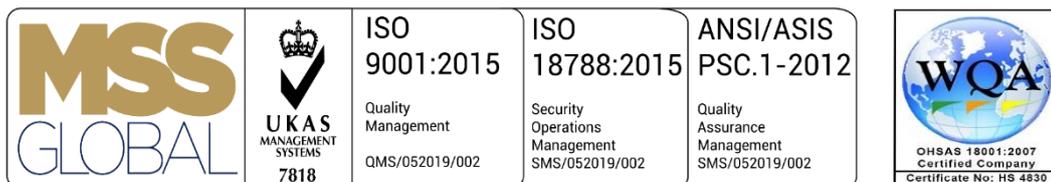


EXERA

Weekly Security Review

Safety and Security Highlights for Clients Operating in Myanmar

Dates covered: 28 May – 3 June 2020



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**Covid-19 epidemic**

When EXERA released its previous Weekly Security Review (WSR) on 29 May 2020 at 07:45 hrs, Myanmar had had a total of 206 Covid-19 patients since the beginning of the pandemic.

As of 3 June 2020, at 07:00 Hrs, 233 people have been contaminated since the beginning of the pandemic, i.e. 27 new cases in 6 days. 143 patients are also considered as cured from the Covid-19.

Internal Conflict

During the reporting period, clashes rocked Rakhine and Southern Chin States. Notably, the Tatmadaw took control of 3 AA strongholds over Paletwa town, which may reshuffle the military scene in the next weeks. Meanwhile, AA issued a strong statement, ordering the Myanmar forces to vacate Rakhine State. The conflict may therefore escalate, including during the monsoon. As in previous weeks, civilians have taken the brunt of the conflict, with many injured by landmines, which are becoming a major issue in Rakhine State.

Meanwhile, fighting broke out in Northern Shan State, pitting the Tatmadaw and the TNLA, although the Brotherhood Alliance (of which the TNLA is part) extended its unilateral ceasefire until 31 August.

Lastly, Muse area has been the scene of tensions recently, with the Tatmadaw trying to disarm a former ally, the Kaungkha Militia, suspected of having links with the AA.

Drugs

Again, this week yielded a massive amount of arrests by the Myanmar authorities and large seizures of stimulants. This is a potent reminder that drug production has boomed, becoming a major economic sector in Shan and Rakhine States.

INTERNAL CONFLICT

During the reporting period, combats concentrated in Rakhine State, between the Tatmadaw (Myanmar Army) and the Arakan Army. Clashes also broke out in Shan and Kayin States.

Rakhine State

The main incidents collected through news outlets, reliable social media accounts and informers on the ground are the following (fig. 1):

1. On 27 May, a resident from Kyaukphyu, working in civil society organizations in town, was arrested by the Myanmar Army and his house was searched. No information has been disclosed about the reason of his arrest and his place of detention.
2. On 27 May, a local ethnic Chin from Taung Pyin village (Myebon Township) was killed by a landmine blast while fetching wood in the forest.
3. On 28 May, a villager from Shwe Kyan village (Minbya township) was wounded by a landmine blast while picking mushrooms outside of his village. He is under treatment at Minbya public hospital.
4. On 29 May, one of the most striking incidents of the week took place in Thazin Myaing (Rathedaung Township), when a police base went under AA attack. Four police officers were killed and six others arrested and taken away, alongside with 3 members of their families. Those 3 civilians were released soon after. AA claimed responsibility for this attack and framed as a retaliation to the alleged killings of injured AA prisoners of war in an army health centre in Paletwa town. Soon after this attack, 2,000 residents from nearby Thazin Myaing, Padauk Myaing and Chuk Pyin Che villages (Rathedaung Township) and Aung Zeya village (Buthidaung Township) reportedly left their villages, for fear of further fights.
5. On 29 May, the Tatmadaw launched an attack on AA positions on a hill near Kyet U Wa village (Paletwa Township). Attacks were led with air and artillery support. The Myanmar Army claims to have seized the bodies of AA fighters as well as arms and ammunitions, among which 2 RPG and one 60-mm mortar.
6. On 30 May, clashes occurred near Pyein Taw village (Rathedaung township) and some houses were burnt down. Myanmar Army and AA trade responsibility for such damages.
7. On May 30, one woman was shot and killed while riding a boat on Kaladan river in Paletwa township. Myanmar Army and AA trade responsibility for this killing.
8. On May 30, five residents of Zay Di Pyin village (Rathedaung Township) were wounded when a military ship sailing up the Mayu river reportedly fired indiscriminately to the land. The villagers sustained minor injuries.
9. On May 30, AA released a doctor they had captured on 16 May under the suspicion he may be a Tatmadaw informer. This release came after active lobbying from Rathedaung Township community leaders, considering the civil servant as innocent.

