



COVID-19

Monthly update



Myanmar Red Cross Society | 25 September 2020

MRCS's most local actions saving lives at the height of COVID-19 in Myanmar



Act

to protect everyone in our communities



Reach

the most vulnerable people including IDPs



Care

until our humanity heals every heart



Fulfill

our unique auxiliary role for government

Everywhere
for everyone.

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Current COVID-19 situation &
MRCS response at a glance

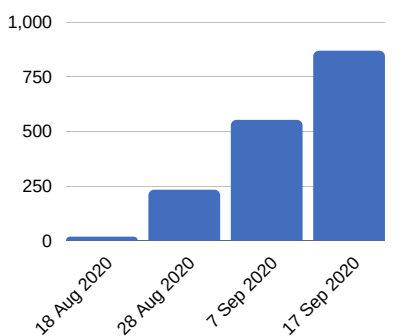
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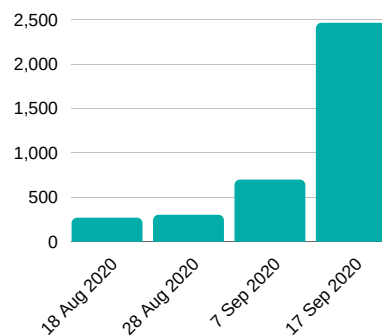
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COVID-19 surge in Myanmar in recent 40 days

in Rakhine and Yangon where cases have been rapidly increasing after the local transmission in Rakhine on 16 August.



Rakhine COVID-19 confirmed cases



Yangon COVID-19 confirmed cases

MRCS response at a glance



Red Cross Voices: Combatting COVID-19 in Sittwe, Rakhine



"We continue our COVID-19 prevention activities in IDP camps. People in the camps ask us the name of the virus. We do awareness raising and show them how to do proper handwashing. Once I am back home, I try to isolate myself from my family, I stay in a separate room and eat alone, avoiding direct contact with my family. The COVID-19 situation after 16 August is different than before, as it's due to local transmission. We are more afraid. I can feel the fear among communities."

Maung Maung Thein, Red Cross volunteer, Sittwe, Rakhine



"As the economy is getting bad and the trades have been restricted, it is difficult to buy masks because we cannot afford them and cannot find them. We started to make cloth masks to distribute to communities. We follow Ministry of Health and Sports guidelines when making masks. I am also assisting at emergency wards in Sittwe hospital and Sittwe university, providing psychosocial support and help recovered people return home. People in Rakhine need healthcare, masks, food."

Ma Khine Saw, Red Cross volunteer, Sittwe, Rakhine



We are with communities in Rakhine Everywhere Every day



Ports



Streets



IDP camps



Emergency wards

Currently, over 100 MRCS staff and volunteers are providing life-saving COVID-19 support throughout Rakhine for everyone, every day.

Everywhere for everyone.



Integrating cash transfers to COVID-19 response

Myanmar Red Cross Society's most local actions building community resilience in Rakhine

Overview
In response to COVID-19, Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) has been working to support communities in Rakhine state through various initiatives. The program focuses on providing cash transfers to support communities' own capacity to deal with COVID-19 through various community-led initiatives such as village resilience committees, women's revolving funds, volunteer groups, promoting resilience, accountability and social cohesion.

Integrating cash transfers to COVID-19 response in Rakhine

Cash in the time of COVID-19 means standing on one's own feet for safety, security, fulfillment and helping others do the same. Our Community Resilience Program supported that and more through timely cash transfers in central Rakhine.

Since March 2020, total MMK 193,514,600 (CHF 133,458) has been transferred to communities in central Rakhine. Through the cash transfers, MRCS has built communities' own capacity to deal with COVID-19 through various community-led initiatives such as village resilience committees, women's revolving funds, volunteer groups, promoting resilience, accountability and social cohesion.

Download the publication [here](#).

On the frontline of COVID-19 struck Yangon

Yangon has the largest number of COVID-19 cases in Myanmar. Every day, Myanmar Red Cross volunteers and staff are on the frontline, supporting the affected population throughout Yangon, conducting awareness raising, distributing masks in communities and preparing community-based quarantine facilities in collaboration with local authorities.



Our Friendship goal : Humanity

Did you know that many Myanmar Red Cross volunteers joined our team because they've been inspired by their volunteer friends? Our volunteers continue to inspire humanity in their friends, family members, and many others when it's most needed, as Yangon's COVID-19 situation rapidly deteriorates.

