



**BASELINE STUDY**

**The Socioeconomic and Security Landscape  
in Kachin State**

**2025 JANNUARY**

**KACHIN HUMAN RIGHTS INSIGHT**

[www.kachinhumanrightsinsight.org](http://www.kachinhumanrightsinsight.org)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Acknowledgment
- Abstract
- 2. Introduction
  - 2.1. The Rationale of the Study
  - 2.2. Objective of Study
  - 2.3. Research questions
  - 2.4. method of the study
  - 2.5. scope and limitation of the study
  - 2.6. Geographic Coverage of the Survey
- 3. Context analysis
- 4. Summary of the findings
- 5. Respondent Demographics Analysis
- 6. Analysis
- 7. Additionally, comments and discussions of the respondents
- 8. Conclusion and Recommendations
- 9. Annex

## Acronyms

AAPP	Assistance Association Political Prisoners
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asia Nations
CDM	Civil Disobedient Movement
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IDP	Internal Displacement Persons
KIA	Kachin Independent Army
KIO	Kachin Independent Organization
NGOs	Non Government Organizations
NUG	National Unity Government
PDF	People Defense Force
SAC	State Administration Council
SNA	Shanni National Army (militia group)
Tatmadaw SAC	(Myanmar military)
UN	United Nation
UNDP	United Nation Development Programme
VPN	Virtual Private Network

## Acknowledgment

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who contributed to the successful completion of this study.

Special thanks go to the dedicated enumerators from Bamaw, Hpakant, Mohnyin, and Myitkyina, whose hard work and commitment in the field made it possible to gather valuable data under challenging conditions. Your efforts were essential to the accuracy and depth of this study.

I am also deeply grateful to the community leaders who generously offered their time and insights during the focus group discussions. Your perspectives provided critical context and helped ground this study in the lived experiences of the people in Kachin State.

My sincere appreciation goes to the project team, whose collaboration, technical input, and persistence played a crucial role in every stage. Without your collective effort, this paper would not have been possible.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the support of the funding organization, whose financial assistance made this study feasible.

## Abstract

**This** study provides a baseline assessment of the socioeconomic and security challenges faced by communities in Kachin State, Myanmar, against the backdrop of prolonged conflict, political instability, and economic decline. Through a mixed-methods approach involving 250 respondents across key townships—Myitkyina, Bamaw/ Momauk, Hpakant, Mohnyin, and Waingmaw—the research captures the lived realities of civilians in both SAC (State Administration Council) and KIA/KIO (Kachin Independence Army/Organization)-controlled areas. Findings reveal pervasive insecurity, with 84% of respondents feeling unsafe day and night due to armed conflict, forced recruitment, arbitrary arrests, and rampant crime.

Economic instability, unemployment, and inflation exacerbate hardships, while access to education, healthcare, and reliable public services remains severely limited. Psychological distress is widespread, with 88% reporting mental health impacts.

The study also documents community aspirations for 2025, emphasizing demands for political reform, peace, economic recovery, and justice. Respondents overwhelmingly express dissatisfaction with governance structures, relying instead on informal networks and NGOs for support. The collapse of state legitimacy and the rise of conflict-driven economies further distort livelihoods and deepen vulnerabilities.

Recommendations prioritize immediate humanitarian interventions, psychosocial support, livelihood programs, and community-led governance initiatives. The study underscores the urgent need for international attention and inclusive policies to address multidimensional human security threats in Kachin State. By centering local voices, this research aims to inform policymakers, humanitarian actors, and civil society in designing responsive, sustainable solutions for Myanmar's most marginalized populations.

## 2. Introduction

This study presents a baseline assessment of the current socioeconomic challenges and security issues faced by the people of Kachin State, Myanmar. Located in the country's northernmost region, Kachin State has long been marked by conflict, displacement, and underdevelopment, over extractive industries, significantly affecting the livelihoods and well-being of its population. The persistent armed conflict, limited access to public services, unemployment, and restricted economic opportunities continue to shape the day-to-day realities of communities across both government-controlled areas and those administered by ethnic armed organizations.


In addition to documenting present conditions, this study seeks to understand the expectations and aspirations of the public as they look ahead to 2025. By integrating qualitative insights from 250 respondent communities with quantitative data, the study aims to provide a nuanced understanding of how people perceive ongoing challenges and what they hope for shortly.

This includes expectations related to security, economic stability, governance, education, healthcare, and social cohesion. The findings of this study are intended to inform policymakers, humanitarian actors, CSOs/NGOs, and local stakeholders working toward inclusive and sustainable development in Kachin State.


### *2.1. The Rationale of the Study*

Kachin State, located in northern Myanmar, has endured decades of protracted conflict, displacement, and underdevelopment. Despite the presence of natural resources and a strong cultural identity, its population continues to face chronic socioeconomic hardship and insecurity. Armed conflict between armed groups has disrupted livelihoods, limited access to basic services, and hindered the State's overall development. Additionally, ongoing political instability and militarization further exacerbate the vulnerability of communities, particularly those in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps and remote areas.

In this context, there is a pressing need to conduct a baseline study that captures both the current challenges and the future expectations of people living in Kachin State. While various humanitarian and development interventions have taken place over the years, there remains a gap in localized, community-driven data that reflects the voices, priorities, and aspirations of the affected population. Understanding the lived realities of communities, especially how they perceive their security, economic well-being, and hopes for 2025, is essential for designing more effective, inclusive, and sustainable policies and programs. This study is therefore significant for three key reasons



It provides evidence-based insights into the socioeconomic and security conditions in a highly marginalized region.



It supports policymakers, donors, civil society organizations, and humanitarian actors in aligning their strategies with the real needs and priorities of the people on the ground.

## *2.2. Objective of Study*

- To assess the key challenges currently faced by the public in selected townships of Kachin State.
- To understand the public's expectations and hopes for the year 2025.
- To explore possible areas for collaboration and identify the necessary resources and support to address these needs.

## *2.3. Research Questions*

What are the current socioeconomic and security challenges faced by communities in Kachin State, and how do local populations perceive and articulate their expectations for 2025?

What are the primary socioeconomic difficulties affecting individuals and households in Kachin State (e.g., employment, education, healthcare, displacement)?

How do ongoing security concerns, including conflict and militarization, impact daily life and community development in Kachin State?

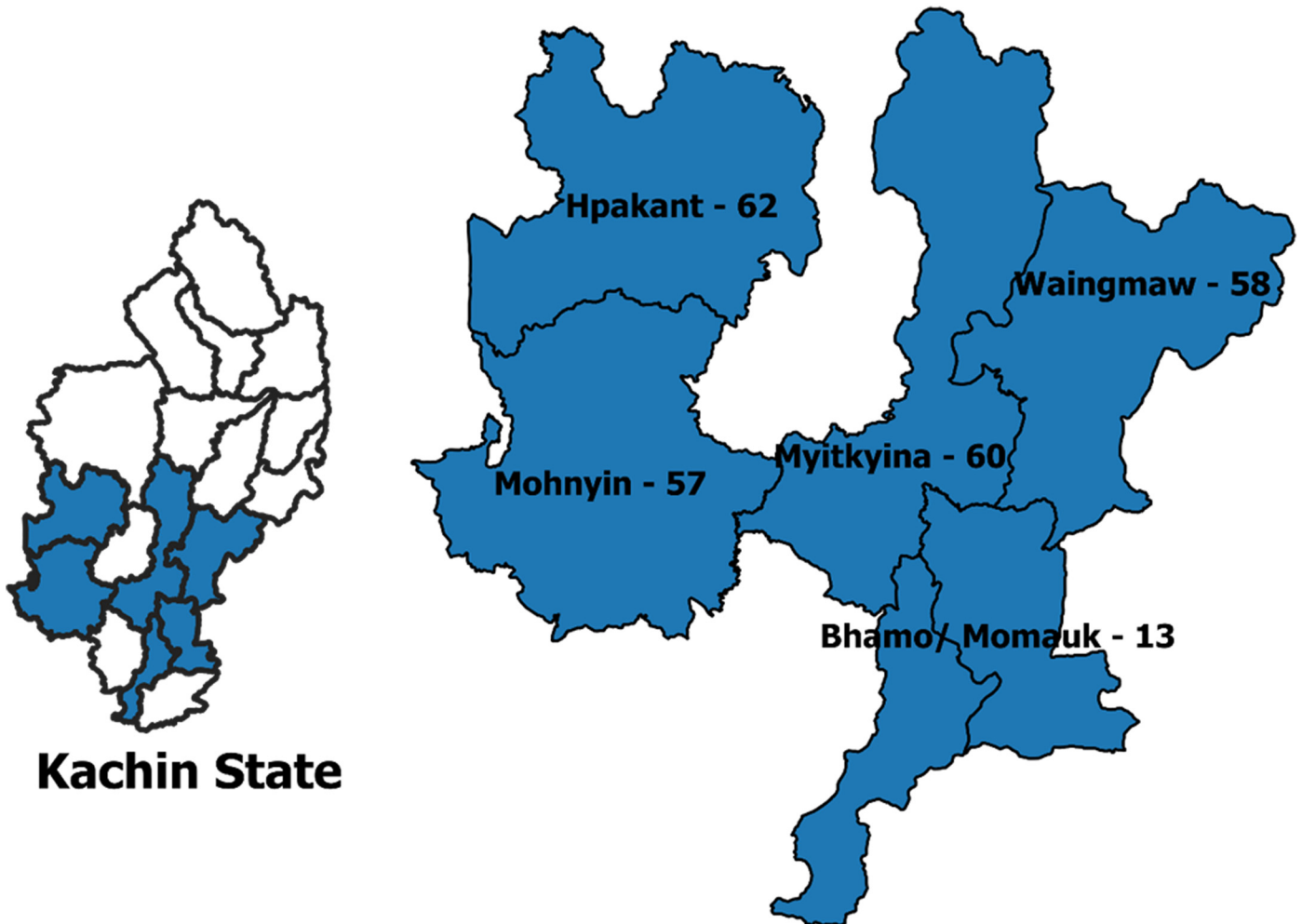
#### *2.4. Method of the Study*

This study employs a mixed-methods approach, qualitative and quantitative data with primary data collected from 250 respondents from Myitkyina, Bamaw/Momawk, Hpakant, Monyin and Waingmaw in Kachin State. Interviewees are selected from the location of mixed control areas, SAC control areas and KIO/KIA control area, as well as Bamaw-Momawk and Hpakant are governed by KIO and SAC. Data collection tools included structured questionnaires, key informant interviews, and focus group discussion. Quantitative data were analyzed through statistical methods and visualized using charts and graphs to illustrate trends in public sentiment. Qualitative insights were gathered to enrich the narrative around personal experiences and community-level challenges. Survey instruments and qualitative interviews were structured around human security dimensions, including physical safety, health, education, and economic opportunity.

#### *2.5. Scope and Limitation of the Study*

The scope of this study is limited to describing the current public challenges and shortly expectations of the people living in selected areas of Kachin State. It focuses on identifying the difficulties encountered in the daily lives of the people in Kachin State and capturing the hopes and priorities of communities for the year 2025. This study was conducted with 250 respondents across four townships in Kachin State, specifically targeting Bamaw (Momauk), Hpakant, Myitkyina, Monhyin, and Waingmaw townships. The interview survey was conducted with 250 respondents from most conflicted areas Bamaw and Momawk, Hpakant, Monhnyin, Waingmaw and Myitkyina.

2.6. Geographic Coverage of the Survey



**Kachin State**

### 3. Context analysis

#### Conflict and Security Issues

The protracted conflict in Kachin State, Myanmar, has profoundly affected the region's security, displaced populations, and disrupted daily life. Following the collapse of a 17-year ceasefire between the Myanmar military and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) in 2011, over 120,000 individuals have been displaced, with many residing in camps across Kachin and northern Shan States.

Human Rights Watch reports that the renewed hostilities have led to widespread forced displacement, pushing thousands into makeshift camps where they endure precarious conditions with limited access to essential services. These security challenges have restricted freedom of movement, hindering residents' ability to engage in traditional economic activities such as farming, logging, and small-scale trade. Military checkpoints and active conflict zones have further impeded access to markets, exacerbating economic instability, restricting travel, and threatening rights to life and movement.

The psychological impact of sustained insecurity is significant. The ongoing conflict has contributed to high levels of stress and mental health issues among both residents and internally displaced people (IDPs). These psychological challenges are compounded by limited access to basic services, including healthcare and education, particularly mental health support, which remains scarce in conflict-affected regions of Kachin State.

The conflict has also eroded social cohesion within and between communities. Shifting alliances and sporadic violence have weakened traditional support networks, complicating post-conflict recovery efforts. The disruption of educational services due to insecurity has deepened vulnerabilities, especially among the youth, who face challenges in acquiring education and stable employment in an environment where safety is uncertain.

## Post-Coup Crisis in Kachin State and Nationwide Impacts

Since the military coup in Myanmar on February 1, 2021, the nation has experienced profound political, social, and economic upheaval. Kachin State, already burdened by longstanding conflicts between the Myanmar military (Tatmadaw) and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), has seen its humanitarian crisis intensify due to the junta's repressive actions and the emergence of armed resistance groups. These challenges in Kachin reflect a broader nationwide crisis marked by human rights violations, economic recession, and widespread armed resistance. Recent analyses underscore the profound socioeconomic challenges confronting Myanmar's conflict-affected regions, particularly states and regions like Kachin, Sagaing, Chin and Rakhine. Persistent conflicts have disrupted economic stability, employment opportunities, and poverty reduction efforts, perpetuating cycles of poverty and exacerbating inequalities.

The World Bank's **"Myanmar Economic Monitor June 2024: Livelihoods Under Threat"** highlights the severe economic downturn in these areas, noting that political instability and intensified conflicts have led to a contraction in economic activities. The report emphasizes that the military takeover in February 2021 reversed a decade of progress, with poverty rates surging back to nearly 50%.

A 2024 UNDP report highlights that Myanmar's once-promising economy previously marked by rapid growth and declining poverty now faces severe social and economic distress. Over the past three years, the middle class has shrunk by 50%, and approximately 42 million people live near or below subsistence levels. The report stresses the urgent need for support in food security, resilience, and livelihoods to mitigate the crisis.

Myanmar's civil war has reversed years of progress, with 76% of the population struggling to meet basic needs and nearly three million people internally displaced. The economic downturn has widened inequalities, strained urban centers, and worsened conditions in conflict-affected regions like Kachin, Rakhine, Shan, and Chin.

