

**19,619**  
**migrants**  
**returned**

from Thailand  
through border  
checkpoints from  
16 August to 21  
October

**167,798**  
**migrants**  
**returned**

through border  
checkpoints from  
22 March to 21  
October



Returning migrant women and girls at a community-based quarantine facility in Lwegel, Kachin State. © IOM 2020

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

**Returns of international migrants continued through land border checkpoints from mid-August to mid-October, but at a decreased rate, with 19,619 (12,254 men, 7,362 women) returns from Thailand from 16 August to 21 October.** From 22 March to 21 October, a total of 167,798 migrants (75,852 women, 47,478 men) returned to Myanmar from Thailand, China and Lao PDR. An additional 6,681 Myanmar nationals returned via Government-assisted relief flights from various countries around the world from 16 August to 4 October. A total of 18,921 Myanmar nationals returned via Government-assisted relief flights from 8 April to 4 October.

**Migration pathways remained highly restricted during this period, with deployment of migrant workers on-hold to major countries of destination, including Thailand.** Significant numbers of irregular migrants were intercepted by Thai authorities trying to enter Thailand through irregular means, with Thai authorities reporting arrests of 4,839 Myanmar migrants from 15 June to 10 September 2020, along with 51 smugglers.

**Myanmar began and continues experiencing a second wave of COVID-19 cases starting in mid-August, with the first cases identified in Sittwe in mid-August and most states/regions identifying positive cases by late August/early September.** Stay at Home orders aiming to slow down local COVID-19 transmission began to be issued starting on 27 August, with

several townships across the country, including in Rakhine State (27 August to date), Yangon (2 September to date); Mon State, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyarwady regions (26 September to date); and Kachin State (20 October to date) remaining under Stay at Home orders. Although concrete data is unavailable, the restrictions have affected large numbers of internal migrants' access to livelihoods and incomes, as well as protective and health services .



Migrant signing up for travel cost support to return to his home community after quarantining near Myawaddy following return to Myanmar. © IOM 2020

Note: IOM is coordinating the response of the United Nations to the situation of migrant populations in Myanmar through the UN Core Group on Migration and COVID-19.

With support from the Government of Japan, United Nations Population Fund, Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, Livelihoods and Food Security Fund, and the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund, IOM has been providing Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to support migrant-sending communities in Rakhine, Kachin, Shan, Kayin and Mon states, as well as Ayeyarwady Region, during times of restricted mobility. IOM has distributed 44,000 "Coping and Stress Management during COVID-19" mental health booklets, developed with John Hopkins University, to returning migrants and members of migrant-sending communities in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and project partners in the aforementioned states/regions. IOM and Metanoia Mental Health Services also developed "Staying Safe, Happy and Healthy," a colouring book for children, focusing on key messages on health, hygiene and well-being. All materials are available in five languages, have been shared with relevant clusters for open access, as well as are available at the [MHPSS Working Group](#) and [IOM Myanmar](#) websites.

IOM has also been providing technical support to implementing partners on community based psychosocial (CBPSS) activities including positive parenting, well-being and empathy building sessions for children, and psychosocial activities addressing harmful social norms. A total of 388 members of migrant-sending communities were reached in Kachin and Rakhine through CBPSS activities from 1 August to 30 September.

With support from the Government of Australia, IOM is working with the Department of Immigration (DOL), Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population (MOLIP), to adapt and contextualize standard operating procedures (SOPs) for frontline border control officers at points of entry (POE) in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. A validation workshop was conducted on 24 September with relevant stakeholders including MOLIP and the Ministry of Health and Sports. The SOPs are expected to be finalized in October 2020, following which they will be disseminated and capacity building conducted on their implementation at POEs around the country. From July to September, IOM provided 800 PPE suits and surgical gowns, 500 non-contact thermometers, 210,000 boxes of masks, as well as 4,200 face shields, sanitizer and hand soap, to immigration officers manning POEs at Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Tanintharyi, Sagaing, Kachin, Kayin, and Shan.

In coordination with CSO partners and skills development providers in Chin, Shan and Dry Zone, IOM has been upscaling provision of skills training for migrant populations, including returning migrants, aspirant migrants and migrant-sending households. Since July 2020, this has reached a total of 333 beneficiaries. In collaboration with the Ayeyarwady Regional Government, DOL and General Administration Department, IOM also supported the successful piloting of recognition of prior learning (RPL) for 48 return migrants in Patheingyi, who received National Skills Standard Authority certification in bricklaying and carpentry in line with their employment experience in Thailand. IOM aims to upscale skills trainings and RPL support for returning migrants in other area of the country once the situation allows.

IOM also continued to provide humanitarian support for vulnerable returnees in situations of distress, reaching a total of 1,748 migrants between mid-August and mid-October with onward transportation, meal cost, clothing items and medical support in close collaboration with local authorities of Kayin and Rakhine states, and Ayeyarwady and Tanintharyi regions.

