

Life in times of COVID19

## Internally Displaced People in Kachin State Myanmar

Durable Peace Programme – Photo Stories

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In Myitkyina, Ziun IDP camp has been locked shut since 8th April 2020, in order to prevent the spread of the COVID19 pandemic.

*“The purpose of locking the camp gates is that people inside and outside are not able to enter or exit.”*

The Durable Peace Programme (DPP) aims to facilitate durable peace and equitable development in Myanmar, particularly in Kachin and northern Shan. Through our Photo Story series, we seek to raise awareness and shed light on particular issues that affect the lives of Internally Displaced People and other conflict affected communities in the geographical coverage of the programme.

For more information on the DPP, you can visit:  
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In locations under the control of the Kachin Independence Organisation, internally displaced persons are taking action themselves to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as taking temperatures of those visiting, and providing communal handwashing and disinfectant stations.









This woman is undertaking a 14-day quarantine in Mai Sak Pa Quarantine Camp, following arrival from the Chinese side of the border, where she is employed.

*“I have always supported my children but now I am here in quarantine and can’t support them anymore. I worry about whether they are able to survive themselves.”*

Mai Sak Pa Quarantine Centre was established on 11th April 2020 by the Kachin Independence Organisation, in order to provide a location to quarantine those coming across the Chinese border. It is currently stipulated that those coming across the border must remain under quarantine for 14 days. As it is summer, the conditions in the quarantine camp are uncomfortably hot. Individuals in quarantine are unable to remain there for a long time, so many are living around the camp under trees.



This is the Je Yang Hka border bridge, which is used daily by those from the village of Hpunlum Yang in Kachin State and those on the Chinese side of the border. It is located near the office of the Hpunlum Yang Camp Committee and has been closed since the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown was enforced.



This Myanmar-China border bridge is used daily by the internally displaced persons living at Hpunlum Yang Camp, as they pursue labour or manual work on the Chinese side of the border. In normal times, one does not have to provide any form of identification when crossing the border, with both Chinese and Myanmar citizens able to travel from one side to the other. However, due to the outbreak of COVID19 pandemic, the entire border has been shut in line with the lockdown. This particular bridge has been closed since 21 March 2020.







During the COVID19 Pandemic lockdown, all regular children's activities, such as the summer school, the Sunday school, church meetings and awareness sessions, have been stopped in camps for internally displaced persons.



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