



**KACHIN ALLIANCE**

# Hpakant Region Updates 2024 September

**HUMANITARIAN CRISIS**



## **Communication Blackouts**

- For the past 45 days, the Myanmar military has strategically cut off communication networks (internet access and domestic telecommunication) across major cities in Kachin State, including the Hpakant region.
- Civilians seek out places with STARLINK internet access, where they must pay 5,000 - 10,000 Kyats (\$2-\$5) for just 30 minutes of usage to stay connected.
- Efforts to import STARLINK internet devices face strict military restrictions and thorough inspections, making it even harder to stay connected.

## **Myanmar Military Air Strikes**

As clashes between the Myanmar military and the KIA continue to escalate;

- On September 12, Myanmar military airstrikes bombed Seng Tawng village, reportedly killing dozens of civilians and burning down numerous houses.
- The exact number of casualties and the extent of destruction remains unclear due to the military's deliberate efforts to cut off communication lines, effectively isolating the region from the outside world.





# Hpakant Region Updates 2024 September



## HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

### Displacement and Migration

Civilians are increasingly at risk due to airstrikes and random killings on the streets and roads, compelling many to leave their homes for various security and safety concerns.



- Approximately 6,000 individuals from villages in Hpakant such as Seng Tawng, Maw Wan (Maw Wan Gyi & Maw Wan Lay), Maw Maw Bum, Maw Maw Layang, Mashi Kahtawng, San Chyoi (Seng Chyai), Hpa-Pyin, Nga-Pyaw-Taw, and Sha Raw Hka—have sought refuge in areas within Hpakant, Myikyina, and other major cities across the country.
- While entire families have left their homes, some remain behind to secure and monitor their properties from drug addicts roaming the villages, waiting for the opportunity to steal or even burn houses in exchange for cash deals with Myanmar military soldiers to allow it to happen.



# Hpakant Region Updates 2024 September

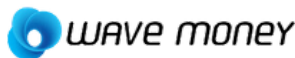


## HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

### Financial Struggles

Due to the ongoing conflicts, transportation difficulties have resulted in soaring commodity prices in the region.

- The cost of traveling one way from Hpakant to Myikyina, which typically ranges from 40,000 to 50,000 Kyats, has now skyrocketed to 200,000 - 250,000 Kyats (around \$120).
- Additionally, all banking sectors in the region have effectively ceased operations, significantly increasing the struggles of civilians in their daily lives.
- Many rely on K-Pay transactions, but the fees for withdrawals and deposits are steep, with a 10% fee applied to any amount withdrawn.



### Closure

- Public schools in the region have conducted final examinations and allowed all students to pass for this academic year, though the timeline for school closures remains uncertain.
- Furthermore, church-based education programs have announced an immediate suspension and will stay closed until the end of October.
- Churches cannot hold worship services due to safety concerns, as many church members have been preoccupied with seeking refuge.

**References:** Hpakant Locals, Kachin News Group, BBC Burmese, DVB News