The mask making initiative for dismissed factory workers organized by the Yangon Chi Workers Association supported by the ILO "Developing International and Internal Labour Migration Governance in Myanmar" project has produced and donated 21,396 masks (4,000 to Yangon and Mandalay COVID-19 Committees, 14,996 to garment workers in factories, and 2,400 to quarantine centres in Shwe Pyi Thar). ILO-supported Migrant Centres also continued to deliver care packages, COVID-19 information as well as safe migration information, reaching 10,324 returning migrants and members of migrant-sending communities between 1 September to 14 October, bringing the overall total to 139,114 people (60,495 women, 78,624 men) reached since the start of the pandemic.

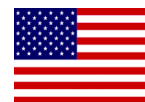


ILO CSO partner, Foundation for Educational Development, receiving returning migrants at Kawthaung, Tanintharyi Region. © ILO 2020

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



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Livelihoods and Food Security Fund



ACCESS TO HEALTH



MHF Myanmar Humanitarian Fund



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confederation suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



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MISSION IN MYANMAR

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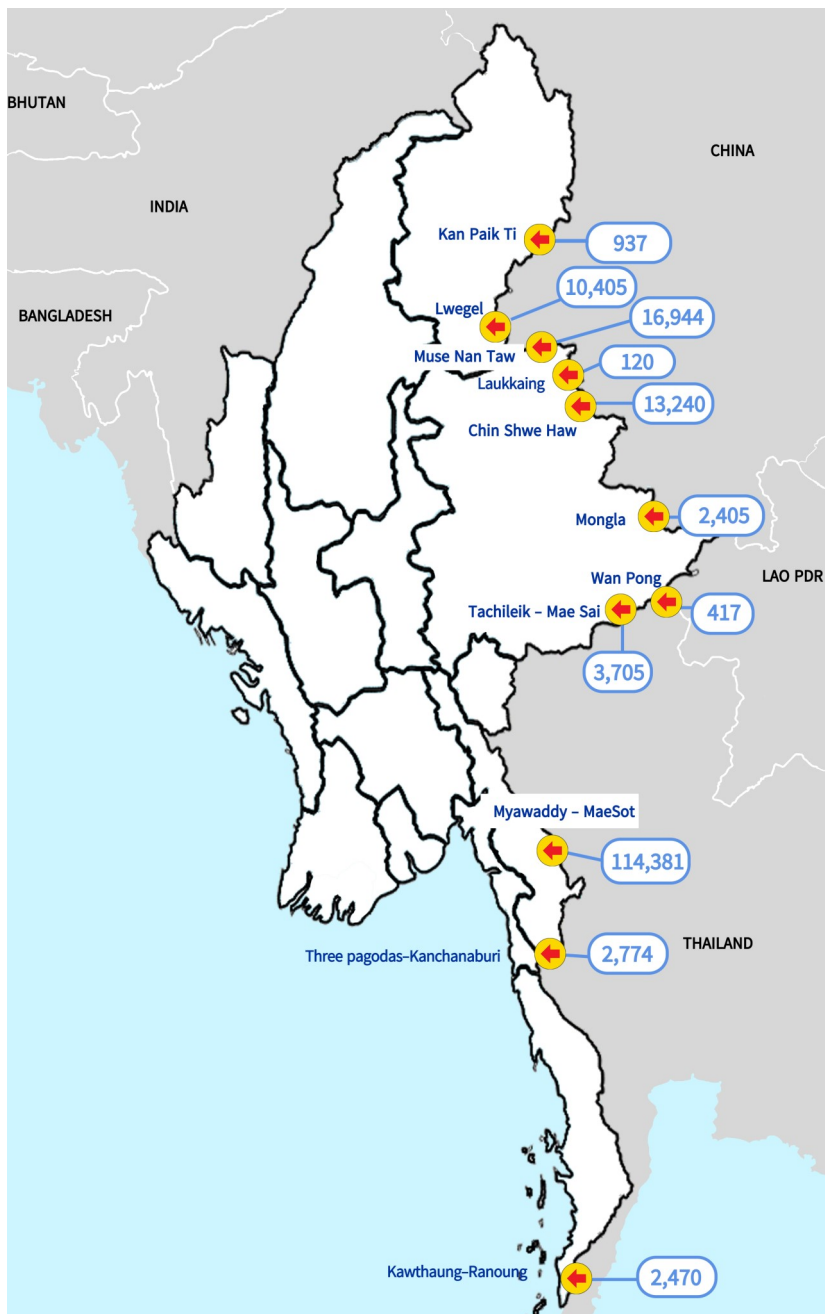
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# Returns from China, Thailand and Lao PDR by Points of Entry



Border gate	Male	Female	Total
<b>Returns from China (16 April - 16 July)</b>			
Kan Paik Ti	618	319	937
Lwegel	7,257	3,148	10,405
Muse Nan Taw	11,714	5,230	16,944
Chin Shwe Haw	7,324	5,916	13,240
Laukkaing	75	45	120
Mongla	1,499	906	2,405
<b>Returns from Lao PDR (8 May - 30 September)</b>			
Wan Pong	257	160	417
<b>Returns from Thailand (22 March - 21 October)</b>			
Tachileik - Mae Sai	2,078	1,627	3,705
Myawaddy - Mae Sot	70,668	43,713	114,381
Kawthaung-Ranong	1,391	1,079	2,470
Three Pagodas-Kanchanaburi	1,715	1,059	2,774

Source: Department of Labour