



MYANMAR, KACHIN STATE, DISPLACEMENT

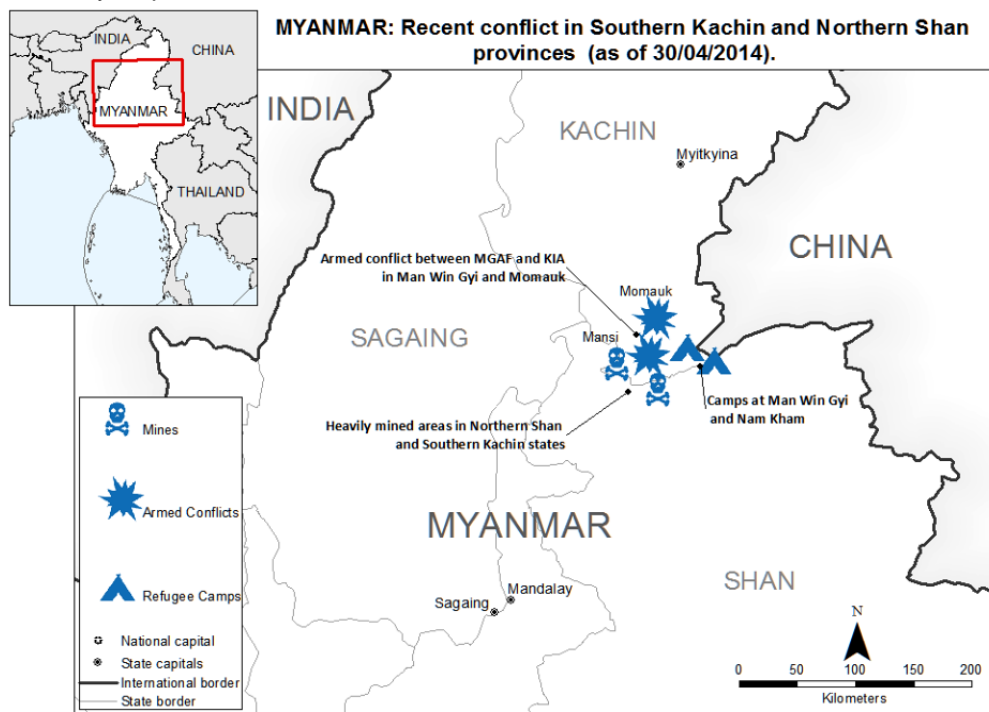
10 April 2014 - 1 May 2014



	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Important	Major
Expected impact			X		
Need for international assistance	Not required	Low	Moderate	Important	Urgent
			X		

Crisis Overview

- On 10 April fighting broke out between government forces and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) in southern Kachin State.
- Conflicting figures are reported regarding the number of displaced. The Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO), KIA's political wing, claims that more than 10,000 people have been displaced. The Government has not confirmed this figure. Local aid groups reported on 21 April displacement of over 5,000 people during the first week of the conflict. An estimated 1,000 children are among the newly displaced.



Data Sources: Natural Earth
Map created by MapAction (April 2014)

- Fighting has affected several villages on the borders between Kachin state, northern Shan state, and China. Four camps, accommodating nearly 3,700 IDPs, are located in close vicinity to the fighting, and many of these people have been displaced for the third time since 2011.

Key Findings

Affected groups	Key figures	Anticipated scope and scale of the event
Resident population	1,442,235	Aid workers have warned of an impending humanitarian crisis. Food, water, and blankets are in short supply for the growing number of Kachin and Shan villagers displaced by fighting that appears to be continuing (DVB, 22/04/2014). Despite not being welcomed by Chinese authorities, more IDPs and local residents are expected to cross into China as fighting has intensified along China–Myanmar border (Kachinland News, 12/042014).
Affected population	106,500	
• Previously displaced	96,500	
• Total newly displaced (April 2014)	10,000	
• Re-displaced IDPs (April 2014)	3,700	
• Newly displaced children	1,000	

Priorities for humanitarian interventions in the coming weeks

According to a local Kachin aid group, the first priority for the IDPs is security, and the second food and water (DVB, 22/04/2014). Many IDPs lack basic essentials, including clean water, and only 28% of water needs are covered in non-government controlled areas.

Humanitarian constraints

Access: The Government has closed certain roads in the area and the upcoming rainy season (May–October) is expected to make many roads impassable.

Administrative obstacles: The Government continues to block UN and international donors from accessing certain areas, making the local population dependent on local organisations to meet their needs.

Security: Landmines are inhibiting delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Need for humanitarian assistance

Additional funding is critical to ensure the humanitarian needs of the newly and already displaced population.

Affected and vulnerable groups

The re-displaced IDPs in Kachin, currently estimated at 3,700 people, some of who are displaced for the third time. Children under 18, estimated to be 1,000.

Key Information about the New Conflict/Displacement

Drivers of the current conflict

Fighting broke out between the Myanmar government army and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) on 10 April 2014 in southern Kachin state (Burma Partnership, 4/13/2014). Before the fighting, Tensions had risen when the Government announced that the KIA was blocking the nationwide census (Eleven, 21/04/2014). The Government deployed additional troops to the current conflict area during the census data collection period, which also increased tensions (Kachinland news, 14/04/2014). According to local media, the Government states that the recent clashes have been in self-defense, and to eradicate illegal smuggling. The KIO/KIA states that the fighting is a result of army incursions into their territory. Some experts see the recent fighting as a way for the army to slowly surround and eventually capture the KIO/KIA headquarters in Laiza by holding supply roads (Eleven, 21/04/2014). Another reason given by the KIO to the recent violence in Kachin is a result of the killing of a Myanmar commander on 4 April (DVB, 22/04/2014).

New displacement

The recent fighting between Government forces and the KIA has affected several villages on the borders between Kachin state, northern Shan state, and China, and has forced thousands of people to flee. Exact IDP figures are conflicting: KIO's political wing claims that more than 10,000 people have been displaced, however this figure is not confirmed by the Government (RFA, 18/04/2014). A local aid group reports more than 5,000 people displaced as of 21 April, after the first week of conflict (Irrawaddy, 21/04/2014). An estimated 1,000 children are among the newly displaced (UN, 22/04/2014). Four IDP camps are located in close vicinity to the fighting, and an estimated 3,700 existing IDPs have been re-displaced. This will be the third displacement for some IDPs in these locations, who had already been displaced during fighting in November 2013 (Burma Partnership, 13/04/2014).

Past displacement

As of December 2013, Myanmar had a total of 640,900 IDPs, primarily displaced by armed conflict and inter-communal violence. Of these, 96,500 have been displaced in Kachin state and northern Shan state since 2011, as a result of armed conflict (IDMC, 12/2013). More than 360 villages in Kachin and northern Shan had been displaced between the start of conflict in 2011 and March 2013. The majority of existing IDPs were women and children (UNCTM, 28/05/2013). As of September 2013, more than 50% of the IDP population were in areas beyond government control (OCHA, 09/2013).

History of the conflict and relevant stakeholders

The KIA is the armed wing of the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO), formed in 1961 in response to a military coup led by General Ne Win). It is the second largest ethnic armed group in Myanmar, with up to 8,000 troops, according to independent reports (Eleven, 21/04/2014). KIA signed a ceasefire deal with the government in 1994, but conflict resumed 17 years later, when government forces launched a major military offensive against KIA in June 2011 (Stimson, 02/01/2014).

International and neighbouring countries' relationship to the conflict

China views the Myanmar borderlands as both a strategic buffer and an important supply corridor to the Indian Ocean and beyond, and the Chinese have twice tried to control this area (in the late 1930s and early 1950s). The changes in Myanmar's international relations, particularly evolving ties with the United States, are adding to concerns for China that the US is seeking to push back the Chinese sphere of influence (Stratford, 24/02/2014).

Humanitarian constraints

Access: According to some media sources, the Government has closed some roads in the area, preventing humanitarian organizations from transporting relief supplies to affected areas (USAID, 23/04/2014). The onset of the rains in Kachin, estimated to begin in May, will further complicate physical access to the camps, as many roads will become impassable (UNCTM, 28/05/2013).

Bureaucratic/administrative constraints: The KIO has granted humanitarian agencies permission to enter its territory and deliver assistance. However, the Government continues to block the UN and international donors from accessing KIO-controlled areas. The majority of IDPs in Kachin are therefore largely dependent on local community based organisations (CBO) for their most basic needs. Geographically, some parts of KIO territory are more easily accessed through China than through Myanmar. However, donor restrictions and Chinese border rules make aid delivery very challenging. China does not allow supplies bearing logos of foreign organisations to be transported across its borders, and it also restricts the shipment of food and medicines procured inside Myanmar through China to KIO-held areas. At the same time, most donor agencies prohibit CBOs from purchasing supplies in China (Global Perspectives, 03/06/2013).

Security: Landmines inhibit the delivery of humanitarian assistance (UNICEF, 22/04/2014).

Crisis Impact

Impact on access of affected population to essential services

Food: Some NGOs operating in areas beyond Government control in Kachin are facing low levels of funding. Unless this is resolved soon, it could have a negative impact on the delivery of humanitarian services, including food distribution for IDPs. Uncertainty regarding funding for programmes means 20,000 people could be at risk of food shortages in the coming months (UNOCHA, 31/03/2014).

WASH: Conditions are dire for thousands of IDPs in Kachin, and many are faced with a severe shortage of basic aid and clean water. Many IDPs are suffering from dehydration due to shortages of water and rising summer temperatures (Democratic Voice of Burma, 22/04/2014). As of March 2014 the water needs coverage is 85% in government-controlled Areas (GCA) and 28% in non-government controlled areas (NGCA), Latrines needs coverage is 64% in GCA and 54% in NGCA, bathing coverage is 19% in GCA and 4% in NGCA (WASH Cluster, 03/2014). There is an urgent need to improve water and sanitation in camps across Kachin, however funding is not yet secured (UNOCHA, 31/03/2014).

Health: The fighting and associated displacement has increased health risks for children, partly by reducing their access to safe, reliable water and sanitation facilities (UNICEF, 22/04/2014). Assessments conducted in January 2013 showed that for all camps and hosting communities, morbidity was at 35% for waterborne diseases (diarrhoea, scabies, and skin infections) and 30% for acute respiratory infections. More than 25% of under-five illness was related to diarrhoea or waterborne disease. These assessments also found that most camps had limited availability of medicines as well as irregular visits by health staff (UNCTM, 28/05/2013). In non-government controlled areas, the majority of IDPs have very limited access to health services and, therefore, continue to rely on facilities in China, creating additional financial constraints on accessing cross-border healthcare

Shelter: Additional funding is needed to provide temporary shelter for approximately 15,000 people in camps, as well as to carry out maintenance and repair work on temporary shelters that are now close to three years old (UNOCHA, 31/03/2014). In January 2014, the Shelter Cluster estimated that 20,000–25,000 IDPs were living in sub-standard shelter, had no shelter, or were sharing spaces in collective centres in Kachin (UNOCHA, 31/01/2014).

Protection: Funding is needed to address gender-based violence and prevent human trafficking and monitoring (UNOCHA, 31/03/2014). Fighting between government troops and ethnic rebels in Kachin had as of 20 April left at least 22 people dead (Associated Press, 20/04/2014). Kachin and Northern Shan are already among the most heavily mined areas in Myanmar. Landmines left behind or placed intentionally continue to cause harm to vulnerable populations, including children (UNICEF, 22/04/2014).

Potential Aggravating Factors

Seasonal information

Rain and thundershowers hit large parts of Kachin state on 28 April (Department of Meteorology and Hydrology). Weather experts have issued a flash flood and landslides warning for the northern part of the country (New Light of Myanmar, 28/04/2014).

The forthcoming rainy season could result in seasonal displacement, hamper return efforts and durable solutions, and damage existing shelter and WASH infrastructure in camps (UNCTM, 28/05/2013).

Key Characteristics of Kachin State

Demographic profile: As of October 2013, the total population of Myanmar was 53.3 million (IDMC, 2013), and as of 2011, 49.7% were male and 50.3% female (Worldstat, 2011). As of 2011, Kachin state had a population of 1.44 million, of whom 30% are aged 0–14 (UNICEF, 12/12/2013). 29% of the population live in urban areas while 71% live in rural areas (MIMU, 2013). Kachin has higher than average poverty levels of 28.6% (compared to the national average of 25.6%). Poverty in the northern region of Shan state is even higher at 37.4% (MIMU, 2013b).

Key WASH statistics: 89.4% of the population in Kachin has access to improved sources of drinking water (compared to 82.33% national average) (UNCTM, 28/05/2013). According to a Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey from 2009/10, approximately 8% of households in Kachin do not have access to improved sanitation (UNICEF, 12/12/2013).

Key health statistics: Under-five mortality in Kachin is 27.4 per 1,000 live births and maternal mortality is 180 per 100,000 live births (national averages of 23.6 and 140, respectively). There are 1,087 health workers (medical doctors, nurses and midwives) in Kachin (and 24,048 in the entire country) (UNCTM, 28/05/2013). 25% of children are born in health facilities (national average is 36%). The state shows immunisation rates of 97% (national average is 98%). Adequate management of diarrhoea (including oral rehydration therapy) is only 47% (national average is 66%) (UNICEF, 12/12/2013).

Nutrition levels: According to 2009/10 nutrition surveys of Kachin state, 13% were underweight, 36.6% suffered from stunting (chronic malnutrition) and 4.8% from wasting (national averages of 23%, 35%, and 8%, respectively). 40.6% of children between 0 and 5 months were exclusively breastfed (compared to 23.6% national average) (UNICEF, 12/12/2013).

Literacy levels: As of 2010, the literacy rates in Kachin were 87.2% for people aged 15 years and older (93.2% for males and 86.3% for females) (Knoema, 2010).

Response Capacity

The Kachin State Government, local and international NGOs, community-based organisations, faith-based organisations, private donors, and the United Nations have been responding to the needs of displaced people in Kachin and northern Shan states for what will soon be two years (UNCTM, 28/05/2013).

A consortium of Kachin NGOs provides most assistance to highly vulnerable IDPs in KIO areas (BRIDGE, Kachin Baptist Convention, Kachin Relief and Development Committee, Kachin Women Association, Kachin Development Group, Karuna Myanmar Social Services, Metta Development Foundation, Shalom Foundation and Wunpawng Ninghtoi) (UNHCR, 03/2014).