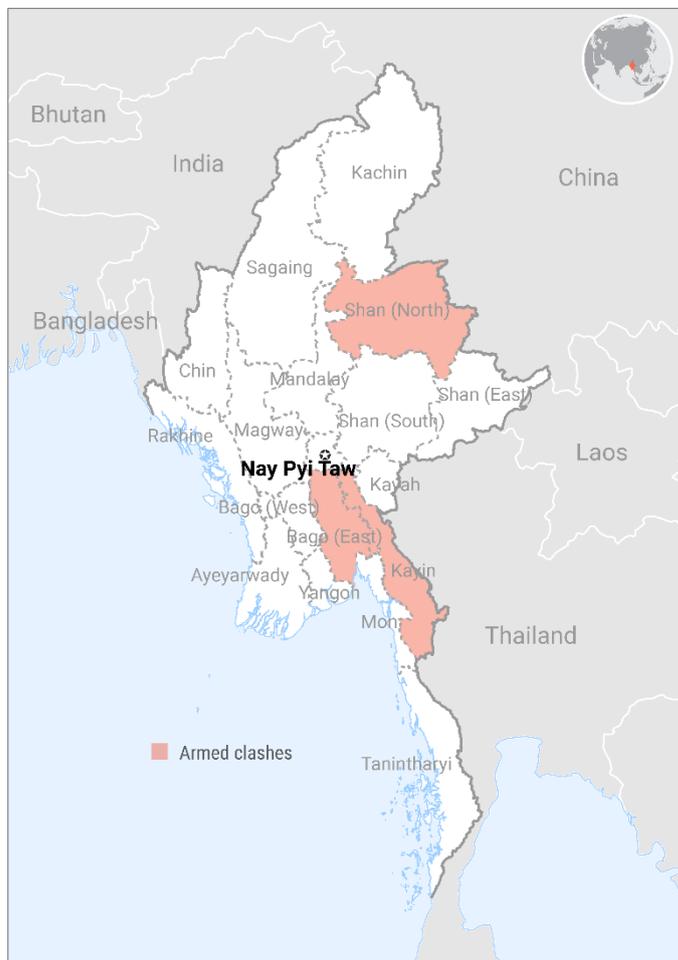


### Highlight

- The armed conflict that began on 26 October between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF), various ethnic armed organizations (EAOs), and People's Defense Forces continues to escalate, significantly impacting the Northeast and Southeast regions of the country.
- Some 25,700 individuals in Northern Shan, Bago East and Kayin have reportedly been newly displaced.
- In Northern Shan, armed clashes in at least nine out of 22 townships have resulted in a surge of newly displaced persons and mounting humanitarian needs.
- In Northern Shan, the total number of internally displaced people (IDPs) now stands at over 37,400, with a recent surge of over 23,000 due to the escalation in fighting. This is on top of the 14,470 IDPs previously displaced, straining an already under-resourced humanitarian response.
- Essential transit routes connecting Northern Shan to China are currently obstructed by the MAF and EAOs checkpoints, and at least one vital bridge has been destroyed. Additionally, northern Shan, Bago East and Kayin have faced extensive disruptions in mobile data and telecommunication services across numerous areas.
- In Northern Shan, faith-based organizations and host communities are offering immediate, basic lifesaving assistance, such as shelter, food, and water. Various humanitarian partners, alongside host communities and private donors, have extended cash assistance, basic food supplies, and essential relief items to the newly displaced.
- The support provided, however, has been insufficient to address the growing needs, while access remains extremely restricted.



### Situation Overview

The conflict in Northern Shan and the Southeast of Myanmar continues to escalate since 26 October, marked by intense daily confrontations between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and various Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) as well as the People's Defense Forces (PDFs) across multiple townships. In Northern Shan, armed engagements between the MAF and a coalition of EAOs—namely the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), and the Arakan Army (AA)—are reported in at least nine out of 22 townships, resulting in an upsurge in the number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Seven days since initiating offensives, these EAOs reportedly continue to assault and seize MAF outposts across several townships. The recent escalation has allegedly displaced at least over 23,000 individuals in Northern Shan townships, who are mainly sheltering in religious structures and forest areas. Moreover, the conflict has resulted in the deaths of at least nine civilians, including children, with additional injuries reported.

