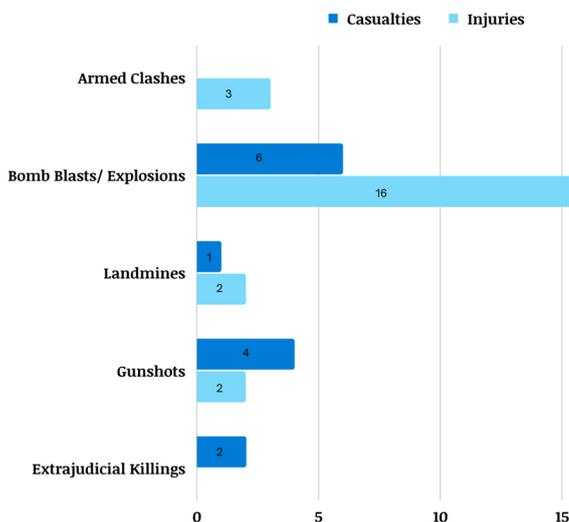


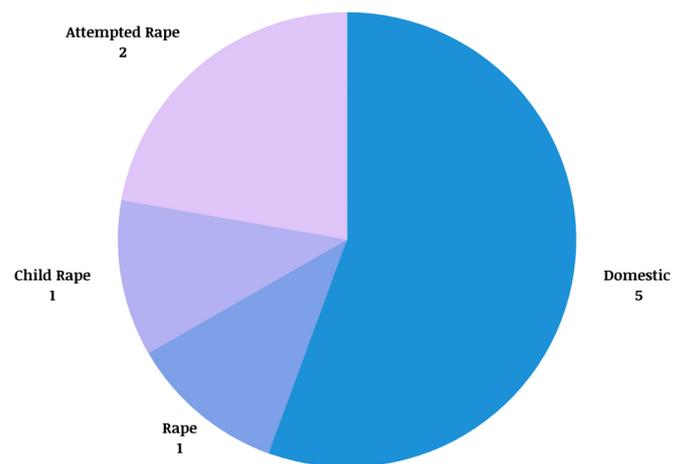
Highlights and Key Messages

Intensified armed clashes between the Burmese military and a People's Defense Force (PDF), allied with the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), in Northern Shan State resulted in increased casualties and injuries to civilians. During September and October 2022, there were a total of 14 casualties reported including 12 men and 2 girls. A total of 27 injuries were reported including 25 men and 2 women. All casualties and injuries were the result of armed clashes, bomb blasts or explosions, landmines, gunshots, and extrajudicial killings 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 5 incidents of domestic violence, 1 incident of rape, 1 incident of child rape, and 2 incidents of attempted rape. 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

- Bomb blasts and explosions resulted in 5 casualties and 16 injuries in Taunggyi and Pekon Townships.
- Landmines killed 1 person and injured 3 people in Moebye, Laikha, and Mongkung Townships.
- Extrajudicial killings committed by the military junta resulted in 1 casualty in Ayetharyar, Taunggyi Township.

Northern Shan State

- The military junta and the PDF allied with the KIA clashed in Kutkai Township, resulting in 3 injuries.
- Bomb blasts and explosions resulted in 1 casualty in Lashio Township.
- The military junta indiscriminately fired gunshots, resulting in 4 casualties and 2 injuries in Kyaukme, Hsenwi, and Muse Townships.
- Landmines killed 1 person and injured 1 person in Kyaukme Township.
- Extrajudicial killings committed by an unknown armed group resulted in 1 casualty in Muse Township.

83

Casualties in Shan State from January - October 2022.

126

Injuries in Shan State from January - October 2022.

94

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

248

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

Armed Clashes and Conflict Trends

Intensified armed clashes between the Burmese military, ethnic revolutionary organizations (EROs), and people's defense forces (PDFs) continued in both Northern and Southern Shan State in September and October. On 23 October, the Burmese military launched airstrikes on a music concert commemorating the 62nd anniversary of the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) at A Nang Pa, Hpakant Township, Kachin State, resulting in at least 80 casualties.¹ Currently, fighting between the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Burmese military has escalated throughout Northern Shan State. Consequently, many local communities have been displaced by fighting and are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

In Northern Shan State, fighting has continued in Namtu, Kutkai, and Muse Townships between the KIA, their allied PDFs, and the Burmese military. Additionally, EROs continue to forcefully recruit people into their ranks throughout Northern Shan State. Specifically, the Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP)/Shan State Army (SSA-North) has recruited people across Northern Shan State, threatening entire families and extorting taxes as well.² Similarly, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA)³ has continued to forcefully recruit people, including youth, from Kyaukme Township.

In Southern Shan State, fighting has subsided. However, IDPs from both Southern Shan State and Karenni/Kayah State, continue to shelter in Taunggyi, Yawnghwe/Nyaungshwe, Lawksawk, and Nawngkhio Townships.

