



# COVID-19 Monthly update



Myanmar Red Cross Society | 19 August 2020

Saving lives through the most local actions in Myanmar and worldwide



Photo: IFRC/Eunjin Jeong

## Special points of interest

- Real Life Heroes stories
- MRCS's revised COVID-19 national response plan
- Cash intervention from Rakhine (March-July 2020)

## Inside this issue

Page 1:

#RealLifeHeroes: Zunlay Wai

Page 2:

Inside MRCS revised COVID-19 plan  
Cash works in Central Rakhine

Page 3:

Meet our #RealLifeHeroes  
IFRC revised appeal

Page 4:

Disaster response  
About us & contact information

## #RealLifeHeroes World Humanitarian Day 2020

**Zunlay Wai**, a Myanmar Red Cross volunteer in Taunggyi, Southern Shan state, has been on standby 24/7 since March 2020 to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in her township. Apart from her usual daily prevention activities in gates, monasteries, and quarantine facilities, **Zunlay has assisted a confirmed case patient to arrive in the hospital and works around the clock every day to make sure everyone is safe from COVID-19.** Coming from a family of Red Cross volunteers and with the experience attending an international event in Solferino, Italy, in 2019 to mark the birth of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, **Zunlay is confident that her work in her own community has truly global value and she can change the world from where she is.**

Watch Zunlay's life-saving story [here](#).

Did you know that many Red Cross & Red Crescent volunteers come from family of volunteers? Imagine humanity spreading under your roof



# What's New: Inside MRCS's Revised COVID-19 Response Plan

**Focus:** MRCS's upcoming activities, guided by the revised MRCS National Society Response Plan (Duration: Jan 2020-Jan 2022) for COVID-19, will focus on three areas as below.

**1- Health and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH),** which include access to handwashing facilities

**2- Addressing socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19,** which includes multi-sector cash grant and relevant training

**3- National Society's institutional strengthening,** which includes building capacity of frontline staff and volunteers and ensuring their safety.

**# of beneficiaries:** MRCS will directly assist over **4 million people** across all states and regions.

**Target groups:** MRCS's will target the general population, but with a **focus on the urban populations, female headed households, sole wage earners, persons with disabilities, returning migrants, IDPs and conflict-affected communities, and frontline volunteers & staff.** These efforts include **providing multi-sector cash grant and relevant training** to those whose livelihoods have been disrupted because of access or mobility restrictions. **MRCS integrates migration and displacement in all its programmes and operations,** including COVID-19 response.

**Total budget:** CHF 10,567,523

**Already raised:** CHF 2,021,617

**Budget gap:** CHF 8,545,906

*Note: The figure is subject to change.*

"MRCS's COVID-19 response has three focuses: Health & WASH, addressing socioeconomic impacts, and building capacity of frontline responders and ensuring their safety."



Health and WASH



Addressing socioeconomic impacts



Institutional strengthening

## Cash: Addressing socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 in Central Rakhine

Since March 2020, MRCS-IFRC Community Resilience Program (CRP) has been supporting communities in Central Rakhine to undertake community-led actions to respond to COVID-19 outbreak and overcome socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic. Cash interventions were accordingly designed to meet urgent needs related to COVID-19 and to address long-term resilience building requirements of communities. In March-July 2020, a total of MMK 193,514,600 (CHF 133,458) has been transferred to communities through cash transfer interventions across different sectors: Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), WASH, and Livelihood.



### DRR

- Funds for village resilience committees
- Village emergency funds
- Village community volunteer group funds
- Cash for cloth masks making



### WASH

- Cash for latrines construction at homes and IDP camps
- Cash for installation of hand washing facilities at schools and temporary water tank at IDP sites
- Cash for hand washing soap making



### Livelihood

- Women group revolving funds
- Livelihoods cash grants





*Reminding to wear a mask*

## Our #RealLifeHeroes are everywhere for everyone

Even when you start to forget about wearing masks, washing hands, and physical distancing, Myanmar Red Cross volunteers always show up and tell you that they care about your safety. For the last 6 months, over 2,400 community-based Myanmar Red Cross volunteers involved themselves in more than 173,300 activities throughout the country, providing life-saving support and protecting communities from COVID-19.



*Helping students with proper hand wash*



*Practising physical distancing during an awareness raising session*



*Saving a life with first aid in action*



*Carrying an emergency patient from a quarantine facility to safety*

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 187,745,583 is received.** (see [IFRC Go](#))

### IFRC Focus

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



**450,000,000**

Funding Requirements (CHF)



**187,745,583**

Funding (CHF)



You can make a difference.  
Volunteer with us.



JOIN THE RED TEAM!



# Responding to disasters in times of COVID-19

**Kachin landslide:** On 2 July 2020, a mud landslide happened in an open jade mine in Hpakant area of Kachin state. This tragic incident resulted in over 200 deaths and dozens were injured. MRCS has provided direct support on search and rescue, first aid and psychosocial consultation, and cash transfers to support families affected. IFRC allocated CHF 129,413 under Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for MRCS to assist 244 households (approx. 1,500 people) affected. Learn more [here](#).

**Mandalay floods:** On 19 July 2020, a dike broke in Shwe Gel on Sagaing-Mandalay Highway. The event caused a sudden rise of water level downstream in nearby township and villages. About 200 household were immediately evacuated in response to this, while total affected population are 20,000 people (4,000 families). Another DREF was issued allocating CHF 200,683 to support all affected people. Learn more [here](#).

**Kachin floods:** On 23 July 2020, following the heavy rains in upper Kachin for a few days, sudden rise of Moe Kaung Creek in Moe Kaung Township caused hundreds of families to evacuate. MRCS [distributed](#) 268 hygiene parcel and 10 family kits.

MRCS has 106 National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT) and 1,827 Emergency Response Team (ERT) trained members ready for response during an emergency.



Kachin landslide



Mandalay floods



Kachin floods

## Other selected activities



Preventing dengue cases



Supporting timely vaccination



Restoring family links

## 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.

## Contact information

### Dr Nay Htet Lin

Head, 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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