Information sharing on novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

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

7 fundamental principles guiding MRCS’s work on COVID-19 and at 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 are 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.

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

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.
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.

Super cyclone Amphan: Assessment and response

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

| CHF 150,000,000 | CHF 125,317,980 |

Resources and contact information

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