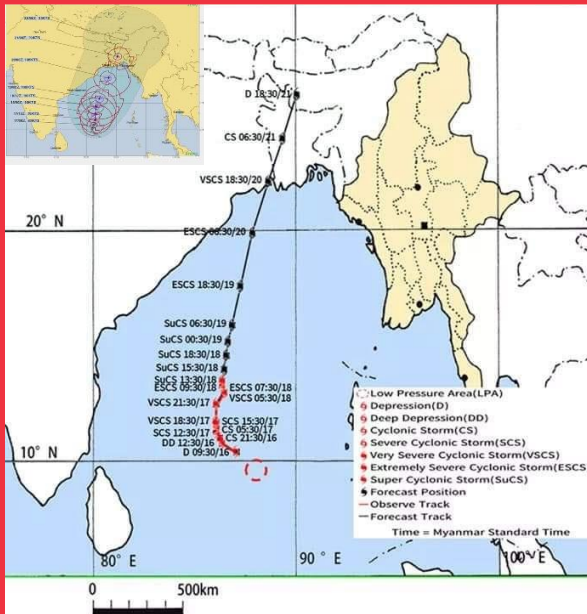




Information sharing on novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

MRCSS'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



Tropical Cyclone Amphan & its potential impact amidst COVID-19

On 11 May 2020, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology in Myanmar announced that the Tropical Cyclone Amphan has formed in Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining Southwest Bay of Bengal where it has currently intensified into Tropical Cyclone Category 5. **Potential heavy rains might trigger flash floods and landslides in various parts of Myanmar including Rakhine, compounding the social and economic burdens on communities affected by COVID-19.**

Latest statistics from the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) as of 11:30am, 19 May 2020

Total Person Under Investigation (PUI) – 4,392

Confirmed - 191
Death – 6
Recovered – 101

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

Voices from the Emergency Operation Center

“ We have been closely watching the Bay of Bengal as the Tropical Cyclone Amphan continues to progress in close proximity to Myanmar. MRCSS has extensive experience dealing with various natural disasters including tropical cyclones. **We have prepared the communities for disasters over the years and have more than 1,827 Emergency Response Team (ERT) trained Red Cross volunteers ready for response throughout the country.** This year, the communities face double threat of COVID-19 and cyclone. We are mobilizing our volunteers to disseminate early warning and early action key messages. We also take necessary readiness measures in the communities, including the pre-positioning of stocks, to prepare and reduce potential risk of the Tropical Cyclone under COVID-19. ”

San San Maw, Director of Disaster Management Department, MRCSS



Minbya, Aug 2019: MRCSS activities strengthened community-level actions to prepare for & respond to disasters in Rakhine.

How MRCSS is supporting community-level disaster preparedness in Rakhine

In Central Rakhine Townships of Sittwe and Minbya, through a long-term community resilience programme covering 30 villages (29,000 people), **MRCSS has supported communities through multi-sector interventions over last 3 years, including investments on Disaster Preparedness to facilitate community-based Early Warning and Early Actions (EWEA).** Communities have established village-level resilience committees to coordinate community-level actions.

Better prepared communities: Recently, the communities have been notified of a potential cyclone in the Bay of Bengal that can possibly impose severe impact in Central Rakhine areas, including targeted communities of the programme, especially in the midst of their preparedness actions for the COVID-19. Upon hearing the news, the communities have quickly mobilized themselves to prepare for the cyclonic storm by initiating Early Warning and Early Actions. This was possible thanks to the **community-level Village Emergency Funds**, created by MRCSS in support IFRC, which can be used flexibly during pre-disaster preparedness and immediate actions like rescue and relief in the event of disasters.

