



FACTS AND FIGURES MYANMAR

JANUARY to DECEMBER 2023



ICRC

In 2023, a surge in armed conflicts and the impact of Cyclone Mocha intensified the humanitarian needs of people across Myanmar. The deteriorating security situation in conflict zones caused fear and uncertainty, resulting in numerous communities fleeing their homes and struggling to meet their basic needs. Restrictions on access to affected communities also created a more challenging environment for humanitarian responders. However, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) continued to carry out its activities to provide life-saving assistance and preserve the dignity of those affected by conflict and other violence.

Our assistance included emergency response, helping affected communities to build sustainable livelihoods, repairing essential infrastructure. We also provided support for health care and promoted practices that communities can adopt to remain safe in their environments.

Despite not being granted humanitarian access to prisons, we continued helping released detainees to return home safely and help families deliver food parcels and letters to their detained loved ones, or to visit them as soon as family visits resumed in October 2023. At every opportunity, at all levels, we advocated for humanitarian access to detention centres.

The year 2024 marks the 75th anniversary of the fourth Geneva Conventions, a universal reminder that even wars have limits. Weapon bearers, civil society organizations and government staff learned more about the ICRC and international humanitarian law (IHL) through awareness sessions organized through the year. We also continued to engage, on a bilateral and confidential basis, with all parties to the conflict to remind them of their obligations to protect the civilian population from the adverse effects of hostilities.

Across the country, we work independently as well as with our partners, including the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), to ensure a comprehensive humanitarian response bringing crucial support to the communities facing challenges.

The significance of this support goes far beyond numbers. However, it is important to note that many areas remain inaccessible to humanitarian work. Any delay, suspension or restriction may be a matter of life and death for those in need of humanitarian assistance. Smooth and unimpeded humanitarian access must be endorsed, facilitated and granted by all.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



KACHIN

Conflict causes devastating loss of lives, massive displacement and shortage of basic needs. In 2023, many people had to leave their homes and all their belongings behind and seek shelter in safer areas because of clashes near Shwegu township in Kachin State.

To help reduce their suffering, our team in Myitkyina worked with Shwegu branch of the MRCS to distribute emergency relief items such as blankets, jerrycans, mosquito nets, plastic mats, tarpaulins, solar lamps, torches and binding wires for 880 households.



SHAN

To enhance food production and daily income of communities in northern Shan State, the ICRC's team in Lashio partnered with the Department of Agriculture to provide community agriculture production training to 24 farmers from Lashio, Kutkai, Namtu and Muse townships, who will pass on the information to others. We also distributed winter vegetable seed and organic fertilizers in 37 locations of those townships.



KAYIN

As the risk of explosive devices remain a threat for people in Kayin State, our team shared life-saving messages with more than 2,530 people. Last year, 2,825 people, including 1,478 people affected by explosive devices, received support for their physical rehabilitation at the ICRC-supported MRCS's Hpa-an Orthopaedic Centre (HORC), which has been providing services for 20 years.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

RAKHINE

The ICRC built a new intake tower with three different inlet pipes equipped with grids to bring clean water from Mya Kan Thar reservoir to Maungdaw town, benefiting around 45,000 people.



RAKHINE

In September, our team in Rakhine distributed fuel sticks to 3,500 families in Ohn Taw Chay and Say Tha Mar Gyi displacement camps in Sittwe township. The goal was to ensure the safety and dignity of people in displacement camps, especially women, who will no longer need to go far to collect firewood.

MANDALAY

The ICRC's team in Mandalay constructed a wastewater disposal system using the evapotranspiration method in one of the displacement camps in the region. Through this system, soap and sediment from wastewater will be filtered out into different tanks and clear water will be used to grow vegetables in communal gardens.



OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



YANGON

The Safe Return Home programme aims to help released detainees to get home safely and reunite with their families.

In 2023, we supported 3,386 released detainees with allowances for food and transitory accommodation and other costs, which allowed them to return home with dignity.

HELPING AFFECTED PEOPLE MEET THEIR ESSENTIAL NEEDS



145,001 people were provided with essential household items such as blankets, mosquito nets and kitchen sets.



9,163 people received support for their small business initiatives.



138,023 people received seed, farm tools and organic fertilizers to grow staple crops.



6,261 people received support to purchase their daily essentials.



120,875 people were provided with food rations.



2,579 people earned income through various work programmes.



49,218 people received fuel sticks for cooking.



199 people were trained to sharpen their skills in farming and livestock breeding.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO WATER, SANITATION AND SHELTER



138,147 people in Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Rakhine, Shan, Sagaing and Mandalay gained better access to water, sanitation, shelter and emergency hygiene systems, as part of the ICRC's emergency response programme.



7,372 people living in rural areas of Kachin and Shan states received improved access to clean water.



73,045 people in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states were provided with either newly built or renovated shelters and homes, as well as improved access to essential services.



143 Red Cross volunteers participated in training sessions organized by the ICRC's WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene and habitat) team.



46,590 people living in urban areas of Shan and Rakhine states benefited from improved water and sanitation facilities.



14 rural health centres, **7** hospitals and **1** physical rehabilitation centre were repaired or upgraded.

HEALTH



56 health facilities across Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine, Shan states and Mandalay region that provided

23,321 antenatal care consultations and

74,954 curative consultations received support.



1,342 primary-health staff sharpened their skills through 29 training sessions.



25 hospitals (general, district and township facilities) that served

about **43,136** people including 201 wounded patients and 8,603 surgical patients, were provided with support.



1,073 ambulance service providers (of civil society organizations) took part in 41 training sessions on stabilizing patients and patient care, among others.