A decade of economic gains has been erased, with poverty surging back to nearly 50%. Myanmar's economy, which contracted by 17.9% in 2021, shows no signs of recovery. Women, children, and conflict-affected populations bear the heaviest burden. Yet, despite these worsening conditions, international aid declined by 40% between 2020 and 2022, leaving critical humanitarian efforts severely underfunded. Urgent global support is needed to address the crisis and prevent further deterioration.

**The** World Bank's December 2024 report further illustrates the deteriorating economic conditions, with forecasts indicating a 1% shrinkage in Myanmar's economy for the fiscal year. Factors contributing to this decline include severe floods caused by Typhoon Yagi and widespread conflicts following the military coup in 2021. The tumultuous political landscape has disrupted production, and supply chains, and created significant uncertainty across multiple economic sectors. Addressing these multifaceted challenges requires comprehensive strategies that integrate economic development with peacebuilding efforts. Prioritizing investments in infrastructure, education, and healthcare, alongside fostering inclusive governance and formalizing economic sectors, is essential to break the cycles of poverty and instability in Myanmar's conflict-affected regions.

As a major ethnic armed organization, the KIA/KIO has intensified its military operations since the coup, aligning itself with the broader resistance movement. The organization has provided logistical and military support to PDF units, heightening the intensity of clashes in Kachin State. In response, the Tatmadaw (SAC) has carried out airstrikes on KIA-controlled territories, leading to significant civilian casualties and mass displacement.

The decline in public services, pervasive human rights violations, and the emergence of armed resistance have fostered a volatile environment that extends beyond Kachin State, reflecting a broader national struggle against military rule. The ongoing conflict and oppression continue to exacerbate the country's humanitarian crisis, demanding urgent international attention and support. In addition, in response to the coup, the Civil Disobedience Movement emerged as a significant form of non-violent resistance, involving government employees, healthcare workers, and educators. This movement disrupted governance and administrative functions across Myanmar. In Kachin State, the CDM led to the collapse of public health services, resulting in severe shortages of medical personnel and essential resources, which increased mortality rates among vulnerable populations. With the growing number of Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) participants, there has been a shortage of skilled medical professionals, leading to a decline in the quality of healthcare services in areas controlled by the military council. Especially outside major cities like Yangon and Mandalay, where private clinics are more common, healthcare services have deteriorated in other states and regions, causing the public to face greater challenges in accessing medical care. On the other hand, although some skilled medical professionals have been deployed to areas controlled by ethnic armed organizations, local populations continue to face a lack of adequate healthcare services due to shortages of essential infrastructure, medical equipment, and medicines. Additionally, junta-imposed restrictions on humanitarian aid have hindered relief efforts, exacerbating the crisis for displaced and conflict-affected communities.

The education sector has also suffered significant disruptions. In Kachin State and throughout Myanmar, students and teachers boycotted military-controlled schools, leading to widespread closures. Some educational institutions were repurposed as military bases, discouraging attendance and forcing students to seek alternative learning arrangements. Student-led protests against military rule were met with violent suppression, resulting in arrests and detentions. Many students, unable to access formal education, fled to ethnic-controlled territories or joined armed resistance groups. This trend reflects a broader nationwide pattern where education has become a battleground in the struggle against military rule, with ethnic organizations and opposition groups stepping in to provide informal education alternatives. Another critical issue exacerbating the humanitarian crisis is the surge in natural resource extraction in both SAC-controlled and KIA-administered areas. Since the coup, the KIA/KIO has significantly expanded jade, gold, and rare earth mining to finance resistance efforts, while military-affiliated companies have done the same to fund state operations. This resource race has led to widespread environmental destruction, including deforestation, polluted rivers, and the loss of farmland. Villagers have been displaced, ecosystems ruined, and water sources contaminated—all occurring largely unchecked due to the absence of effective oversight or regulation. The environmental degradation and forced displacement have added yet another layer to the suffering endured by communities already devastated by conflict. The situation in Kachin State exemplifies these intersecting challenges. Without urgent international support and a coordinated strategy that integrates humanitarian relief with peacebuilding and development, the crisis will only deepen, further eroding the country's future.

## **Rise of Armed Resistance**

The post-coup period has witnessed the rise of the People's Defense Force (PDF), an armed resistance movement comprising pro-democracy activists and civilians. In Kachin State, the KIA/KIO has played a crucial role in training and supporting these resistance fighters. The KIA has launched multiple offensives against military positions, challenging the junta's control in various regions. Similar patterns of armed resistance have emerged in Sagaing, Magway, and Chin State, where local PDFs have inflicted significant damage on the military through guerrilla tactics. The escalation of conflict has transformed Myanmar's political landscape, leading to what many analysts describe as a near-civil war scenario.

## Human Rights Violations

Since the resumption of war in 2011, following the breakdown of a 17-year ceasefire between the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Myanmar military, the people of Kachin State have suffered severe human rights violations and atrocities at the hands of the Myanmar military. During this period, many Kachin civilians were subjected to violence without the knowledge of the outside world, as phone and internet access across the nation was highly restricted.

The Myanmar military has committed numerous war crimes, including extrajudicial killings, rape, torture, enforced disappearances, house burnings, arbitrary shootings resulting in civilian deaths, and mass arrests. Following the 2021 coup, human rights abuses in Kachin State have escalated. The military junta has engaged in arbitrary arrests, extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, and widespread sexual violence. Amnesty International has reported that the military launched airstrikes, shelling, and arson attacks against towns and villages in Kachin and other ethnic states, leading to mass displacements and civilian casualties. Similarly, Human Rights Watch documented instances in which security forces fired upon unarmed demonstrators, violating international standards on the use of lethal force. One of Kachin State-based CSOs, Humanity Institute reported that only in 2024 in Kachin State, there is 333 cases of arbitrary arrest, 213 civilians were killed by airstrikes and soldiers, and 158 civilians were injured by arbitrary shooting. These patterns of abuse in Kachin State are consistent with reports from other conflict-affected regions, including Karen, Kayah, Shan, Rakhine, and Chin states.

## Economic Recession and Livelihood Challenges

The economic landscape in Kachin State has deteriorated sharply since the coup, mirroring nationwide economic challenges. The World Bank's July 2022 report highlighted that Myanmar's economy faced a series of external and domestic shocks, with GDP in 2022 estimated to be around 13% lower than in 2019. In Kachin, the jade mining sector, crucial to the local economy, has seen a surge in unregulated activities. According to Global Witness (2022), rare earth mining in Kachin State's Special Region 1 surged dramatically, with satellite imagery identifying over 300 mining locations—marking a more than 40% increase in less than a year. This rapid growth has caused widespread environmental destruction and has contributed to regional instability and conflict. These economic hardships have forced many civilians to seek refuge in neighboring countries and lost their home.

## Conscription Law and Youth Involvement

**The** enforcement of the junta's conscription law has intensified challenges for youth in Kachin State and across Myanmar. The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) has documented numerous cases of forced recruitment into the military or affiliated militias. In response, many young people have fled to areas controlled by ethnic armed organizations or joined resistance forces. Nationwide, youth have been at the forefront of the resistance movement, engaging in civil disobedience and digital activism against the military regime. These developments underscore the multifaceted crises facing Kachin State and Myanmar, encompassing human rights abuses, economic decline, and forced conscription, necessitating urgent international attention and intervention.

The overall review suggests that post-coup conditions in Kachin State remain dire, with escalating human rights violations, an economic downturn, and armed conflict. These challenges are reflective of a broader national crisis affecting all of Myanmar. The KIA/KIO's involvement in the revolution has bolstered resistance efforts, yet the military junta continues its brutal crackdown. Given the severity of the crisis, greater international intervention and humanitarian support are necessary to mitigate the suffering of civilians in Myanmar.

### 4. Summary of Findings

The study reveals a deeply insecure and economically unstable environment in Kachin State, heavily shaped by ongoing armed conflict and governance collapse. A vast majority of respondents reported feeling unsafe both during the day and night, indicating persistent personal insecurity across all spaces, including homes, workplaces, and public areas. Psychological distress was widespread, with over 88% of participants experiencing mental health impacts.

Economic challenges emerged as a central concern. Respondents highlighted unemployment, inflation, and reliance on black markets as key issues, indicating a deteriorating livelihood landscape. Public services especially health and education were perceived as either inaccessible or misaligned with community needs. Only a small minority viewed local authorities as sources of support, underscoring a major trust deficit in public institutions.

Focus group discussions further emphasized desires for justice, employment opportunities, and an end to forced conscription. Community networks and NGOs were identified as the primary providers of support, reflecting the rise of informal governance in the absence of effective state structures.

## 5. Respondent Demographics Analysis

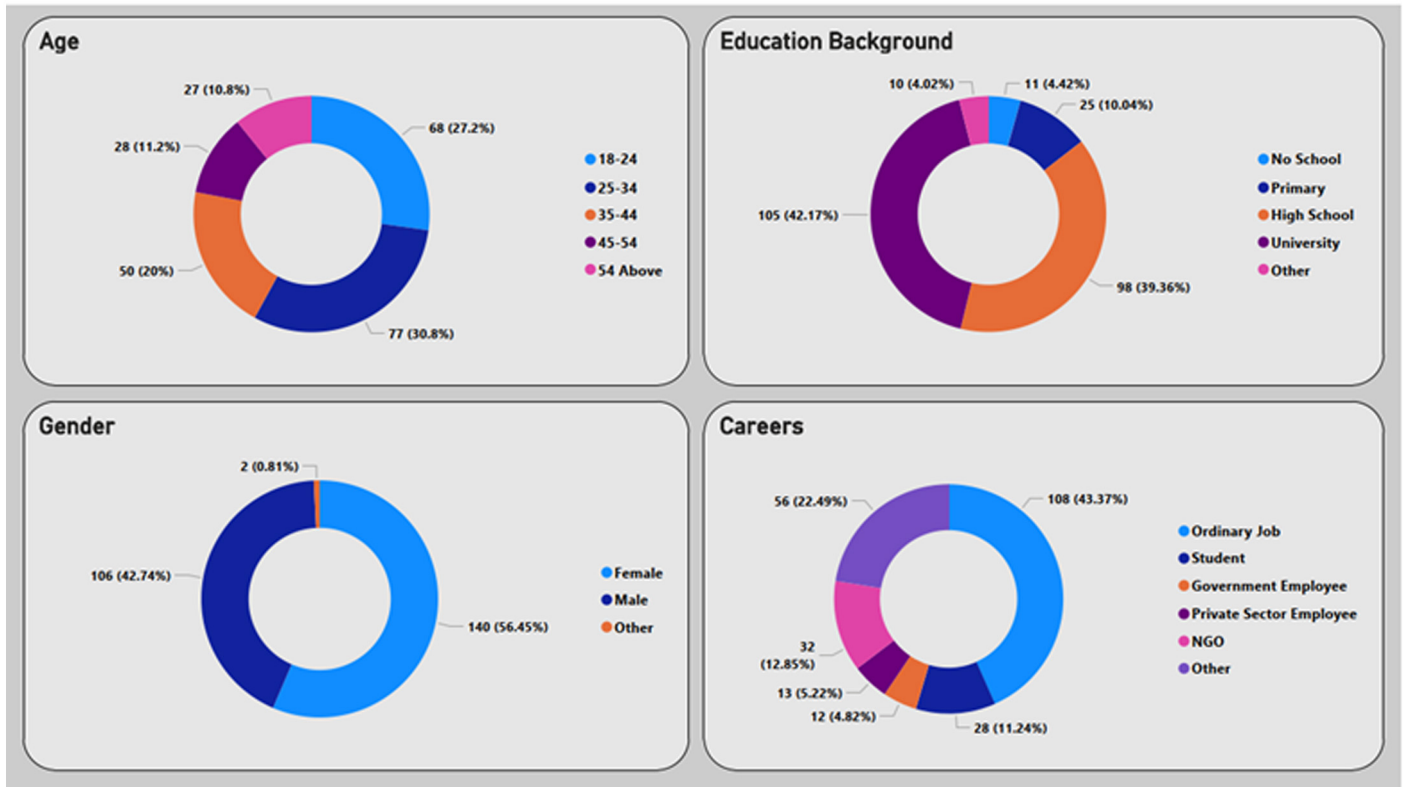


Figure 1

The data provides insights into the distribution of respondents based on age, educational background, gender, and career. Understanding these demographic factors is essential for interpreting the study's findings and assessing their relevance to the target population.

### Age Distribution

The age distribution of respondents indicates a predominantly young to middle-aged sample. The largest proportion of respondents falls within the 25-34 age group (30.8%), followed by 18-24 years (27.2%). Additionally, 20% of respondents belong to the 35-44 age category, while the 45-54 (11.2%) and 54 and above (10.8%) groups represent smaller segments. This distribution suggests that the study primarily captures insights from individuals in their early to mid-career stages.

## Educational Background

The majority of respondents have attained a higher level of education, with 42.17% holding a university degree and 39.36% having completed high school. A smaller percentage of respondents reported completing primary education (10.04%), while 4.02% had no formal schooling. Additionally, 4.42% of respondents classified their education under the ‘**Other**’ category. These findings indicate that a significant proportion of the sample is well-educated, which may influence their perspectives on the research topic.

## Gender Representation

The gender distribution of the respondents shows that 56.45% are female, 42.74% are male, and 0.81% identify as ‘**Other**’. The higher proportion of female respondents suggests a gender imbalance in the sample, which may affect the interpretation of the study’s findings.

## Career Distribution

Regarding professional engagement, the majority of respondents are involved in ordinary jobs (43.37%), followed by students (22.49%). Other notable employment categories include private sector employees (12.85%), government employees (11.24%), and NGO workers (5.22%). A small proportion of respondents (4.82%) identified their careers under the ‘**Other**’ category. This variation in career backgrounds suggests that the study captures perspectives from a diverse range of professional experiences.

