

10,985 migrants returned

from Thailand through border checkpoints from 1 to 16 July

2,887 migrants returned

from China through border checkpoints from 1 to 16 July



Distribution of IOM-supported bedding and WASH kits at a community-based quarantine facility in Lwelje, Kachin State. © IOM 2020

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Returns from Thailand through border checkpoints continued in the first half of July, with 10,985 (4,536 female, 6,449 male) returns from 1 to 16 July. A total of 86,449 migrants (33,023 female, 53,426 male) returned from Thailand from 22 March to 16 July, with the majority of migrants who returned through Myawaddy-Mae Sot returning to Bago Region (10,948 people), Mon State (7,391) and Kayin State (6,964 people).

Returns from China through border checkpoints also continued in the first half of July, albeit at a slower rate than in June, with a total of 2,887 (1,211 female, 1,676 male) returns from 1 to 16 July. A total of 44,051 migrants (15,564 female, 28,478 male) returned from China from 16 April to 16 July.

As of July 16, based on available data, a total of 130,817 migrants have returned to Myanmar from Thailand, China and Laos. A further 8,543 Myanmar nationals have returned via Government Assisted Relief Flights from various countries in Asia and beyond, including from Australia, Philippines, India and the United States.

The Government of Myanmar announced the extension of COVID-19 restrictions until 31 July. This is the third extension following a similar decision on 1 July and it retains:

- The nationwide daily curfew from 00:00 AM to 04:00 AM;
- The ban on international commercial flights into and out of Myanmar;
- The temporary suspension of visas on arrival and e-visas;

- Temporary suspensions for overseas employment processes (including MOU recruitment procedures), and all pre-departure orientation and skills trainings.

The Myanmar Labour Attaché Office in Thailand launched an [online survey](#) for Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand, aiming to collect information on the total number of Myanmar migrant workers currently in Thailand and their situation, including occupation, income and migration status. Results will inform evidence-based programming by the Government of Myanmar.



Dissemination of COVID-19 health messaging by government health staff at Maungdaw Township, Rakhine 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.

IOM and CSO partners continue working closely with national, regional and local authorities to provide targeted COVID-19 assistance around the country. In the second half of June, IOM continued the provision of hygiene and non-food items, reaching 8,294 returning migrants across Chin and Shan states, as well as Ayeyarwady, Magway and Mandalay regions. In Chin State, IOM and CSO partner, Chin Human Rights Organization, supported the installation of handwashing stations, reaching approximately 4,740 members of migrant-sending communities. In Ayeyarwady, IOM has extended support to local health staff and volunteers working with returning migrants, and provided 499 health workers with hygiene and WASH support. IOM and partners also continued disseminating COVID-19 health messaging via loudspeakers on cars across migrant-sending communities in Chin and Rakhine states, as well as in Magway and Mandalay regions. From mid-march to end of June, IOM and CSO partners in Chin, Shan, Kachin, Mon and Kayin states, as well as Magway, Mandalay, Ayeyarwady and Tanintharyi

regions, have provided direct assistance to 63,340 (23,595 female, 39,745 male) returning migrants and their families.

IOM, in partnership with television broadcaster Democratic Voice of Burma, launched a media campaign in June aiming to raise public awareness of the impacts of COVID-19 on returning migrants. The campaign, titled 'Voices of Returning Migrants' ('Zar Ti Myay Pyan Thu Doe A Tha' in Myanmar language), centres on short videos showcasing stories of migrants and migration actors coping with the impacts of COVID-19, and on 'virtual' talk shows featuring panel discussions open to live audience questions through social media. The campaign's first two talk shows focused on the broader [challenges and stigmatization migrants face upon return to Myanmar](#), and on the [socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic on migrants and their families](#), and featured panelists representing civil society, government and UN actors involved in the COVID-19 response to returning migrants in Myanmar.

WFP and its partners are continuing with the provision of food and nutrition assistance to 45,400 returning migrants at border gates, as well as, 46,800 inside quarantine sites in 10 out of 14 states and regions as requested by the authorities.