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

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

Through its life-saving and life-changing work, MRCSS promotes and adhere 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.](#)



Ayeyarwady region

Red Cross Voices from the field

Preparing for the cyclone amidst COVID-19

“ Until 14 May, I was busy supporting COVID-19 awareness raising activities in my community. Nowadays, I am busy helping the community to prepare for the cyclone. **I share the latest update on the cyclone, give warnings about what might happen, and tell people to stock up food and water, and repair the house in advance.** I also put up disaster preparedness posters in houses. It is not easy to make people prepare for the cyclone. Due to the COVID-19, most people have less income and cannot afford to stock up. They have been heavily relying on trades between regions and states for income and this is not happening now. **People are quite worried about not being able to stay at their homes, many of which are made of bamboo, if the heavy winds and rain destroy them. They think if they stay with other people in the temporary shelter such as monasteries and schools, they will have higher chance of getting COVID-19.** Staying with relatives won't be easy this year, as physical distancing is not possible in a crowded household.

We continue our daily activities to prepare the community. During Cyclone Nargis in 2008, this community was one of the hardest hits by the cyclone. **So people understand why we need to prepare. Still, it is much harder for communities now due to COVID-19.**”

Zin Myo, Red Cross volunteer, Maubin township, Ayeyarwady region



Kachin state

Risk Comm. & Community Engagement

11,209+ activities in 291 townships organizing physically distancing awareness raising sessions and disseminating preventive information



Southern Shan state

Services in support of government

24,583+ activities in 279 townships providing quarantine services, temperature screening at border & communities, disinfection



Mon state

Psychosocial support

1,978+ activities in 77 townships addressing psychosocial needs of COVID-19 affected population in quarantine facilities and communities.



Mandalay region

Increased access to basic needs

Cash distribution to vulnerable population and providing Personal Protective Equipment to frontline workers and volunteers



Sagaing region



Taintharyi region



Northern Shan state



Yangon region

MRCS Profile Photo Campaign

On 15 May 2020, MRCS launched a profile photo campaign to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in Myanmar and abroad. Within three days, over 80 MRCS staff and hundreds of volunteers participated changing their profile photos, reaching over 630,000+ people only on the first day of the launch. The messages shared include staying home, hand washing, physical distancing, enough sleep, and good nutrition. The campaign aims to reach millions of social media users.



Red Cross & Red Crescent Joins Forces with Coca Cola



The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has joined forces with The Coca-Cola Foundation to spread messages of hope as the world fights the coronavirus pandemic.

What: Coca-Cola and #BeApp are live-streaming a series of concerts featuring a diverse line-up of musical performances for fans to enjoy over 60 days. Fans' donations support the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's efforts to slow the spread of this disease and alleviate suffering. This fundraising initiative is coordinated by the American Red Cross and participated by over 110 Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies globally including Myanmar Red Cross Society.

How: Download the #BeApp on Android or iOS, enjoy the live concerts of top musicians, feel free to donate to support International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's COVID-19 response.

Helpful guidance note

The purpose of this document is to provide information on how to engage with, inform and support older people to support older people in facing new challenges linked to COVID-19.

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 124,770,633 is received.** (see more at [IFRC Go](#))

"Game Changer" by Banksy
Credit: <http://banksy.co.uk/>

This document guides the mainstreaming of gender in COVID-19 response in Myanmar and reflects the gender mainstreaming checklists for humanitarian action endorsed by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in March 2020.

Download [here](#)

Global: COVID-19 outbreak

150,000,000 FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (CHF)	124,770,633 FUNDING (CHF)
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This document examines the impact of COVID-19 on Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) people and suggest key actions that States and other stakeholders can take to make sure their voices are heard.

Download [here](#)

Resources and contact information

<p>Daily MoHS update on COVID-19</p> <p>WHO global webpage on COVID-19</p> <p>Daily MIMU update on COVID-19</p> <p>INGO Forum COVID-19 resource collection</p> <p>IFRC Asia Pacific COVID-19 Dashboard</p> <p>MRCS social media (Facebook/Twitter)</p>	<p>Dr Nay Htet Lin</p> <p>Deputy Director, Health Department</p> <p>Myanmar Red Cross Society</p> <p>nayhtetlin@redcross.org.mm</p> <p>+95 9 799 531 565</p>	<p>Joseph Muyambo</p> <p>Programme Coordinator</p> <p>IFRC Myanmar Country Office</p> <p>joseph.muyambo@ifrc.org</p> <p>+95 9 450 719 453</p>
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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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