## 6. Analysis

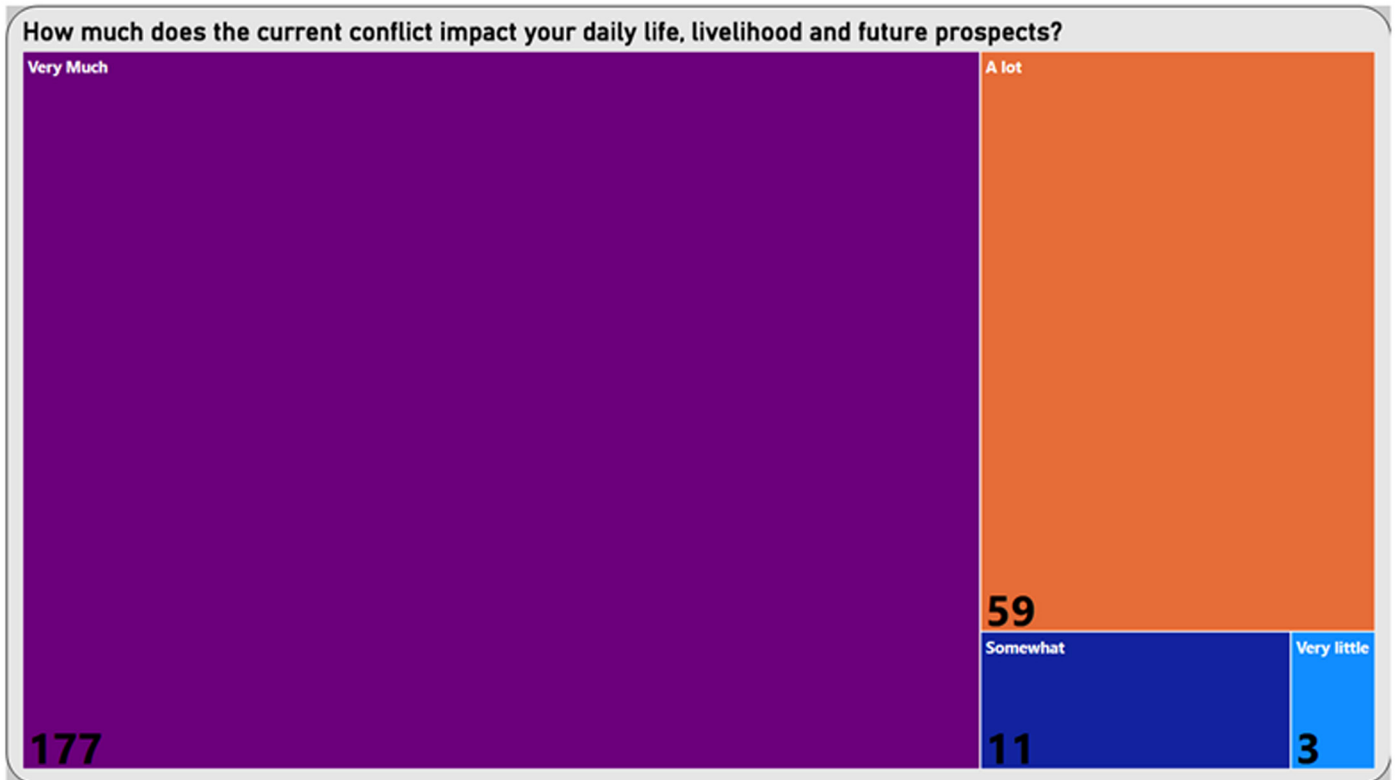
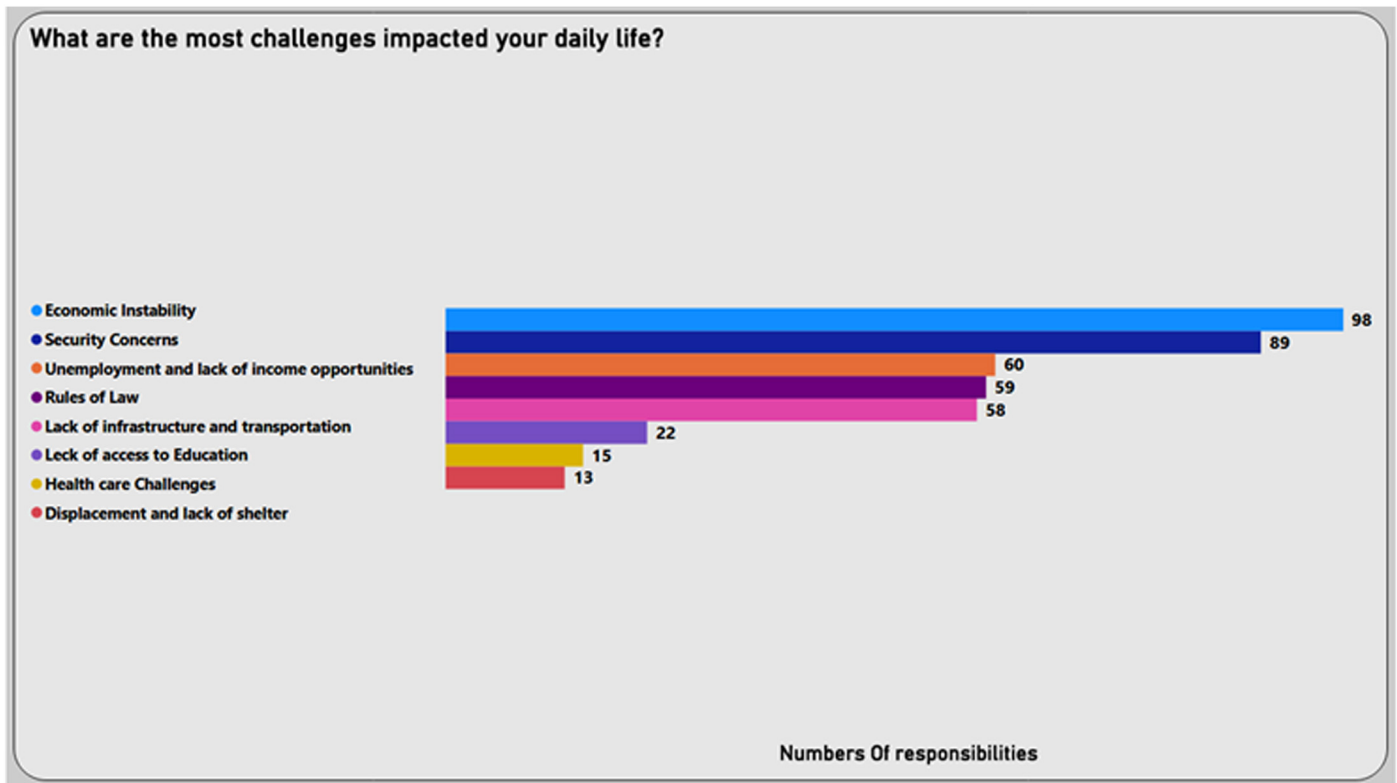


Figure 2

How much does the current conflict impact your daily life, livelihood, and prospects?

The visualization effectively highlights the significant impact of the ongoing conflict on people's daily lives, livelihoods, and future prospects. The treemap chart clearly illustrates that the majority of respondents, 175 out of 250, feel the conflict has affected them **"Very Much,"** while another 59 reports being impacted **"A Lot."** This suggests that an overwhelming portion of the population is experiencing severe disruptions due to the conflict. A smaller segment of respondents (11) report being impacted **"Somewhat,"** while only 3 individuals feel **"Very Little"** impact, and none indicate being completely unaffected.



**Figure 3**

### **What are the biggest challenges that impacted your daily life?**

When collecting data on the local challenges being faced, we see the response demonstrate 6 major types of challenges that significantly impact the daily life of the public in Kachin State. They are economic instability, security concerns, unemployment and lack of income opportunities, lack of rules of law, difficulties in transportation and communication, and lack of access to education and health care services. Among them most respondents cited economic difficulties, such as financial instability, rising commodity prices, and the increasing costs of services and daily expenses, as the most significant challenges. The second issue mentioned involves insecurity, because of arbitrary arrests, forced recruitment, conscription law by SAC and an increase in theft, crime, and armed robberies, resulting in a lack of security and difficulties in daily life. These challenges arise from the absence of rules of law, no schooling, lack of job opportunities and income opportunities, and power vacuum in the public and become likely fill state. Here, the Kachin people are targeted for recruitment of the KIA. It is frequently and randomly capture for the recruitment feel insure of the Youth and worries for the parents.

The third major challenge highlighted is the scarcity of employment opportunities and limited avenues for income, making it difficult to address family needs, education, and healthcare. Overall, the chart reveals a hierarchy of concerns led by economic and safety issues, reflecting the urgent needs and living conditions of the affected population.

The respondents consistently emphasized how rising prices and stagnant salaries have made daily survival difficult. One respondent expressed that, with the cost of goods increasing, their salary/income is no longer enough to support their family, creating constant financial stress. Another individual shared that poor transportation infrastructure and rising fuel prices severely impact their business operations.

Several respondents highlighted the lack of security, explaining how theft, robbery, and violence have become common. One woman, for instance, mentioned how unsafe it is to travel even between villages, with no channels available for victims of violence to report incidents. Another respondent said the absence of the rule of law has driven families to flee conflict zones, leaving them with no safe place to turn and making travel dangerous, especially at night.

The issue of education was raised by multiple individuals. One parent shared a deeply personal story about their children refusing to attend school out of fear of airstrikes, while others described the deteriorating state of schools, the lack of teachers, and the limited opportunities for higher education.

Mental health concerns also surfaced repeatedly. Respondents described daily anxiety and depression, with one admitting to feeling so overwhelmed by economic hardship and insecurity that they sometimes no longer wished to continue living. Another shared how constant worry over income, food, and basic needs consumes their thoughts.

Job scarcity was a dominant theme as well. Respondents, particularly young people, lamented the lack of employment opportunities, forcing families to survive hand-to-mouth. One young person reported feeling hopeless as job prospects disappeared and financial pressures increased.

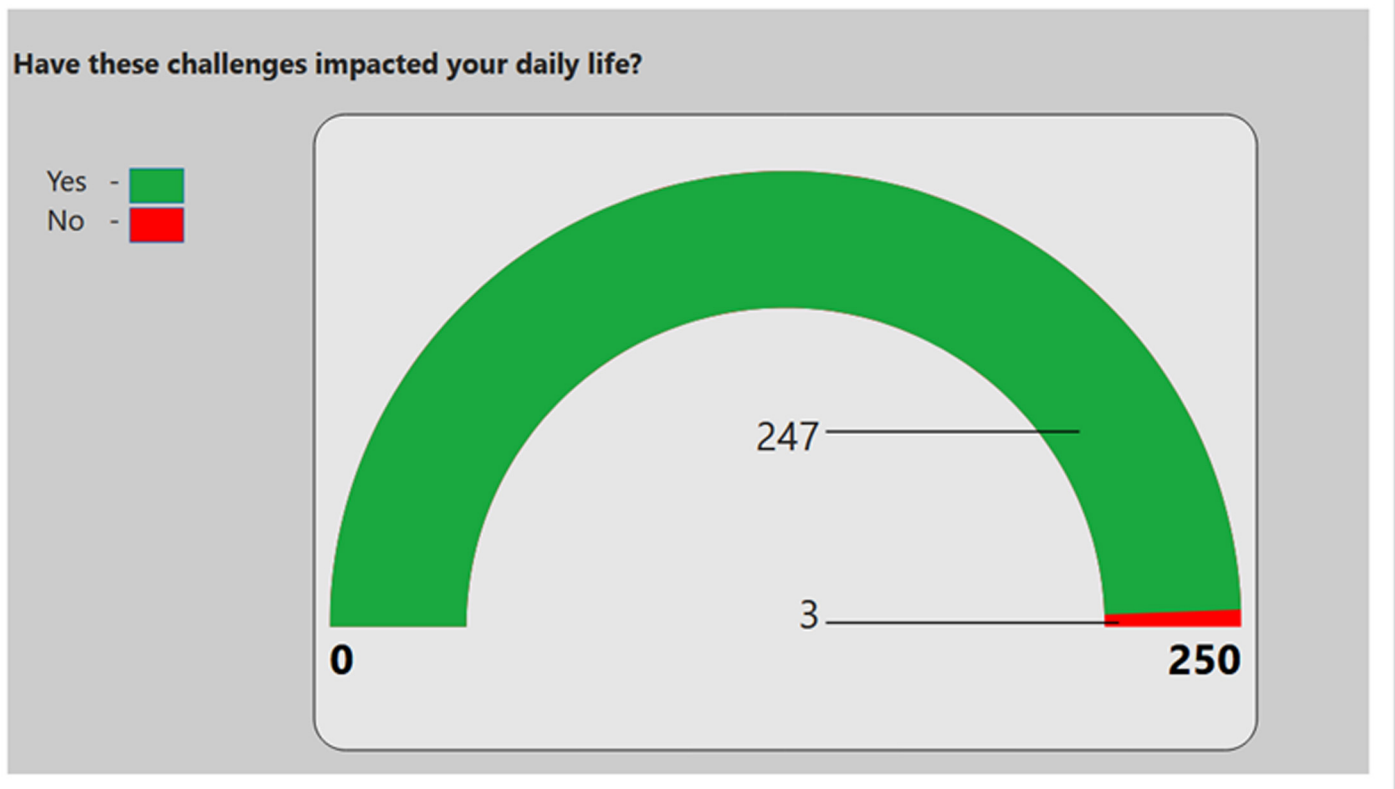
Healthcare access has worsened too. A respondent noted that medicine shortages and rising medical costs make treatment difficult, especially for those with chronic conditions. Another pointed out how hospitals lack free services, adding to the financial burden.

Socially, families face increasing hardship. One respondent mentioned how rising living costs, job scarcity, and security risks have eroded social bonds and collective well-being. Several shared fears that people lacking legal opportunities might turn to risky or illegal means of survival.

The political instability in Kachin State was recognized as the root of many problems. A respondent expressed frustration at the collapse of interconnected systems of politics, economy, education, and social life leading to a breakdown in everyday life. They called for rules of law and political stability as a necessary foundation for restoring peace and improving conditions.

***A young person noted that political instability has stripped away any opportunities for both education and employment, leading many to abandon their dreams.***

**In conclusion**, the respondents' accounts paint a grim but honest picture of life in Kachin State. Daily struggles with financial insecurity, lack of safety, poor infrastructure, disrupted education, healthcare challenges, and job scarcity have profoundly affected both individual lives and the social fabric. The testimonies call attention to the urgent need for political stability, security, and economic reform to restore hope and normalcy.