IOM CSO partner, Parami Development Network (PDN), distributing hygiene kits and nutrition support to women returning migrants and their children, at a quarantine facility in Taunggyi, Shan State. © PDN 2020

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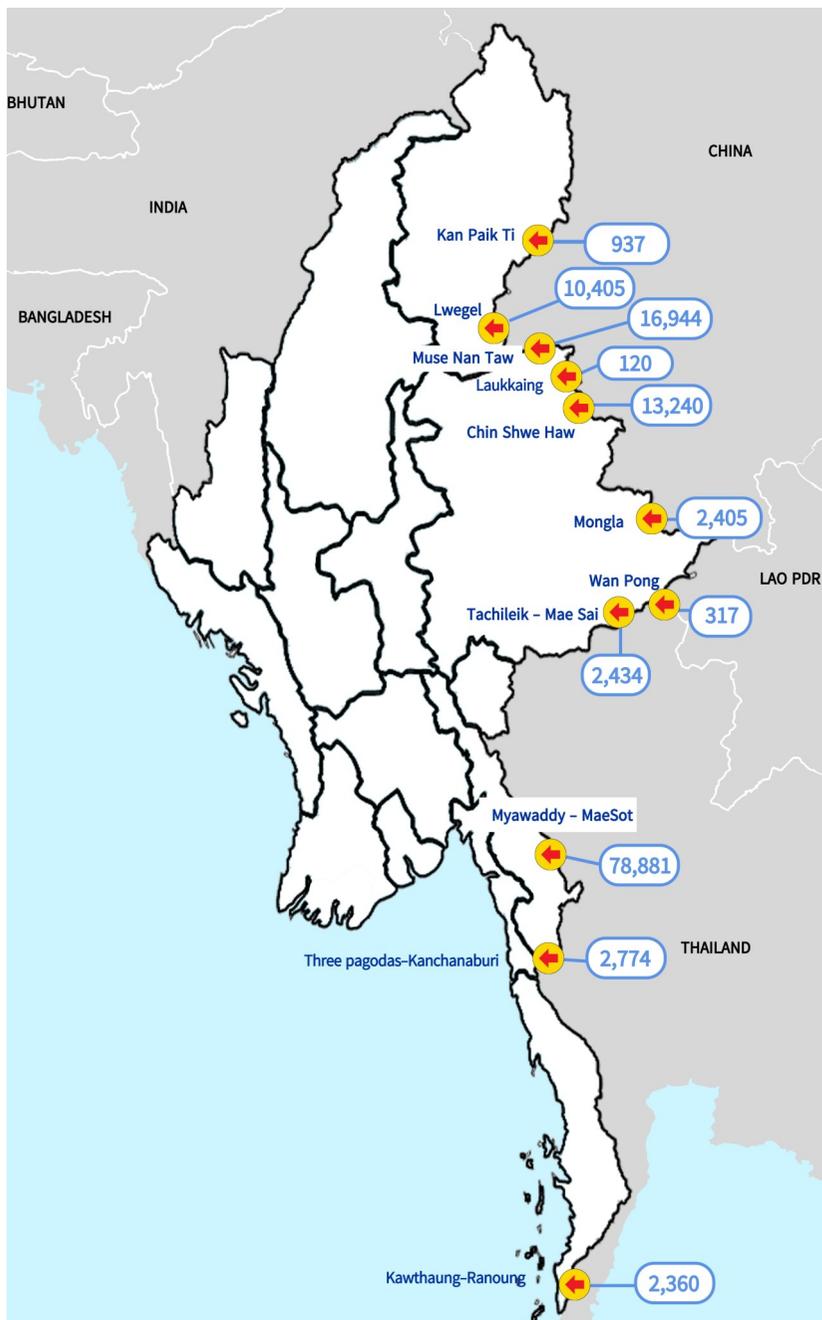
ACCESS TO HEALTH



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
MISSION IN MYANMAR
No.50-B, Thiri Mingalar, 2nd street Ward 8,
Kamayut Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Telephone: +95 1 523509, +95 1 532279,
+95 9 7323 6679, +95 9 7323 6680
Fax - +95 1 532279
Email: iomyangon@iom.int

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



Border gate	Male	Female	Total
Returns from China (16 April - 16 July)			
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
Returns from Lao PDR (8 May - 24 June)			
Wan Pong	197	120	317
Returns from Thailand (22 March - 16 July)			
Tachileik - Mae Sai	1,347	1,087	2,434
Myawaddy - Mae Sot	49,072	29,809	78,881
Kawthaung-Ranong	1,292	1,068	2,360
Three Pagodas-Kanchanaburi	1,715	1,059	2,774

Source: Department of Labour