

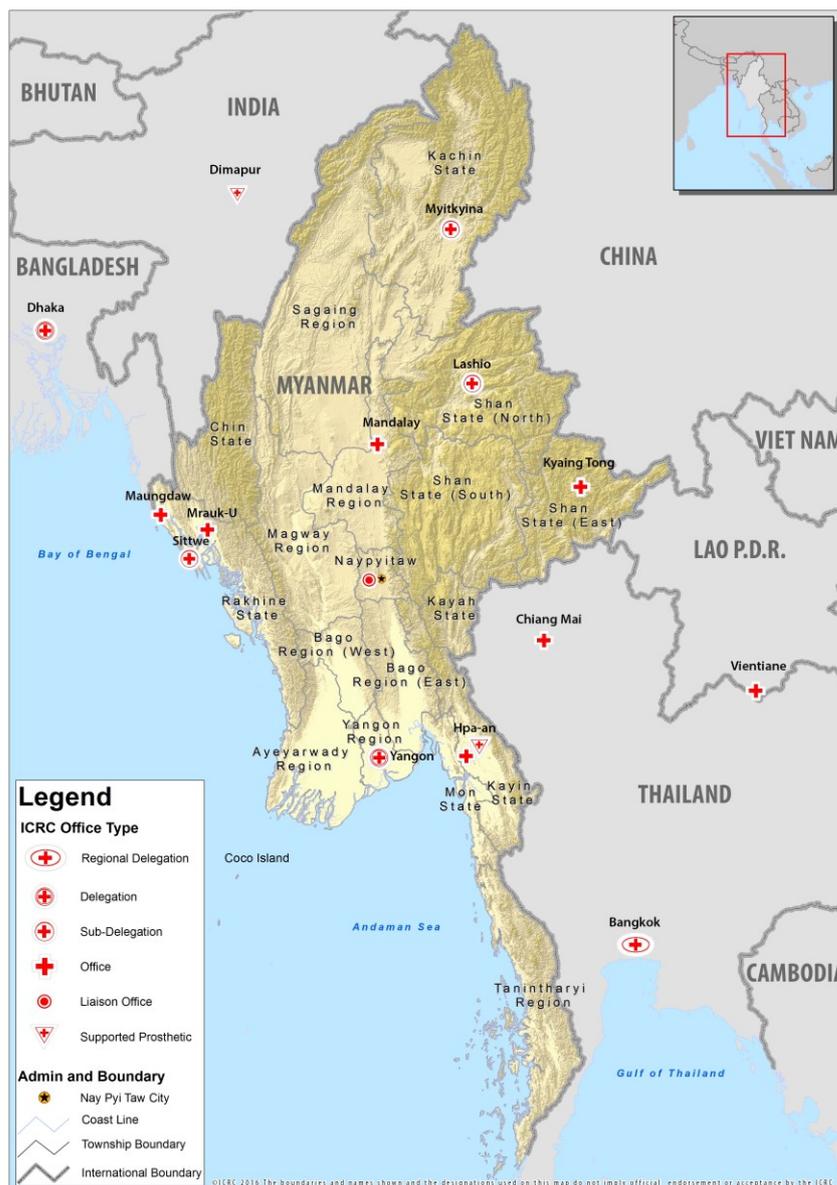


Seng Ja/ICRC

NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2016

ICRC'S ACTIVITIES IN MYANMAR



2015 HIGHLIGHTS

50,000 people affected by the conflict in the northeast received emergency assistance (access to water, shelter, health-care, essential items) and/or cash to support their livelihood recovery.

120,000 people affected by severe floods in Rakhine State received water, sanitation, shelter, hygiene kits and/or to cash to support for their livelihood recovery.

15 hospitals in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan States enhanced the quality of their services thanks to ICRC financial, logistical and technical training support.

3,000 people with disability received prostheses and physical rehabilitation to improve their mobility. The construction of two new physical rehabilitation centres started in Kachin and Shan States.

30 places of detention were visited and their authorities were supported to improve living conditions (access to water, hygiene, health-care, and family contacts).

