



Data for Myanmar

Report No.1

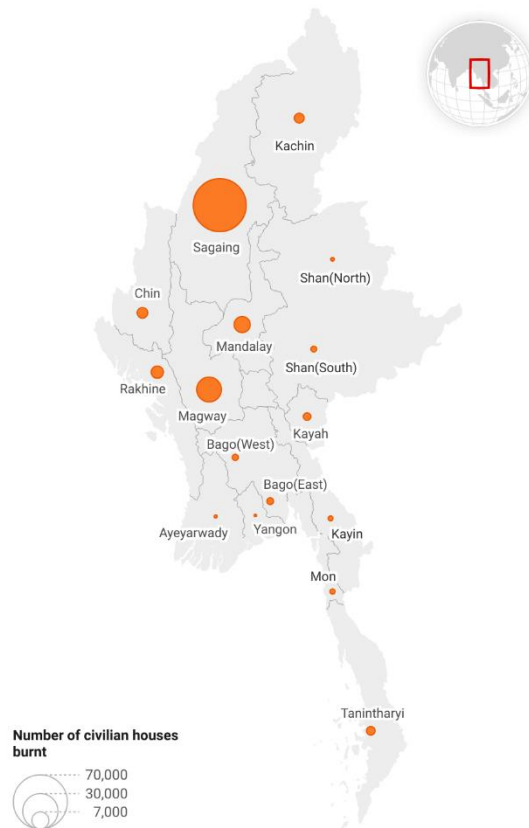
Documenting the Monthly Impact of Arson Attacks on Civilian Homes (June 2024)

July 24, 2024

This report is intended to assist humanitarian aid organizations, policymakers, and interested groups both within and outside Myanmar. The data covers up to June 30, 2024.

Key Messages

- Over 95,000 civilian homes have been destroyed through arson by the Myanmar military and its affiliates.
- In 2024 alone, nearly 15,000 homes have been set on fire.
- The number of homes burned down in Rakhine State has increased in 2024.
- In June 2024, 1,109 civilian homes were torched in Mandalay Region, Sagaing Region, Tanintharyi Region, Chin State, and Magway Region.
- During the first half of 2024, over 3,100 homes were razed in 16 villages in Kale Township, Sagaing Region, committed by the Myanmar military and its affiliates, leaving residents in need of assistance.
- It remains challenging to obtain detailed information on the recent arson incidents in Buthidaung Township of Rakhine State, and Kawlin Township of Sagaing Region.



