Teachers from various villages in our township gathered for a briefing from the Ministry of Education, the usual one given before school begins again every year. This year due to COVID-19, the briefing was postponed for a few weeks. We still don't know when the school will open, just expecting it will be soon…we provided masks, posters, and information leaflets to the teachers.

As a parent of a daughter in 5th grade, I am worried about her safety when the school opens again. So I always remind her of proper handwashing, physical distancing, and wearing masks, the way I do during our COVID-19 activities. My daughter will be so happy to go back to school though, as she has been really bored for a few months already. She just can’t wait for schools to open.

Daw War War Win Thu (in red vest), Red Cross Volunteer, Mongyaung township, Eastern Shan state

Myanmar Red Cross volunteers are supporting local governments to smoothly turn the quarantine facilities back to basic education schools, as the government is preparing to open schools in the coming months. MRCS activities include disinfecting classrooms and teacher's rooms, putting up posters, and providing awareness raising leaflets, posters, and masks to teachers. Above photos and video are from various townships in Eastern Shan state.

Ma Cho Nwe Lwin, with her son planting trees in her community amidst COVID-19.

Ma Cho Nwe Lwin, Red Cross volunteer, Pauk Township, Magway Region

Maday region

Mandalay region

Tanintharyi region

Mon state

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

Planting our future amidst COVID-19

“I came to plant trees with a team of volunteers, as well as my 6-year-old son. In Myanmar, June is usually the time for the government to encourage people to plant trees, in consideration of the Monsoon season. We received tree seedlings and tools from the local government.

Next year, it will be 10 years since I became a Myanmar Red Cross volunteer. For the last 3.5 months, I’ve been checking temperatures and giving awareness raising sessions at gates between townships. I miss giving first aid trainings among other volunteers and really hope we can return to normal soon.

When I am volunteering for COVID-19, my father takes care of my son. My son is very excited to come along with me today to plant trees and has been very energetic all day. I hope he will become a Red Cross volunteer in the future as well. I am sure he will enjoy helping others, just like I do.”

Ma Cho Nwe Lwin, Red Cross Volunteer, Pauk Township, Magway Region

Helping the local governments and teachers in preparing to welcoming back students amidst COVID-19

Latest statistics from the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) as of 8:00pm, 23 June 2020

Total Person Under Investigation (PUI) – 5,759

Confirmed – 292

Death – 6

Recovered – 204

Preparing the communities and standing ready for changing situations in Myanmar

Mon state
Southern Shan state
Kachin state
Kayin state
Risk Comm. & Community Engagement
Services in support of government
Psychosocial support
Increased access to basic needs

16,477+ activities in 235+ townships conducting outdoor awareness raising sessions and disseminating preventive information
44,178+ activities in 281+ townships providing temperature screening at border & communities, disinfection, quarantine services.
3,209+ activities in 80+ townships addressing psychosocial needs of COVID-19 affected population in quarantine facilities and communities.
Cash distribution in support of the government, as well as own cash distribution and distribution of food.

Looking back and moving forward: Myanmar Red Cross volunteers making a difference on the ground: click the captions to meet our volunteers

Welcoming returning migrants
Being a life-saving gatekeeper
Using ethnic languages
Raising awareness
Attracting support
Listening to diverse needs
Life-saving disinfection
Raising funds to provide food
Tackling rumors
Preparing for disasters
Helping IDPs open up
Playing together
Addressing basic needs
Inspiring others
Leaving no one behind

Opinion: COVID-19 - it’s time to take cash to the next level

"There is no better time to tap into the power of cash as a critical link between economies and households, and it can become a lifeline for millions of people globally."

Read the article here

Coronavirus forces disaster planning rethink as storm threats rise

Back to basics: Local response and preparedness:
"With the coronavirus, many countries are now “rethinking their ways of thinking” about disaster preparedness and response."

Read the article 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 152,117,653 is received. (see IFRC Go)

Resources and contact information

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

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