Civilians Targeted: Extrajudicial killing, shooting, and destruction of property

Northern Shan

In Kyaukme Township on 17 September, the Burmese military shot one woman for no apparent reason, and she was injured.⁴ In Hsenwi Township on 6 October, the Burmese military used heavy weapons, and one 20-year-old man was killed. Civilians were caught in the fighting between the KIA, an allied PDF, and the Burmese military.⁵

¹ "The Concert Bombing" *Myanmar Witness*. <https://www.myanmarwitness.org/reports/the-concert-bombing>. 26 October, 2022.

² "We Thought they Would Kill Us': Conscription campaign terrifies Shan State residents". *Frontier Myanmar*. <https://www.frontiermyanmar.net/en/we-thought-they-would-kill-us-conscription-campaign-terrifies-shan-state-residents/>. 22 September, 2022.

³ "Ta'ang Youths Flee Forced Recruitment in Kyaukme Township" *BNI Online*. <https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/taang-youths-flee-forced-recruitment-kyaukme-township>. 22 September, 2022.

⁴ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/30361>

⁵ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/30800>

In Namtu Township, on 29 September, civilian houses were burned down by the military junta. Civilians were caught in fighting between the KIA, an allied PDF, and the Burmese military.⁶ Similarly, in Mantong Township on 4 October, the military junta burned down more civilian houses, as people were caught in fighting between the KIA, an allied PDF, and the Burmese military.⁷

In Kutkai Township, armed clashes and destruction of civilian property continued. A clash was reported on 6 September between a PDF allied with the KIA and the Burmese military, resulting in three injuries.⁸ On 1 October in Pad Yai Village, Kutkai Township, the military junta burned down civilian houses and livestock also died. Civilians in Kutkai Township were caught in fighting between an unknown armed group and the Burmese military.⁹

In Muse Township, on 13 September,¹⁰ an unknown armed group fired gunshots into Kanbawza Bank, killing three people and injuring one person. Also, one extrajudicial killing was reported in Muse Township. On 6 October, an unknown armed group killed the township-level judge. There were rumors that the judge was corrupt.¹¹

Southern Shan

In Ayetharyar, Taunggyi Township, one extrajudicial killing was reported: on 29 September,¹² one youth was killed by the military junta for no apparent reason.

In Mongkung,¹³ Laikha,¹⁴ and Moebye¹⁵ 3 people were injured and one person was killed as a result of landmines.

In Pekon Township, on 4 September, 3 people were injured when the military junta fired heavy weapons into Kong Baw Village and Taung Po Gyi Village.¹⁶ Additionally, on 21 September, the military junta opened fire for no apparent reason, killing one man while he was working on a farm.¹⁷

⁶ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/30675>

⁷ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/30776>

⁸ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/30169>

⁹ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/30708>

¹⁰ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/30274>

¹¹ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/30788>

¹² <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/30653>

¹³ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/30317>

¹⁴ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/30268>

¹⁵ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/30282>

¹⁶ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/30112>

¹⁷ https://www.kanbawzatainews.com/2022/09/blog-post_223.html

In Moebye Township, on 15 September, 4 people (including 2 children) were killed. More than 13 others were injured when the military junta indiscriminately fired heavy weapons into the village; artillery landed in Mwedaw Temple, injuring civilians.¹⁸

Prevalence of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

Nine incidents of violence against women were reported to SWAN in September and October. Five incidents of domestic violence and four incidents of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) were reported in total. All incidents of domestic violence included physical assault, and perpetrators in these incidents were primarily the partners and family members of survivors. SGBV incidents were also reported to SWAN, and survivors acknowledged that it was a frequent problem in their respective communities, but frequently unreported.

In Kyaukme Township, there was one case of child rape reported; the perpetrator lived next door to the survivor. A neighbor noticed that the young girl was limping and realized she had been raped, informed the girl's mother, and then investigated the situation. The survivor was a 3-year-old girl who was playing alone while her mother was out. The perpetrator raped the child several times, on several different days, before the neighbor noticed. There was a report of another rape in Hsipaw Township; the survivor was in a relationship with the perpetrator. She told her boyfriend that she wanted to get married before having sex. However, instead of listening to her, the boyfriend raped her.

In all rape cases, the survivors and their families reported incidents to local authorities. However, 'real justice' was not granted to the survivors and their families. The perpetrator of child rape in Kyaukme Township was instructed to 'sign a pledge', promising not to repeat the action. However, the child's mother did not receive monetary compensation. The rapist in Hsipaw Township was ordered to pay a fine of 5 million kyat to the survivor.

