



KACHIN ALLIANCE

2024 Early December Kachin Region, Bhamo Operation

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS UPDATES

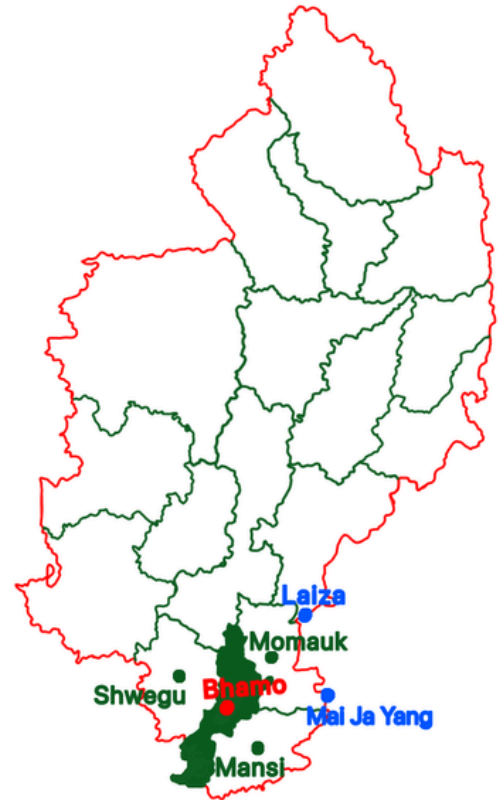
On Dec 2, clashes between KIA and Burma Army began near Bhamo, escalating into intense fighting within the city of Bhamo by Dec 4. Residents fled via waterways and roadways, seeking shelter in safer regions.

Mass Displacement



Via Waterways:

- Along the Mali Hka River coast, residents were dropped off at each of the nearest riverbank towns outside Bhamo: Mali Yang, Laiza, Mai Ja Yang, N Hkawng Pa, Myo Thit, Kaung Law, and Daw Hpum Yam.
- Previously, a motorboat trip cost about 15,000 Ks (\$7), but now fares vary unpredictably at the boat owner's demand.



Via Roadways:

- Residents fleeing by motorcycles and cars have reached Mung Ding Pa, Mung Hkawng, Han Htet, Man Tar, Man Win, and Shwegu.
- On December 8 alone, over 1,000 people arrived in Shwegu.





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Needs and Assistance

Accommodation:

- Accommodations are scarce. Some stay with relatives, but most rely on overcrowded monasteries and churches.
- Many refuge churches in the regions are already at capacity, having sheltered previous waves of displaced individuals.
- With ongoing airstrikes and threats by the Burma military making these refugees unsafe even in churches and monasteries, thousands now struggle to find a secure shelter.
- A Bhamo-based Kachin youth group is coordinating and dispersing displaced individuals to various refuge locations.



Blankets, clothing and food supplies

- People fled the city on short notice, and urgently needed blankets and additional layers of clothing to stay warm during the cold December weather.
- Food supplies, particularly rice, have become a necessity for survival.





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Schools and Banks have ceased operations, and even teachers and banking staffs are among those who have fled.

- Even the Myanmar Economic Bank (Military-owned), which remained operational while others had previously closed, has now ceased its services as well.
- People rely on KPay to withdraw donated funds. However, amounts are limited per day and transaction fees vary by region, ranging from 1% to 3% of the withdrawn amount.



Some residents remain in Bhamo, having chosen not to flee. With NGOs struggling to deliver aid, these individuals grow increasingly vulnerable and distressed.

- **Direct donations are currently the most practical way to help.**

Source: Bhamo Locals, Ground coordinators, Simsa Kasa Multimedia, Kachin News Group, The Kachin Net

Telecommunications have been cut off across all Kachin regions since July 2024.

- Starlink is a crucial lifeline for daily communication, though it comes at a cost.
- On Dec 3, amidst ongoing clashes, MyTel, Military-owned Telecom briefly enabled internet access for just a few hours.



Approximately 10,000 people have been displaced out of Bhamo city. *(data is subject to change as situations evolve and internet access)*

- Include a wide range of vulnerable groups: elderly individuals (blinds), pregnant women, children, and people with disabilities.