



Information sharing on novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

MRCS's activities supported by its nation-wide branches & community-based Red Cross volunteers

#COVID19 Helping the most vulnerable people through the most local action in Myanmar and globally



Tanintharyi region



Northern Shan state



Rakhine state



Eastern Shan state

7 fundamental principles guiding MRCS's work on COVID-19 and all times

- Humanity
- Impartiality
- Neutrality
- Independence
- Voluntary service
- Unity
- Universality

Through its life-saving and life-changing work, MRCS promotes and adheres to the Red Cross and Red Crescent Fundamental Principles at all times, while adopting the culture of mutual respect and understanding in every intervention.

Learn more [here](#).

Latest statistics from the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) as of 11:30am, 26 May 2020

Total Person Under Investigation (PUI) – 4,723

Confirmed - 203

Death – 6

Recovered – 123

Source: [Surveillance Dashboard](#). Global figures [here](#).

Local communities at the heart

Local communities are at the heart of all MRCS activities. MRCS has mobilized over 750 staff and 4,000 community-based Red Cross volunteers for COVID-19 related activities. Our volunteers have the access and trust that are needed to support communities affected by COVID-19 and are in a unique position to approach and serve the country's most vulnerable people, strengthening community resilience.

Leaving no one behind

MRCS's COVID-19 response targets the general population, but with a focus on most vulnerable groups such as the migrants and displaced population, women, elderly, children, and people with underlying diseases and disability. These efforts include providing safety messaging through community engagement and psychosocial support in communities including for people under quarantine and in IDP camps.

In highly vulnerable areas

In states and regions with high level of vulnerability, such as Rakhine, Shan, Kachin and Kayin, MRCS staff and volunteers are very active in Risk Communications and Community Engagement, psychosocial support, as well government support activities for COVID-19 in the areas of temperature screening at check points and quarantine facility services.

Migrants & displaced people

MRCS is extremely concerned for people who have been displaced and migrant workers who have been forced to return home from neighboring countries like China and Thailand. These at-risk groups are a priority for MRCS's response efforts, which has included sending trained volunteers to border crossings with China and Thailand as well as community-based quarantine facilities.



Serving the country's most vulnerable



Psychosocial support in Kachin IDP camp



Awareness raising in Rakhine state



MRCS Task Force on migration and displacement



Daw Htang Byen during a psychosocial support session at an IDP camp in Northern Shan state in May 2020

Red Cross voices from the field

“It's my third time coming to this Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camp. This is a 4-year-old Christian IDP camp. I first came here at the end of March, after the first confirmed case was announced. I like coming here because I get to meet children and they enjoy playing with me. Due to COVID-19, children in the camp cannot go out and play with friends like they used to. When I am there, I practice handwashing with them and do psychosocial support activities using a drawing book. I also distribute masks which our branch received from local donors. The adults in the IDP camp are mostly daily wage workers and nowadays they have no work. When I gave them masks, they were asking me if I could give them food or water instead.”

Daw Htang Byen, Red Cross volunteer, Manton township, Northern Shan state

Humanity gallery: Making a Difference

Title: Before vs. After

Maungdaw, Rakhine state



Title: Homecoming

Myawaddy, Kayin state



Do you have inspiring photos of Myanmar Red Cross volunteers working on combatting COVID-19? Please message us via [MRCS Facebook](#).



Bago region

Risk Comm. & Community Engagement

12,396+ activities in 235 townships as of 19 May 2020, **1,187 increase** from 12 May 2020 organizing physically distancing awareness raising sessions and disseminating preventive information



Northern Shan state

Services in support of government

27,831+ activities in 281 townships as of 19 May 2020, **3,248 increase** from 12 May 2020 providing quarantine services, temperature screening at border & communities, disinfection



Kachin state

Psychosocial support

2,061+ activities in 80 townships, as of 19 May 2020, **83 increase** from 12 May 2020 addressing psychosocial needs of COVID-19 affected population in quarantine facilities and communities



Southern Shan state

Increased access to basic needs

Distributing relief items to cyclone-affected communities & providing handmade masks to vulnerable population including children



Tamu region



Mandalay region



Mon state



Sagaing region

Super cyclone Amphan: Assessment and response



Right after the super cyclone Amphan passed in close proximity to Myanmar, MRCS accessed the damages in the affected communities and provided items that are immediately needed such as tarpaulins and shelter toolkits.

MRCS has long been helping [communities prepare for disasters](#), including pre-positioning emergency supplies, and this year also adding masks and disinfectants reflecting the developing situation as part of the supplies.

Photo: Assessment and dissemination of essential relief items in Southern Shan where 17 houses were destroyed by the cyclone Amphan last week.



Media spotlight: Volunteers combatting COVID-19 in Myanmar



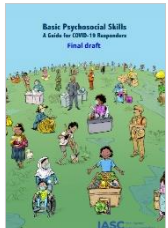
"Words cannot describe how hot it is...Just after taking off the PPE suit, I feel like I'm diving into a swimming pool...It's a global pandemic. I am willing to contribute my small part. No matter how hot it is, I do not mind."

Sai Thu Ta Htun, Myanmar Red Cross volunteer

Sai Thu Ta Htun is a photographer by profession. When his business was hit by the COVID-19 restrictions, he decided to join Myanmar Red Cross volunteer team in Sanchaung, Yangon. The team's works include distributing awareness brochures and posters, disinfection of apartments, and helping residents to wear mask and to wash properly. For more details and stories of other volunteers, please read the [Myanmar Times article](#).



This guidance addresses the specific role of community-based health care in the pandemic context and outlines the adaptations needed to keep people safe, maintain continuity of essential services and ensure an effective response to COVID-19. [Download here](#)



This guidance is meant for all COVID-19 responders, as basic psychosocial support skills are at the core of all COVID-19 interventions to be able to look after yourself better and how to help others feel supported through your interactions. [Download here](#)



This document highlights the impact of COVID19 on persons with disabilities and in doing so, outlines key actions and recommendations to make the response and recovery inclusive of persons with disabilities. [Download here](#)

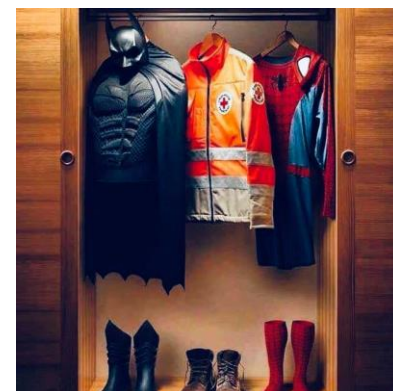
IFRC revised emergency appeal highlights

On 26 March 2020, IFRC [launched](#) its revised emergency appeal for COVID-19 outbreak response. This Emergency Appeal seeks a revised **total of CHF 150 million** to enable the IFRC to support its membership to deliver assistance and support to communities affected or at risk of being affected by COVID-19. **Currently CHF 125,317,980 is received.** (see more at [IFRC Go](#))

Global: COVID-19 outbreak

150,000,000
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (CHF)

125,317,980
FUNDING (CHF)



Who is your favourite superhero?
Real heroes live among us.



Resources and contact information

- [Daily MoHS update on COVID-19](#)
- [WHO global webpage on COVID-19](#)
- [Daily MIMU update on COVID-19](#)
- [INGO Forum COVID-19 resource collection](#)
- [IFRC Asia Pacific COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
- MRCS social media ([Facebook](#)/[Twitter](#))

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For previous versions of this weekly COVID-19 update prepared by MRCS and IFRC, please visit [here](#).

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