In one attempted rape case in Kyaukme Township, the perpetrator was a man who the survivor's mother selected for an arranged marriage. The survivor had a fight with her husband and fled to her mother's house. So, her mother forbade her daughter from communicating with her husband, then forced her to re-marry. However, the survivor refused to marry the man her mother selected, when she invited the prospective husband to their house. The man became enraged when he was refused for marriage, and he tried to rape her. Fortunately, she was able to defend herself and escape from him, unharmed. She informed her mother about what had happened, but her mother did not listen to her, and then beat her without justification. As a result, she did not report the incident to local authorities, then ran away. Since she had no recourse or access to justice, she suffered psychologically, and then disappeared. No one is aware of her current whereabouts.

¹⁸ <https://burmese.shannews.org/archives/30327>

A woman with one child, whose husband was away working in another country, was the survivor of another incident of attempted rape in Hsipaw Township. A neighbor attempted to rape her inside her home at 3:00 AM. Fortunately, some neighbors heard her screaming and quickly arrived to rescue her. The perpetrator was ordered to pay the survivor 4 million kyat in compensation, after the incident was reported to the village head. However, the survivor was not satisfied because she initially requested 16 million kyat.

Access to Emergency Support Services for Survivors of SGBV

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 logistics support, and some psycho-social support services. SWAN continues to coordinate with local organizations in her network to best serve survivors and their families when possible. During the reporting period, SWAN did not directly provide emergency case support to survivors of SGBV.

Forced Closure of IDP Camps in Northern Shan State

The military junta announced in October that IDP camps in Northern Shan State would be forced to close by the end of 2022, and in some cases sooner. Specifically, orders for camp closures were reported in Kyaukme, Namtu, Hswenwi, Kutkai, Namkham, and Muse Townships. Some sources estimate that approximately 14,000 IDPs are being threatened by these orders to close camps in Northern Shan State.¹⁹

In Kyaukme Township on 31 October, there were reports that the military junta is forcing thousands of IDPs to return to their home, but the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) will not allow them to return. As a result, some of the IDPs are relocating to Hopong Township in Southern Shan State.²⁰

Two camps run by the Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC) were ordered to close in Namtu and Namkham Townships respectively. On 20 October, UNOCHA and a military junta representative visited Namtu Township to discuss the relocation of one camp. However, IDPs cannot afford construction materials to build new shelters at the proposed relocation site, so they plan to live in tarpaulin tents on plots they have purchased instead of waiting for donor assistance.²¹

¹⁹ "Camp Closure without Viable Plan". *Transnational Institute*. <https://www.tni.org/en/article/camp-closure-without-viable-plan>. 25 October, 2022.

²⁰ <https://english.shannews.org/archives/25535>

²¹ Local source from the Community Analysis Support System (CASS). 16 October, 2022.

The Transnational Institute (TNI) and other CBO/NGO coalitions have spoken out about the military junta’s orders regarding forced closures of IDP camps. Most well-established camp committees are not being consulted, nor have IDPs and host communities been consulted about safe relocation sites. As a result, IDPs are living in uncertainty and are still in dire need of humanitarian assistance. One TNI representative who spoke directly to camp members and leaders stated: *“Surely, the Shan IDPs practical experience and no-nonsense knowledge of their own situation in the camps and the situation on the ground is what should guide the actions of anyone who would want to help them in this hour of need. Listening to them, the warnings are clear: closing the camps in the manner that is being threatened is a dangerous folly and will have tragic consequences.”*²²

SWAN’s Support to IDPs

During September and October, more IDPs have fled to Taunggyi, Yawngshwe/Nyaungshwe, and Lawksawk Townships in Southern Shan State, and Nawngkhio Township in Northern Shan State because of continued fighting between the Burmese military and PDFs. The IDPs who are staying around the Hsihseng, Panglaung/Pinlaung, and Yawngshwe/Nyaungshwe areas are facing a serious shortage of rice. Some IDPs are only eating two bowls of boiled rice per day.

SWAN is supporting IDPs in Taunggyi, Yawngshwe/Nyaungshwe, Lawksawk, and Nawngkhio Townships. The table below shows IDP data.

No.	Township	Adults		People with Disabilities		Children		Total
		F	M	F	M	F	M	
1	Taunggyi	185	146	10	8	105	100	554
2	Yawngshwe/ Nyaungshwe	153	123			87	87	450
3	Lawksawk	14	12			5	4	35
4	Nawngkhio	161	103	2	3	96	72	437
Total IDPs supported by SWAN								1,476

²² “Northern Shan IDP Camps being forcibly closed by Myanmar junta”. *BNI Online*. <https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/northern-shan-idp-camps-being-forcibly-closed-myanmar-junta>. 30 October, 2022.

