



Data for Myanmar

Report No.8

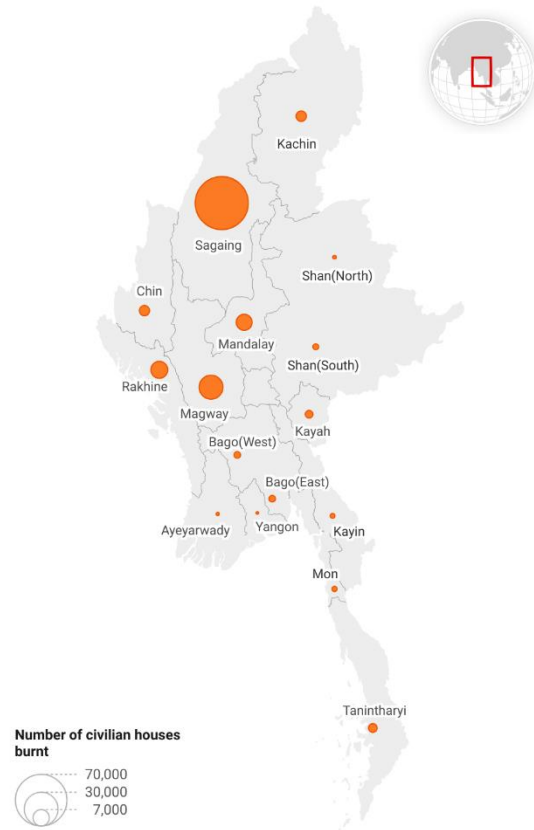
Documenting the Monthly Impact of Arson Attacks on Civilian Homes

September 2024

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

Key Messages

- Since the coup in Myanmar, over 106,409 civilian homes have been destroyed by arson.
- The Myanmar military and its affiliates are responsible for the destruction of 102,569 of these homes.
- In September 2024 alone, 938 civilian homes were destroyed by arson in Sagaing, Kachin, Tanintharyi, Mandalay, Chin and Shan(South).
- During clashes in Indaw town of Sagaing Region, in August and September 2024, more than 300 homes across urban wards were destroyed due to arson.
- In September 2024, arson attacks by the Myanmar military and its affiliates led to the destruction of over 300 homes in Hseng Taung village of Hpakant Township, Kachin State.
- In September, at least 130 homes were destroyed across 15 villages in the northern part of Khin-U Township, Sagaing Region, due to arson attacks. Detailed figures for each incident are necessary.



Source: Data for Myanmar - Created with Datawrapper

Key Figures

106,409

Total number of houses destroyed by arson since the coup

102,569

Number of houses destroyed by arson committed by the Myanmar military and its affiliates

938

Total number of houses destroyed by arson in September 2024

69%

of houses destroyed by arson nationwide happened in Sagaing Region

Summary

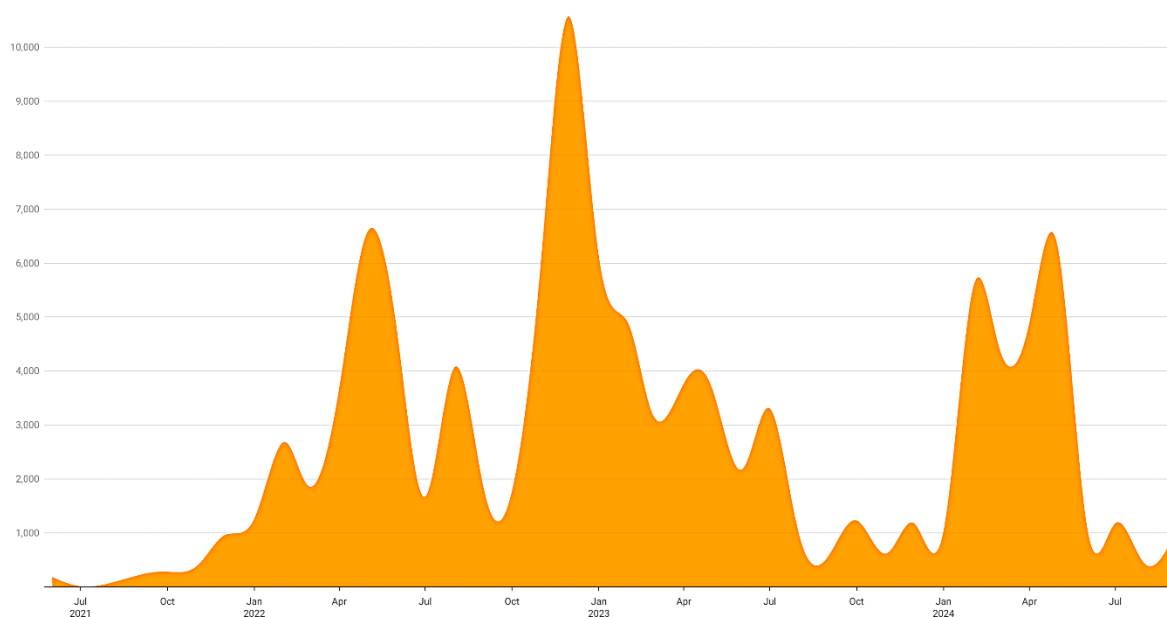
As of 30 September 2024, over three years since the military coup, a total of 106,409 civilian homes have been destroyed by arson attacks. Among these, 102,569 homes were destroyed by arson attacks attributed to the Myanmar military and its affiliates. In Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State, the organizations responsible for the destruction of 3,840 civilian homes through arson in May 2024 have not yet been confirmed.

