Information sharing on novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

MRCS’s response supported by the Red Cross & Red Crescent Movement partners in Myanmar

KACHIN STATE

“Most people in the village are not using social media due to weak signal. The posters from Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) were already hung on the wall distributed by various organizations. However, many people did not understand the content as the posters were not in Kachin language. To help the people understand about COVID-19 and how to prevent it, Red Cross volunteers went to the village and explained to them about COVID-19 and gave awareness session in Kachin language. We need more information materials in ethnic language and more awareness raising sessions in their own language.”

Hnin Ei Phyu, Myitkyina township, Red Cross volunteer

MON STATE

“People got wrong information and preventive tips from social media, such as drinking alcohol or taking antibiotics will prevent them from getting COVID-19. Together with township medical officers from MoHS, Red Cross volunteers shared proper handwash tips and other key messages, using posters from IFRC, translated by MRCS in Myanmar language. MoHS staff also shared information on COVID-19. We need more such awareness raising sessions and information education communications (IEC) materials in the village level to address these misperceptions coming from social media.”

Soe Min, Thanbyuzayat township, Red Cross Volunteer

Latest statistics from the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) as of 8pm 23 Feb 2020

- Total PUI /Suspected: 40
- Confirmed: 0
- Lab Negative: 40
- Lab Pending: 0
- Discharged: 36

Source: Surveillance Dashboard, Global figures here.

COVID-19 info materials in local languages:
1. Shan language
2. Kachin language
3. Chinese language

Key Audio messages in 17 ethnic languages produced by MoHS with the support of UNICEF and in collaboration with MRTV-Radio:

To download: Go to MIMU COVID-19 page and click “key message” tab. 17 ethnic languages available include: West-Poe, Wa, Shan, Sagaw, Rakhine, Pa-oh, Mon, Koekant, Kayan, Kachin, Gakho, Gabar, East-poe, Danu, Chin (Laizo), Chin (Cho).
IFRC revised emergency appeal highlights

On 11 February 2020, IFRC launched its revised emergency appeal for COVID-19 outbreak response. This Emergency Appeal seeks a revised total of 32 million Swiss francs 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. Assistance will be tailored to each country depending on its epidemic preparedness and response, as well as the vulnerability of particular groups of people in the community. Currently 1,891,890 CHF is received.

Global: COVID-19 outbreak

Supported by the Danish Red Cross, Red Cross Volunteers are assisting the MoHS in the surveillance for COVID-19 by registering people, providing masks, and checking for signs of fever at Kanpaiti, Loije, and Pangwa border gates in Kachin state bordering China.

Resources and contact information

Daily MoHS update on 2019-nCoV
Daily MIMU update on 2019-nCoV
IFRC Go – COVID-19 emergency appeal
Guidance note: Risk communication and CEA
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