10. On May 31, Myanmar Army overran three strategic hills held by AA, 2500 meters southwest of Paletwa town: points 540, 565 and 602. Those strongholds had been under Tatmadaw attacks for almost 2 weeks. The Myanmar Army reportedly sustained casualties during the assault. Equipment belonging to AA was also seized. This is a significant loss for AA, as those 3 vantage points gave control over the Paletwa town, Kaladan River and the bridge crossing it.
11. On 1 June, two village administrators in Myebon Township were charged based on the anti-terrorism law for alleged links with AA.
12. On the same day, two villagers from Mrauk-U township, arrested on 26 October 2019, were charged with the similar article on June 1.
13. On 2 June at 11.00 hrs, a military convoy heading to Ponnagyun was targeted by roadside mines near Minchaung Bridge (Ye Phyu Kan village, Ponnagyun Township). One civilian was killed and another one was wounded. Tatmadaw soldiers were reportedly injured as well. Traffic has been reopened since the accident.

On 29 May, after the attack on Thazin Myaing police station, the AA released a very strong statement, ordering all Myanmar security forces to withdraw from Rakhine State, including military, Border Guard Police and police. If the Myanmar authorities do not follow those instructions, AA threatened to ramp up its attacks to oust them from the State, reportedly “with the support of Rakhine people”. Such a blunt order, a very rare initiative from an EAO, can be interpreted in different convergent ways:

- AA seems confident enough to afford a direct provocation. After spending years based in Kachin State, and after infiltrating back into Rakhine State from since 2015, AA now seems to have firm foundations locally, with strong networks, popular support, tax collection system, etc.
- AA provokes the Tatmadaw just at the beginning of the rainy season, which is often a period of combat lull. The AA attacks may force the Myanmar Army into a complicated military campaign during the monsoon. This may have severe consequences on the Tatmadaw, from a military but also moral point of view.
- By bringing its political agenda to the fore, AA may try to show it is not a mere “terrorist organization”, as the Myanmar authorities labelled it in March 2020.

On 2 June, AA rebutted the Myanmar authorities’ accusations which have framed it as a major player in illegal drug trafficking. Those accusations have a heavy political and reputational impact: they fade out the political component of AA and emphasize on its mafia links, thereby justifying the “terrorist organization” label it got in March 2020.

