

NEWSLETTER

In honour of International Women's Day, **The Ministry for Women, Youths and Children Affairs (MoWYCA)** celebrate the work of the many inspiring women tirelessly dedicated to mobilising community action and providing vital emergency support, in the face of great danger to vulnerable people across Myanmar. We pay tribute to all the brave women and girls who in the pursuit of peace, justice and equality have given up their precious lives, experienced torture or suffered sexual violence at the hands of the military regime. This issue of our newsletter and all those that follow are for you.



To mark International Women's Day March 8th 2022 thousands of brave women and men across Myanmar determined to challenge the mindless aggression of the military, joined the *Break the Bias, Reject the Dictatorship Campaign*. Led by MoWYCA the movement was launched across social media and in live protests.

Traditionally it is a taboo to walk underneath a women's Htami (skirt) in Myanmar. Superstition dictates that by doing so a person's luck will run out. Flying flags made of Htami's and recreating powerful feminist poses of the past, the Break the Bias, Reject the Dictatorship campaign message was clear:

Imagine a gender equal world

A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination A world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive

A world where difference is valued and celebrated Together we can forget women's equality Collectively we can all #BreakTheBias



This monthly newsletter is brought to you by **The Ministry for Women, Youths and Children's Affairs** to provide you with a regular update on how the crisis in Myanmar is effecting the nation's people and how the Ministry and civil society groups are responding.

MoWYCA works in partnership with local civil society organisations to protect and fulfil the rights of women, young people and children in Myanmar. In doing so, we set specific policies and work together with relevant organizations, networks, and individuals to address current problems and meet immediate needs.

MoWYCA's Vision - A people-led, holistically developed Federal Union of Myanmar in which all women, youths and children can expect to enjoy equality of opportunity and a prosperous, secure life.

MoWYCA's Objectives

To protect women, young people and children from human rights violations and to ensure their full enjoyment of human rights throughout this period of transition.

To support the safety and survival of women, youths and children. To support women, young people and children systematically contribute to the development of the nation, including in the health, social and economic sectors.

Follow our work@ <https://mowyca.nugmyanmar.org>

Updates on the current Crisis

We are deeply saddened to report that the violence inflicted on our women, children and young people in by the **State Administrative Council (SAC)** in pursuit of absolute power continues to make every day a living night mare for many innocent civilians. The number of SAC airstrikes launched against schools, hospitals and residential areas increases daily. Thousands continue to abandon their homes, villages and cities in search of safety, food, water and emergency medicine. Incidences of rape, torture, imprisonment and the use of women and children as human shields or held for ransom are rife.

On **11th February 2022** the **UNHCR** confirmed that **800,000** people are currently internally displaced. A number which has doubled since the start of the military coup. The experiences of violence, fear and chaos felt by scores of vulnerable women, children and young people across the nation since the start of the coup is reflected in the following heart breaking stories, now recognised to be common place.



On **March 10th 2022** three siblings (two brothers, **aged 7 and 10**, and their **sister, aged 12**) were killed by an artillery shell that landed in their village near the Karenni State capital Loikaw. Their father and 15-year-old sister also suffered unspecified injuries. An officer from Loikaw's People's Defense Force commented of the tragedy: "Sometimes shells fall near hospitals or camps for displaced villagers. Villages are also torched and bombed. That's just the harsh reality right now,"



A school in an ethnic area before an SAC airstrike



A community hospital after an SAC airstrike

Demographic breakdown of women killed by the Myanmar military since February 1st 2021



