



COVID-19 Monthly update



Myanmar Red Cross Society | 11 November 2020

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



"Deployment means helping friends"

Everywhere
for everyone.

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deployment of volunteers

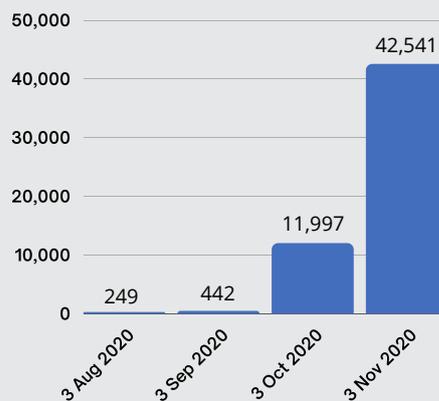
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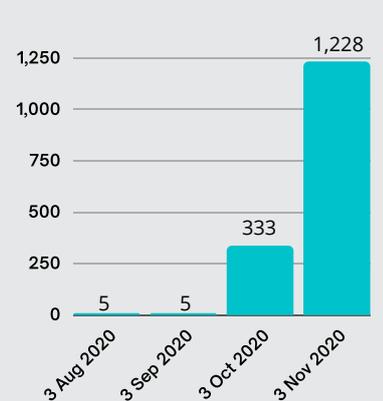
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COVID-19 surge in Yangon in recent 4 months

Yangon COVID-19 confirmed cases



Yangon COVID-19 death cases



Volunteers deployed to support Yangon: Myanmar Red Cross volunteers from other regions have been deployed to help volunteers working in Yangon's quarantine facilities. The main activities in quarantine facilities include awareness raising sessions, psychosocial support, temperature screening, distribution of basic needs items such as water, food, and cash.

A day of deployed Myanmar Red Cross volunteers in Yangon



Receiving goods from families and inspect what's inside.

"In the quarantine facility, you can see so many people arriving newly every day. It makes me feel very sad. I want to tell people to please take care and do it for their loved ones. Their families bring food, drinks, clothes, and other necessary items every day."



Preparing the goods to be delivered to patients.

"41 of us came from Mon state to help volunteers in Yangon. We will be here for one month. As you know the situation in Yangon is very serious so we decided to come. Our deployment is also in line with one of our fundamental principles, Unity."



Making patient list and recording their daily conditions.

"COVID-19 is worse than the usual disasters we saw. It's like an invisible enemy to us. I am planning to share my experience in Yangon quarantine facilities with other quarantine facilities in Mon state. It's a learning opportunity for all of us to serve better."

Daw Lay Lay Khet, Red Cross volunteer, Mon state



Disinfecting the building especially after receiving newcomers.

"COVID-19 spreads very quickly. Please be careful and follow all safety measures. Wear masks. If infected, don't panic, get advice from doctors and Ministry of Health and Sports guidance, and inform township covid-19 response committee. They will help you."



Wearing PPE to deliver medicine, food, and goods to patients.

"Before leaving Mon state, some people told me not to come back as I will be infected. I explained that I will wear personal protective equipment (PPE), get training, do quarantine once back. My family were supportive of me and told me to take care and stay safe."



Delivering goods to patients and collecting garbages.

"Volunteers working here are united. We care about each other and help with wearing PPE properly before going to buildings where patients stay. After duty, we talk to each other and laugh together. I am happy to be part of this great team who are also great friends."

U Tun Lin Aung, Red Cross volunteer, Mon state

COVID-19: Our three main priority areas, progresses and gaps

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



As the COVID-19 situation in Myanmar rapidly deteriorates in recent months, we expanded awareness raising & handwashing campaigns in communities. [Video](#) from Rakhine state.



We know the best way to help communities is to show examples & help them learn how to do it themselves. Washing hands properly is no exception. [Video](#) from Ayeyarwady region.

Gaps

- Lack of soap & handwashing basins in communities.
- Other safety measure such as wearing masks and physical distancing are not thoroughly followed.
- Restricted access to high-risk areas.

Addressing socioeconomic impact



We are helping families affected by lock down measures to get essential food items and water to stay healthy and safe in this unusual and restricted time. Photo from Kayin state.



When some prisoners of Myanmar nationality in Thailand returned to Myanmar due to COVID-19, we provided hygiene kits, dignity kits, and cash. Photo from Eastern Shan state.

Gaps

- Needs assessment takes time while the situation develops very quickly.
- Not enough funding received to implement COVID-19 response plan.
- Difficult to measure the impact of the intervention.

Duty of care for staff & volunteers



Keeping volunteers safe during their COVID-19 activities is a top priority for us. We continue to provide trainings on how to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) for new and existing volunteers. Photo from Yangon region.



Volunteers have been working around the clock during recent COVID-19 spike to help communities stay safe. We ensure that the volunteers stay healthy by providing nutritious food ingredients. Photo from Rakhine state.

Gaps

- Branches do not have enough PPEs for volunteers.
- Not all MRCS branches have enough funding to support the volunteer activities and often need to get local donor support.

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 222,021,508 is received.** (see [IFRC Go](#))

IFRC Focus

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



450,000,000

Funding Requirements (CHF)



222,021,508

Funding (CHF)

COVID-19 can affect your **mental health**.



#coronavirus



Disaster Risk Reduction and Inclusion

Marking the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, 13 Oct 2020



COVID-19 highlighted the need for all emergency response and preparedness efforts to be underpinned by **clear and inclusive laws and regulations**, whether it be for natural hazards, including those that are climate-induced, or public health emergencies.

Some people are more vulnerable to the impacts of disasters and COVID-19 including children, women, older people, the displaced, people in poverty and those living with disabilities.

MRCS's urban programmes focus on preparedness, prevention, response, and recovery aspects in urban context. As an auxiliary to the Government of Myanmar by the National Disaster Law (currently under revision between Department of Disaster Management and MRCS), MRCS continues to build on new and existing urban risk resilience programmes, together with local authorities and community members, ensuring inclusion of diverse groups in disaster responses.



MRCS on Election Day
8 November 2020



Disinfecting polling stations on election day before opening. Photo from Kachin state.



Checking temperatures of people waiting in line to vote. Photo from Yangon region.



Providing emergency medical assistance at voting sites. Photo from Southern Shan state.

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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