Currently, IDPs staying in Taunggyi have fled from Demoso Township in Karenni/Kayah State. New arrivals are staying in Taunggyi in temporary shelters, not in an official camp. In contrast, new arrivals to Yawghwe/Nyaungshwe Township are staying in camps in two villages, as they have fled from two locations: Loikaw Township in Karenni/Kayah State and Moebye Township in Southern Shan State. In Lawksawk Township, IDPs are now staying in a camp, most of whom have fled from Kyaukme Township. Also, in Nawngkhio Township, new arrivals are now staying in a local monastery, as they fled from Muse, Lashio, and Langkho Districts.

Specific Support to IDPs

SWAN provides basic food supplies including: rice, noodles, and chickpeas, along with cooking equipment, blankets, tarpaulins, and medicine. Some transportation fees are also provided for unofficial IDP camp leaders, and camp committee members, to go and pick up supplies and/or distribute supplies in the camps. 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.

UN Agencies' Response to the Ongoing Humanitarian Crisis

UNOCHA (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) Burma/Myanmar

As of 25 October, UNOCHA has reported the following figures regarding IDPs and the response(s) of humanitarian partners²³: More than 1.4 million people are internally displaced across Burma/Myanmar, of whom 1.1 million were displaced since the military coup. Humanitarian partners continue to respond to the critical needs of affected and displaced people, reaching 3.1 million people in the first half of the year and are continuing to scale-up and expand in newly affected areas. Significantly, UNOCHA has discussed the forced closure of IDP camps in Northern Shan State directly with military junta representatives.

²³ Myanmar Humanitarian Update No. 23, 31 October, 2022. *UNOCHA*. https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/myanmar-humanitarian-update-no-23-31-october-2022?_gl=1*1rb1hq4*_ga*NzY2MjgxMTkyLjE2NjgxNDAYMTE.*_ga_E60ZNX2F68*MTY2ODE0MDIxMC4xLjAuMTY2ODE0MDIxMC42MC4wLjA.

UNHCR (UN High Commissioner for Refugees) Thailand's response to Royal Thai Government Decision

On 5 October, 2022 the Royal Thai Government approved the criteria (drafted in 2019) for a so-called 'National Screening Mechanism' for asylum seekers in Thailand²⁴. The ramifications of this decision will likely affect all Burma/Myanmar nationals currently seeking refuge in Thailand, including Shan communities in SWAN's project areas along the Thai/Burma border. Specifically, more new arrivals from Southern Shan State have come to Wiang Haeng and Fang Districts, to escape the fighting between the Burmese military and EROs in Southern Shan State. SWAN continues to support nursery and primary schools in these areas, and teachers are now facing threats from local authorities to 'send students back' to Burma. Teachers have managed to keep these students safe and in school. Over the long term, teachers will assist students to get some form of Thai government ID, so they can access more educational opportunities. However, the 5 October decision will likely affect their parents, some of whom are migrant workers.

Additionally, CBO/NGO coalitions are concerned about the practical consequences for both asylum seekers and refugees in Thailand, as the criteria still do not fully differentiate between these two groups. There are also many exemptions in the criteria for the program. The program *"could be the mechanism that screens people out instead of screening people in,"* said Waritsara Rungthong of the Refugee Rights Litigation Project, a local legal aid group. *"Some people, they have many types of status at the same time,"* she said. *"For example, just because you are a migrant worker doesn't mean you are not also a refugee."*²⁵ However, the UNHCR welcomed the decision of the Royal Thai Government, as they have consistently refused to implement status determination procedures for asylum seekers.

SWAN's CALLS to ACTION

- We call on all stakeholders, including armed groups, humanitarian organizations, and international organizations, to utilize cross-border networks to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to IDPs and host communities in Shan State.
- We call on humanitarian partners along the Thai/Burma border to provide emergency support services to children fleeing to Thailand, due to threats of forced conscription into armed groups in Shan State.

²⁴ "Thailand Sets Long Awaited Rules for Vetting Asylum Seekers" *VOA News*. <https://www.voanews.com/a/thailand-sets-long-awaited-rules-for-vetting-asylum-seekers/6801600.html>. 23 October, 2022.

²⁵ "Thailand Sets Long Awaited Rules for Vetting Asylum Seekers" *VOA News*. <https://www.voanews.com/a/thailand-sets-long-awaited-rules-for-vetting-asylum-seekers/6801600.html>. 23 October, 2022.

- We call on humanitarian partners to provide protection to women’s human rights defenders on the Thai/Burma border who are facing threats of forced deportation back to Burma.
 - We call on humanitarian partners to provide financial support to local women’s organizations implementing emergency support programs for survivors of SGBV.
 - 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 media outlets to more systematically report on ongoing conflict-related violence occurring throughout Shan State.
 - We call on ASEAN leaders to pressure the Burmese military to give humanitarian partners unfettered access to all civilians in need of humanitarian assistance. Also, we call on ASEAN leaders to refrain from inviting military junta representatives to ASEAN meetings, to reject the military coup, and the ‘so called’ State Administrative Council (SAC).
 - 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.
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