240 police officers and trainers improved their knowledge of international policing standards and **24 officers from Myanmar Armed Forces** of international humanitarian law.



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HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

The year 2015 was particularly challenging for Myanmar due to the floods that affected twelve out of the fourteen states and regions at the end of July, causing the displacement of 1.7 million people and the deaths of 125 people. This natural disaster took place alongside a protracted conflict affecting the northeast of the country. Sporadic clashes persisted between government forces and armed groups in Kachin and Shan, with new displacements in northern and southern Shan State. In Rakhine State, Buddhist and Muslim communities, including around 140,000 IDPs, continue to endure the consequences of the intercommunal violence that erupted in 2012.

The ICRC as a neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian organization continues to help those affected by the armed conflict, other situations of violence and natural disasters where it has an operational presence. Wherever possible, activities are carried out with its partner, the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS).

The summary below cannot be a comprehensive illustration of all of ICRC's activities, but should provide an overview of the main activities and achievements in 2015. Whenever possible, programmes are implemented in partnership with and with a view to enhance the capacity of the MRCS.



One of the families in Mrauk-U township raises piglets thanks to an ICRC cash grant after the floods.



A well from Pu Rein village in Mrauk-U township being cleaned with the help of an ICRC sludge pump.

IN RAKHINE STATE

With the opening of a new office in Maungdaw, in addition to its presence in Sittwe and Mrauk-U, the ICRC hopes to reach more people affected by past intercommunal violence and help all communities. Over the last months of the year, in close collaboration with the Myanmar Red Cross, the ICRC also assisted populations affected by the devastating floods that struck the country in July-August.

- Over 1000 people needing emergency or specialized care promptly accessed the main hospital in Sittwe using either of the two ICRC-supported Ministry of Health transportation/referral schemes.
- 197 Health Ministry facilities in six townships benefitted from financial and logistical support from the ICRC for improved provision of health care, including with new equipment such as delivery beds and solar lamps.
- 19,000 internally displaced people in four camps covered 50% to 75% of their cooking fuel needs with fuel sticks made from local rice husks, a safe and environmentally friendly alternative to firewood.
- 18,000 households could start or resume income-generating activities through in-kind support or conditional cash grants.
- 70,000 people received emergency assistance following the floods including shelter kits, food and household items (mats, blankets, hygiene kits and mosquito nets), cash grants or cash-for-work. People in over 121 villages regained access to clean water after the floods thanks the cleaning of 86 ponds and 7 dug wells, refilling of 12 ponds and with the donation of 11,000 rain water harvesting kits.

IN KACHIN STATE

From its sub-delegation in Myitkyina, the ICRC has been working to provide better access to health care, to improve livelihoods of populations displaced as a result of armed conflict, and to improve the living conditions of people deprived of freedom.

- Over 12,000 patients benefited from various services of the renovated Laiza hospital after staff broadened their knowledge of standard treatment guidelines and systems for various medical services, such as surgery and gynecology, during practical training sessions.
- Over 900 people have improved their skills and confidence in first aid, basic lifesaving and in the transportation of patients.
- 3,400 people in camps could increase their family income as a result of small businesses supported by the ICRC through cash grants and 2,300 people improved their access to clean water through the use of ceramic filters and well rehabilitation. An additional 1,500 people received cash grants from the MRCS to start income generating activities. This is an outcome of the ICRC's support in building MRCS capacities to develop livelihood projects in the region. 12,000 people received seeds and/or tools to enhance backyard gardening.



Cash grants have been distributed to vulnerable families in a camp around Myitkyina. This family has started to polish amber to resume livelihood activities.

- Over 1,300 people improved their knowledge on the risks of landmines and unexploded ordnance. With support from the ICRC, Myanmar Red Cross volunteers conducted information sessions from August to December 2015 for communities potentially affected by landmines and unexploded ordnance.
- A physical rehabilitation center at the Myitkyina General Hospital is under construction and is planned to be completed by mid-2016.



A family could start a grocery shop in Kachin thanks to a cash grant. A cash book was distributed to them to record their earnings.



A physical rehabilitation centre is under construction at Myitkyina General Hospital, Kachin State.