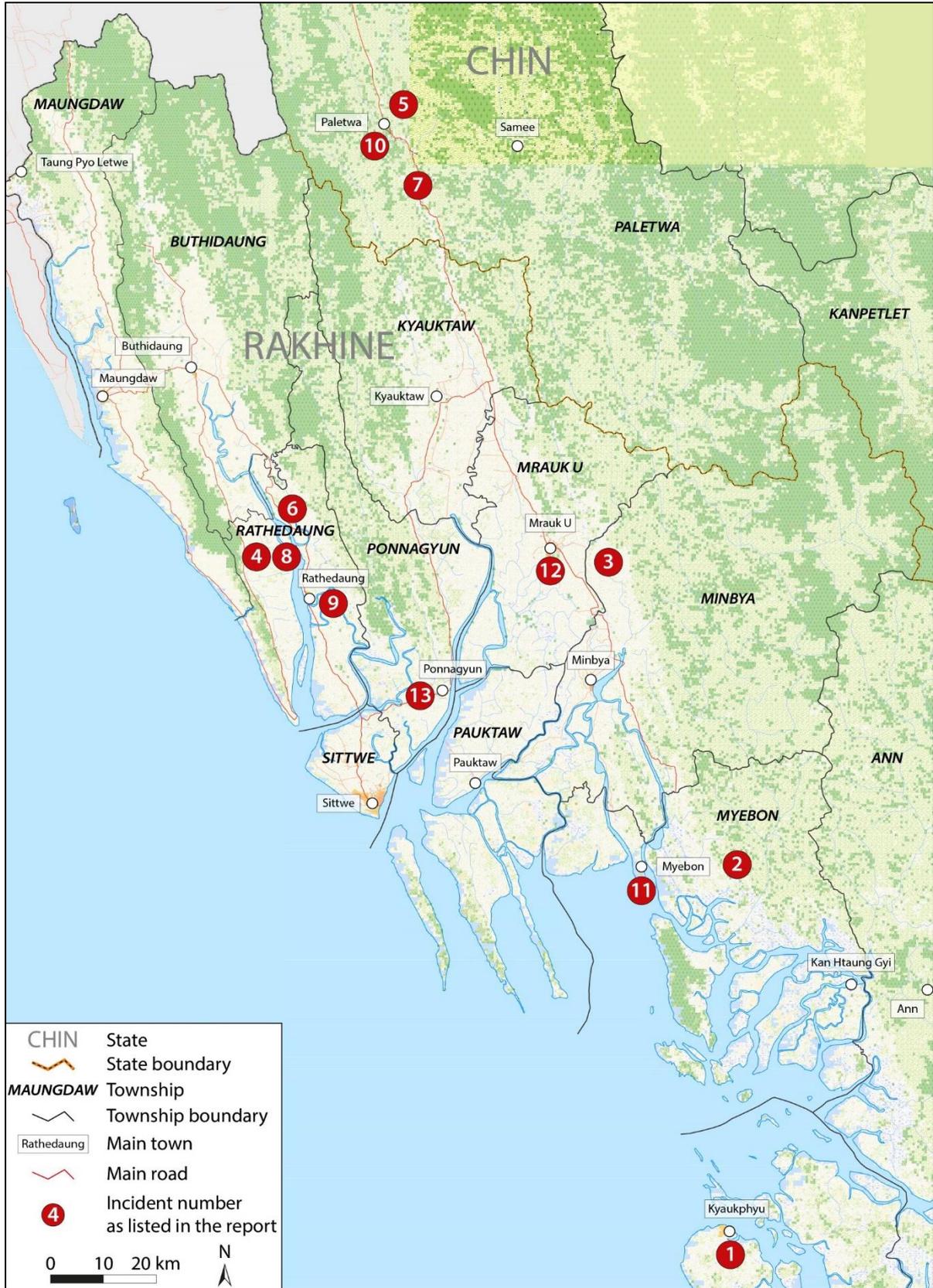


Figure 1: Security incidents in Rakhine State between 27 May and 3 June 2020.

Shan State

Far from Rakhine State, other incidents took place in Northern Shan State, with rising tensions between the Tatmadaw, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and the Kaungkha militia. After several months of relative lull, local people between Kutkai and Muse are now concerned about a potential resumption of the conflict.

In Muse area, the authorities found 6 guns and stocks of ammunitions in Naung Yan and Naung Mon villages on 28 May. This comes after a series of seizures in the last few weeks and a double bomb attack on 26 May. According to EXERA information, those violent troubles are linked to rising tensions between the Tatmadaw and the Kaungkha militia. This armed group, also known as Kachin Defence Army (KDA), split from the Kachin Independence Army in 1990 and signed a ceasefire with the Tatmadaw, thereby becoming a pro-government militia. It is based in Muse, Kutkai and Namkham Townships, and has approximately 2,500 fighters.

The group has been notorious for its involvement in drugs production and trafficking, but with a wide tolerance from the authorities. The relationship soured at the beginning of 2020:

- some sources cast light on possible drugs and money flows from Kaungkha area to AA camps in Rakhine State. Both parties have denied any connection.
- Meanwhile (and, one may think, as a retaliation), the Tatmadaw prompted the Kaungkha militia to disarm, seizing the equivalent of 194 million USD of drugs-related equipment in early March 2020 and 2,000 weapons on 24 March at the militia headquarters.

The evolution of the conflict is still uncertain: some negotiations may be engaged between Kaungkha and Tatmadaw leaders; some Kaungkha fighters may join the ranks of other EAOs

Meanwhile, tensions have increased between Myanmar authorities and TNLA:

1. On 27 May, the authorities raided a house belonging to a suspected TNLA member in Nam Hwal village (Muse Township). The suspect was not found, but two grenades and ammunitions were seized. In another house of the village, two guns, ammunitions and five grenades were found.
2. On 29 May, fighting broke out times between TNLA and Myanmar army in Muse and Kutkai area, when the TNLA ambushed two Myanmar Army truck driving from Muse to Kutkai. One truck was destroyed and some Tatmadaw soldiers were wounded. This incident took place just 2 days before the end of the unilateral ceasefire announced by the "brotherhood alliance" (TNLA, MNDAA, AA); it may be understood as a way to keep pressure on the Tatmadaw, and a reminder that those EAOs still have a real capacity of nuisance.
3. On 31 May, Clashes occurred between Tatmadaw and TNLA on the hills west of Nang Own village area, between Muse and Nant Hpet Kha.

4. On 3 June, fighting broke out in Kong Nong village (Kutkai Township) Both Myanmar Army and TNLA announced unilateral ceasefire for three months, which will end on August 31.

On 1 June, the Brotherhood Alliance extended its unilateral ceasefire by 3 months, from 1 June to 31 August; it also invited the Tatmadaw to engage in a bilateral ceasefire and to start peace negotiations. However, the Myanmar Army has rejected this offer, rather sticking to its own unilateral ceasefire until 31 August. In spite of those official ceasefires, it appears that tension remains very high, as the 3 June clashes show.

During the reporting period, an isolated incident also took place in Eastern Shan State. On 3 June, a joint force of Myanmar Army and Border Guard Force launched an attack on a Restoration Council of Shan State – Shan State Army South (RCSS/SSA-S) camp in Pongpakyin township. Although this armed group signed the 2015 National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and has cultivated a solid understanding with the Tatmadaw since then, occasional clashes happen when one party encroaches on the other's territory.

In Southern Shan State, 11 men were arrested in Lawksawk (Yatsauk) Township, alongside with weapons. Those people, claiming to work for anti-heroin operations in the area, stated they were members of the Shan Multi-Nationalities Liberation Army, a former government-aligned militia which was dissolved in 2007.