Volunteers in action 🙌❤️

We are everywhere for everyone



Information distribution in Chin state



Hand sanitizer in Kayin state



Awareness raising in Nay Pyi Taw



Temperature checks in Southern Shan

It's been almost 8 months since Myanmar Red Cross volunteers started to work around the clock to protect our communities from COVID-19. Still, our volunteers know no stopping saving lives and won't rest until everyone's safe. Our volunteers can be found in action everywhere for everyone doing awareness raising sessions, distributing basic needs items, and making you smile.



Myanmar Times coverage: Local volunteers emerge as heroes in Myanmar's COVID-19 battle

Meet two young volunteers, cousins to each other, who've been living as Red Cross volunteers as long as they can remember, inspiring us all. Read [here](#).



Food distribution at quarantine facilities in Kachin



Community outreach in Ayeyarwady

Our fundamental Principles

Humanity

Impartiality

Neutrality

Independence

Voluntary service

Unity

Universality

IFRC Revised Appeal

IFRC is appealing for 1.9 billion CHF (1.95 billion USD) to support Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies during its COVID-19 response. Out of the 1.9 billion CHF, 450 million CHF will be raised through the IFRC Secretariat in support of National Societies. **Currently CHF 213,729,451 is received.** (see [IFRC Go](#))

IFRC Focus

- Health & WASH
- Socioeconomic impact mitigation
- Capacity building, ensuring safety



450,000,000

Funding Requirements (CHF)



213,729,451

Funding (CHF)

Asia Pacific key publication



COVID-19 insights on people's attitudes in:

- Indonesia
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Pakistan

from a survey of almost 5,000 people, revealing community's main fears and worries due to the virus.

Learn more [here](#).

Climate:Red moments in the time of COVID-19

Climate:Red, a fully virtual and truly global climate change summit organized by IFRC, took place on 9-10 September 2020 to mobilize support for climate action, and encourage the sharing of ideas and experiences to create a better and safer future for all. The first-ever virtual climate summit kicked off on 9 September 2020 with 10,000 participants, 100 fascinating and inspiring sessions, bringing together youth champions, activists, government ministers and many other change-makers.

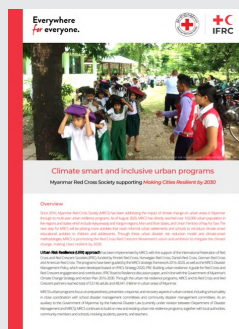


Watch Prince Charles's key note speech for Climate:Red

MRCS participated in two sessions of Climate:Red on 10 Sep 2020 as follows:

Session 1: On engaging communities in assessing climate risk and increasing resilience in the Asia Pacific, MRCS suggested that we focus on potential future risks and their impact on disasters, rather than only focusing on current risks and hazards.

Session 2: On scaling up urban resilience through Making Cities Resilient by 2030, MRCS presented about its climate smart and inclusive urban programs, its approaches, challenges, and lessons learned and the way forward for the future in line with its climate-smart strategic priorities.



Climate smart and inclusive urban programs to support Making Cities Resilient by 2030

Since 2016, MRCS has been addressing the impact of climate change on urban areas in Myanmar through its multi-year urban resilience programs. As of August 2020, MRCS has directly reached over 102,000 urban population in five regions and states in Myanmar. MRCS's next step will be piloting more activities that reach informal urban settlements and schools to introduce climate smart educational activities to children and adolescents. Through these climate-smart approaches, MRCS is promoting the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's vision and ambition to mitigate the climate change, making cities resilient by 2030.

Download the publication [here](#).

Innovation in humanity



How a video conferencing facility is helping MRCS to reach remote communities during COVID-19

As the travel restrictions caused by COVID-19 continue, MRCS's community health and resilience project office in Loilem township, Southern Shan state, set up a video conferencing facility to connect with rural health centres for regular communications. It will also be used for short trainings and workshops and to strengthen supervision during baseline survey. It will further assist communication between the MRCS Loilem branch and MRCS HQ.

This project is funded by Finnish Red Cross.

Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS)

As the leading and principled humanitarian organization in Myanmar, MRCS is committed to improving the health and well-being of vulnerable people. In line with its auxiliary role to the Government in the humanitarian field through a strong legal base, MRCS continues to provide life-saving support everywhere for everyone, every day.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

As the largest humanitarian network in the world consisting of 192 National Societies worldwide, IFRC is providing vital technical, financial and logistical support to National Societies globally, while strengthening their participation in regional and global cooperation during natural disasters, health emergencies, and population movement among others.

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