**Figure 4**

### **How have these challenges impacted your daily life?**

The gauge charts further reinforce above findings, with 247 respondents affirming that the conflict has influenced their daily lives, while only 3 claim it has not.

This overwhelming consensus underscores the severity of the situation and suggests that the conflict is a pervasive issue affecting nearly everyone. The minimal number of individuals reporting little to no impact indicates that very few remain unaffected, emphasizing the widespread nature of these challenges. Overall, the visualization presents a compelling picture of the deep and far-reaching consequences of the conflict on people's lives.



Figure 5

### How secure do you feel about your own safety and the safety of your community?

The visualization presents a compelling narrative of insecurity and vulnerability within the community. The majority of respondents express significant concerns about their safety, with 103 individuals indicating that they feel **"Not Secure"** and 100 reporting that they feel **"Not Secure at All."** This means that a combined total of 203 out of all respondents perceive a lack of safety in their environment, highlighting a widespread sense of fear and instability.

According to these findings, approximately 8 out of every 10 people in Kachin State are living with constant fear and psychological trauma. This widespread impact affects people from all walks of life, including youth, women, men, and parents. Out of every 100 individuals, not less than 80 experience severe psychological and physical insecurity daily, constantly facing threats and emotional distress.

Additionally, 38 individuals describe themselves as **"Somewhat Insecure,"** further emphasizing the prevailing uncertainty.

On the other hand, only a small fraction of respondents feel any level of security, with just 7 people reporting they feel "Secure" and an even smaller group of 2 expressing that they feel "Very Secure." This stark contrast underscores the severity of the issue, as the vast majority of the community experiences insecurity, while only a negligible percentage feel safe. The data suggests a critical need for intervention, whether through enhanced security measures, community support programs, or policy changes aimed at restoring a sense of safety. The overwhelming sense of insecurity captured in this visualization paints a troubling picture of the current situation and calls for urgent action to address the concerns of the affected population.

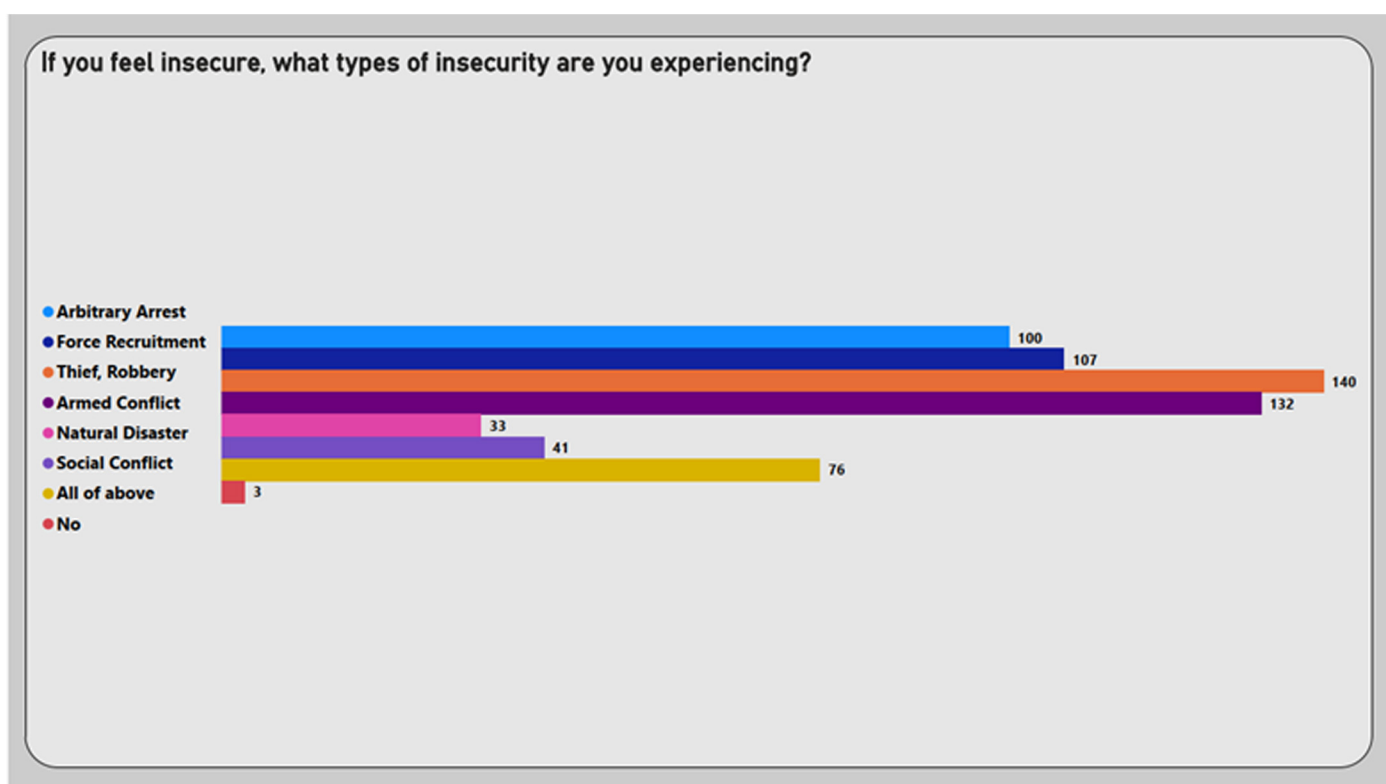


Figure 6

**If you feel insecure, what types of insecurity are you experiencing?**

The security threats faced by the public include arbitrary arrests and interrogations, forced recruitment into military service, robbery and violent assaults, armed conflict, natural disasters, and social unrest. Among these, local crimes particularly robbery, murder, scamming, theft, and violent assaults have become the most significant security threats affecting communities.

Robberies have notably increased compared to previous years. According to statements from victims, the situation has deteriorated to the point where individuals are being killed over possessions worth just three to four hundred thousand kyats. Burglars often steal not only valuable items but even taking scrap metal.

One female respondent recounted that after finishing an online class, she was robbed outside an internet café. Her motorcycle, purse and phone were grabbed, and the robbers verbally abused her and threatened her with a knife. Fortunately, she managed to escape unharmed.

Another respondent, a 26-year-old man, shared that while he was riding his motorcycle home around 7:00PM, he was struck on the head from behind with a club. He lost consciousness, and when he woke up, his motorcycle and phone had been stolen. He had also been tied to a post.

Several local news outlets have reported incidents of looters committing murders while robbing homes around Myitkyina, the largest city in Kachin State. One particularly disturbing case involved a couple who were killed near a park while on a date, as reported by several respondents.

These cases point to a serious breakdown in the rule of law and reflect the worsening socioeconomic conditions in the country. A contributing factor is the influx of migrants from other regions facing extreme economic hardship and ongoing conflict, particularly from areas like Sagaing and Bago, where clashes between the People's Defense Forces (PDF) and the SAC military are frequent. Many of these migrants find themselves in desperate "do or die" situations, which has further intensified security concerns in host communities.

**The second most significant threat is armed conflict.** It is evident that the widespread occurrence of clashes in nearly every area poses a major threat. The primary reason is that armed conflicts bring about severe dangers, including heavy artillery shelling, aerial bombings, and forced displacement due to fighting. These conflicts frequently result in the destruction of homes from heavy weapon fire, civilian casualties, and deaths caused by airstrikes and bombings. Due to these attacks, there are repeated incidents of homes being set ablaze and lives being lost.

**This** competitive recruitment by each armed group became most evident after the coup and the offensive launched by the KIA and its allied PDFs on various SAC military camps. The demand for increased manpower by these groups has resulted in the violation of youths' rights to life and freedom of movement, making their lives increasingly insecure.

**Furthermore, arbitrary arrest is also seen as the third most significant threat.** In this context, arbitrary arrest mainly refers to the military conducting checks at inspection gates and on public roads, where individuals are detained without legal justification, often leading to charges and imprisonment. These arrests frequently result in prosecution under charges such as unlawful association, treason, or electronic acts. As a result, individuals are often subjected to imprisonment and prolonged detention. This ongoing threat continues to cause fear and insecurity among the population. When we study in depth the case of the unlawful association, treason or electronic acts, It is seen that most people are charged or detained was with reason of posting, sharing, reacting like or love on social media that posting about against military junta and keep photos of related to revolutionaries groups as well as NUG ( National Unity Government ), PDF ( people defense force), KIA (Kachin Independent Army), other ethnic armed groups and camping photos in phone gallery.

Due to restrictions on accessing social media platforms like Facebook, people have also been facing threats of arrest simply for using Facebook or VPNs (Virtual Private Networks) on their phones. These actions have led to an increasing number of arbitrary arrests and detentions without due process. Even possessing a VPN app or having opened social media platforms is enough to raise suspicion, resulting in interrogations, intimidation, or even criminal charges.

This reflects a broader pattern of human rights violations, where the authorities systematically suppress digital freedom and freedom of expression. The right to access information, communicate freely, and express opinions—particularly those critical of the military junta—is being severely undermined. People live in constant fear that their digital activity may be monitored or used against them in court.

This type of insecurity reflects broader issues of governance, including the misuse of power by authorities and the lack of legal protection for citizens. It also demonstrates the impact of political instability, where such practices are often used as tools to suppress dissent or control the population. As a result, the fundamental rights to freedom of movement, freedom of expression, privacy, and the right to live safely are all being gravely threatened under the current conditions.

**Social conflict threats continue to follow the threats of recruitment and arbitrary arrest.** These issues are most frequently reported in Mohnyin Township. We found that 60% of respondents from Mohnyin mentioned the threat of social conflict among communities.

Mohnyin is a township where there is ethnic tension between the Shanni and Kachin communities. Some Shanni militia-affiliated groups or individuals often display extreme racism toward Kachin people. Sometimes, the Shanni militia (SNA) spread propaganda among the youth, encouraging them not to wear the traditional Kachin longyi (a traditional garment).

When they see someone wearing a Kachin longyi, they may impose punishments such as forcing them to do push-ups, squats, or other forms of physical punishment. In some cases, they force them to change their clothes.

It has also been observed that unidentified groups are spreading hate speech against both the Kachin and Shanni communities online. For example, during a murder incident in Myitkyina, it was found that a sign reading “Shanni Justice” was placed on the victim’s body. Such actions raise concerns that hatred between ethnic groups may intensify further. Therefore, it is crucial to take preventive measures, provide healing support, and work towards building peace in order to avoid ethnic conflicts.