Kayin State

In Kayin State, clashes pitted the Tatmadaw and another ceasefire signatory, the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), the military wing of the Karen National Union (KNU). As in previous weeks, they took place in Hpapun Township, where a road project triggers much tension: on May 30, joint battalions from KNLA's Brigade 5 from attacked a Tatmadaw's base. The KNLA reportedly seized military equipment and some bulletproof clothes. Over a hundred villagers fled the combat area.

National context

On 23 January, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) sentenced Myanmar to comply with Provisional Measures, investigate about the violence that took place in Rakhine State in 2016-2017, restore accountability and defuse the communal tension in the region. On 23 May, the Myanmar government handed out its first report to the ICJ. This document, which has not been publicly released yet, explains the actions taken by the Myanmar Government to implement those provisional measures.

However, on 28 May, the human rights NGO ALTSEAN BURMA reported that Myanmar has failed to take effective provisional measures. Between 23 January and 13 May, the NGO counted at least 410 armed clashes in civilian areas or direct attacks on civilians by armed actors, across 5 States and 2 Regions in the country. During those incidents, at least 134 civilians were killed, 419 civilians injured, 324

civilians abducted or detained, 74 civilians tortured, 1,059 houses destroyed, and 3,870 civilians displaced.

Assessment for clash areas

1. Rakhine State:

- The loss of 3 strongholds near Paletwa is a hard blow for AA, which loses a major transit route for its troops and equipment from Indian border to Rakhine State. This will probably force AA to adjust its movements and troop deployment in the future. As a result, the configuration of the frontline may change, with new hotspots.
- The AA order prompting Myanmar forces to leave the State shows clearly that the conflict is unlikely to recede in a near future.
- Landmines have become a major humanitarian issue in Rakhine State, threatening civilians' lives as well as the future development of the region.

The risk therefore remains very high.

2. Shan State:

- The Brotherhood Alliance extended its unilateral ceasefire. However, ground reality shows tension remains high.
- Muse is still rocked by incidents and police raids, as the authorities try to disarm the Kaungkha Militia.
- Clashes with TNLA are still frequent in Kuktkai and Muse areas.

After several months at "high", it is now possible to consider the risk as very high.

Comments and recommendations

Travel by road should be avoided at all cost in Northern and Central Rakhine State as well as in Southern Chin State. Even major towns' outskirts have become high-risk areas. Awareness and vigilance should be priority before planning or performing any activities in these regions. Considering the incidents in Muse and Kutkai area, we also advise our clients to avoid the region for the moment. EXERA remains at your disposition to offer tailor-made security diagnostics and secure travel plans throughout Myanmar.

SOCIAL STABILITY

Although no demonstration normally can be held in Myanmar at the moment because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the recent economy downturn is also a factor of risk. Indeed, the activities slowdown has fragilized whole swathes of the population. Although the situation is currently getting back on track, and although many factories reopen, low level opportunistic crime is set to remain high in the near future.

TRANSPORTATION

Main Incidents

Based on the main Myanmar media, notable road accidents since the last report include

1. 30 May – Yangon – Mandalay Highway: A speeding car crashed on a guard rail on Yangon – Mandalay Highway and the driver died on the spot.
2. 30 May – Mandalay Region: A truck hit a stopped vehicle near milepost 321/2 on old Yangon – Mandalay Highway, Wundwin Townshipp. One person died on the spot and 2 got injured.
3. 1 June – Yangon – Naypyitaw Highway: A car overturned due to tyre burst and fell into a creek between milepost 116/6 and 116/7; the driver died on the spot.
4. 1 June – Kayin State: A truck overturned between milepost 160 and 161 in Myawaddy Township due to brake system failure. One person was stuck in the vehicle but didn't get serious injury.
5. 2 June – Yangon Region: Three people died on the spot in a collision between a YBS bus and a taxi near Thinbaw Kyin Bus Stop, Kamaryut Township, Yangon.

Comments and recommendations

Road accidents are a major risk in Myanmar. The Yangon – Mandalay Highway is especially dangerous; keep your distances, keep clear distance from motorbikes and be careful of light vehicles or cattle on the road. Make sure to use properly-trained drivers and well-maintained vehicles. Always fasten your seat belt. Avoid speeding, even on good roads. Accidents are even more frequent during rainy season. Assess road and climate conditions before starting your trip. At night, keep in mind that many vehicles, especially motorbikes, drive without any light; drive slowly and be extremely cautious

CRIME

Main incidents

During the reporting period, the main Myanmar media did not seem to report significant crimes. On May 28, a police officer in Hlaing township (Yangon Region), was charged under section 57 of anti-corruption law for allegedly taking a one-million-kyat bribe from a family involved in a criminal charge.

TRAFFICKING**Main incidents**

1. 29 May – Shan State (South): As a follow-up to a drug seizure in Loilem, the police seized 1534 kg of ICE, worth 38.35 billion MMK in a truck which stopped on the Taunggyi – Kalaw Highway, in Aungban Township. The driver was arrested and charged under Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2. 30 May – Shan State (North): Muse police seized 72,000 amphetamines tablets, with a value of 140 million MMK, from a house in Ho-Mon quarter. Two men were arrested.
3. 30 May – Shan State (East): acting on a tip-off, security forces intercepted a motorcycle on Mong Hsat – Mong Twin Highway (Tachileik Township) and seized 200,000 stimulant tablets; the cyclist ran away. On the same day, in the same location, security forces intercepted a suspicious vehicle and seized 3 million tablets, with a total worth of 4 billion MMK; the driver ran away.
4. 30 May – Rakhine State: police searched a house in Maungdaw and seized 7,090,700 stimulant tablets, worth 14.2 billion MMK. The suspect's father and wife were arrested
5. 31 May – Rakhine State: police intercepted a car in Kanthar Yar village, Maungdaw Township, seized 2,437,500 stimulant tablets and arrested 5 people. When searching the driver's house, the police seized one pistol and 4,900,000 MMK.
6. 31 May – Sagaing Region: police intercepted a car on Shwebo – Myitkyina Highway (Indaw Township) and seized 76.5 kg of raw heroin and 9.6 kg of opium oil. The driver was arrested and charged under Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7. 1 June – Mandalay Region: As per information received with evidence, police searched a stopped truck without driver on Mandalay – Lashio Highway and seized 13,500 litres of acetone acid and 14400 litres of toluene acid. Those drugs precursors had a total worth over 180 million MMK.

On 2 June, the Ministry of Home Affairs reported that 39 drugs seizures had been performed in the north of Maungdaw Township since the beginning of the year. The authorities have held AA and ARSA responsible for this trafficking. This confirms the prominence of Rakhine State, and especially the Bangladesh border area, as a major hub of drugs trafficking.

Comments and recommendations

Do not indulge in any drug-related activities in Myanmar, even for recreational and private purpose. It is against the law and can yield every heavy sentences. Northern, Eastern Shan State, as well as Rakhine State are major drug hubs; this can result in violent disputes between traffickers or violent arrests. Extra precaution should be taken when visiting those areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

- Earthquakes

Current situation

Myanmar is located on the active Sagaing seismic fault line and is therefore vulnerable to earthquakes. Since our previous report on 28 May 2020, 5 earthquakes have been measured, but no fatality and injury has been reported:

1. 28 May: A slight earthquake with a magnitude of 3.3 was recorded in Bago Region.
2. 30 May: A slight earthquake with a magnitude of 3.7 was recorded in Sagaing Region.
3. 31 May: A slight earthquake with a magnitude of 3.5 was recorded in Sagaing Region.
4. 2 June: A slight earthquake with a magnitude of 3.8 was recorded in Shan State (South).
5. 2 June: A slight earthquake with a magnitude of 4.8 was recorded in Shan State (North).

Comments and recommendations

Be aware that Myanmar is a seismic country and prepare yourself accordingly. Try to settle down your accommodation or your office in recent, well-built buildings. Adapt the common earthquakes reaction tips to your environment. Keep a survival kit at home and in your office, within reach. Spread those instructions to your family and in your work environment.

- Fire breakouts

Current situation

Based on the main Myanmar media, the most significant fire breakouts since the last report are the following:

1. 30 May 2020 – Mandalay Region: A fuel truck burnt due to motor electric shock in Amarapura Township. No fatality and injury were reported.
2. 1 June 2020 – Yangon Region: Fire broke out at Yangon Specialist Hospital (500 bedded) at the corner of Pyay Road and Min Ye Kyaw Zwa Road, Lanmadaw Township. No fatality and injury was reported.

Comments and recommendations

Fire is a severe risk in Myanmar. Make sure your office or your accommodation comply to satisfactory electric norms and are fitted with a fire alarm; make sure they have a proper and clear evacuation route; equip yourself with fire-extinguishing devices; be extremely careful when dealing with candles or mosquito coils.

- Health Hazards

The sanitary situation in Myanmar is still dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

When EXERA released its previous Weekly Security Review (WSR), the figure for 29 May at 07:45 hrs was 206 confirmed cases since the beginning of the epidemic, i.e. 7 more than the previous week.

As of 3 June, at 07:00 Hrs, 233 confirmed cases have been reported since the beginning of the epidemic, i.e. 27 new cases in the last week. However, all of them except one are imported cases: 22 migrant workers from India, 2 from Malaysia, 1 from China and 1 from Thailand. All of them had been repatriated to Myanmar recently by relief flights and were staying in quarantine facilities. This may mean that those cases are under control.

Based on MoHS statistics, the number of positive patients went through a sustained growth in the first 3 weeks of April, before reaching a plateau. On 7 May, a spike could be noted, but it was more linked to preventive testing sweeps in Insein than to an acceleration of the epidemic (cf. 14 May WSR). Since mid-May, the increase of new figures has been chiefly driven by imported cases: from 16 May to 3 June at 07:00 hrs, 52 new cases were confirmed, out of which 50 imported cases.

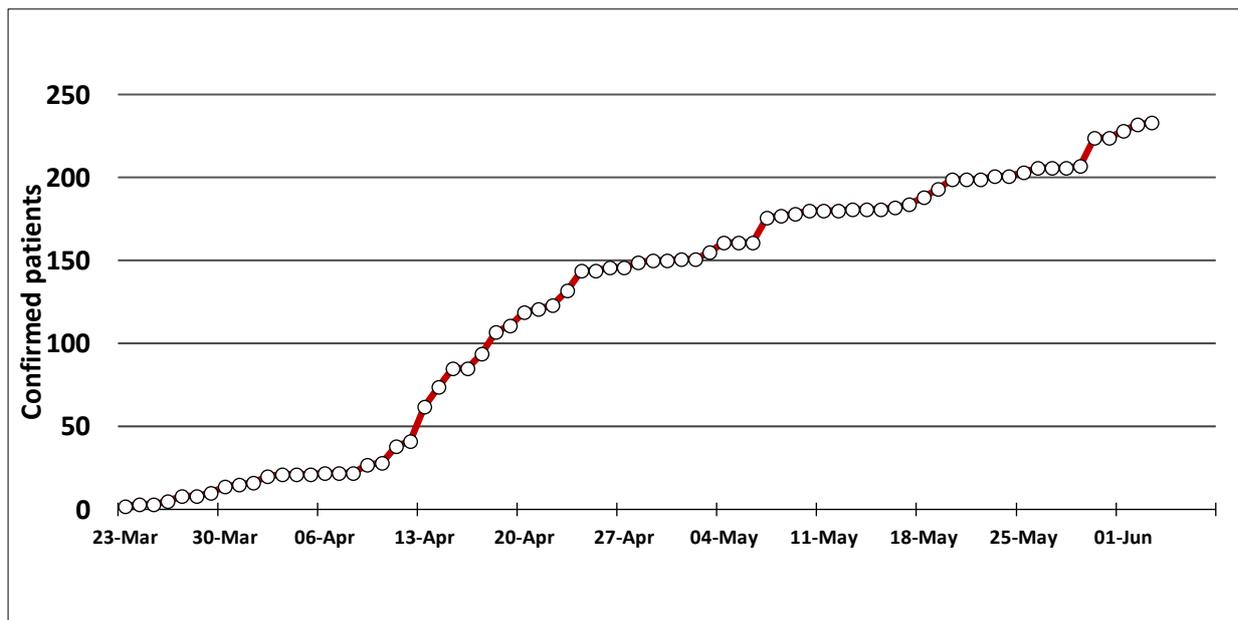


Figure 2: Total Covid-19 cases in Myanmar since the beginning of Covid-19 pandemic. Source: MoHS

As of 3 June 2020, at 07:00 hrs, MoHS has tested a total of 30,113 people since the beginning of the epidemic. Since the publication of the latest WSR, 7015 Persons Under Investigation have been tested, i.e. an average of 1002 per day, versus 947 in the previous reporting period. This illustrates the clear increase of the testing capacities in Myanmar.

We suggest being careful of the distinction between:

- the total number of patients since the beginning of the pandemic, which combines active cases, deaths and discharged patients. It is the commonly-used and oft-quoted metric. As of 3 June, at 07:00 hrs, a total of 143 people had been contaminated in the country.
- the current number of active patients, which is the immediate risk indicator. As of 3 June, at 07:00 hrs, there were 84 active patients in the country, out of whom 65 in Yangon Region (i.e. 89 %).

In Yangon, the main clusters are:

- Insein Township, with 49 cases since the beginning of the epidemic, i.e. 1.44 case for 10,000 inhabitants
- Mayangone Township, with 16 cases, i.e. 0.81 case for 10,000 inhabitants
- South Okkalapa Township, with 13 cases, i.e. 0.81 case for 10,000 inhabitants
- Botahtaung Township, with 12 cases, i.e; 2.93 case for 10,000 inhabitants
- Dagon Myothit (South), with 11 cases, i.e. 0.3 case for 10,000 inhabitants
- Tamwe, with 10 cases, i.e. 0.61 case for 10,000 inhabitants
- Bahan, with 9 cases, i.e. 0.93 case for 10,000 inhabitants
- Hlaing, with 9 cases, i.e 0.56 case for 10,000 inhabitants
- Pabedan, with 7 cases, i.e. 2.1 case for 10,000 inhabitants

As a comparison, EU countries had an average of 3.6 positive cases for 10,000 inhabitants as of 25 March, at the peak of the epidemic.

It must be noted that the surge of Botahtaung, Dagon Myothit South and Hlaing Townships in the last weeks must be taken carefully. Some people usually residing in those 3 townships were tested positive among the migrant workers flown back from third countries, but they did not live in their home townships when they got infected.

Outside of Yangon Region, the most affected townships of Myanmar since the beginning of the epidemic are:

1. Tedim (Chin State), with 7 cases
2. Bago (West) Region with 7 cases
3. Sagaing Region, with 7 cases.
4. Eastern Shan State with 3 cases.

In the last weeks, new townships have reported their first cases, such as Thandwe or Taungup Townships (Rakhine State), Tanintharyi Township (Tanintharyi Region), Kawkaik Township (Kayin State), etc. All those new cases are linked to migrant workers back from foreign countries. Only Kayah State has not reported any case yet.

Around Mandalay, the authorities have set up 7 checkpoints to secure the access to the town: 4 in the south, 2 in the east and 1 in the north (fig.3). Those checkpoints will remain in place until 15 June.

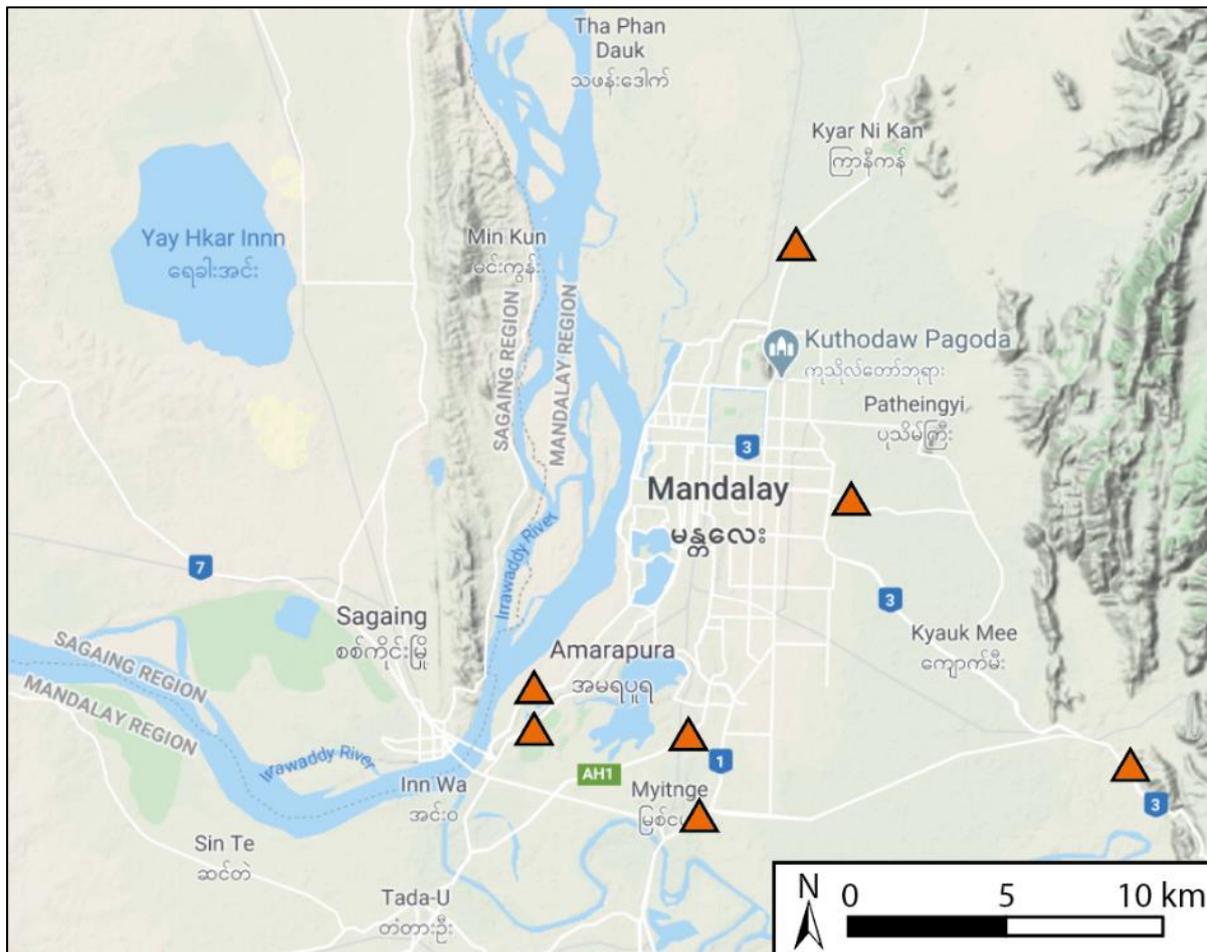


Figure 2: The access checkpoints to Mandalay.

The set of preventive decisions that had been made by the authorities in March and April was extended a first time on 15 May. It was then supposed to expire on 31 May, but on 28 May, the government extended them a second time until 15 June. For instance, wearing a mask in public will remain compulsory, and the curfew from midnight to 4.00 hrs will remain enforced.

