

of the MNDA and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), as well as between MAF and the AA have also been reported in Kutkai, Lashio and Muse townships throughout November. Moreover, fighting between the MAF and the local PDF was reported for the first time near Nawng Kar Village in Hseni Township on 9 November.

Despite no large-scale displacement being recorded in November, there was a small number of people temporarily displaced as well as some returns and relocations in several townships, particularly in Hsipaw and Kyaukme. Clashes temporarily displaced more than 600 people from Moe Tay and Sun Long villages to two monasteries in Hsipaw Township between 7 and 12 November. In mid-November, about 1,740 people, who were displaced and have been staying in a monastery and a communal hall in Kyaukme Township since August, were relocated to 3 displacement sites and several host families in the same township. They were relocated due to fear of mortar shelling and insecurity. Several cases of small-scale displacement (less than 50 people) were also reported in Kyaukme and Muse townships in northern Shan while more than 200 people in Mongkaing Township in southern Shan returned home. Due to armed clashes and insecurity since early 2021, there have been 47,250 people internally displaced across 17 townships in Shan State (29,038 in the north and 18,212 in the south). About 14,570 of them remain displaced in nine townships as of 29 November.

THOUSANDS REMAIN DISPLACED IN KACHIN DUE TO INSECURITY

The security situation in Kachin State remains fragile with sporadic armed clashes between the MAF and the KIA in several townships (Hpakant, Injayang and Mohnyin townships) although the intensity of the clashes has reduced compared to previous months. Fighting between the MAF and an alliance of the KIA and PDF fighters was also reported in Katha Township in Sagaing Region, near the border with Kachin State. An intensification of fighting was reported in Hpakant Township in mid-November when aerial strikes and artillery shelling were used followed by a series of clashes. Some locals from Hka Pawng and Dawai villages in Mohnyin Township and Moethar Village in Katha Township fled to nearby forests due to bombardment; however, the number of displaced people remains unverified due to telecommunication interruptions, as well as security and access challenges. About 3,650 IDPs in 4 townships - Bhamo, Momauk, Myitkyina and Waingmaw – remain unable to return home due to ongoing insecurity that had displaced more than 15,500 people across nine townships in Kachin State since March 2021.

In further evidence of the ongoing dangers faced by civilians in Kachin, five people, including a child, were killed and seven others were injured by unidentified gunmen who opened fire on people sitting in a busy local teashop in Hopin Town, Mohnyin Township, on 7 November. There have also been reports of almost daily explosions in urban areas across several townships in Kachin, including around government infrastructure, schools and educational buildings in Hpakant and Myitkyina townships, with reported civilian casualties.

DISPLACEMENT IN YANGON AND MANDALAY

Many thousands of people from 20 wards and nine villages have been displaced under a large-scale eviction operation in informal settlements in several townships, including Hlaingtharya and Dagon Seikan, in Yangon Region and Mandalay City. The eviction started in late October and the displaced families are now thought to be spreading out to different locations, mostly with relatives within the same township in Yangon or back to their areas of origin. People living in the locations affected by the evictions have been ordered to move out before 30 November. Humanitarian organisations are monitoring the situation and are working to verify the needs of those who have been displaced.

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

IMPROVED ACCESS AND INCREASED FUNDING CRITICAL FOR SCALING UP HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE:

In the face of escalating needs, a more ambitious programme of activities is planned for 2022 reaching 6.2 million people. This will only be possible with increased funding and improved access. The level of needs is escalating in conflict-affected areas, particularly in those with limited presence of humanitarian responders. Complex bureaucratic processes, the deteriorating security situation and COVID-19 related movement restrictions have combined to make humanitarian access more difficult. Delays and denials of Travel Authorisations (TAs) as well as increased scrutiny of humanitarian supplies and personnel are hindering operations and prolonging suffering. Logistics issues around road blockages and access to cash supplies are also adding a further layer of complexity. Unmet needs in 2020 and 2021 are having a direct impact on the escalating needs projected for 2022.

The humanitarian community requires simplified, quicker access procedures to ensure vulnerable people receive life-saving and needs-based assistance in accordance with the internationally recognised humanitarian principles.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS