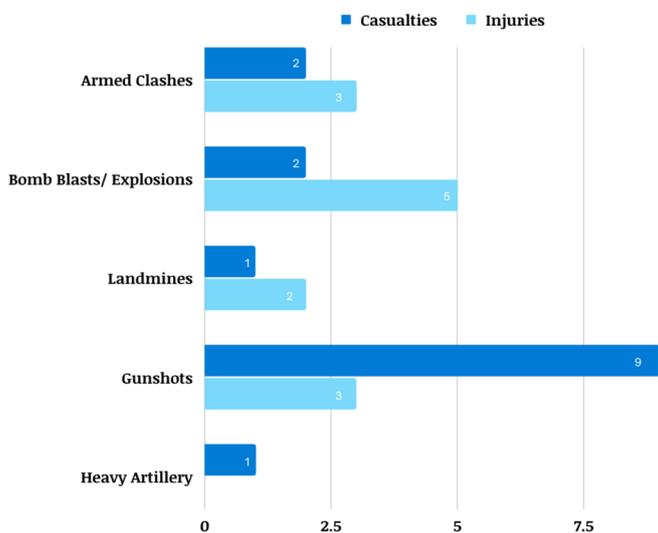


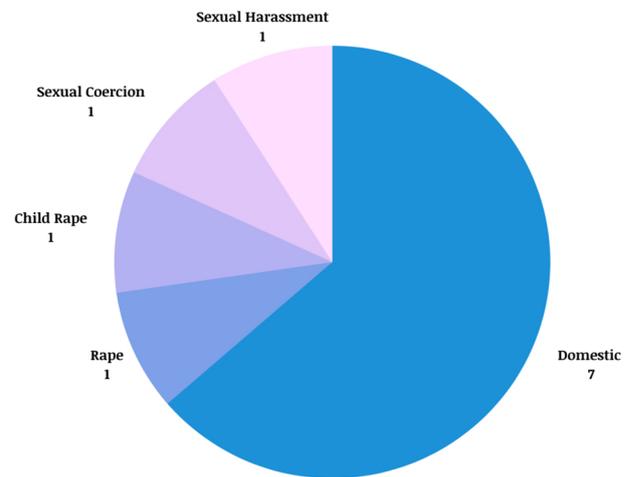
Highlights and Key Messages

Intensified armed clashes between the Burmese military and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) in Northern Shan State resulted in increased casualties and injuries to civilians. During July and August 2022, there were a total of 15 casualties reported including 11 men and 4 women, out of which a total of 13 injuries included 12 men and 1 woman. All casualties and injuries were the result of armed clashes, bomb blasts or explosions, landmines, gunshots, and heavy artillery in Shan State. An increasing prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and domestic violence was also reported to SWAN's network in Northern and Southern Shan State. Incidents reported included 7 incidents of domestic violence, 1 incident of rape, 1 incident of child rape, 1 incident of sexual coercion, and 1 incident of sexual harassment. Other human rights violations such as arbitrary detention, tax extortion, taking civilians hostage, and murder cases also occurred during this period.

Violent Incidents: Civilian Casualties and Injuries



SGBV and Domestic Violence Incidents



Southern Shan State

- The military junta indiscriminately fired heavy artillery, resulting in 1 casualty in Mongpai/ Moebye area.
- The military junta indiscriminately fired gunshots, resulting in 8 casualties and 1 injury in Laikha, Monghsu, Yawngshwe/Nyaungshwe, Ywarngan, Pindaya, Moebye and Pekon Townships.
- Landmines injured 2 people in Panglong and Mongkung Twonships.

Northern Shan State

- The military junta and the KIA clashed in Kutkai and Mongmit Townships.
- Bomb blasts and explosions resulted in 2 casualties and 3 injuries in Mongmit and Muse Townships.
- The military junta indiscriminately fired gunshots, resulting in 1 casualties and 2 injuries in Muse Township.
- Landmines killed 1 person in Muse Township.

69

Casualties in Shan State from January - August 2022.

99

Injuries in Shan State from January - August 2022.

85

SGBV and domestic violence incidents in Shan State from January - August 2022.

145

Victims of Arbitrary detention in Shan State from January - August 2022.

Armed Clashes and Conflict Trends

Conflict between the Burmese military and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) has escalated in Northern Shan State, especially in Kutkai and Mongmit Townships.¹ Fighting between the KIA and the Burmese military outside of Namtu Township has also intensified, and local sources have reported that IDPs cannot return to their respective villages, as clashes are ongoing.² Also, clashes between the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and KIA have become more frequent, due to disputes over territory, especially near Namtu Township. Accordingly, civilian casualties and injuries from bomb blasts,³ gunshots,⁴ and landmines⁵ have increased due to ongoing fighting between armed groups throughout Northern Shan State.

Moreover, clashes have occurred in Northern Shan State as a result of ethnic resistance organizations (EROs) vying over territory, with stakes in the Burma/Myanmar-China Economic Corridor, including oil and gas pipelines. For example, as of 11 August, 19 clashes occurred among different EROs in Kyaukme Township,⁶ where the pipelines also cross, along with another 14 in Hsipaw Township,⁷ and another 12 in Namtu Township.⁸ The Burmese military and EROs clashed 23 times in Muse Township⁹ in Northern Shan State, the site of China-Burma/Myanmar border trade posts. As a result, civilian populations have been displaced and are in dire need of humanitarian aid and emergency support services. More information is included in the 'IDPs and Ongoing Humanitarian Crisis' section of this briefing.

In Southern Shan State, fighting between the Burmese military and people's defense forces (PDFs) continue. On the border of Southern Shan State, clashes continue between the Burmese military and the Karenni National Defense Force (KNDF),¹⁰ and many local communities continue to flee from Karenni (Kayah) State to Mongpai/ Moebye Township in Southern Shan State.

Targeting Civilians: Indiscriminate shooting, Destruction of property, Arbitrary detentions

In Mongpai/Moebye Township on 25 July,¹¹ the Burmese military fired heavy artillery indiscriminately into a civilian area and injured a 70-year-old woman. She suffered severe injuries and died. Additionally, in Pekhoh Township, the chairman of the Kayah Literature and Culture Association was shot and killed by an unknown armed group.¹²

¹ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/29402> and <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/29397>

² <https://www.mmpeacemonitor.org/313315/idps-are-unable-to-return-to-their-homes-as-fighting-continues-in-namtu-township/>

³ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/29112>

⁴ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/29206>

⁵ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/29239>

⁶ "China's Major Investment Projects and Conflict Map" ISP Myanmar, <https://www.ispmyanmar.com/chinas-major-investment-projects-and-conflict-map/>. 11 August, 2022.

⁷ "China's Major Investment Projects and Conflict Map" ISP Myanmar, <https://www.ispmyanmar.com/chinas-major-investment-projects-and-conflict-map/>. 11 August, 2022.

⁸ "China's Major Investment Projects and Conflict Map" ISP Myanmar, <https://www.ispmyanmar.com/chinas-major-investment-projects-and-conflict-map/>. 11 August, 2022.

⁹ "China's Major Investment Projects and Conflict Map" ISP Myanmar, <https://www.ispmyanmar.com/chinas-major-investment-projects-and-conflict-map/>. 11 August, 2022.

¹⁰ "Bi-weekly situation update from Karenni Civil Society Network". 15-28 August, 2022.

¹¹ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/29428>

The Burmese military has been shooting indiscriminately into civilian areas in Loilem, Taunggyi, and Muse Districts, resulting in many injuries and civilian casualties. A family of three, traveling in their car from Monghsu to Taunghyoe Village was shot by the Burmese military. The woman and child died instantly, and the man died when he reached Monghsu Hospital.¹³ In another incident in Mongpai/Moebye Township, a man returning from a medical appointment at Loikaw Hospital, enroute was interrogated, then was shot and killed by the Burmese military.¹⁴ In Muse Township, two local militia members shot two people near the main market, and they were severely injured.¹⁵

Along with indiscriminate shooting, there have been frequent reports of the Burmese military, and other armed groups, damaging civilian property including burning villagers' houses¹⁶ and seizing land.¹⁷ During the reporting period, such incidents occurred in Hsihseng, Kalaw, and Mongpai/Moebye Townships in Southern Shan State, and Muse Township in Northern Shan State.

In some townships of both Northern and Southern Shan State, there have been reports of armed groups arbitrarily detaining civilians. For example, the Burmese military detained two people in Nawngkhio Township as they were suspected of supporting a local PDF.¹⁸ In Namkham Township, a local was detained by the TNLA under the pretext of involvement in the drug industry. The prisoner was eventually released, but later died of injuries sustained while in detention.¹⁹

Prevalence of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and Domestic Violence

During July and August, 11 cases of violence against women were reported to SWAN. The majority of cases were domestic violence incidents including physical assault and verbal and psychological abuse. Perpetrators of these incidents were primarily survivors' partners and male family members. Incidents of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) were also reported to SWAN, and survivors indicated that it was a widespread problem in their respective communities, although often unreported because several perpetrators were members of armed groups. In total, incidents reported were: 7 incidents of domestic violence and 4 incidents of sexual and gender-based violence.

One case of child rape was reported in Mong Yaw Township; the perpetrator was a member of the Burmese military. The survivor was a 17-year-old girl who was driving home, and a soldier raped her enroute. Another incident of rape was reported in Kyaukme Township; the survivor was raped and became pregnant. She did not dare to tell anyone in the community, as the perpetrator was a married man. Although she tried

¹² <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/29722>.

¹³ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/29274>.

¹⁴ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/29483>.

¹⁵ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/29518>.

¹⁶ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/29725>.

¹⁷ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/29947>.

¹⁸ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/29697>.

¹⁹ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/29756>.

to abort the pregnancy, it was not successful, and then she attempted suicide. In both cases, survivors and their families were afraid to report the incidents to local authorities.

Incidents of sexual coercion and sexual harassment involved perpetrators who were members of armed groups and were reported in Kyaukme District. In one incident of sexual coercion, a former RCSS soldier did not take responsibility for his girlfriend when she became pregnant. He returned to his duties with the RCSS. As a result, the survivor was threatened by local authorities, then asked to leave the village, in accordance with customary village rules. Therefore, the survivor of sexual coercion was also discriminated against by local authorities, because she was a pregnant single woman. In another incident of sexual harassment in Hsipaw Township, the perpetrator was a member of a local militia: he broke into a young woman's house at night while she was sleeping and tried to touch her. The survivor reported the incident to the village administrator, but no action was taken.

As a result of two severe incidents of domestic violence, two victims died. In one case reported in Taunggyi, a drunk father beat his daughter to death.²⁰ In another incident reported in Tachilek, a woman suffered a lethal blow to the head. Her husband was drunk, argued with her, and then hit her.²¹

Access to Emergency Services for Survivors of SGBV and Domestic Violence

With regard to emergency support services for survivors of SGBV and domestic violence, access remains limited. This is due to the Burmese military's strategy of restricting and impeding the transport of supplies, targeting health care workers, as well as ongoing armed conflict. SWAN continues to provide emergency services for survivors, including emergency transport to medical facilities, as well as financial and logistic support, and some psycho-social support services. SWAN continues to coordinate with local organizations in her network to best serve survivors and their families. Specifically, from July-August, SWAN was able to support survivors in three cases. We provided house rental for safe accommodation, and also provided medical fees and living costs for a mother and daughter who fled from an abusive husband/father. In two other cases, SWAN supported survivors with medical fees and living costs, as some other local organizations also provided basic support services.

IDPs and Ongoing Humanitarian Crisis

In Kyaukme and Hsipaw Townships in Northern Shan State, IDPs continue to shelter from fighting between the Burmese military and the KIA. Due to the ongoing conflict, IDPs have sought temporary shelter in many townships, and in some cases, returned to their home villages when clashes subside. Humanitarian access to temporary (and more permanent) IDP site locations continues to be heavily restricted by the Burmese military.

In Pekhon and Mongpai/Moebye Townships, IDPs continue to shelter as they are fleeing from fighting in neighboring Karenni (Kayah) State between the Burmese military and the Karenni Army, Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF) as well as local people's defense forces (PDFs) based in Kayah State.²²

²⁰ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/29304>.

²¹ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/29844>.

²² "Bi-weekly situation update from Karenni Civil Society Network". 15-28 August, 2022.

Many IDPs have crossed into Southern Shan State to seek refuge and are now in host communities, where supplies are running low. IDPs have taken shelter in Mongpai/Moebye Township since mid-May 2022, when the military launched a ‘scorched earth campaign’ just east of Mongpai/Moebye Lake, in Pekhon Township. Since then, the Burmese military has continuously burned local communities’ houses, displacing over 4,000 people. Currently, there is a serious shortage of basic food and medical supplies, and urgent humanitarian assistance is required.²³ IDPs in Southern Shan State are also seeking shelter in Taunggyi andKali.

SWAN is supporting IDPs in Taunggyi and Kyaukme Townships. The table below shows IDP data.

No.	Township	Adult		People with Disabilities		Children		Total
		M	F	M	F	M	F	
1	Taunggyi	142	176	8	10	99	102	537
2	Kyaukme	10	11	3	1	5	5	35
Total IDPs supported by SWAN								572

SWAN provides basic food supplies including: rice, noodles, and chickpeas, along with cooking equipment, blankets, tarpaulins, and medicine. Additionally, SWAN provides water and sanitation hygiene products, including soap. For women, sanitary pads and underwear are provided, along with soy milk for pregnant women, as a nutritional supplement. Women and children IDPs continue to be disproportionately impacted by severe food shortages and limited access to emergency healthcare services. As such, SWAN continues to strategize to best serve the urgent needs of local communities.

SWAN’s Calls to Action:

- We call on all armed groups in Shan State to cease fighting, to mitigate further harm to civilians.
- We call on all armed groups in Shan State to take effective action against perpetrators of sexual violence against women, including rape, occurring within their respective territories, and organizations.
- We call on local authorities to stop discrimination against women, especially survivors of domestic violence and SGBV, and to prevent victim-blaming in local communities.
- We call on all stakeholders, including armed groups, humanitarian organizations, and international organizations, to urgently provide protection and humanitarian assistance to IDPs and host communities.
- We call on the international community and INGOs to support local organizations who are providing emergency support services: including case support, support to health service providers, and women’s rights defenders.

²³ <https://shanhumanrights.org/over-100-houses-burned-4000-displaced-by-sac-scorched-earth-operation-east-of-moebye-lake-southern-shan-state/>.