Number of women killed

107

Women account for
7.4%
of all fatalities

Monthly death toll

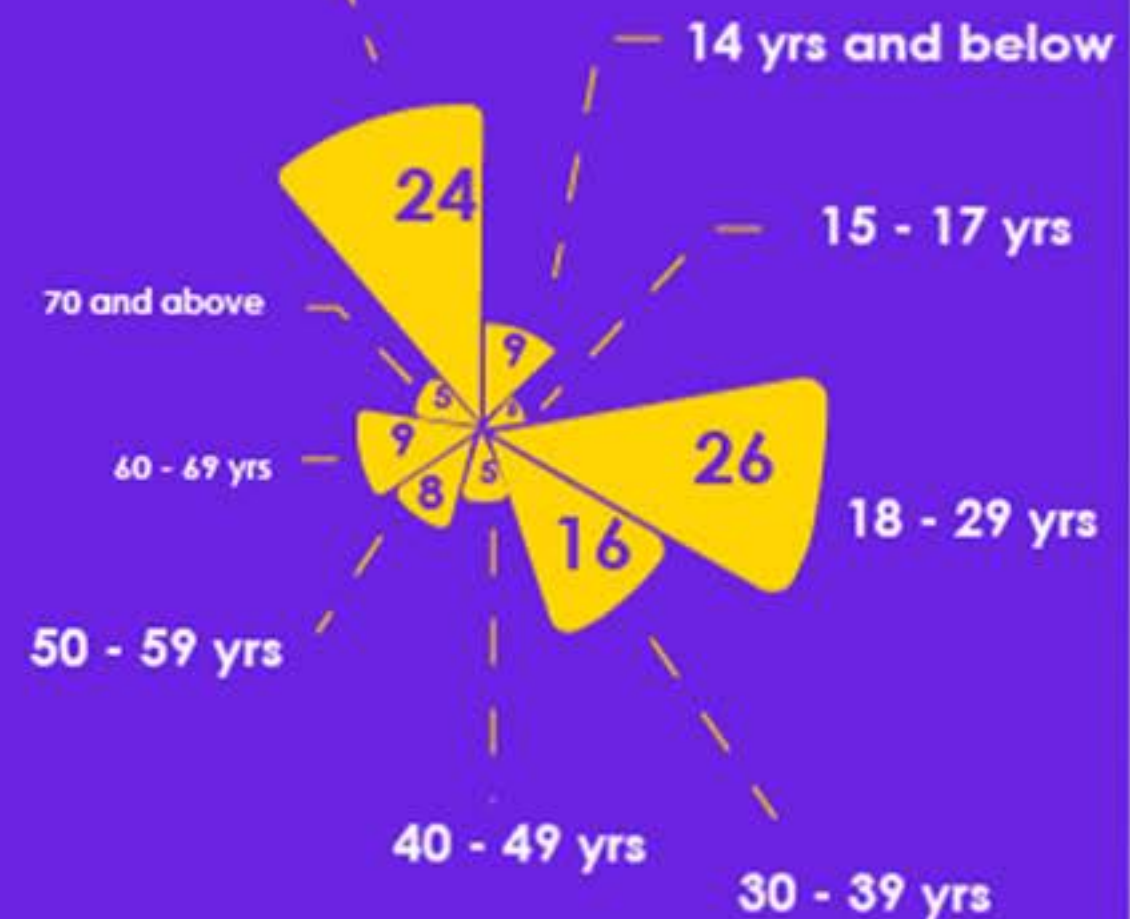
February	3
March	33
April	10
May	7
June	4
July	8
August	8
September	7
October	6
November	6
December	10
January (2022)	4

Fatality rates by region

Sagaing	27
Mandalay	22
Yangon	15
Kayah	9
Bago	6
Magway	5
Shan	5
Tanintharyi	5
Kachin	4
Mon	4
Chin	3
Irrawaddy	2

Age

Age unidentified



Demographic breakdown of young people killed by the Myanmar military since February 1st 2021