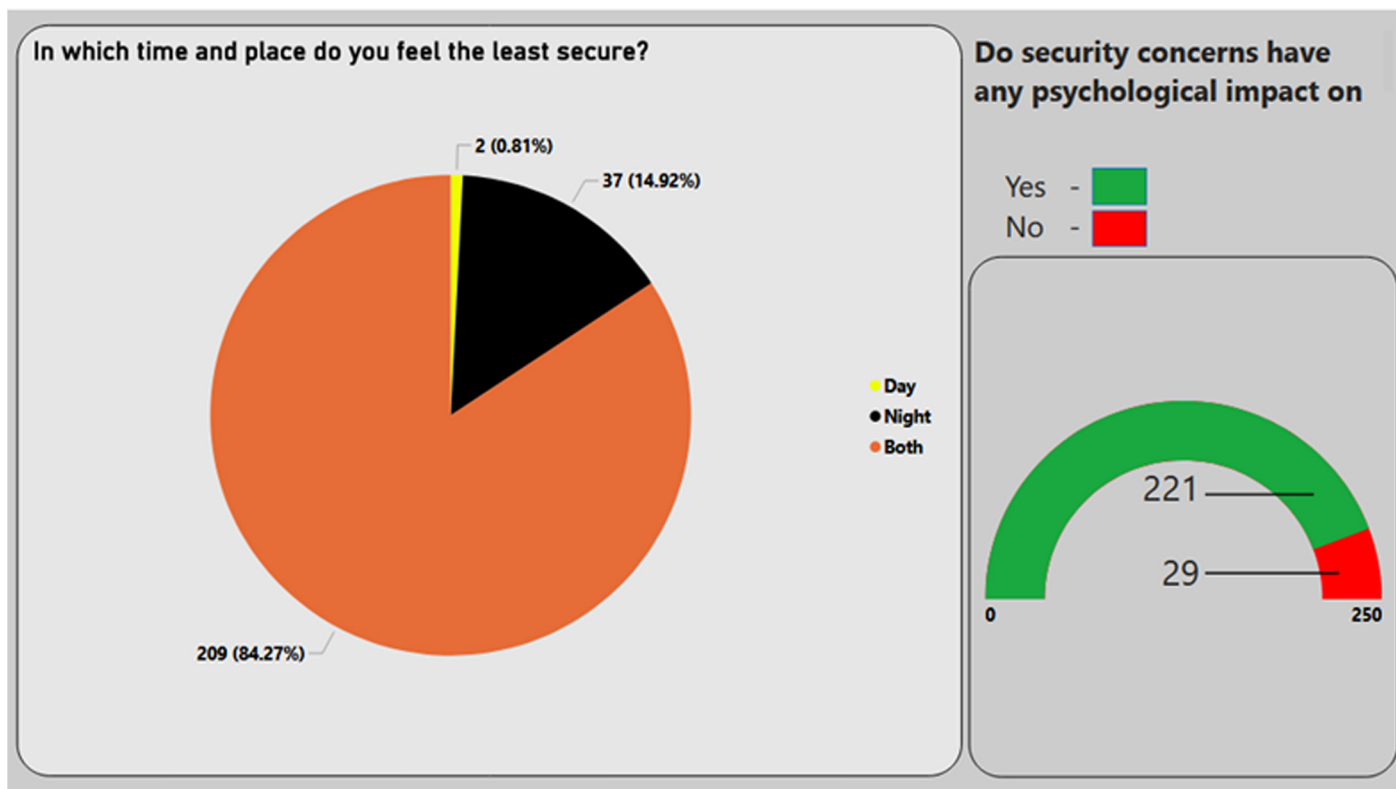


Figure 7

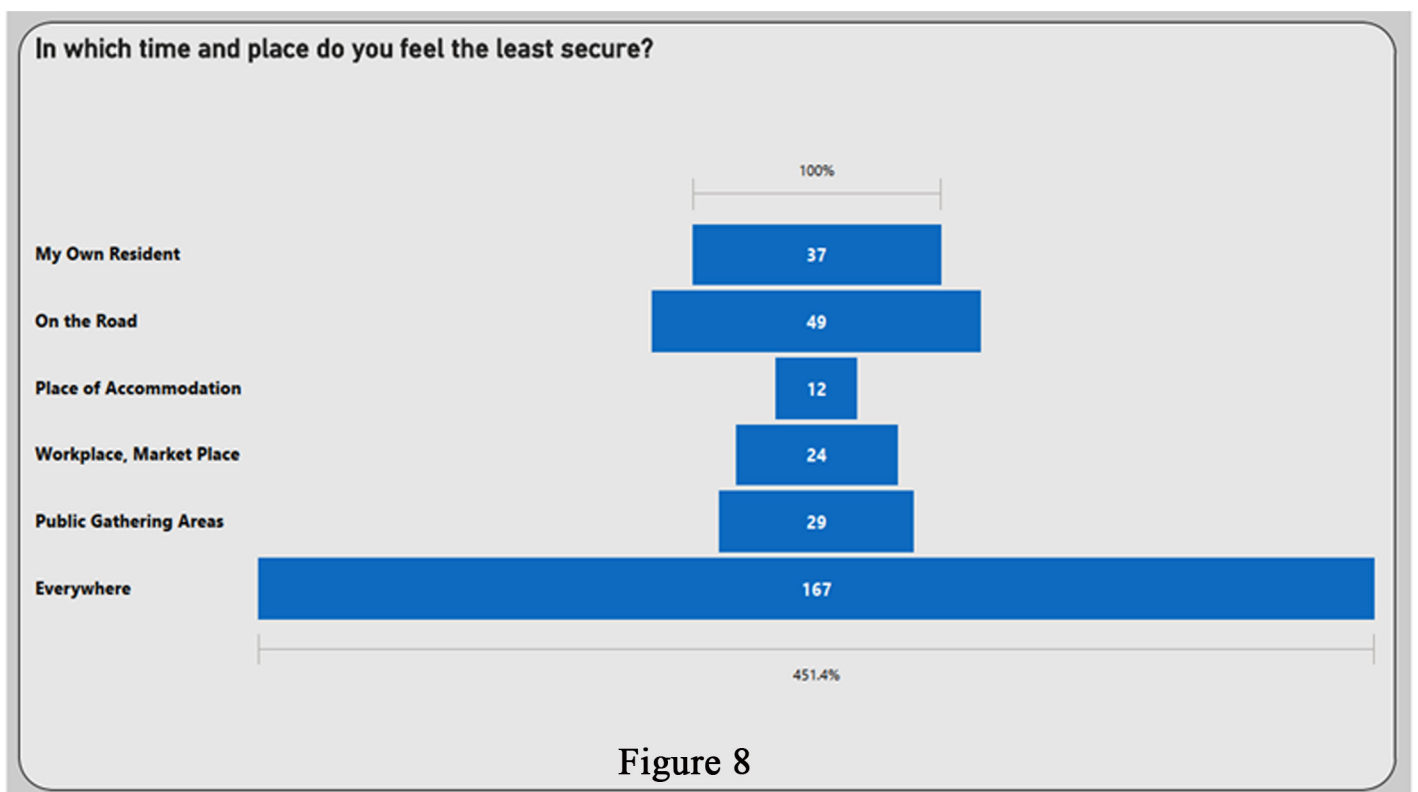
**In which time and place do you feel that least secure? Do security concerns have any psychological impact on you?**

When respondents were asked to choose the time they feel most insecure during the day, at night, or both the pie chart on the left shows that an overwhelming majority (209 respondents, 84.27%) feel insecure both during the day and night, indicating a constant state of fear. This means that the aforementioned threats such as arbitrary arrest, forced recruitment, robbery/theft, armed conflict, natural disasters, and social conflict are affecting the public at all hours. This suggests that people in Kachin State live in a continuous state of fear, even within their own homes. Meanwhile, 37 respondents (14.92%) feel unsafe only at night. A very small portion, just 2 respondents (0.81%), reported feeling insecure only during the day, suggesting that most threats are either persistent or become more intense at night.

On the right side, the gauge charts depict the psychological impact of security concerns. A staggering 221 out of 250 respondents indicated that insecurity has a psychological impact on them, highlighting how ongoing threats and instability affect mental well-being. This accounts for **88.4%**, meaning that **more than 88 out of every 100 people** are significantly affected psychologically by insecure conditions in their communities. In contrast, only 29 people reported no psychological impact a significantly lower percentage. This suggests that most individuals experience stress, anxiety, or trauma due to their perceived lack of safety.

Overall, the data highlights a deeply rooted sense of insecurity, with most people living in fear regardless of the time of day. The high percentage of those experiencing psychological distress suggests that the security situation is not just a physical threat but also a severe mental health crisis.

This calls for urgent measures to improve security and provide psychological support to those affected.



### In which time and place do you feel the least secure?

The chart illustrates individuals' perceptions of insecurity across different locations, revealing widespread concerns about safety in Kachin State. The most significant finding is that a majority of respondents (167) feel unsafe everywhere, highlighting an alarming sense of fear and vulnerability. This widespread insecurity is likely due to the ongoing conflict, arbitrary violence, forced recruitment, airstrikes, and bombings carried out by the Myanmar military. Civilians are constantly at risk, with no place feeling truly safe.

Among specific locations, *the road* is perceived as particularly unsafe, with 49 respondents expressing concern. Roads are often dangerous due to military checkpoints, arbitrary arrests, forced recruitment by armed groups, and the risk of sudden attacks. Travelers are vulnerable to looters, ambushes, and violence, making movement a constant source of fear.

Surprisingly, 37 people reported feeling insecure in *their own residence*, which should ideally be a place of safety. However, many homes are targeted during raids, looted, or destroyed in military offensives. Civilians live in constant fear of arbitrary shooting, forced displacement, or being caught in crossfire. The military's systematic attacks on villages have left many feeling that nowhere is truly safe.

*Public gathering areas* are another major point of concern, with 29 respondents expressing insecurity. Crowded places such as markets, religious sites, and community events are often targeted for bombings, arbitrary shootings, and mass arrests. The risk of sudden violence makes even routine activities dangerous.

Similarly, *workplaces and marketplaces* are not safe, with 24 people reporting insecurity in these areas. Economic centers often become battlegrounds, with armed groups extorting businesses, authorities cracking down on suspected dissidents, and general lawlessness leading to looting and destruction. Many people are forced to work under oppressive conditions, facing harassment, intimidation, or even abduction.

Interestingly, *places of accommodation* appear to be the least concerning, with only 12 respondents feeling unsafe. This could indicate that temporary lodgings, such as hotels or shelters, are less likely to be directly targeted. However, this does not mean they are completely secure, as travelers and displaced persons still face risks such as forced evictions, surveillance, and unpredictable violence.

Overall, the data reflects a disturbing trend where insecurity dominates every aspect of daily life. The Myanmar military's continuous attacks, arbitrary arrests, forced recruitment, airstrikes, and bombings have created an environment where civilians must always be on high alert. The overwhelming fear and instability demand urgent international attention and action to protect innocent people from further harm.

Please rate your level of satisfaction with access to education

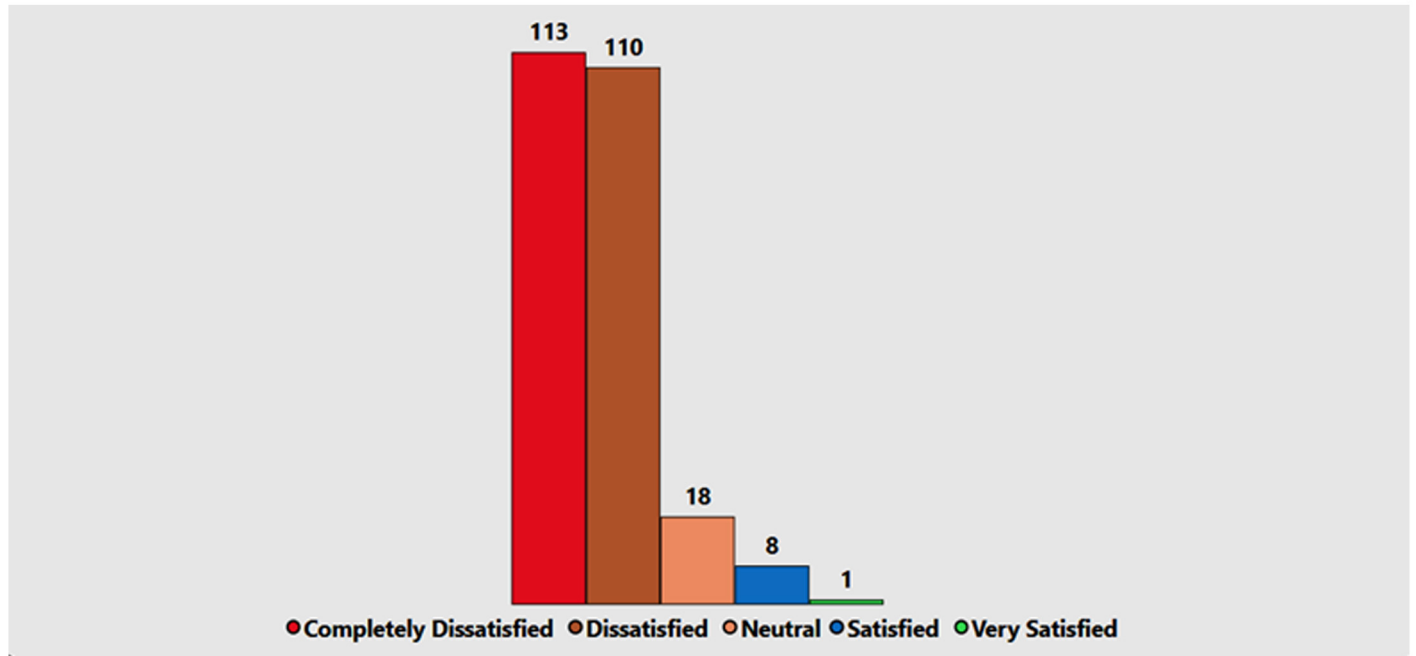


Figure 9

A significant majority 113 respondents reported being completely dissatisfied, while another 110 expressed dissatisfaction. This overwhelming response highlights serious concerns not only about access but potentially the quality and consistency of education as well. In contrast, only 18 respondents selected a neutral stance, indicating that very few individuals feel indifferent about the issue. On the positive end, just 8 people reported being satisfied, and only 1 person expressed being very satisfied. These numbers reveal that positive experiences with education accessibility are extremely rare, reinforcing the urgent need for improvements in the education sector, particularly in ensuring equitable and reliable access for all communities.

## Please rate your level of satisfaction with employment opportunities

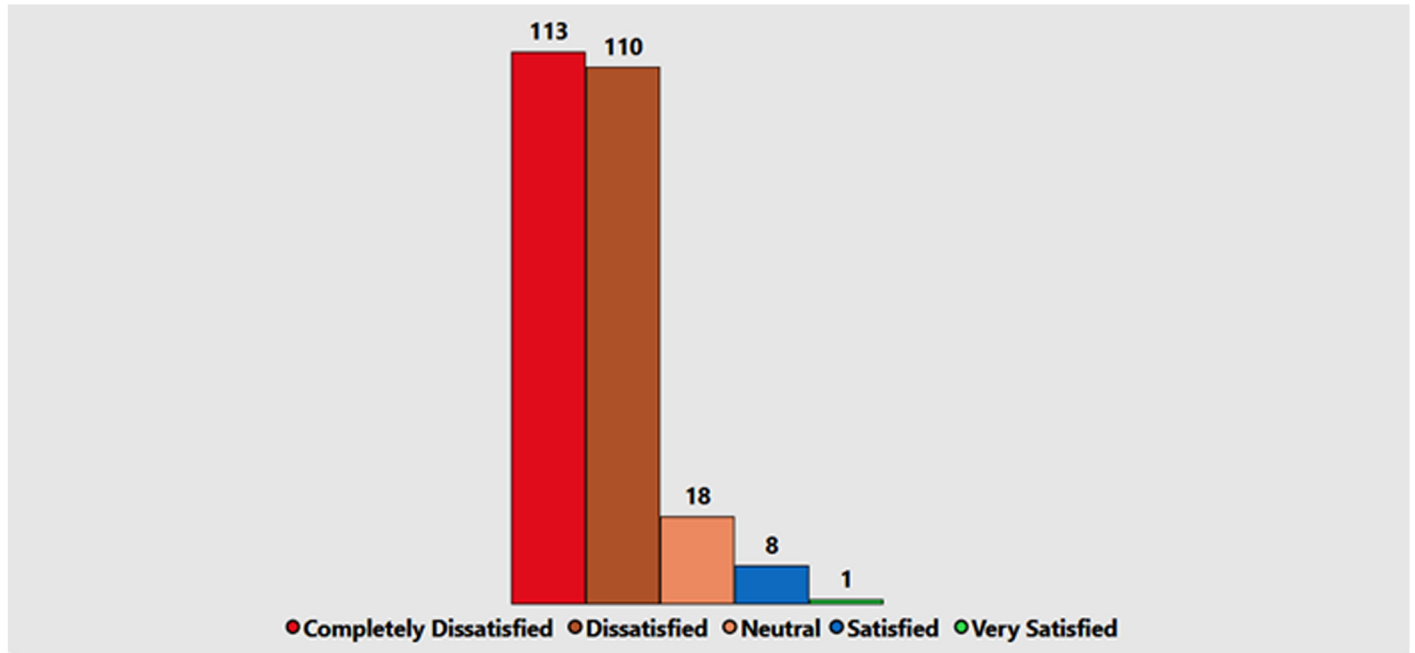


Figure 10

The majority of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with employment opportunities, with 113 individuals stating they are completely dissatisfied and another 110 indicating they are dissatisfied. This widespread discontent reflects serious concerns regarding limited job availability, low wages, lack of job security, and a mismatch between available jobs and workers' skills. A small portion of respondents, only 18, reported feeling neutral, suggesting indifference or mixed experiences. In contrast, just 8 respondents expressed satisfaction, and only 1 person reported being very satisfied, underscoring the rarity of positive experiences in the job market. These findings clearly highlight that dissatisfaction with employment opportunities is a significant and pervasive issue. The overwhelmingly negative sentiment suggests deep-rooted systemic challenges in the labor market, potentially caused by economic instability, ongoing political unrest, population displacement, or insufficient education and vocational training. These results point to an urgent need for action by policymakers and development organizations to improve access to inclusive, sustainable, and stable employment, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable communities.