Source: Data for Myanmar • Created with Datawrapper

Key Figures

95,450

Total Number of Houses Burned Since the Coup

1,109

Total Number of Houses Burned in June 2024

270

Total Number of Towns/Villages Affected by Arson in 2024

70%

of Houses Burned Nationwide happened in Sagaing Region

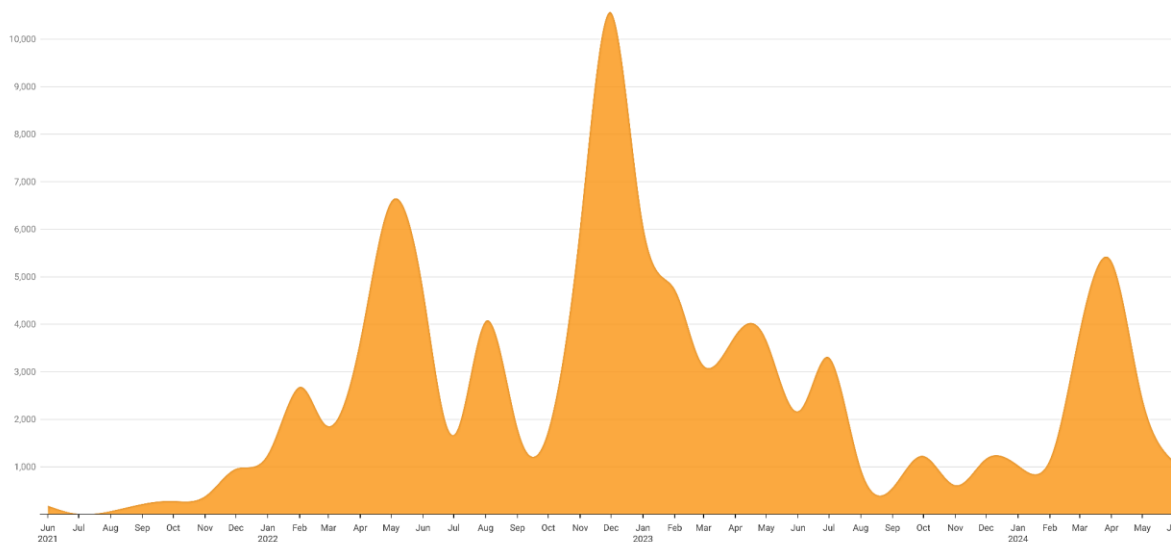
Summary

As of 30 June 2024, the Myanmar military and its affiliated groups have been destroyed through arson over 95,400 civilian homes since May 2021. Of these, 67,589 homes in Sagaing Region were destroyed, accounting for more than 70% of the total number of civilian homes burned nationwide. Additionally, 22,729 civilian homes were destroyed in the Magway Region, Mandalay Region, Rakhine State, and Chin State.

During the three-plus years since the military coup, armed clashes between the Myanmar military and resistance forces have intensified. The Myanmar military and its affiliates have carried out arson attacks in areas with a strong resistance presence. These attacks targeted villages that support resistance forces and the contested towns. In addition to direct arson attacks during military operations, civilian homes have also been burned down through artillery, airstrikes, and naval shelling.

The Myanmar military and its affiliates have destroyed 2,111 homes in 2021, 46,856 homes in 2022, 31,484 homes in 2023, and 14,962 homes (as of 30 June) in 2024. The most significant destruction occurred in December 2022, with 10,562 homes lost.

Monthly Impact of Arson Attacks on Civilian Homes



Source: Data for Myanmar (D4M) • Created with Datawrapper

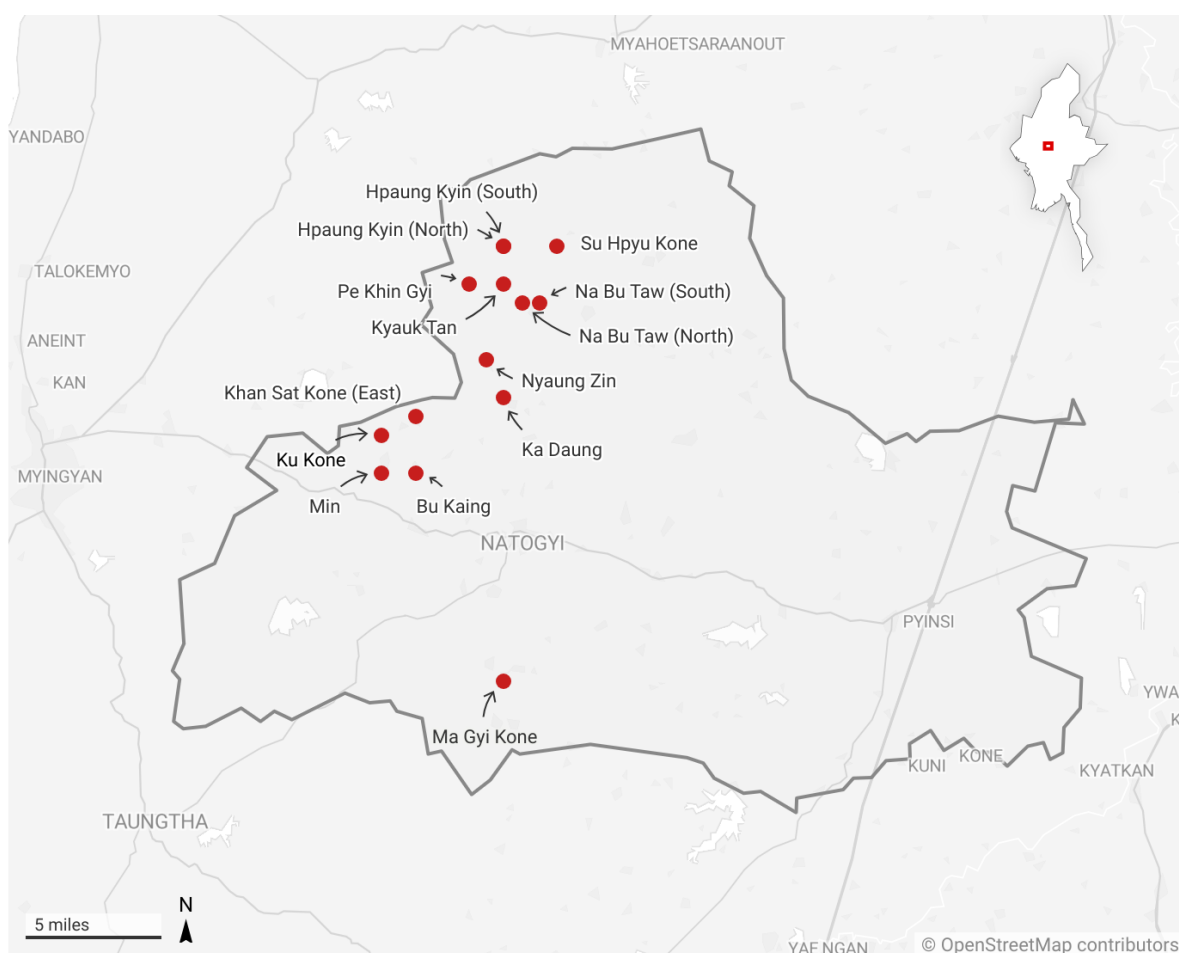
In the first half of 2024, arson incidents were notably higher in March, April, and May, resulting in the destruction of 11,663 homes. The majority of these incidents occurred in Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, Rakhine State, and Magway Region. Local media reported that thousands of civilian home were torched in Buthidaung Township of Rakhine State in April and May.