Two civilians have reportedly died in northern Shan due to restricted access to emergency healthcare services amidst the ongoing hostilities and stringent security measures imposed by the parties.

Transportation has been severely impacted. As of 27 October, all commercial travel along the main artery between Northern Shan and China has been suspended north of Lashio. Border gates in Muse Township remain closed, along with Lashio Airport—the primary hub for Northern Shan. Key thoroughfares are obstructed, and at least one bridge has been demolished. These impediments, compounded by increased checkpoints set up by both the MAF and EAOs, have critically affected transportation and accessibility, especially on the Mandalay-Lashio-Muse Highway and the Lashio-Chinshwehaw Road. Moreover, telecommunication services, encompassing both mobile and internet, are markedly restricted in several townships since 28 October.

In the Southeast, recent clashes between the MAF and joint forces of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and People's Defense Forces (PDFs) have notably affected Kyaukkyi Township in Bago East and Kawkareik and Kyarinseikgyi townships in Kayin. There are some existing 6,000 displaced people in these townships. Indiscriminate artillery attacks on 28 October led to the initial displacement of over 2,000 individuals in Kyaukkyi township. In Kawkareik township, civilian casualties reportedly include four fatalities and six injuries, with children among those affected. An estimated 600 individuals have been newly displaced in Kayin, although the actual count may be higher and is still undergoing verification. Communication towers and internet access in the three townships have been impacted, and the sense of fear is preventing partners to leave their homes, hindering their ability to collect and verify information. Reports indicate that monasteries in Kyarinseikgyi township are full and IDPs are moving to find safer locations in other parts of the town.

## Humanitarian Needs and Response

In Northern Shan, faith-based organizations and host communities are actively engaged in delivering immediate, basic life-saving assistance, encompassing shelter, sustenance, and potable water. Immediate needs are centered on food, warm clothing, bedding, mosquito nets, health hygiene supplies and non-food items. In some cases, civilians need to access medical services to treat injuries and illnesses. Given the logistical challenges due to the insecurity, the vast majority of support has been direct cash transfers which should be the key modality of support in the short term. Collaborative efforts involving humanitarian partners, host communities, and private benefactors have enabled the disbursement of cash, essential food items, and critical relief supplies to newly displaced individuals, as detailed below:

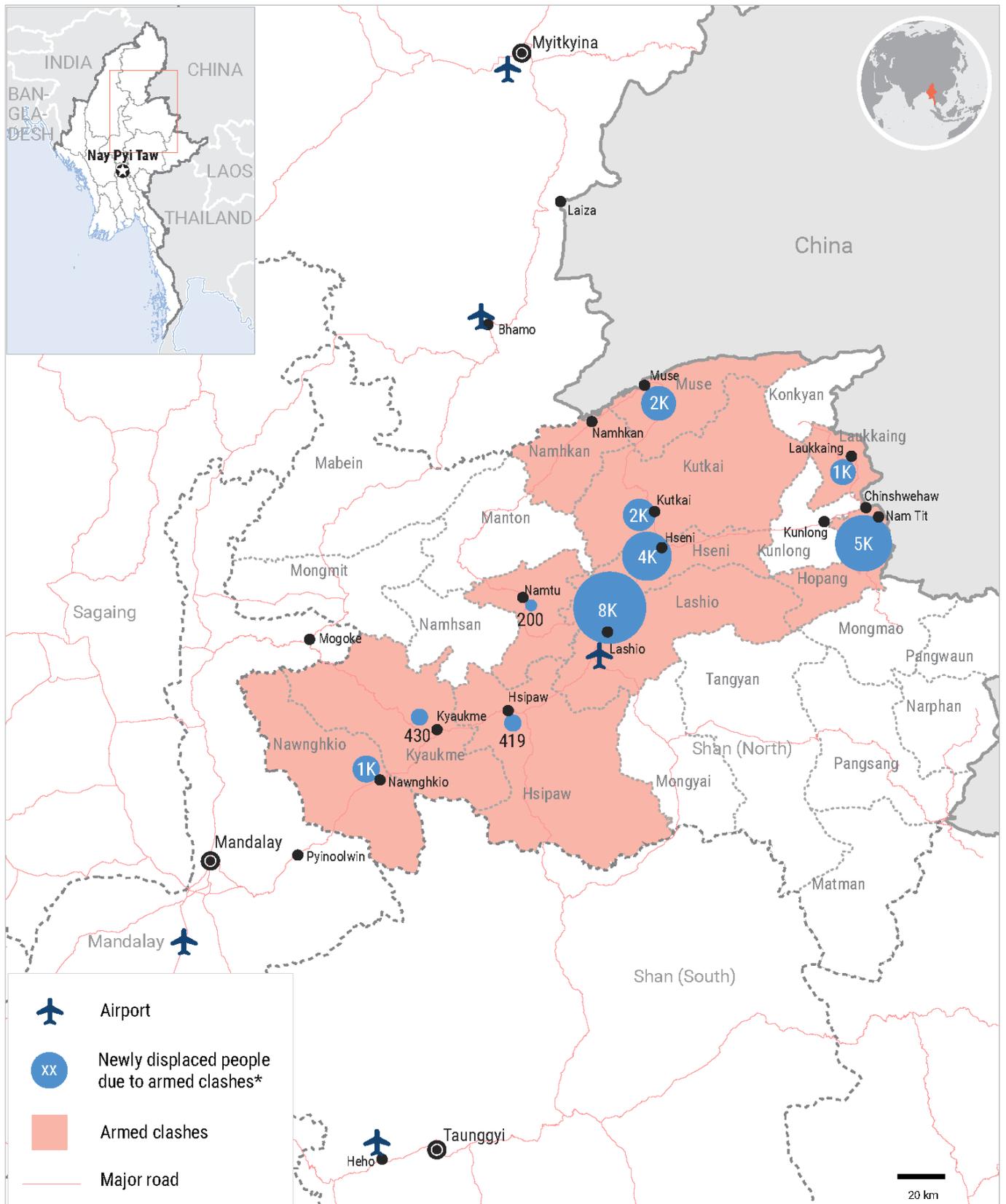
- Of the 23,719 people displaced, upwards of 40 per cent have been accessed physically or remotely by humanitarian partners.
- Almost all of the people newly displaced since 27 October are primarily taking refuge in religious compounds, few are known to have entered pre-existing IDP sites.
- Cash assistance has been extended to over 3,000 IDPs in Kutkai Township.
- Provision of rice, cooking oil, essential household items, and hygiene kits has been made to nearly 1,500 IDPs in Lashio Township.
- A combination of cash and food assistance has been provided to approximately 400 IDPs in Kyaukme Township.

In the Southeast, the focus is on the urgent provision of food and essential medical supplies to new IDPs. Similar to northern Shan, access remains significantly restricted.

## Gaps and Challenges

- Receiving assurance for secure, unimpeded humanitarian access is of critical importance to be able to deliver timely humanitarian assistance.
- Ongoing hostilities, coupled with the existence of checkpoints, road closures, and structural damage to bridges, are severely restricting the ability of humanitarian agencies to reach affected people, conduct verification of needs, and transport vital supplies.
- Compromised telecommunication infrastructures, particularly in the townships of Hseni and Kutkai in Northern Shan, are hindering humanitarian partners from verifying the needs of the people.
- Rising costs of essential commodities in conflict-impacted areas are straining host communities that are already supporting new IDPs.
- Insecurity, ongoing conflict, road closures and the suspension of flights to Lashio pose serious challenges to transporting humanitarian goods. Experience in the past week has shown that the most effective means of support have been direct cash transfers.

**\*\* Information in this update is based on initial inputs from humanitarian partners in northern Shan and the Southeast.**



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