## Please rate your level of satisfaction with transportation

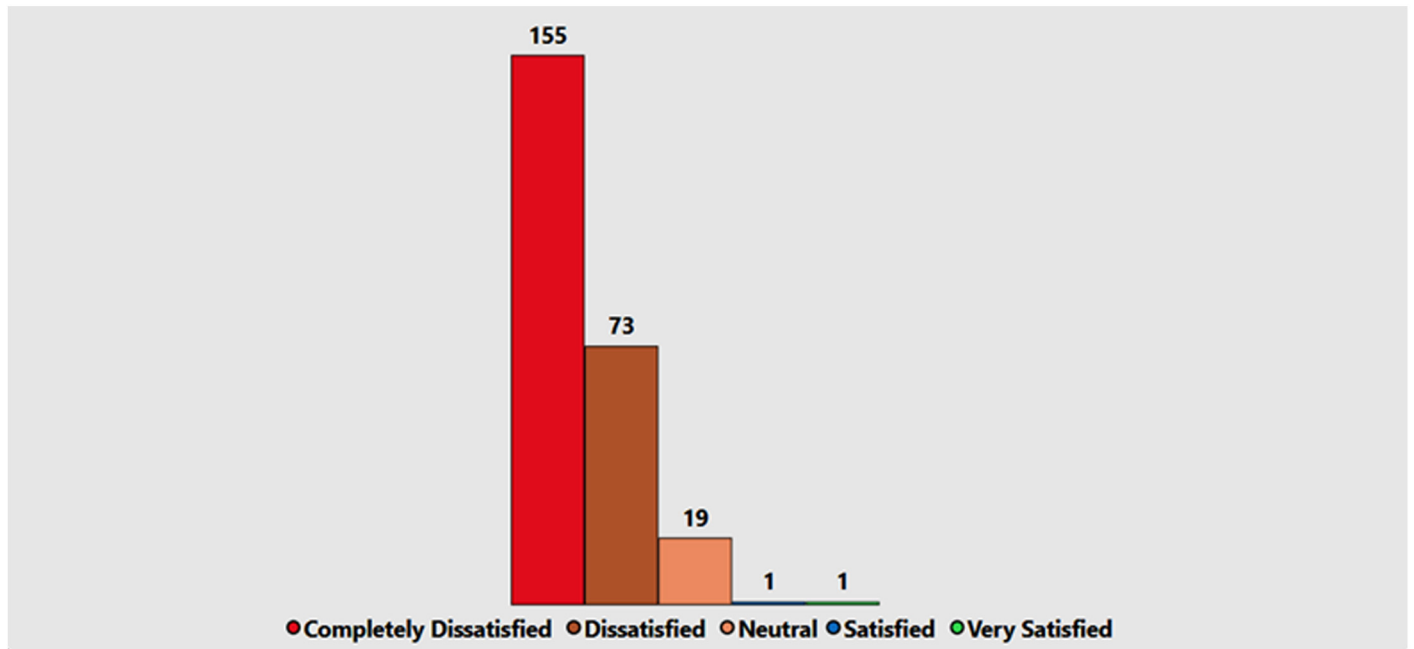


Figure 11

The chart illustrates the level of satisfaction with transportation among respondents in the surveyed area. The data shows that an overwhelming majority **155 respondents are completely dissatisfied**, while **73 are dissatisfied**. This means that **228 out of 250 respondents, or 91.2%**, are dissatisfied with transportation. If we apply this ratio to a group of 100 people, approximately **91 individuals out of 100** would be dissatisfied with transportation services. Only 19 participants reported a neutral stance, and just one respondent each expressed satisfaction or high satisfaction. This indicates a severe transportation crisis in the region. The root causes of dissatisfaction are closely tied to both security and infrastructure issues. Highways are frequently shut down due to ongoing conflict, making travel unpredictable and unsafe. Roads are often damaged or destroyed, creating physical barriers to mobility. As a result, people are forced to wait for long periods to pass safely, especially in conflict-affected zones, leading to significant delays in transporting goods and traveling for personal or professional reasons. These combined factors severely impact daily life and local economic activities, underscoring the urgent need for improved road conditions, safer travel routes, and conflict-sensitive transportation planning in Kachin State.

## Who do you feel is providing support in your community?

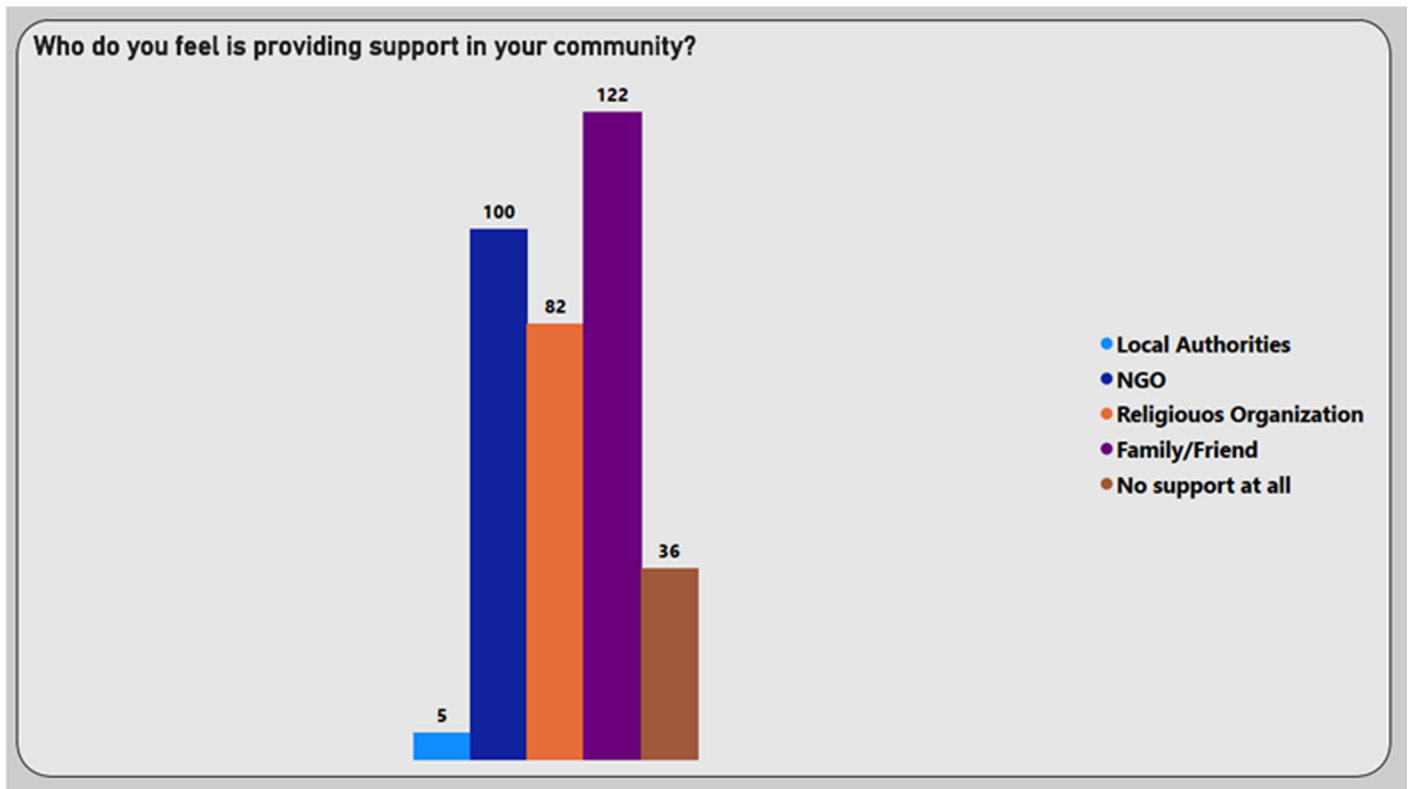


Figure 12

The bar chart illustrates the sources of support perceived by individuals within their community. The most significant source of support identified is from family and friends, with 122 respondents indicating this as their main support system. This suggests that many people are not receiving assistance from any formal organization or group in areas such as security, humanitarian aid, livelihoods, or education. NGOs follow as the second most cited source, with 100 responses, highlighting their prominent role in community assistance. This indicates the presence of livelihood training projects, educational opportunities, and various forms of support provided by these organizations. Religious organizations were also recognized, with 82 individuals identifying them as sources of support. Notably, 36 respondents reported receiving no support at all, reflecting a concerning gap in assistance for a segment of the population. The least mentioned were local authorities, with only 5 individuals feeling supported by them, indicating a perceived lack of presence or effectiveness from official institutions.

Overall, the data emphasizes the critical role of informal networks and non-governmental entities in providing community support, especially in conflict-affected areas. It also highlights the need for greater engagement from local authorities. This clearly shows that the space occupied by civil society organizations (CSOs) and NGOs is broader and more crucial than ever for people living in conflict-affected areas in Kachin State.

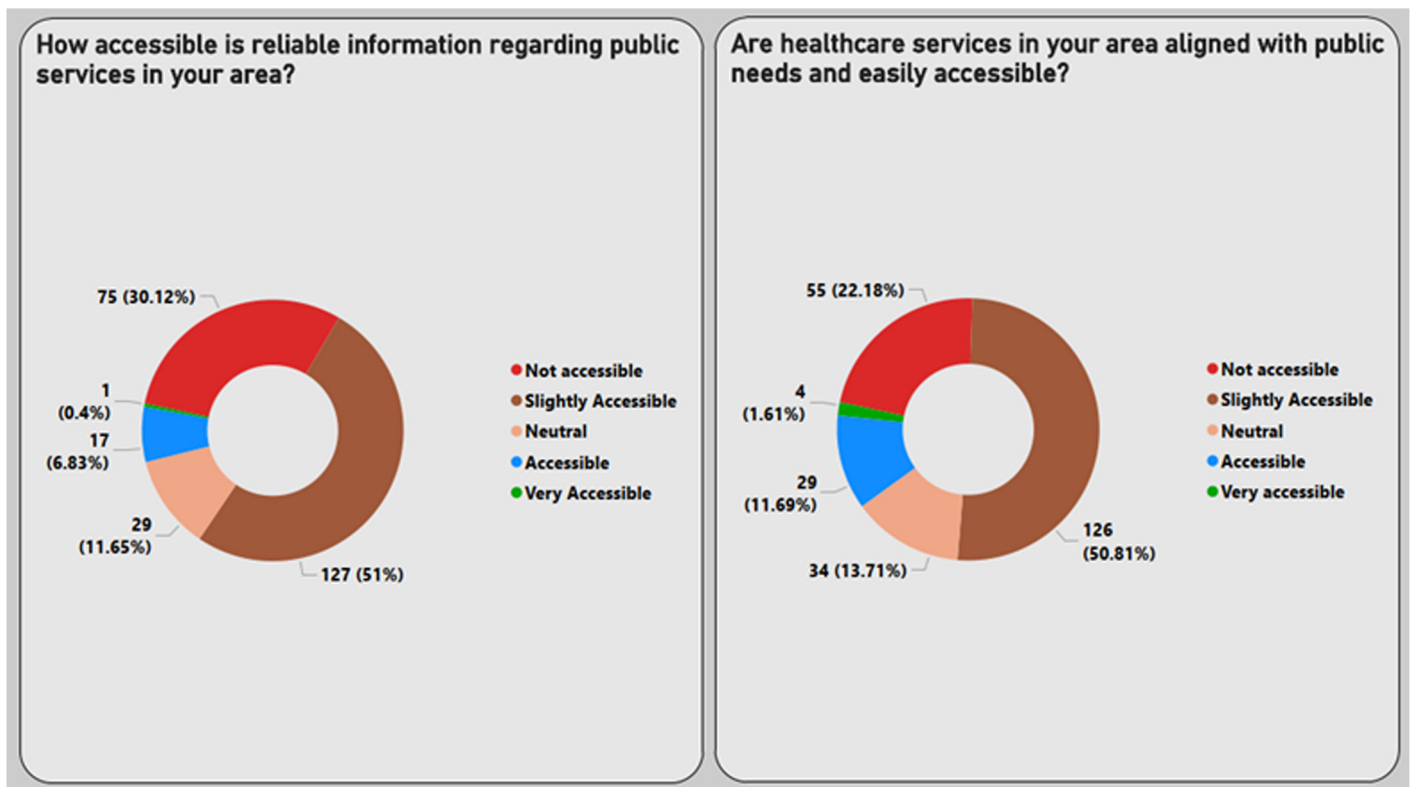


Figure 13

**How accessible is reliable information regarding public services in your areas? Are healthcare services in your areas aligned with public needs and easily accessible?**

The two pie charts illustrate public perceptions regarding the accessibility of reliable information on public services and the accessibility and alignment of healthcare services with public needs in their respective areas.

## **Access to Reliable Information on Public Services**

The first chart shows that a significant portion of respondents (127 individuals or 51%) consider reliable information on public services to be only slightly accessible. Meanwhile, 30.12% (75 respondents) reported that such information is not accessible at all, suggesting a widespread communication gap or a lack of transparency in the dissemination of public service information. A smaller percentage of respondents expressed neutral views (11.65%), while only 6.83% found the information to be accessible, and a mere 0.4% considered it very accessible.

This data indicates that most of the population struggles to obtain trustworthy information about available services, which could hinder their ability to make informed decisions and access the support they need.

The internet blackout across the entire Kachin State has further impacted on the availability of essential information, including news, educational content, and awareness campaigns.

### **Accessibility and Alignment of Healthcare Services**

The second chart reflects public opinion on healthcare services. Over half of the respondents (50.81%, or 126 individuals) believe that healthcare services are slightly accessible and not fully aligned with public needs. Additionally, 22.18% stated that healthcare services are not accessible, pointing to a major issue in the availability or responsiveness of health services. While 13.71% of respondents remained neutral, 11.69% found services to be accessible, and only 1.61% considered them very accessible.