Key Incidents in June 2024

In June 2024, a total of 1,109 civilian homes burned down by the Myanmar military and its affiliates. This included 823 homes in the Mandalay Region, 139 in the Sagaing Region, 75 in the Tanintharyi Region, 28 in Chin State, and 44 in the Magway Region.

Natogyi Township, Mandalay Region: From June 3 to June 23, intense clashes occurred between the Myanmar army and resistance forces in the northern part of Natogyi Township. The Myanmar army set fire to 666 homes across 14 villages in the township.¹ In total, 705 homes have been destroyed in Natogyi Township since 2021.

Locations of affected villages in Natogyi Township by arson attacks in June 2024



Source: Data for Myanmar • Created with Datawrapper

Tedim Township and Hakha Township, Chin State: Between June 20 and June 23, clashes occurred in Taingen Village of Tedim Township, located on the Kale-Thantlang Road, between the Myanmar army and Chin resistance forces. The Myanmar army torched 25 homes in Taingen village.² On June 24,

¹ Local sources

² Chin World, [27 June 2024](#) ; RFA Burmese, [24 June 2024](#)

CNA/CDF – Hakha attacked a military checkpoint in the Hakha Tar Ward intersection, leading to the destruction of three homes by fire, set by Myanmar army.³

Yebyu Township, Tanintharyi Region: On June 19, Myanmar army razed 70 civilian homes in Myauk Chaw Village, in the northern part of Yebyu Township, after a series of armed clashes with local resistance forces.⁴ According to the local sources, the military used airstrikes and arson to destroy nearly 70 homes. In the southern part of Yebyu Township, Mudu (West) Village suffered the destruction of five homes, four wooden houses and a brick house, due to arson by the Myanmar army during a military operation.⁵



Kale Township, Sagaing Region: On June 6, the Myanmar army set fire to 133 homes in Maw Si Village, in the northern part of Kale Township. Both NASA's FIRMS system and Google Earth satellite images on June 9 confirmed that the entire village was destroyed by fire.⁶ The FIRMS system also detected fires in Pyi Taw Thar and Nan Chaung villages in the northern part of Kale Township on June 6, indicating further destruction of remaining homes by the Myanmar army.

Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region: On June 15, clashes between the Myanmar army and local resistance forces in Pyar Village resulted in setting fire to 102 civilian homes by the Myanmar army.⁷ Sentinel Hub satellite images on June 16 confirmed the arson attack. Two previous arson attacks in 2022 and 2023 had already destroyed over 80 homes in Pyar Village.

