



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



THE WAYS WE PROVIDE INFORMATION AND GATHER FEEDBACK HAS TO BE ACCESSIBLE TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE – WOMEN, MEN, YOUNG, ELDERLY AND LESS ABLED PEOPLE – SO THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ARE INVOLVED, NOT ONLY THE MOST VOCAL. [Learn more here](#)



MRCS volunteer's tip:
Sharing information in ethnic languages really helps!



Risk Communication & Community Engagement and Accountability is a powerful and effective approach to learn about and support community solutions, understand and address questions, concerns and rumours and provide actionable information to enable people to make the best decisions for themselves and their loved ones. **MRCS utilizes its own Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) minimum standards and has its own feedback mechanism.** A number of MRCS staff and volunteers have been trained on CEA tools during Epidemics Control for Volunteers (ECV) Training of Trainers and multiplier trainings in communities which followed. MRCS utilizes physically distance awareness raising sessions using the information, education, communication (IEC) materials from the Ministry of Health and Sports, as well as loudspeaker presentations to mobilize communities and share information about the COVID-19 preparedness and response. Most importantly, **MRCS is building up and expanding activities to listen, reflect, learn, and act upon feedback from local communities as needed to adjust its work and approaches.**



Ko Law Soe (left) assisting a man arriving from Thailand to a community-based quarantine facility he will stay for 3 weeks.

Addressing diverse needs in quarantine facilities

Red Cross voices from the field

“ He's the 4th person in our quarantine facility who has physical difficulties. He recently broke his leg from a motorcycle accident and had to go to Thailand for a surgery. I assisted him on his day of arrival from Thailand with another volunteer and his mother. As the quarantine facility does not have elevators, he got a room on the ground floor. We also gave him our phone numbers to call whenever he needs help. I wish the facility had wheelchairs so that people who needed it could use them.

In the quarantine facilities, Myanmar Red Cross volunteers give psychosocial support to people staying here, but also to each other. We talk about our concerns and get some advices what to do. I am worried about people here because they do not have money to buy food, water, hygiene products, and some of them don't even have money to return home after the quarantine ends. People whose families cannot bring food usually give money to the facility management to buy food for them. When the management brings food, people share with others, even with those who could not pay. It would be good if they can have cash support so they can buy food, water, hygiene products, and also, return home.”

Ko Law Soe, Red Cross volunteer, Tachileik township, Eastern Shan state



Rakhine state



Mon state



Yangon region



Ayeyarwady region

Risk Comm. & Community Engagement

16,306+ activities in 240 townships organizing physically distancing awareness raising sessions and disseminating preventive information

Services in support of government

41,610+ activities in 245 townships providing quarantine services, temperature screening at border & communities, disinfection

Psychosocial support

3,172+ activities in 86 townships addressing psychosocial needs of COVID-19 affected population and providing psychological first aid trainings

Increased access to basic needs

Food distribution to vulnerable population and providing Personal Protective Equipment to frontline workers and those in need.



One small act of kindness can change somebody's world.



Help us change their worlds.

Donate today.

Watch [here](#).

Help us save lives. Contact us to donate cash, masks, hand sanitizer, or any other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).



Women group representatives receiving cash from MRCS, Minbya, Rakhine in May 2020.



Women Group Revolving Funds improved women's livelihood & basic needs conditions in Rakhine.

Cash transfers: Protecting livelihoods of communities affected by COVID-19 in Rakhine through women group revolving funds

Communities in Rakhine face different levels of vulnerabilities due to recurring natural disasters, poverty and on-going conflicts. The impacts of COVID-19 on their livelihood has further increased the economic hardships the communities experience.

How cash transfers are making a difference: MRCS with support from IFRC has been providing livelihoods cash grants through various cash-based interventions and have established "Women Group Revolving Funds" which has 83 women groups with a total membership of 987 members. The women groups have received cash transfers to enhance the groups' financial capacity dealing with their livelihoods and basic needs in the situation of pandemic.

What do communities need further: Extensive investments on social safety nets schemes, including increased number and amount of cash transfers. Further, access to financial resources through loans and community-based micro-finance initiatives are in dire need to protect lives and livelihoods of people in Rakhine.

Psychological First Aid & Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)



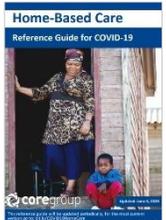
Photo: Myanmar Red Cross volunteers participating in a First Aid & Safety training organized by MRCS to reflect the COVID-19 related safety measures to be applied when in first aid situations. The training also included psychological first aid sessions, as well as the Protection, Gender, and Inclusion considerations during COVID-19 activities. Read more [here](#).

Helpful guidance note



This publication provides useful guidance on how to listen, reflect, learn, and act upon feedback from local communities to make our work relevant and bring positive impact in the communities we work with.

Download [here](#)



This guide focuses on three main areas on how to support a person whose condition warrants home care; how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the home; and how to provide emotional support to family members.

Download [here](#)



This interim guidance provides information on Remote Psychological First Aid during the COVID-19 outbreak and available in both English and Myanmar languages.

Download [here](#)

IFRC revised emergency appeal highlights

IFRC is appealing for 1.9 billion Swiss francs (1.95 billion US dollars) to support National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in providing health care, water and sanitation, and mitigation against the socio-economic impacts for the most vulnerable people, as well as strengthening National Societies' capacities and safety of staff and volunteers. Out of the 1.9 billion Swiss francs, 450 million Swiss francs will be raised through the IFRC Secretariat in support of National Societies. Currently CHF 145,602,376 is received. (see [IFRC Go](#))

Global: COVID-19 outbreak

450,000,000
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (CHF)

145,602,376
FUNDING (CHF)

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](#))

Dr Nay Htet Lin

Deputy Director, Health Department

Myanmar Red Cross Society

nayhtetlin@redcross.org.mm

+95 9 799 531 565

Joseph Muyambo

Programme Coordinator

IFRC Myanmar Country Office

joseph.muyambo@ifrc.org

+95 9 450 719 453

Having you as a trained first aider would be a **big plus**.



#coronavirus

It is never late to be a trained first aider.

Add yourself in our first aider's list.

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

Acknowledgement: MRCS's COVID-19 related activities are supported by the MRCS branches, Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners, as well as local, national, and international donors, humanitarian organizations, and private sector partners, and individuals.