By region, Sagaing Region suffered the highest loss, with 73,974 homes destroyed, accounting for over 69% of the total civilian homes destroyed nationwide due to arson. Additionally, 29,696 civilian homes were destroyed by arson in Magway Region, Mandalay Region, Rakhine State, Chin State and Tanintharyi Region.

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, 31,633 homes in 2023, and 25,809 homes (as of 30 September) in 2024. The most significant destruction occurred in December 2022, with 10,562 homes lost.

Monthly Impact of Arson Attacks on Civilian Homes

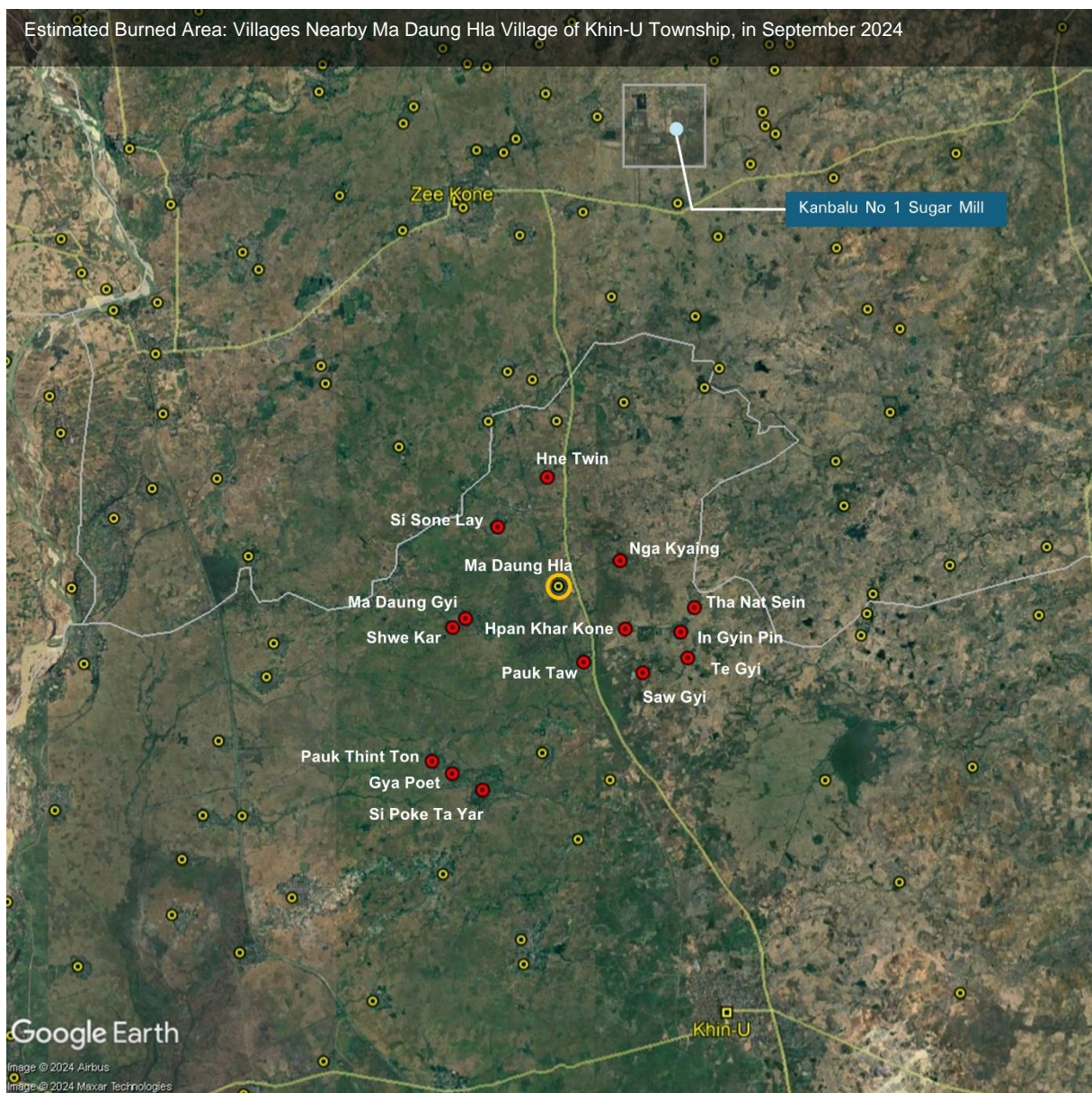


Source: Data for Myanmar (D4M) - Created with Datawrapper

In the first half of 2024, arson incidents were notably higher in February, March, April, and May, resulting in the destruction of 17,647 homes. The majority of these incidents occurred in Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, Rakhine State, and Magway Region. More than 5,700 civilian homes were torched in Buthidaung Township of Rakhine State in April and May 2024.

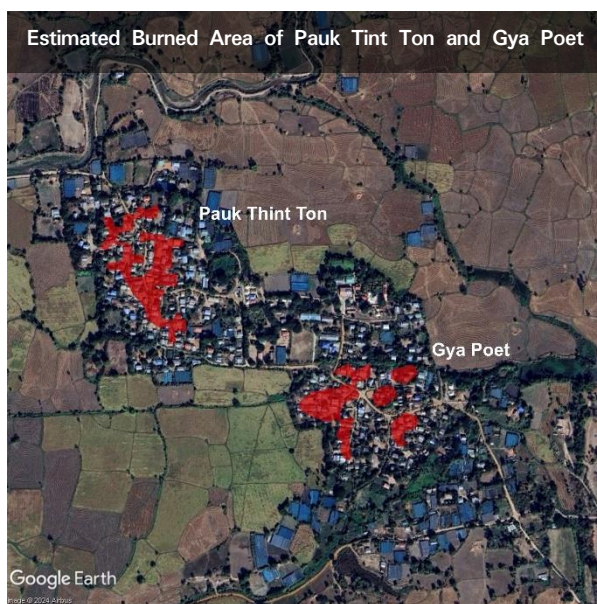
Key Incidents in September 2024