³ Chin World, [25 June 2024](#)

⁴ RFA Burmese, [21 June 2024](#)

⁵ The Tanintharyi Times, [20 June 2024](#); [FIRMS Link](#)

⁶ [FIRMS Link](#)

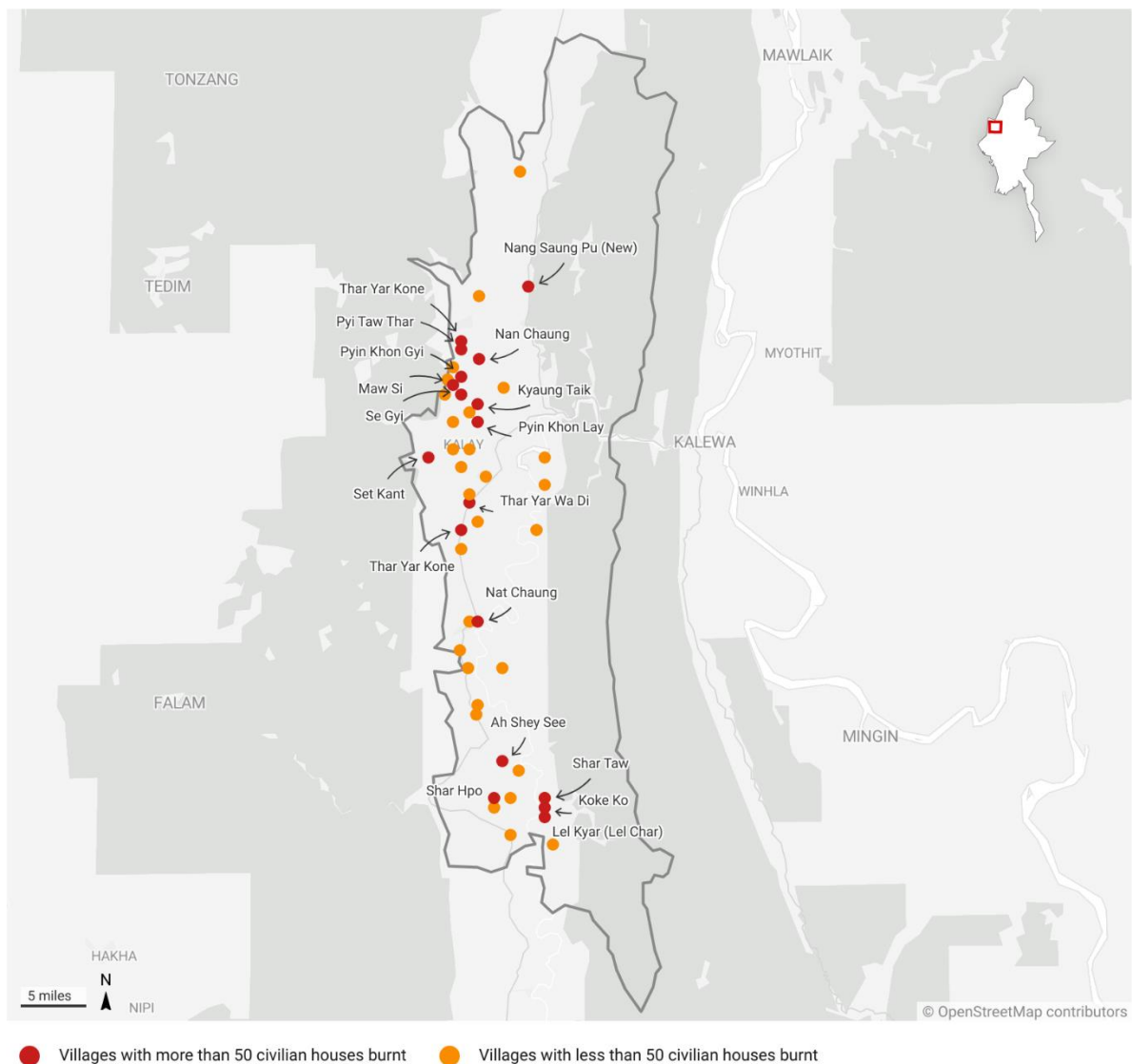
⁷ Local sources

Case Study (Kale Township, Sagaing Region)

Data for Myanmar has been verifying incidents of arson by using media sources, local testimonies, and satellite imagery. In this report, Data for Myanmar covered Kale Township of Sagaing Region as case study.