6,465 patients were transferred or transported for urgent medical care.



895 wounded patients were provided with support for their medical expenses.



380 Red Cross volunteers benefited from sessions related to first aid and ambulance responders.



148 people received physical and mental health-care support upon their release from detention.



23 detainees were provided with support for better access to health care while in detention.

PHYSICAL REHABILITATION



4,721 people with disabilities, including **1,704 people** affected by explosive hazards, were supported through our physical rehabilitation programme.

30,437 SERVICES provided including:

26,520
PHYSIOTHERAPY
SESSIONS



1,556
WALKING AIDS



1,422
PROSTHESES



565 people with disabilities who received physical rehabilitation services from ICRC-supported rehabilitation centres also received counselling services or participated in psychosocial support related activities.

765
ORTHOSES



468 people with disabilities participated in adaptive sport activities while **89 people** received support or training to start small-scale business.

174
WHEELCHAIRS



RESTORING FAMILY LINKS



3,386 people were provided with support upon release from prison, allowing them to return home safely.



Families of **314 people** received help for identifying the whereabouts of their loved ones.



669 families were provided with support to deliver food parcels and letters to detained family members.



80 Red Cross messages or oral messages with family news were shared between separated family members.

EXPLOSIVE HAZARD RISK AWARENESS AND PROMOTING SAFE BEHAVIOUR



65,949 people learned more about the risk of explosive hazards and received information on safe behaviour through **1,377** awareness sessions.



98 community volunteers and **210** Red Cross Volunteers were trained as trainers to raise awareness of risk and safer behaviour.



15 awareness campaigns were held to highlight risk related to unexploded ordnance and safe behaviour.



11 mini libraries were set up in Pinlaung and Hsihseng townships in southern Shan state and Lashio township in northern Shan state.



Risk awareness and safer behaviour messages were provided through **2** radio channels in Kachin and Chin states. And 79,573 copies of risk awareness materials were provided as info-as-aid assistance.

WORKING WITH MYANMAR RED CROSS SOCIETY



1,706 Red Cross volunteers joined **66** training sessions led by MRCS on safer access.



208 Red Cross volunteers and MRCS staff participated in 11 communication training sessions supported by the ICRC and conducted by MRCS.



1,504 Red Cross volunteers joined ICRC teams to distribute assistance in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states.



66 Red Cross volunteers were trained in Restoring Family Links activities and data management in 4 training sessions.

BUILDING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



462 community volunteers improved their knowledge of reproductive health through 15 training sessions.

PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW



9,116 people including weapon bearers, representatives of civil society organizations and international organizations and government staff learned more about international humanitarian law (IHL) through **338 awareness sessions.**



433 people from academic, legal and religious circles participated in 21 events to discuss issues related to humanitarian law and human rights law.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

PROVIDING ESSENTIALS TO FAMILIES TAKING SHELTER IN LASHIO TOWN

Emergency response aims to address the urgent and basic needs of conflict-affected people by providing for their basic necessities, including drinking water and sanitary systems.

In November 2023, as armed conflicts were escalating again in northern Shan state, many families and individuals were forced to flee their homes and seek shelter in safer areas. As winter approached, the harsh weather made the situation worse.

Responding to the needs, our team in Lashio provided emergency assistance to families living in displacement sites or temporary shelters in Lashio town. We supported them with essential household items, food rations and drinking water. We also helped to improve sanitary facilities.

Despite many challenges of humanitarian access to conflict-affected areas, our team is continuing to work hard to provide essential aid to those most in need. We continue to remind all parties to the conflict their role in protecting civilian population and ensuring they have access to essential services.

IN NORTHERN SHAN STATE, DURING NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2023, WE PROVIDED BLANKETS, MATS, MOSQUITO NETS, HYGIENE PARCELS, SARONGS AND KITCHEN SETS FOR



6,185 people

from 1,677 HOUSEHOLDS

RICE, OIL, SALT AND CHICKPEAS FOR



942 people

from 297 HOUSEHOLDS

The ICRC team in Lashio was providing essential household items to people temporarily living in displacement sites in Lashio town.



DISTRIBUTION OF ESSENTIAL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS IN HPA-PUN AND HLAING BWE TOWNSHIPS



An ICRC staff was conducting a risk awareness and safer practices information session with people displaced from Hpa-pun.

“Some days, I just wish I could disappear like smoke. The burden is too much for me and my family to bear,” said a mother of five children, who fled the armed conflict with her family in Kayin State. “We fled by boat and it took us approximately eight hours to reach this place. Since this is a small town with very few job opportunities, I struggle a lot to support my family even though I have been trying my best,” she added.

Every day, displaced families face the devastating consequences of armed conflict, including the loss of their homes and livelihoods, along with limited access to essentials like food, water, education and health care.

In late August 2023, our team was in Hpa-Pun and Hlaing Bwe townships, Kayin state, providing emergency assistance to over 1,500 displaced families living in Myaing Gyi Ngu, Ohn Taw, Kamamaung and the surrounding areas. Most families have been there for nearly two years but some arrived in 2023.

During our six-day distribution activity, we distributed rice, oil, peas, salt and mosquito nets. In addition, for those who arrived in 2023, we provided buckets, hygiene kits, rope, tarpaulin and vegetable seed.

Our team also conducted risk awareness and safer behaviour sessions throughout the week to help people understand the ongoing threat of landmines and other explosive devices in those areas. As communities living in Kamamaung area faced water shortage during dry season, we conducted assessments of communal hand-dug wells.

Humanitarian access remains of crucial importance in Myanmar. People affected by armed conflict must be given access to essential services such as health care, education and sustainable livelihoods.



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