In September 2024, arson attacks by the Myanmar military and its affiliates resulted in the destruction of 425 civilian homes. This included 237 homes in Sagaing Region, 99 in western Bago Region, 44 in Magway Region, 26 in Tanintharyi Region, 15 in Kayah State, and 4 in Mon State.

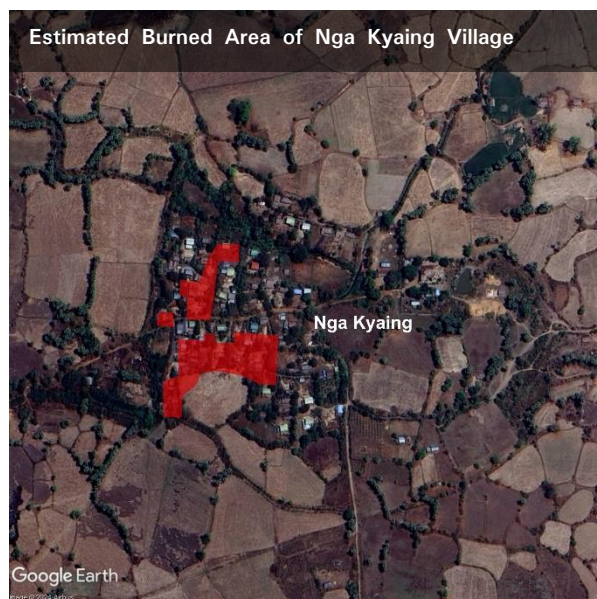


Khin-U Township, Sagaing Region: On August 31, 2024, local resistance forces attacked Ma Daung Hla, a Pyusawhti Village in the northern part of Khin-U Township. Following the attack, Myanmar military and people militia forces entered the area between September 2 and 15. It is reported that these troops burned 14 villages around Ma Daung Hla, including Nga Kyaing, In Gyin Pin, Te Gyi, Hpan Khar Khone, Saw Gyi, Pauk Taw, Si Sone Lay, Hne Twin, Ma Daung Gyi, Shwe Kar, Pauk Thint Ton, Gya Poet, and Si Poke Ta Yar, destroying over 500 homes, according to local sources. ¹

Preliminary investigations by Data for Myanmar revealed that villages in the northern part of Khin-U Township suffered extensive arson attacks resulting in significant destruction of homes. However, detailed data on the extent of damage for some villages is still unavailable. Data for Myanmar has recorded as much information as it could confirm for each village.