Since early 2021, Kale Township has been a stronghold for non-violent protests against the military coup, as well as the initial participants of armed resistance. In 2021 and 2022, villages in the southern part of the township, which borders Magway Region experienced widespread arson and destruction. By 2024, the northern villages, which border Chin State also saw an increase in such incidents.

Location of Villages Destroyed by Arson in Kale Township



Source: Data for Myanmar • Created with Datawrapper

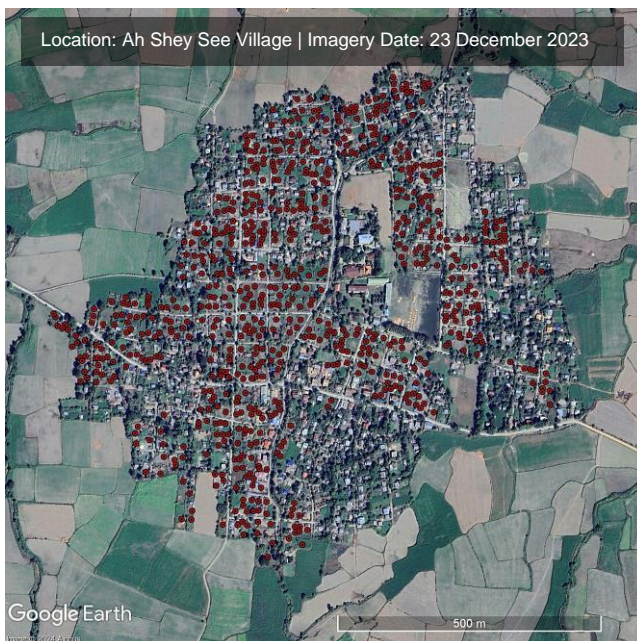
As of June 30 2024, 49 villages in the township have experienced arson, resulting in the destruction of 5,588 civilian homes. The number of homes destroyed by arson in 2024 alone is 3,119, indicating an

increase compared to previous years. In 2021, 141 homes were destroyed; in 2022, 1,472 homes; and in 2023, 856 homes.

A detailed assessment of the incidents shows that there were 58 incidents of arson in the southern part, with 44 incidents occurring in 2021 and 2022 combined. In the northern villages of the township, there were a total of 17 incidents, with 14 occurring in 2024. The total number of destroyed homes in the northern villages is 2,897 across 16 villages, while in the southern villages, 2,691 homes were destroyed across 33 villages. The village of Pyi Taw Thar in the northern part of the township experienced the highest number of homes destroyed, with 1,086 homes burned.

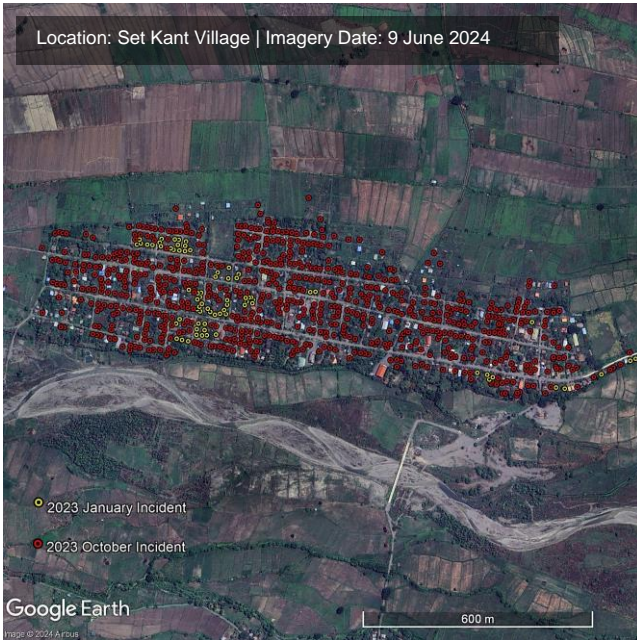
Google Earth satellite imagery was used to assess the current state of arson damage in the following villages: Ah Shey See, Set Kant, and Tharyawady in the southern part of the township, and Pyi Taw Thar, Nan Chaung, Thar Yar Kone, Pyin Khon Gyi, Pyin Khon Lay, and Kyaung Taik villages in the northern part of Kale Township.