However, several measures will be significantly relaxed:

1. In Yangon, semi-lockdown orders were lifted on 29 May at 04:00 hrs in Bahan, Pabedan, South Okkalapa and Tamwe Townships. As a result, only Insein and Mayangone Townships remain under semi-lockdown measures. Movement in those areas remain restricted: inhabitants cannot leave their homes except to go to work, buy supplies or seek medical care.
2. The prohibition of gatherings of more than 5 people is now relaxed. Gatherings are now allowed in the following contexts:

- governmental departments, organizations, companies, factories and workshops
 - in public, private and monastic schools
 - meetings, discussions and classes at governmental departments, organizations, companies, factories and workshops in accordance to the health ministry guidelines
 - food shops which have been allowed to re-open as they follow the ministry's guidelines
 - essential sectors described in the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population's May 3 -notice.
3. Express inter-city bus service was allowed to operate back to normal from 1 June onwards, provided they follow MoHS guidelines. In Yangon region, YBS has come back to normal on 1 June, with 3,300 buses in function. In May, the Yangon Region Transport Authority counted 500,000 passengers every day, versus 200,000 in April. This sharp increase fuels some concerns that Covid-19 prevention measures and social distances may not be followed. The water ferry service from Pansodan to Dala also resumed its normal operations on 1 June.
 4. In Mandalay, most travelers are now exempted from quarantine upon arrival. Only those back from Yangon or repatriated from abroad will have to stay in quarantine. The main markets and shopping malls in town opened back on 21 May. However, their opening time is limited, from 8:00 hrs to 16:00 hrs. In Mandalay again, the main markets and shopping malls in town (including Zaycho, Yadanarbon and Man Myanmar Plaza opened back on 21 May. However, their opening time is limited, from 8.00 hrs to 16.00 hrs.
 5. In late May, some observers speculated that some international commercial flights might resume early June. However, on 1 June, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications extended the international air travel ban from 31 May to 15 June, at 23.59 Myanmar time. The restrictions apply to all international commercial flights operating to/from Myanmar. Relief and special flights are not concerned.
 6. On June 2, Myanmar reopened two more border points with China in Kachin State: Lweje and Kampaiti.

Comments and recommendations

Based on recent data, it seems that the epidemic is receding in Myanmar. However, recent scientific surveys highlighted the link between temperature and virus survival. So far, this has been an advantage for Myanmar: dry season was not favourable to the spread of the virus. However, with the monsoon coming, one may expect a cooler weather, especially in the hilly peripheries of the country. If precautions are not relaxed sensibly, a second wave of the epidemic may not be ruled out.

If you have any health issue unrelated to Covid-19:

- After closing for several weeks, International SOS clinic (Inya Lake Hotel) is now opened. However, each patient has to call in advance to make sure the clinic can accept him/her.
- Grand Hantha International Hospital (Kamaryut) checks the temperature of each patient. Those with high temperature are not accepted and referred to public hospital.
- Samitivej Clinic in Parami hospital will remain closed until 31 May.
- Samitivej Clinic at 8 Miles remains opened from 8 am to 4 pm, from Monday to Saturday. However, it will refuse any patient with fever. Patients are encouraged to give a phone call beforehand.

More generally, we invite you to follow the usual precautionary measures:

- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water, or with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Practice social distancing: maintain at least 2-meter (6 feet) distance with any other people.
- Avoid crowded places and public gatherings.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Practice respiratory hygiene: wear face mask as much as possible. Cover your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Dispose of the used tissue immediately. Make sure the people around you also follow those good practices.
- Stay home as much as possible. Whether you live in a semi-lockdown area or not, limit your movements to the most necessary tasks.
- If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, do not rush to medical facilities, as it may contribute to the propagation of the epidemic. Inform the medical authorities beforehand.
- Stay informed about the latest developments and follow advice given by your healthcare provider, your local and national public health authorities or your employer.

Those precautions should be followed even more closely by people living in cluster areas where Covid-19 is especially active, who visited such regions in the last two weeks, or who have been in contact with a confirmed case.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

AA: Arakan Army

ARSA: Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army

ICOE: Independent Commission of Enquiry

IED: Improvised Explosive Device

ICJ: International Court of Justics

IDP: Internally Displaced Person

EAO: Ethnic Armed Organization

KDA: Kachin Defense Army

KIA: Kachin Independence Army

KNLA: Karen National Liberation Army

KNPP: Karenni National Progressive Party

KNU: Karen National Union

MMT: Myanmar Time

MNDAA: Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army

MoHS: Ministry of Health and Sports

NCA: National Ceasefire Agreement

NLD: National League for Democracy

NMSP: New Mon State Party

NSCN-K: National Socialist Council of Nagaland- Khaplang

RCSS: Restoration Council of Shan State

SNA: Shanni Nationalities Army

SSA-N: Shan State Army - North

SSA-S: Shan State Army – South

SSPP: Shan State Progressive Party

TNLA: Ta'ang National Liberation Army

UNWFP: United Nations World Food Programme

UNWHO: United Nations World Health Organization

UWSA: United Wa State Army

WSR: Weekly Security Review

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