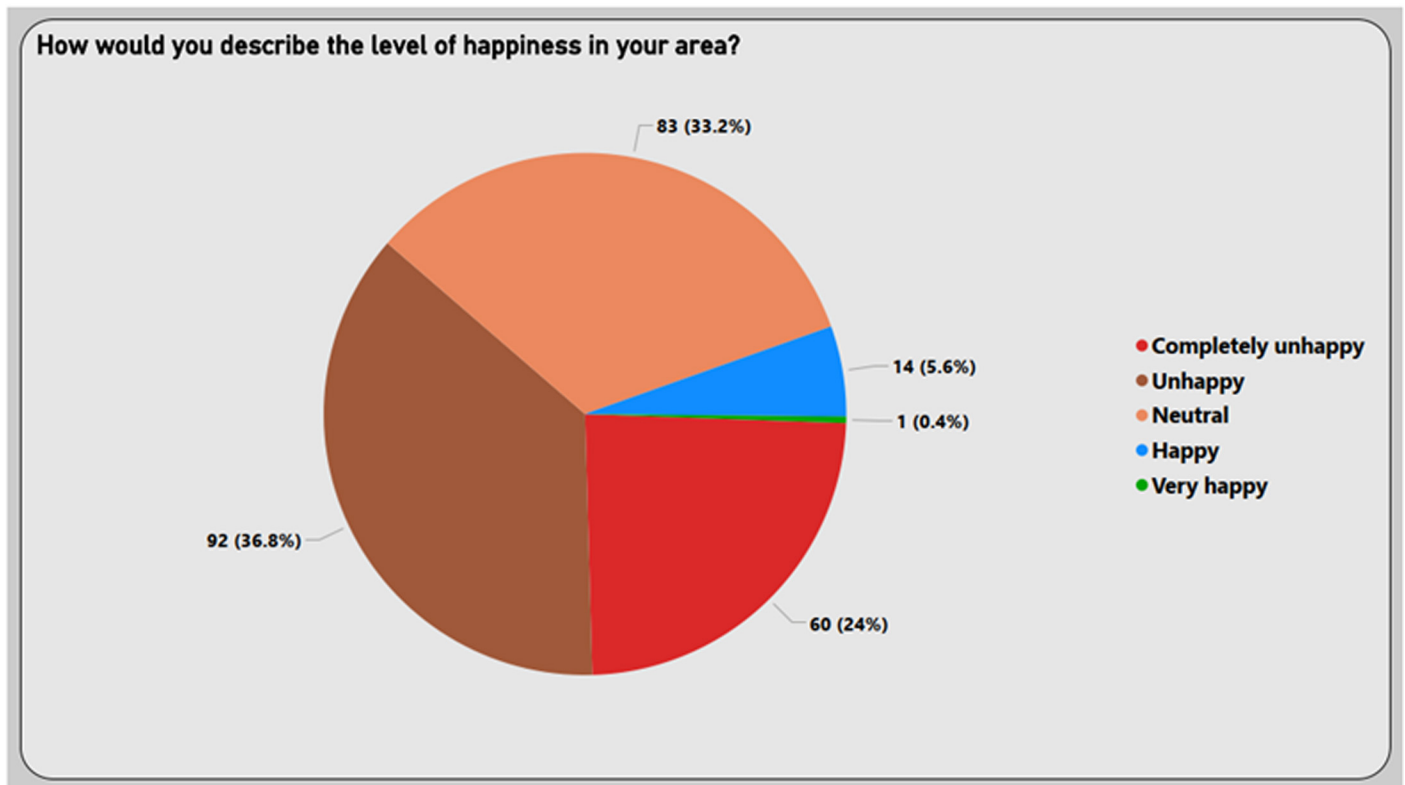


Figure 14

### How would you describe the level of happiness in your areas?

The chart titled "How would you describe the level of happiness in your area?" reveals a significant level of dissatisfaction among respondents. A combined 57.2% reported feeling either unhappy or completely unhappy, while only 6% expressed any form of happiness. The largest portion, 36.8%, felt neutral neither happy nor unhappy possibly reflecting emotional numbness or resignation. This widespread unhappiness can be attributed to multiple serious factors affecting the community's overall well-being. One major source is ongoing conflict and instability, including enforced conscription laws and forced military recruitment, which leave people feeling powerless and unsafe. In addition, economic struggles such as high unemployment and low income force many individuals into a constant fight for survival, with little to no financial security. These challenges are compounded by a general lack of opportunity to follow personal ambitions or dreams, which leads to a loss of purpose and long-term frustration. Many residents also feel physically and mentally unsafe in their environments due to poor infrastructure, insecurity, or violence. There is often no space or support for happy activities or community life, depriving people of moments of joy, rest, or connection. As a result, people feel like life is a steep hill—an exhausting, endless struggle with no relief. Together, these conditions create an environment where happiness is not just rare, but nearly inaccessible for most.

When are the people asked what kind of changes they expect from authorities and what they personally hope for in 2025?

When the discussions were organized, the participants prioritized in a focus group discussion the following points

### **Political Reform & Governance**

Many respondents expressed a strong and urgent desire for significant political changes and advancements. There is a clear and consistent hope for a new, democratic government that genuinely cares for the people, prioritizes national interests, and governs with integrity. Citizens envision leadership that respects civil liberties, restores democratic rights, and ensures fair, accountable, and transparent governance. The survey also revealed a widespread yearning for the end of military rule, the fall of the current military council, and the restoration of civilian government. While some respondents remain skeptical about the possibility of imminent change, the overarching expectation is for a capable, just government that can improve the country and secure a better, freer future for its people.

### **Economic Stability & Development**

Economic concerns emerged as one of the most pressing priorities among respondents. People voiced hopes for inflation to decrease, with commodity and fuel prices stabilizing to more manageable levels. Respondents aspire to see improvements in both national and personal economic conditions, with secure job opportunities and fair, accessible business environments. There is a strong demand for thriving local markets, increased investments, and better infrastructure that supports commerce, trade, and employment. Many citizens stressed the importance of fair business regulations and a market where small enterprises and entrepreneurs can operate freely. The public hopes that economic growth will go hand in hand with effective, fair governance ultimately improving livelihoods and reducing the economic struggles faced by many households today.

### **Education & Opportunities**

The importance of quality education and accessible learning opportunities was emphasized by many participants in the survey. There is a collective wish for an improved national education system that provides fair, inclusive, and high-standard educational opportunities for all citizens. Respondents called for more scholarships and international study programs, as well as the establishment of vocational training centers to enhance practical skills and employment prospects for younger generations. People strongly believe that national development cannot progress without investing in education, and many tied hopes for future opportunities to better, more accessible schooling and job training.

## **Peace, Security & Conflict Resolution**

Peace and public safety remain fundamental aspirations for the people of Myanmar. Respondents conveyed a deep desire for national peace, the reduction of armed conflicts, and the cessation of war. Many specifically wished for disarmament, reconciliation among conflicting groups, and the prioritization of peaceful dialogue and mutual understanding over violent conflict. Citizens long to live securely in their hometowns, without the constant fear of war or political persecution. A peaceful environment where families can live and work freely, without fear or restriction, was one of the most widely shared hopes in the survey.

## **Law, Human Rights & Justice**

The public expressed a strong hope for a justice system that truly upholds the rule of law, protects the rights of all people, and ensures fair and equal treatment, irrespective of social, ethnic, or political background. Many respondents emphasized the importance of freedom of expression, the protection of legal safeguards, and the establishment of a fair, unbiased judicial process. Human rights protection — including civil liberties, freedom of speech, and the right to live without oppression — emerged as an essential public expectation. There is a clear demand for an impartial legal framework that can guarantee justice for everyone and serve as the foundation for a fair, modern society.

## **Health & Social Welfare**

Healthcare and social welfare were identified as essential needs by many participants. Respondents wished for improved healthcare services, better-equipped public health facilities, and affordable medical care for all especially for the poor, elderly, and vulnerable communities. Free healthcare initiatives and broader access to medical services were commonly suggested as vital steps toward a more inclusive, caring society. Beyond physical health, respondents also expressed hopes for improved overall welfare, with personal safety, social security, and community well-being considered as critical indicators of national progress.

## **Communication Infrastructure & Internet Access**

Access to reliable and affordable communication services was another key concern shared by survey participants. Many respondents highlighted difficulties with current internet access, hoping for improvements in Wi-Fi, phone lines, and overall communication infrastructure. The desire for high-speed, stable, and reasonably priced internet connections was widespread — not just for convenience but as a vital tool for education, business, and personal freedoms. Respondents also called for unrestricted, uncensored access to online information and social media platforms, emphasizing the importance of freedom of digital communication in modern society.

## General Hopefulness / Broader Development

Beyond these sector-specific hopes, many respondents conveyed a broad, general desire for all-around national development. They expressed aspirations for improvements in governance, economy, education, healthcare, and infrastructure. Many spoke of better public safety, advances in transportation, housing, and technology, and more opportunities for young people. While some people remain doubtful about immediate changes, there was an unmistakable tone of resilience and hope. Respondents wished for a nation where freedom of expression, public safety, job security, and access to basic services are guaranteed for all citizens. This mixed, multidimensional hopefulness highlights the people's belief in the country's potential and their desire to see inclusive, balanced development.

## Conclusion

The survey provides clear insight into the hopes, concerns, and expectations of Myanmar's citizens as they look ahead to 2025. Despite significant political, social, and economic challenges, the people continue to aspire for a better, freer, and more just nation. The results reflect a collective longing for peace, democratic governance, economic stability, social justice, and national development across all sectors of public life. These voices — hopeful yet grounded in reality — offer valuable direction for policymakers, community leaders, and international partners as they work to shape Myanmar's future.

## Summary Table

Category	Example Responses
Peace, Security & Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Peaceful, war-free country where we can work and live freely</li> <li>- National peace, prosperity, and security</li> <li>- Conflict-free, safe hometowns</li> <li>- No more war and violent conflicts</li> <li>- Public safety, clean and orderly communities</li> <li>- Disarmament and reconciliation among groups</li> <li>- A genuinely peaceful society built on mutual respect</li> </ul>
Political Reform Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Political changes and advancements</li> <li>- New democratic government and fall of the military council</li> <li>- Political stability and improvement</li> <li>- Good governance that cares for people</li> <li>- Leadership prioritizing national interest over personal gain</li> <li>- Restoration of civil rights and democracy</li> <li>- Free, fair, and transparent elections</li> <li>- A government that truly loves and works for the country</li> </ul>
Human Rights & Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Full human rights for everyone</li> <li>- Fair, just, and lawful society</li> <li>- Freedom of expression and peaceful protests</li> <li>- Proper rule of law and equal justice</li> <li>- Legal safeguards for individual rights</li> <li>- Protection of civil liberties for all citizens</li> </ul>
Economic Stability Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inflation control and stable market prices</li> <li>- Affordable fuel and essential goods</li> <li>- More job opportunities and employment security</li> <li>- Economic growth with fair market practices</li> <li>- Public benefits from national infrastructure projects</li> <li>- Personal and family financial security</li> <li>- Thriving, transparent business environment</li> <li>- Personal business opportunities and financial freedom</li> </ul>
Education Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Better quality and accessible education</li> <li>- More scholarships and overseas study programs</li> <li>- Increased vocational training centers</li> <li>- Expanded job and career opportunities</li> <li>- Educational reforms for modern skills</li> <li>- Lifelong learning opportunities for youth and adults alike</li> </ul>

<p>Social Welfare, Health Personal Growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Better healthcare services and public hospitals</li> <li>- Free or affordable medical services for the poor and elderly</li> <li>- Personal well-being and family security</li> <li>- Improvements in social, health, and personal areas</li> <li>- Fair and supportive social safety nets</li> <li>- Community welfare and support programs</li> <li>- A society built on justice and peace</li> </ul>
<p>Communication &amp; Internet Access</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved WiFi and internet services</li> <li>- Stable, high-speed, and affordable internet connections</li> <li>- Reopening phone lines and internet services</li> <li>- Freedom to access and share information online</li> <li>- Ending digital censorship and restrictions</li> <li>- Reliable and widespread digital infrastructure</li> </ul>
<p>General Hopefulness / Mixed Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hope for well-rounded national development</li> <li>- Progress in politics, economy, education, and healthcare</li> <li>- Better opportunities for the youth</li> <li>- Freedom of speech and open public dialogue</li> <li>- Infrastructure development in roads, transportation, and housing</li> <li>- Technological and innovation progress</li> <li>- Positive, hopeful change for the country's future</li> </ul>

## 7. Additionally, comments and discussions of the respondents

During the focus group discussions on the survey results, participants underscored several key concerns and expectations for the future primarily emphasizing the need for political stability, economic recovery, and social justice. The conversation consistently revolved around the urgent requirement for a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict, improvements in economic conditions, and the establishment of a fair and accountable government system that truly serves the people's interests.

A major concern that emerged was the desire for a swift resolution of the political crisis. Many participants expressed deep frustration with the prolonged instability and stressed the need for a just outcome that can restore peace and security. The prevailing sentiment was that the revolution must succeed quickly to allow citizens to return to a normal, stable life, as the current state of affairs has led to widespread fear, displacement, and daily hardships.

Economic issues were also prominently featured in the discussions. Participants noted that inflation, trade disruptions, and a decline in job opportunities have placed an enormous burden on ordinary citizens. They cited the closure of critical border trade routes especially with China and frequent roadblocks on major transportation networks, such as the Mandalay-Shan highways, as factors that have severely disrupted trade and supply chains. As a consequence, the cost of living has soared, and employment opportunities have become increasingly scarce. Participants unanimously agreed on the urgent need for policies that would stabilize the market, control inflation, and reopen critical trade routes to revive business confidence and create jobs.

Concerns regarding the plight of young people also emerged as a critical issue. Many people participants voiced their desire for greater freedom to pursue education and career opportunities without the constraints imposed by political or economic conditions. However, they also expressed anxiety over the risk of forced military conscription by various armed groups including the military junta, the Kachin Independence Army, and associated militias which has fostered an environment of constant fear and uncertainty for the youth. This situation, combined with a lack of adequate protection mechanisms, forces many young people to confront an uncertain future with little support.

Parents reinforced these concerns by emphasizing the need for better access to education and consistent learning opportunities. They pointed to the disruptions in schooling caused by ongoing conflicts and economic hardships and highlighted the growing inequality between those who can afford continued education and those who cannot, due either to financial challenges or displacement. These discussions underscore the critical demand for a robust educational infrastructure that can serve all children, regardless of their circumstances.