Southern Part of Kale Township: In the first half of 2022, intensified fighting in the southern villages of Kale Township led to a significant increase in arson and destruction. In March, April, and May 2022, several villages, including Nat Chaung, Ah Shey See, Shar Hpo, Shar Taw, Lel Kyar (Lel Char), and Koke Ko, experienced arson, with over 100 homes destroyed in each. Notably, in Ah Shey See village, over 700 homes were burned.



Ah Shey See Village: On May 1, 2022, intense fighting occurred for an entire day near Ah Shey See village between the Myanmar army and local resistance forces. The Myanmar army and Pyusawhti forces razed 712 civilian homes, sparing only the monastery and the school. During this incident, over 2,000 local residents were displaced to nearby locations.⁸

⁸ VOA Burmese, [3 May 2022](#); Khit Thit Media, [2 May 2022](#); [FIRMS Link](#)



Set Kant Village: On January 5, 2023, the Myanmar army started a military operation near Set Kant village, which is predominantly inhabited by Chin people. On the evening of January 6, 2023, they began to retreat and began setting fire to homes, causing destruction of 60 homes.⁹ The Myanmar army based in from Kale town launched a second round of arson on October 7, 8, and 9.¹⁰ According to Google Earth satellite imagery, a total of 722 homes in Set Kant village were destroyed.



Thayarwady Village: On March 17 and 18, 2024, the Myanmar army burned and destroyed Thayarwady village, located near the Technological University, south of Kale town.¹¹ Local media reports indicate that over 100 homes were burned. Google Earth satellite imagery confirms that a total of 223 homes were destroyed in Thayarwady village.

⁹ Chin World, [6 January 2023](#); Chin World, [7 January 2023](#); [FIRMS Link](#)

¹⁰ Chin World, [7 October 2023](#); [FIRMS Link](#)

¹¹ Khit Thit Media, [3 April 2024](#); [FIRMS Link](#)

Northern part of Kale Township: In the first quarter of 2024, there was intense fighting and increased arson in the northern villages of Kale Township. Between March and May 2024, villages such as Nang Saung Pu (New) , Kyaung Taik, Thin Baw Pin Kwin (Thin Baw Kyin), Pyin Khon Gyi, Han Thar, Pyin Khon Lay, Yauk Cho Kwin, Nan Chaung, Se Gyi, Hnget Pyaw Taw (Kan Thar), Pyi Taw Thar, and Thar Yar Kone were destroyed by arson by the Myanmar army and its affiliates. Five villages experienced over 100 homes being burned, with the following number of homes destroyed: Pyi Taw Thar, 1,086; Pyin Khon Gyi, 586; Pyin Khon Lay, 281; Nan Chaung, 266; Kyaung Taik, 181 and Thar Yar Kone, 103.



Nan Chaung Village: On April 26, 2024, intense fighting occurred between the Myanmar army and local resistance forces near Nan Chaung village, close to Pyi Taw Thar village.¹² The Myanmar army forces burned 247 homes in Nan Chaung village on April 25 and June 6, 2024. Additionally, 19 homes were already burned on December 12, 2022. Currently, only a few homes remain in Nan Chaung village.



Pyi Taw Thar Village: During clashes between Myanmar army and local resistance forces near Pyi Taw Thar village, which is predominantly inhabited by Chin people, on April 30 and May 1, 2024, the Myanmar army set fire to nearly all homes, including churches.¹³ According to FIRMS data, the military burned homes on April 20, May 1, May 17, and June 6, 2024, resulting in the destruction of 1,086 homes. Many valuable and significant buildings were lost.