On September 10, alone, arson attacks by Myanmar military forces destroyed approximately 200 homes in Pauk Tint Ton, Gya Poet, and Si Poke Ta Yar villages.² In Pauk Thint Ton, about half of the village's homes were burned, while in Gya Poet, around 50 homes were destroyed. These figures have been confirmed through satellite imagery from Sentinel Hub. Si Poke Ta Yar also experienced some destruction, though the exact number of affected homes remains unclear.



Nga Kyaing Village also suffered arson attacks, with approximately 30 homes destroyed. Satellite imagery from Sentinel Hub confirmed the destruction. Ma Daung Gyi and Shwe Kar villages had already been heavily damaged by arson attacks in November 2022. While additional homes may have been destroyed in the recent incidents, the exact numbers are yet to be verified.

Tha Nat Sein and Saw Gyi villages similarly experienced extensive destruction during November 2022 due to arson attacks by Myanmar military. These villages were targeted again in this wave of attacks, but the number of homes destroyed remains unknown.

¹ ခင်ဦးမြို့နယ် သတင်းမှန်ပြန်ကြားရေး, [19 September 2024](#)

² VOA Burmese, [11 September 2024](#)



reportedly set on fire and destroyed.

On September 17, Pyusawti members and their families in Ma Daung Hla were evacuated to a military-owned sugar mill in Kanbalu Township. On September 18, local resistance forces entered Ma Daung Hla Village to conduct clearance operations. According to local sources, Pyusawhti members set fire to homes in the village before retreating.³ Satellite imagery from Sentinel Hub, captured on September 16, confirmed significant destruction of homes in Ma Daung Hla. According to some local sources contacted by Data for Myanmar, during clearance operations by local resistance forces, remaining houses in the village were also



Satellite imagery taken on October 26 confirmed that over 360 homes in Hseng Taung Village were burned and destroyed.

Hpakant Townships, Kachin State: On September 7, in Hpakant Township, Kachin State, clashes broke out between Myanmar military and KIA/allied forces in Hseng Taung Village. On September 12, KIA/allied forces successfully seized the Hseng Taung police station.⁴ Following this, Myanmar military troops, in coordination with the Shan Nationalities Army (SNA), occupied the Lucky Men Hotel in Hseng Taung. They subsequently set fire to homes in Hseng Taung's Ward No 4, located behind the hotel, resulting in the destruction of approximately 400 homes.⁵

³ Myanmar Now, [19 September 2024](#)

⁴ Voice of Myanmar, [12 September 2024](#)

⁵ Kachin News Group, [17 September 2024](#)

Estimated Burned Area: Urban Area of Indaw Town Set Ablaze in August and September 2024



Indaw Township, Sagaing Region: On August 16, joint forces of the KIA, ABSDF, and PDF launched attacks on Inndaw Town in Sagaing Region, leading to intense clashes. The Myanmar military responded with airstrikes, and the fighting forced over 20,000 residents to flee their homes.⁶ Fires were reported near the central areas of the town on August 16, 28, 30, and 31, and significant fires were observed in various urban areas on September 10 and 11, according to NASA's FIRMS system. Satellite imagery taken by Airbus on November 22 confirmed that extensive damage occurred in urban areas, including the Indaw central market, with over 300 homes destroyed.

Launglon and Palaw Townships, Tanintharyi Region: In September 2024, local media reported that seven homes in Pyin Gyi, Tha Bawt Seik, and Kyauk Ni Maw villages of Launglon Township, Tanintharyi Region, and 43 homes in 5 Miles, Shat Pon, and Mee Laung Aw villages of Palaw Township were burned and destroyed.

⁶ RFA Burmese, [2 November 2024](#)

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.

This year, the townships that have experienced significant destruction, with between 1,000 and 5,000 homes burned and destroyed, include Kawlin, Kalay, Buthidaung, Myingyan, and Monywa. Townships with between 300 and 1,000 homes destroyed are Natogyi, Kanbalu, Madaya, Pakkoku, Gangaw, and Taze.

In 2024, arson and destruction have notably increased in regions such as Sagaing, Magway, Mandalay, and Chin states, as well as Rakhine state. During April and May 2024, clashes in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State, resulted in over 5,700 homes being destroyed across urban wards and 36 villages due to arson. 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, and Kachin 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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