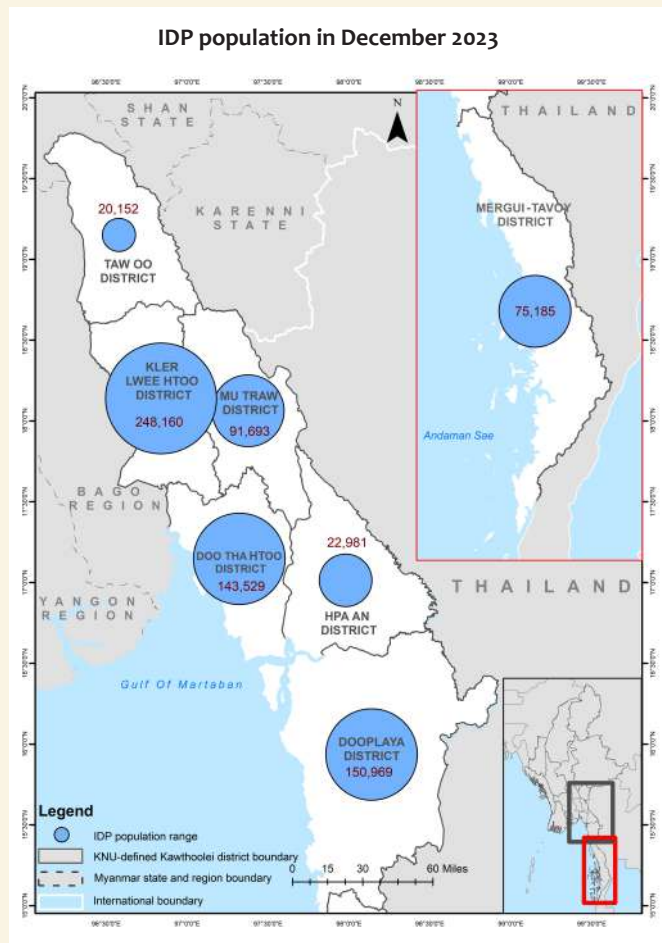




# Massive displacement and soaring rice prices deepen humanitarian crisis in Kawthoolei

Intensification of conflict and the SAC regime’s continued shelling and bombing of civilian populations have led to a record 752,669 IDPs in Kawthoolei as of December 31st, 2023. This represents an increase of nearly 20% from KPSN’s last IDP report in September 2023 when a total of 637,414 IDPs were recorded by Karen organisations assisting the IDPs.



| District                     | No. IDPs       |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Doo Tha Htoo (Thaton)        | 143,529        |
| Taw Oo (Taungoo)             | 20,152         |
| Kler Lwee Htoo (Nyaunglebin) | 248,160        |
| Mergui-Tavoy (Tanintharyi)   | 75,185         |
| Mutraw (Papun)               | 91,693         |
| Doo Pla Ya                   | 150,969        |
| Hpa An                       | 22,981         |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>752,669</b> |

In addition to the IDP population increase, the local rice price has also risen nearly 70% due to the lower amounts of rice harvested as well less rice imports from other states, all due to the increased conflict.

Based on the latest IDP figures and rice prices, USD 66 million is urgently needed over the next 12 months to provide basic rice needs for all the displaced.

We urge donors to provide this aid directly through local border-based organizations, who have decades of experience assisting these communities, and can ensure that aid reaches the most needy without any financial, military or political benefits going to the military regime.

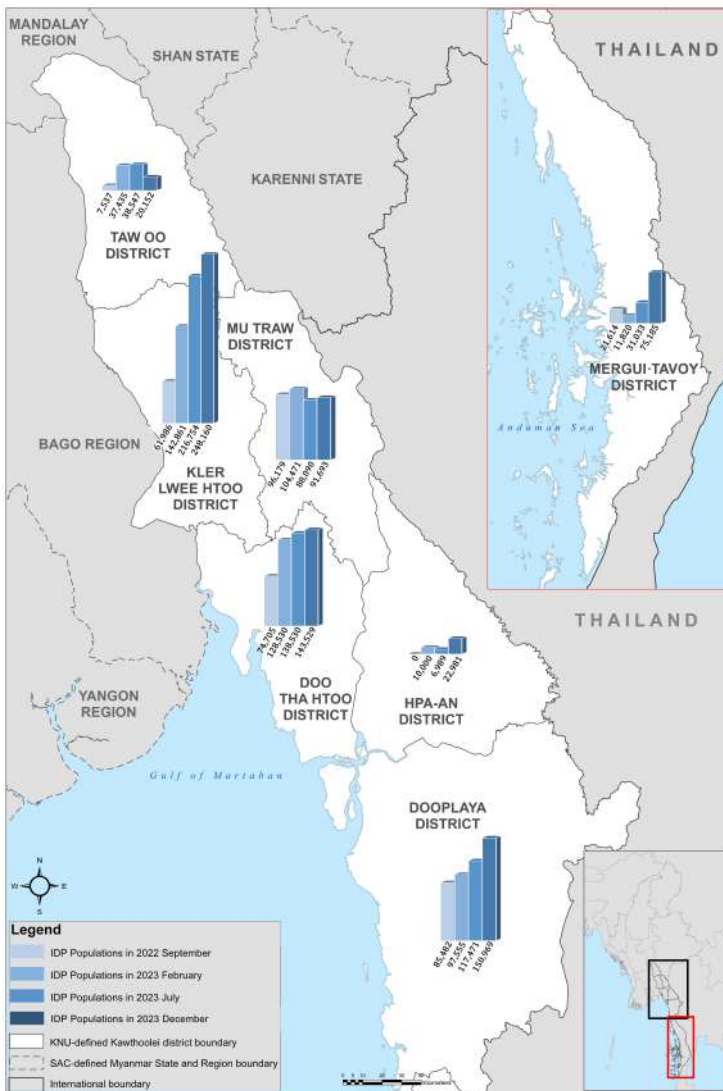


## About KPSN

Karen Peace Support Network (KPSN) is the largest network of Karen civil society organizations in Burma/ Myanmar. KPSN member organizations have facilitated humanitarian support for vulnerable conflict-affected Karen communities, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and refugees for decades. KPSN works to empower local Karen communities, document human rights issues, and facilitate advocacy for a sustainable and equitable peace in Karen areas of Burma.

February 1, 2024

## Increases in Kawthoolei IDP Population Since 2021



UNOCHA's flawed IDP estimates continue: in December 2023 they reported only 405,500 IDPs in Kawthoolei areas, just over half the actual number.