¹² RFA Burmese, [2 May 2024](#); [FIRMS Link](#)

¹³ Chin World, [8 June 2024](#); [FIRMS Link](#)



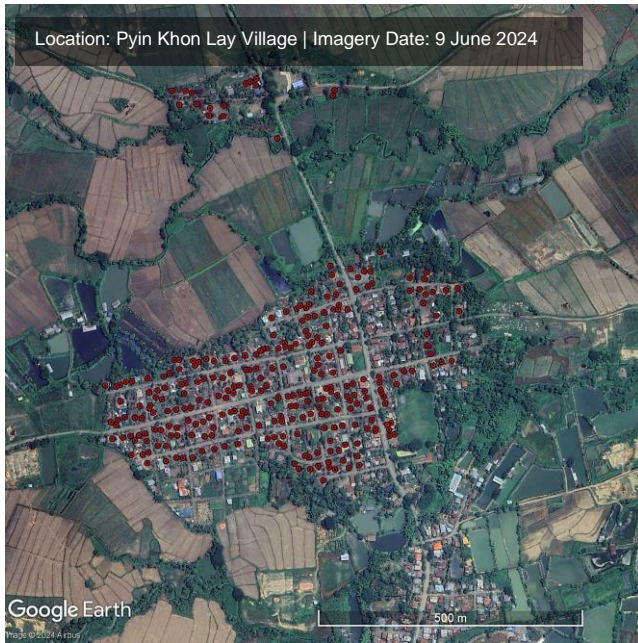
Thar Yar Kone Village: Located on the same road to Pyi Taw Thar village, Thar Yar Kone village was burned by the Myanmar army on May 17, 2024. FIRMS data indicates that the village was severely damaged by fire.¹⁴ Google Earth satellite imagery confirms that a total of 103 homes in Thar Yar Kone village were destroyed.



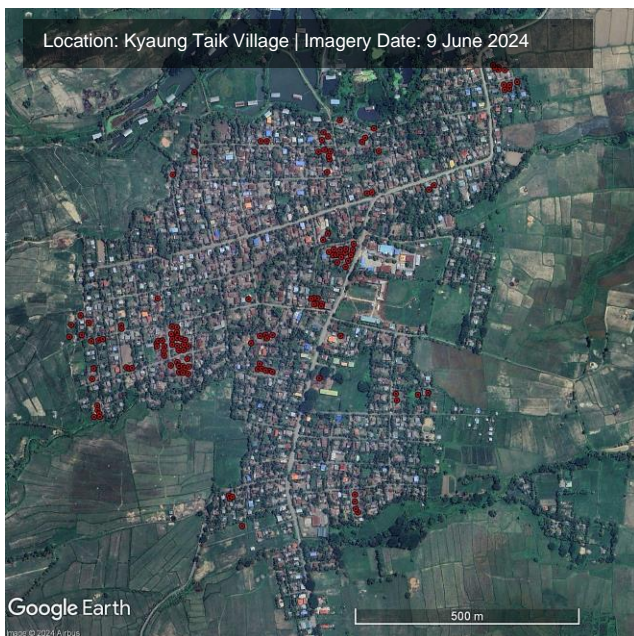
Pyin Khon Gyi Village: The Myanmar army began burning Pyin Khon Gyi village, which has a large Chin population, on April 12, 2024, and continued to set fires multiple times thereafter. As a result, 586 homes were destroyed. Local sources report that the military also looted food provisions and valuables from the homes before setting them ablaze.¹⁵ FIRMS data confirms that the military burned homes on April 13 and 20.

¹⁴ [FIRMS Link](#)

¹⁵ Chin World, [17 April 2024](#); [FIRMS Link](#)



Pyin Khon Lay Village: On March 16, 2024, after local resistance forces attacked the military-occupied Kyaung Taik village near Kale town, the situation became highly tense.¹⁶ Subsequently, on March 19 and 20, 2024, the Myanmar army set fire to 281 homes in Pyin Khon Lay village, which is located near Kyaung Taik.