Beyond specific socioeconomic issues, the focus group also shed light on broader systemic challenges. Participants reported that increased poverty among the working class is accompanied by a rise in illegal businesses, black-market activities, and armed conflicts that enable certain groups to amass power. This trend has led to a collective sense of frustration and despair among ordinary citizens, many of whom feel trapped in a system that rewards unlawful behavior while marginalizing those who follow the rules. As a result, there is a strong call for a new government that genuinely respects the people, upholds the rule of law, and leads the country's economic recovery.

Lastly, a recurring theme in the discussions touched on national identity and the impact of historical injustice. Some participants reflected on whether being born in Myanmar a country where past condemnations seem to have set the stage for ongoing struggles destined citizens to live in a troubled nation. Many young people feel increasingly insecure in the country, prompting them to seek employment overseas, which further depletes the nation's pool of human resources. In areas under alternative governance, such as those controlled by the KIA, while public services like education and healthcare remain severely underdeveloped, there is at least a semblance of psychological security if exemptions from military duty are granted. Local civil society leaders added that, in the post-authoritarian era, increased extraction and consumption of natural resources have worsened environmental degradation, highlighting an urgent need for stricter resource management and improved public service delivery. They are optimistic, however, that new actors in the public service arena may eventually surpass current capacities and offer more comprehensive support.

## 8. Conclusion and Recommendations

Additionally, the weak presence of formal support systems evident in the finding that only 5 respondents cited local authorities as a source of help speaks to the breakdown of state legitimacy. Instead, NGOs and informal networks now act as substitute governance mechanisms. This challenges traditional top-down models of development and supports calls for community-based governance and local peacebuilding models that build from the ground up.

This results demonstrate that perceived threats in Kachin are multidimensional encompassing not only physical insecurity but also psychological, economic, and social dimensions. The data revealing that 84% of participants feel unsafe even during the day suggests a constant state of threat far beyond the episodic insecurity described in past reports. Moreover, the widespread psychological distress affirms that insecurity is not only physical but deeply mental and emotional, as highlighted by 221 respondents who cited psychological impact.

Respondents' concerns about rising unemployment, informal labor, and black-market dominance reflect how conflict reshapes economic systems. As formal governance structures weaken, armed actors and illicit networks fill the vacuum, distorting market dynamics and reducing opportunities for legitimate livelihoods.

SAC's policies systematically deny communities access to resources, security, and rights, perpetuating cycles of poverty and trauma. These deliberate policies reinforce the conflict economy and deepen the erosion of human security by institutionalizing inequality and fear as tools of control.

The evidence presented in this study makes it clear that Kachin State is not just facing a humanitarian emergency, but a crisis of human security and systemic neglect. The prolonged conflict, compounded by the 2021 coup and the introduction of forced conscription, has left the population in a state of profound vulnerability. However, amidst this bleak landscape, there are also signs of resilience and community-led support networks that can be strengthened through targeted interventions.

To respond effectively, the following multi-level recommendations are proposed

## 1. Capacity building

- Provide capacity building training to local authorities related to justice, public relations, good governance, human rights, rule of law, etc...
- Build community-based organization dispute resolution
- Empowering community
- Strengthening CSOs' sectors
- It is critically important to enhance the survival skills of public.

## 2. End Forced Recruitment and Reform Conscription Laws

- Immediately suspend enforcement of conscription laws in conflict-affected areas.
- Advocate for international pressure through ASEAN and UN mechanisms.
- Promote alternative service pathways (e.g., community service) for youth.
- Authorities should take effective actions to reduce corruption and arbitrary taxation

### **3. Scale Up Psychosocial and Protection Services**

- Train and deploy mobile trauma care units and local mental health counselors.
- Establish safe spaces for women and youth to report violence confidentially.
- Integrate psychosocial support into existing health and education programs.
- Respective armed organizations need to provide protection for the physical and mental security.
- Public service institutions such as schools, hospitals, and transportation and communication infrastructures must be specially protected

### **4. Strengthening Community-Led Governance and Rule of Law**

- Partner with ethnic civil society organizations to deliver public services.
- Establish localized reporting mechanisms for abuse and injustice.
- Promote civic education to rebuild trust and democratic participation.

### **5. Improve Access to Information and Basic Services**

- Invest in radio, social media and mobile communication platforms for public service updates and awareness programs
- Support mobile health and education units to reach remote communities.
- Coordinate humanitarian access through neutral corridors.

ANNEX

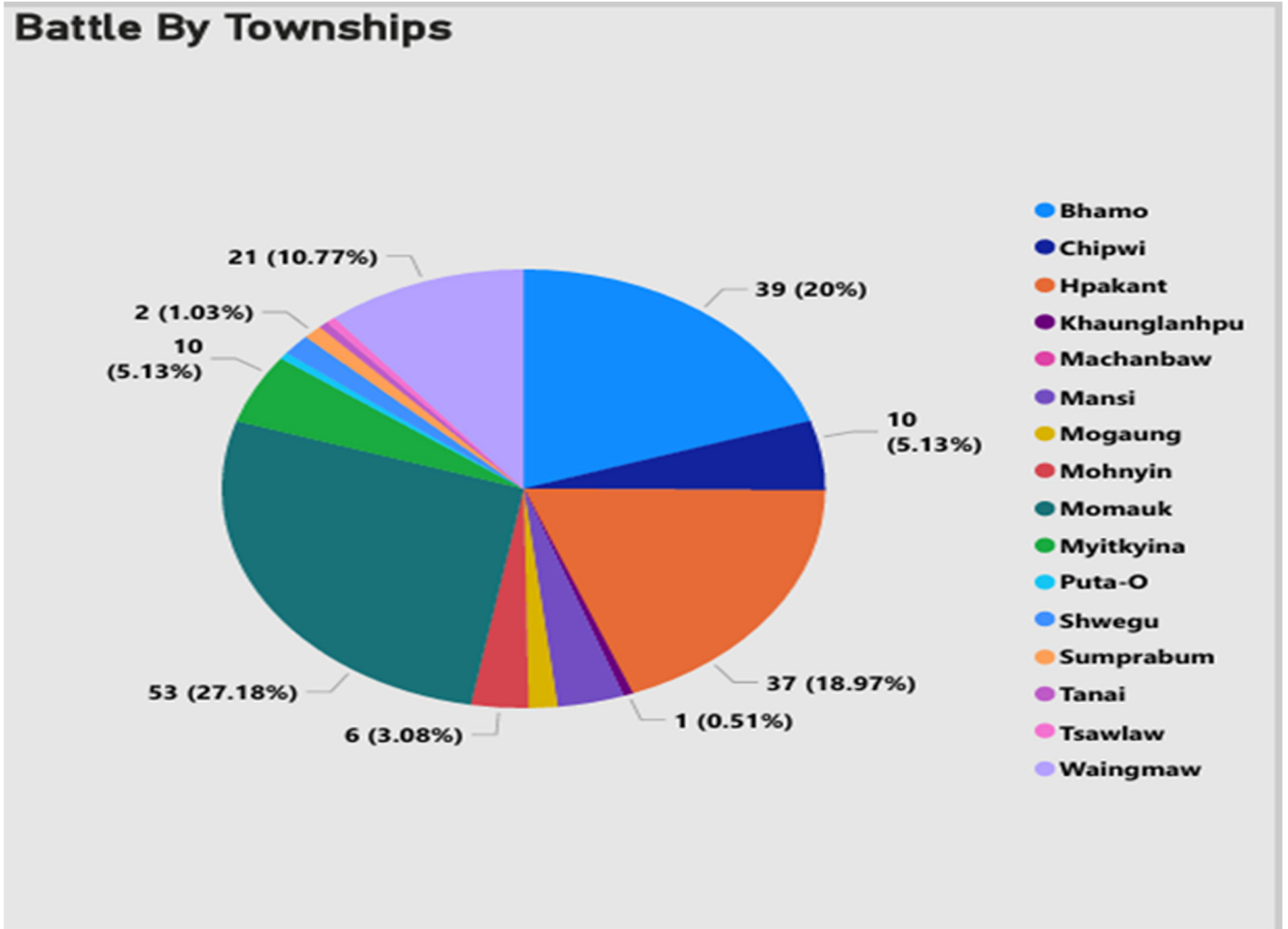


Figure 15

[https://apnews.com/article/e39761fcf484acf3ecc53576d3810692?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://apnews.com/article/e39761fcf484acf3ecc53576d3810692?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

[https://kdng.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/kdngnreff.pdf?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://kdng.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/kdngnreff.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

[https://globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/conflict-resources/jade-and-conflict-myanmarsvicious-circle/?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/conflict-resources/jade-and-conflict-myanmarsvicious-circle/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

[https://resourcegovernance.org/node/5275?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://resourcegovernance.org/node/5275?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/myanmar/myanmar-humanitarian-update-no-37-5-april-2024>

<https://metta-myanmar.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/JST-Statement-on-9th-Years-of-Resume-Conflict-in-Kachin-and-Northern-Shan-States-9-June-2020-English.pdf>  
metta-myanmar.org

[https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/4a3168f50b0e4e216993c9aa6ab3fe25-0070012024/myanmar-%2520%2520economic-monitor-june-2024-livelihoods-under-threat?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/4a3168f50b0e4e216993c9aa6ab3fe25-0070012024/myanmar-%2520%2520economic-monitor-june-2024-livelihoods-under-threat?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/nov/07/myanmar-rakhine-state-economy-collapse-starvation-fears-un?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/nov/07/myanmar-rakhine-state-economy-collapse-starvation-fears-un?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

[https://www.undp.org/stories/can-myanmar-bounce-back?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.undp.org/stories/can-myanmar-bounce-back?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

[https://www.reuters.com/markets/asia/myanmars-economy-shrink-floods-compound-crisis-says-world-bank-2024-12-11/?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.reuters.com/markets/asia/myanmars-economy-shrink-floods-compound-crisis-says-world-bank-2024-12-11/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

<https://myanmar.un.org/en/257739-myanmar-humanitarian-update-no-35>

<https://myanmar.un.org/en/248006-myanmar-humanitarian-update-no-33-2-october-2023>

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/cdm-04262022211343.html>

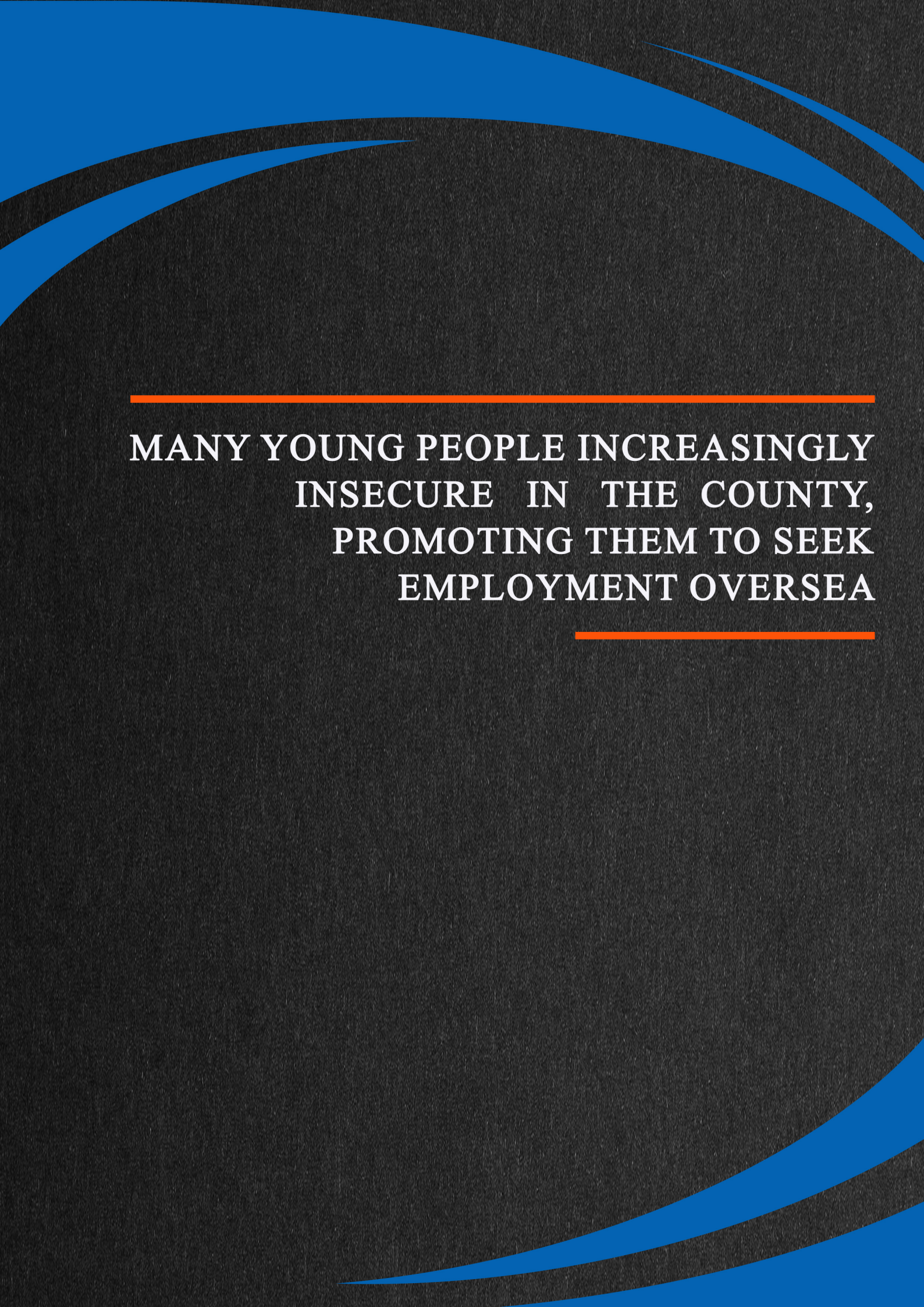
<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/reports/unicef-myanmar-humanitarian-situation-report-end-year-2023>

[https://www.ecoi.net/en/document/2070257.html?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.ecoi.net/en/document/2070257.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

[https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/myanmar?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/myanmar?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/01/myanmar-four-years-coup-leaders-ramp-violations-unprecedented-levels-un>

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2024/09/report-human-rights-situation-myanmar>



---

**MANY YOUNG PEOPLE INCREASINGLY  
INSECURE IN THE COUNTY,  
PROMOTING THEM TO SEEK  
EMPLOYMENT OVERSEA**

---