Conditional cash grant distribution for income generating activities at Chi Pwe township, Kachin State in July, 2015.

IN SHAN STATE

The ICRC opened a new sub-delegation in Lashio in addition to its office in Kyaing Tong in order to better support people affected by armed conflict in northern and southern Shan.

- 6,000 people in northern and southern Shan State, including IDP camps and remote rural communities could cover basic needs after receiving cash and/or essential household items and improved their access to water and proper sanitation.
- 260 people in camps could increase their family income thanks to small businesses supported by ICRC through cash grants. An additional 1,100 people could enhance backyard gardening thanks to seeds and/or tools distributed by the ICRC.
- 2,000 mosquito nets were delivered to households in malaria prone areas.
- In eastern Shan, 100 health staff improved their knowledge in child health education in a Health Ministry refresher training, while 26 doctors and nurses completed a primary trauma care training in northern Shan. Both trainings were supported by the ICRC.
- The construction of a physical rehabilitation centre at Kyaing Tong General Hospital started in October 2015 and is scheduled to be completed in the last quarter of 2016.



Cash grant for food, maize seeds and agro tools distribution for returnees in Wan Lwe Lishu village, Mongshu township, southern Shan.



Tarpaulins distributed to displaced families in New Haipa Camp, Mongshu Township, southern Shan state.

PROGRAMMES MANAGED FROM YANGON

The ICRC staff from the Yangon delegation provide support and coordinate field activities, focusing mainly on detention activities, physical rehabilitation, weapon contamination, promotion of international humanitarian law (IHL) and cooperation activities with the Red Cross Movement.

Detention

- 30 places of detention holding over 26,000 inmates were visited. Detainees and authorities were supported to improve living conditions (access to water, hygiene, health-care, improvement of sanitation and waste management systems, distribution of recreational items and facilitation to family contacts). The visits also serve to inform the dialogue with the authorities on the broader reform of the penitentiary system.
- The capacities of 78 health assistants from 77 places of detention all over the country were reinforced in a workshop organized by the ICRC in October 2015.
- 5,000 Red Cross messages (family news messages) were sent/received from/by detainees through the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's family links services, and 574 detainees met with their relatives during ICRC-sponsored family visits.

Physical rehabilitation

- Around 3,000 patients with disabilities improved their mobility at two orthopaedic centres supported by the ICRC, the Myanmar Red Cross center in Hpa-an and the Yenanthar Leprosy Hospital near Mandalay.
- After the construction/refurbishment of their foot production units, the two centers fabricated approximately 3,000 prosthetic feet.
- The MRCS mobile repair workshop offered foot and strap repair services to 1,350 patients who could not go to the Hpa-an center.
- In agreement with and for the Ministry of Health, two new centers are under construction in Myitkyina and Kyaing Tong.

Mine risk education, IHL and cooperation with MRCS

- A training on the risks of landmines and other forms of unexploded ordnance was organized for 25 MRCS volunteers in July and for specialized MRCS staff members at its HQ in September.
- Some 3,200 people, including members of parliament, community leaders, teachers, medical staff, the media, students and Red Cross volunteers, attended trainings on IHL, the Movement and its emblems, and the Fundamental Principles, conducted by trained MRCS staff and/or the ICRC.
- 24 officers from the Myanmar Armed Forces, most of them legal advisors and IHL instructors in their respective regions, enhanced their knowledge of IHL during the first instructor course on IHL conducted by the ICRC with the Armed Forces in October.
- 8 workshops on policing standards, including in relation to arrest and detention were organized by the ICRC for 240 senior police officers and police trainers.
- Around 1,000 Red Cross branch leaders and volunteers from conflict-affected areas built their capacity to safely respond to emergencies in sensitive areas.
- In collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC continues to technically and financially support MRCS institutional change process.



Workshop on international policing standards for border guard police, Maungdaw, Rakhine in October 2015.



Law of armed conflict course for Myanmar Army instructors, Naypyitaw, in October 2015.



Introduction of Law of Armed Conflict/International Humanitarian Law session underway at MRCS Yangon headquarter, in April, 2015.

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