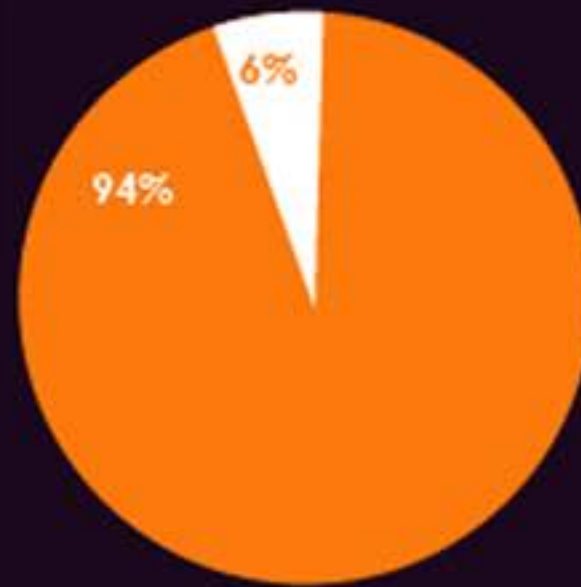
Number of young people killed

683

Young People account for

47.7%

of all fatalities



Young Women **40**
Young Men **643**

Monthly death toll

February	17
March	312
April	57
May	32
June	21
July	45
August	25
September	33
October	31
November	36
December	38
January (2022)	15

Fatality rates by region

Sagaing	199
Yangon	154
Mandalay	146
Bago	36
Magway	34
Tanintharyi	31
Shan	22
Kayah	17
Irrawaddy	12
Mon	12
Kachin	10
Chin	10

Demographic breakdown of children killed by the Myanmar military since February 1st 2021

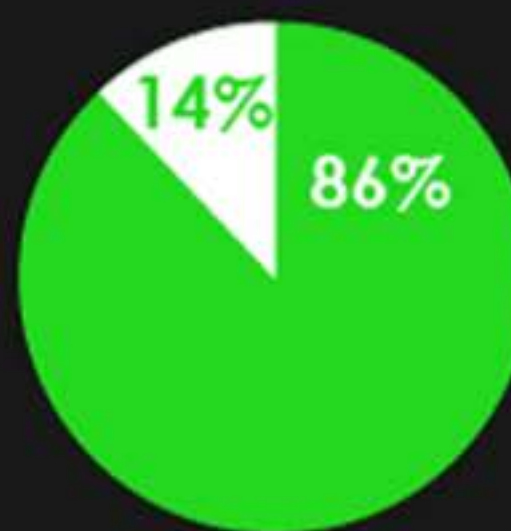
Number of children killed

103

Children account for

7.2%

of all fatalities



89 Boys
14 Girls

Monthly death toll

February	2
March	45
April	2
May	3
June	2
July	4
August	4
September	6
October	3
November	6
December	11
January (2022)	10
February (2022)	1

Fatality rates by region

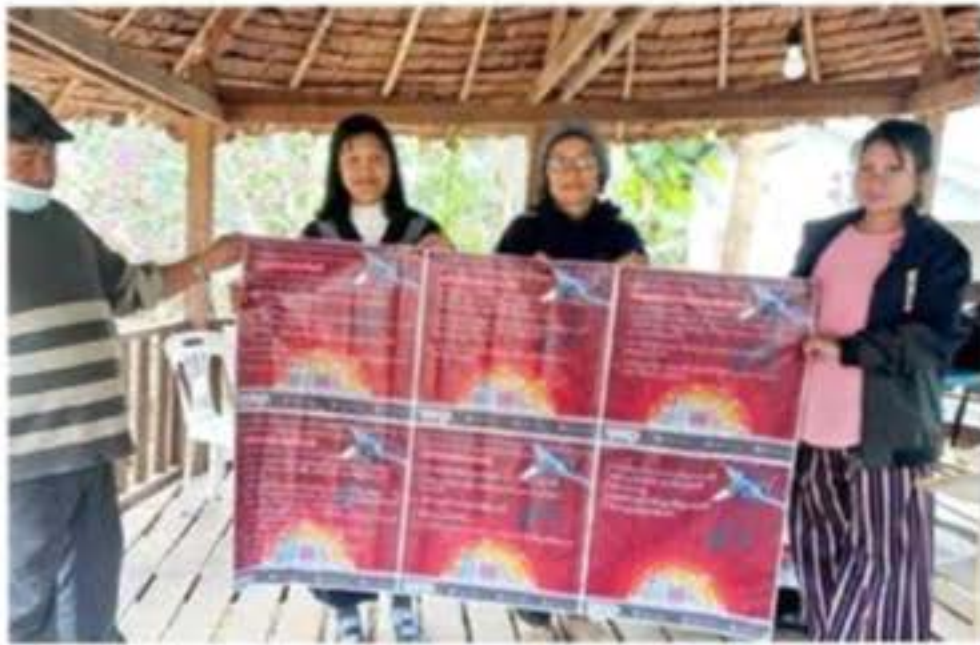
Sagaing	26
Mandalay	23
Yangon	14
Kayah	9
Tanintharyi	9
Magway	7
Chin	5
Irrawaddy	4
Shan	3
Mon	1
Bago	1
Kachin	1