Kyaung Taik Village: the Myanmar army launched an operation on Kyaung Taik village and burned 181 homes on March 16, 18, and 25, 2024.¹⁷

There is an urgent need for food, shelter, and medical assistance for the displaced and affected residents whose homes were destroyed by fire and residents who are fleeing from the armed conflicts in Kale Township. Support should be provided through local humanitarian organizations. When returning to villages affected by arson, residents should be cautious of landmines and unexploded ordnance to avoid potential hazards.

The number of destroyed homes were manually counted by comparing the latest available satellite photos compared to earlier images on Google Earth. Categorizing and counting specific types of buildings proved difficult, so the count reflects the overall number of structures as seen from the images, which may be higher in some villages compared to the ground estimates.

¹⁶ Zalen, 19 March 2024; [FIRMS Link](#)

¹⁷ [FIRMS Link](#)

Analysis

In 2024, the conflict between the military junta and revolutionary forces continues to be intense. The junta and its affiliated groups persist in burning and destroying civilian properties in areas of strong resistance. Additionally, the junta has continued to target contested towns and villages that support revolutionary forces, with arson attacks.

In 2024, arson and destruction have notably increased in regions such as Sagaing, Magway, Mandalay, and Chin states, as well as Rakhine state. Specifically, townships like Kale and Monywa in Sagaing, and Myingyan, Natogyi, Madaya, and Singu in Mandalay, have seen a significant rise in such incidents this year. The situation remains unclear in many areas, including Kawlin town and nearby villages, and Buthidaung town and more than 20 nearby villages in Rakhine state. Announcements made by revolutionary forces stated that they have been attacking militia/Pyusawhti villages and destroyed civilian homes by arson in Magway and Mandalay regions in 2024 conflict events. The destruction of homes by arson has severely impacted the security, economic stability, and social well-being of local residents. Many villagers are still displaced and unable to return home, as they face serious difficulties in accessing basic necessities and lack mental security. Although some support from local humanitarian organizations has been provided, including temporary shelter and food aid, it remains insufficient.

The destruction of civilian homes will not lead to a resolution of the armed conflict but will exacerbate the civil war. Civilians who lost their homes might suffer from current socio-economic difficulties, and also take many years to recover from trauma. In addition, arson will also destroy cultural and historical heritage. Destruction of civilian homes will cost significant resources when post-conflict transitional justice is sought. It can also cause obstacles in obtaining public support for peacebuilding initiatives.

Recommendations

- **Immediate Cessation of Targeting Civilians:** All armed groups must promptly cease targeting civilians and civilian homes with attacks and arson.
- **Adherence to Code of Conducts:** All armed groups should adhere to military codes of conduct to minimize harm to civilians to the greatest extent possible.
- **International Pressure:** International organizations should exert pressure to stop attacks and arson against civilians and civilian homes as soon as possible.
- **Humanitarian Support:** Humanitarian organizations should coordinate with local aid groups to provide sufficient assistance to displaced populations, ensuring they receive adequate support.
- **Detailed Reporting by Media:** Media outlets should try to obtain, and report detailed figures on destroyed homes by village and date.
- **Safety Precautions for Return:** When returning to villages affected by arson, residents should only do so when safety measures are in place to address potential landmines and unexploded ordnance.

Methodology and Limitations

The data presented in this report was compiled from information provided by local media and local organizations, categorized by date and incident. This data has been cross-checked using NASA FIRMS system, Google Earth, and other open-source satellite imagery sources. Additionally, verified ground sources have been utilized for further validation.

Generally, the reported figures are likely to be under-estimates. This is due to difficulties in confirming all incidents and incomplete data in certain cases, which have resulted in some events and information being excluded from the count. Once additional verified evidence is obtained, these incidents will be included in future calculations. Adjustments to figures by township and month may occur, so readers are recommended to review updated reports for the most current numbers.

Specifically, incidents from Karenni State, Kachin State, and areas around Kawlin town of Sagaing Region, as well as around Buthidaung town of Rakhine State, have not been fully accounted for in this report.

This report focuses solely on arson and incidents of destruction committed by the military and its affiliated groups. It does not include incidents involving other armed groups or burning and damage caused by artillery and aerial attacks. Non-residential structures have also not been included in the count.

About us

Data for Myanmar (D4M) is an independent research organization that provides useful data for the people in Myanmar after collecting and analyzing data from various sources.

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