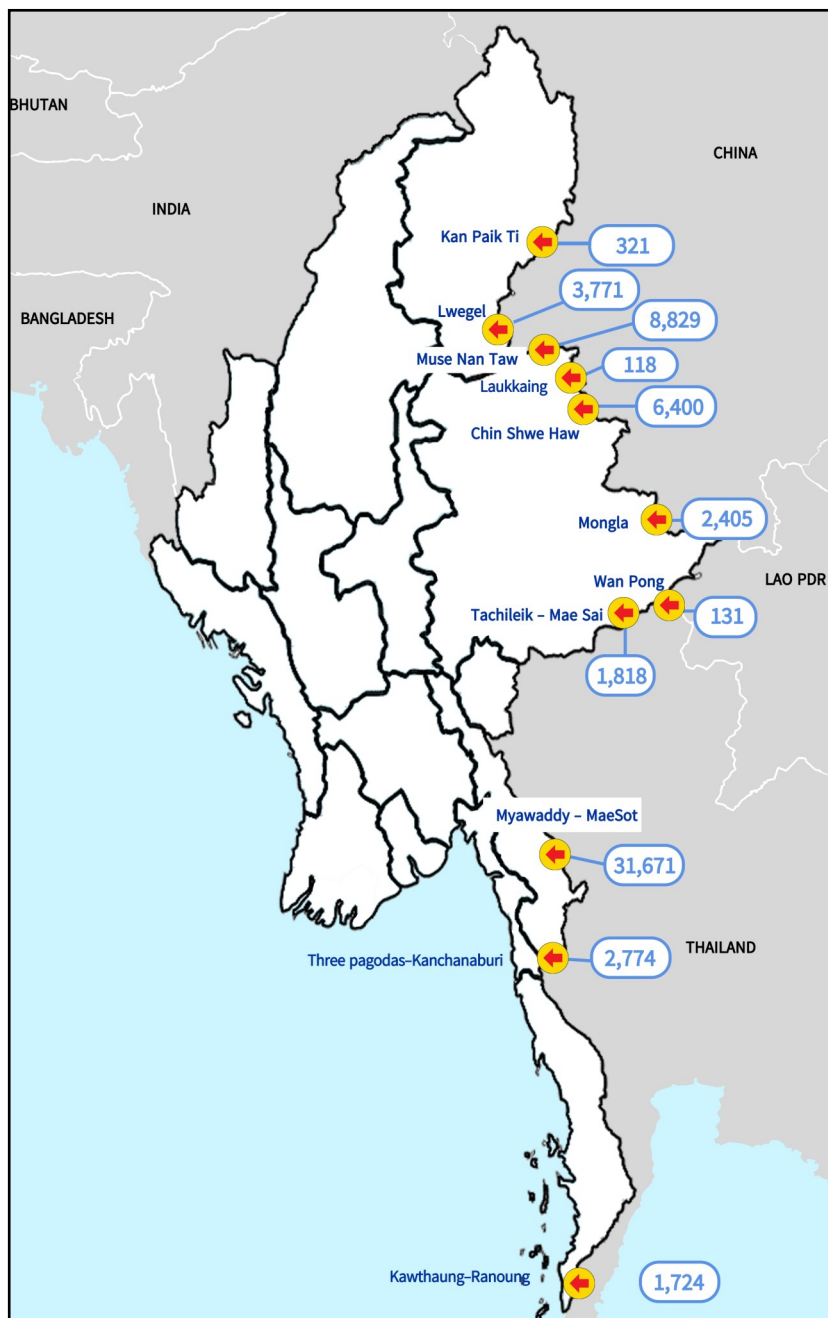
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# Returns from China, Thailand and Lao PDR by Points of Entry



Border gate	Male	Female	Total
<b>Returns from China (16 April - 21 May)</b>			
Kan Paik Ti	216	105	321
Lwegel	2,571	1,200	3,771
Muse Nan Taw	6,456	2,373	8,829
Chin Shwe Haw	3,695	2,705	6,400
Laukkaing	74	44	118
Mongla	1,499	906	2,405
<b>Returns from Lao PDR (8 May)</b>			
Wan Pong	78	53	131
<b>Returns from Thailand (22 March - 19 May)</b>			
Tachileik - Mae Sai	1,029	789	1,818
Myawaddy - Mae Sot	20,846	10,825	31,671
Kawthaung-Ranong	934	790	1,724
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.