Action taken to face down tyranny

While fire, violence and kidnapping remain weapons utilised by the junta in this theatre of war to strike fear into all the hearts of our citizens, many remain defiant continuing to call for an end to the **SAC's** reign of terror. Such defiance was clearly illustrated in a news report released by *Myanmar Now* on **March 11th**. The headline read "Women vow to rise from ashes to defeat Myanmar regime". The story illustrated how a group of brave women in **Sagaing Region** whose homes had been destroyed in brutal attacks by junta forces continued to defy the regime and call for an end of military rule.

The inspiring strength and resilience of Myanmar citizens in spite of the horror and personal tragedy felt by so many continues to shine through, piercing the darkness created by the cruel scorched earth policy of the SAC. This light powered by bravery and dedication to the health and safety of their communities can clearly be seen in the heroic work of organisations and individuals providing vital emergency care for the nation's most vulnerable.

MoWYCA is proud to support their work and to partner with them now and into



MoWYCA's Minister visited the frontline to assess SAC airstrike locations. She delivered airstrike precautions vinyls provided by the Free Burma Rangers (FBR) to schools and hospitals.

MoWYCA Community Outreach



Support MoWYCA has been able to provide to communities in recent months, in partnership with local organisations.

MoWYCA Covid-19 vaccine support



MoWYCA support to families in conflict



Medicine and Maternity kits distributed



Art Exhibition for young people



Eituta Hospital, Karen State before MoWYCA support



Eituta Hospital, Karen State after MoWYCA support



In other news....

On International Women's Day as part of, MoWYCA hosted an webinar. The highly anticipated event was led by H.E. Minister Susanna Hla Hla Soe and headlined by Acting President of Myanmar's National Unity Government Duwa Lashi La, opening remark by Ms. Melanne Verveer, Executive Director of the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, and two prominent speakers Debbie Stothard (Founder and Coordinator of the Alternative Asean Network on Burma, Wai Wai Nu (Founder of Women's Peace Network).

National Unity Government of Myanmar | Ministry of Women, Youths and Children Affairs

International Women's Day Webinar 2022
"BREAK THE BIAS, REJECT DICTATORSHIP"
08:00 - 9:30 p.m. Myanmar Time | March 8, 2022

<https://zoom.us/j/93488603043>
Passcode: 286275

The event will also be livestreamed at the following channels:
@NUGMyanmar, @MinistryMCA, @duwalashi, @msoe

YouTube: PTVC, Radio NUG

#BreakTheBias
#IWD2022Myanmar
#IWD2022



Congratulations to **H.E Ei Thinzar Maung** - Deputy Minister on receiving **Women of Courage Award 2022**. U.S. Secretary of State **Antony J. Blinken** to host Virtual Award Ceremony on **March 14**, featuring remarks by First Lady of the United States, **Dr. Jill Biden**.





Congratulations are also due to **Minister Naw Su Sinna Hla Soe**, who on **March 19, 2021** was awarded the **Free Burma Ranger (FBR) Gold Medal Award** for her brave work supporting those on the front line of the 'Spring Revolution' and for her tireless commitment to the safety of women youth and children and to building a Federal Democracy for Myanmar.

Credit and acknowledgement of photos and images used in the newsletter goes to respective rights holder.

To learn more about our work and that of our partners visit us for more at <http://mowyca.nugmyanmar.org>

How you can help

Donate to MOWYCA

Pass this Newsletter on to friends, family, colleagues and share what you've learnt about the situation in Myanmar and the vital work that MOWYCA is doing to support women and children

Fundraise – kick start your own fundraising campaign to help MOWYCA

Follow our work @ <https://mowyca.nugmyanmar.org>

Email @ mowyca@nugmyanmar.org