

# EXECUTIVE BRIEF ON ICRC MYANMAR

JANUARY to MAY, 2016



*"I am glad to present to you the new executive brief on our activities in Myanmar. This publication aims at keeping you updated on our humanitarian efforts and achievements in a transparent manner. The ICRC acknowledges and welcomes the efforts that are ongoing to achieve peace in Myanmar. However, as peace processes do take time, fighting continues in northern Shan and in Kachin. Over 100,000 people are still displaced, and thousands more affected by conflict and in need of assistance in the northeast. Solutions will take time. In Rakhine, the consequences of the violence that affected all communities in 2012, and the restrictions of movement that followed, still weigh heavily on people's everyday lives. In areas affected by armed conflicts and other situations of violence, it is essential that the immediate needs of all communities are addressed. We are convinced that this also contributes to creating an environment of trust and confidence, essential for the success of a peace process. With its independent, neutral and impartial humanitarian response and experience working in such situations across the world, the ICRC is ideally placed to support these efforts. I wish you a good read!"*

**Juerg Montani, July 2016**  
**Head of Delegation**

## Key Achievements:



**10,000 people affected by the conflict in northern and southern Shan State could cover their basic needs thanks to relief assistance such as cash and/or essential items.**



**Access to quality health care has increased with support (medical material, improvement of infrastructure, trainings, waste management) provided to 10 hospitals in Rakhine, Shan and in a non-government controlled area of Kachin.**



**Following ICRC recommendations, the Prison Department created a new engineering unit to develop national infrastructure standards.**



**Around 1,400 people with disabilities improved their mobility at two ICRC supported physical rehabilitation centres in Hpa-an and Mandalay.**



**1,600 people improved their knowledge on the risk of landmines and other unexploded ordnance in Kachin and Shan States.**



**Over 14,000 people improved their access to water and sanitation in Rakhine, Shan and Kachin.**



**ICRC**

## KACHIN STATE



**Conditional cash grant distribution for livelihood activities in Nam Ma Hpyit Catholic Church IDP camp, Hphakant Township, Kachin state.**

- Delays in the movement authorization procedures led to the interruption of essential programmes for three consecutive months.
- Medical training continued in January and February at Laiza civilian hospital for

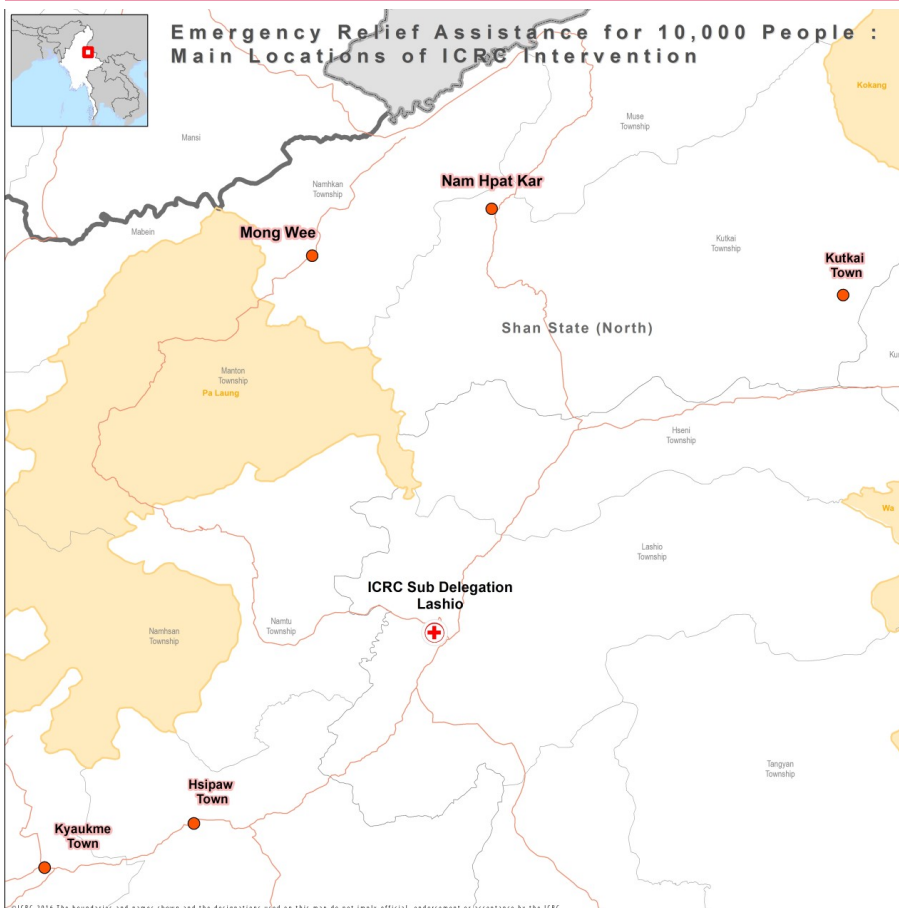
87 medical practitioners. 136 nursing students were trained in first aid, while renovation of the infrastructures was completed with the improvement of the electrical installations.

- The construction of a physical rehabilitation centre at the General Hospital in Myitkyina is nearly complete. The centre built in cooperation with the Ministry of Health is scheduled to open in September 2016.
- With ICRC support, volunteers of the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) briefed displaced people and communities living in potentially affected areas on the risks posed by landmines and other unexploded ordnance.

Thanks to conditional cash grants and business skills training, over 815 people started or resumed livelihood activities such as crafts making, trading and livestock raising.

- 14 ceramic water filters were delivered to 70 people at Palana camp for increased access to drinking water.
- A briefing on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) was organised together with the Myanmar Journalist Association for 19 representatives of 15 media outlets in Myitkyina.
- A new branch office of the Myanmar Red Cross inaugurated in February in Bhamo Township. The construction was fully financed and designed by the ICRC.

## SHAN STATE



Myanmar Red Cross volunteers.

- A monthly cash distribution system was set up for more than 5,500 people considered most vulnerable, including newly displaced families, in 8 camps in Kutkai Township to cover their needs in food and other basic necessities.
- In 16 displaced people camps, villages of origin and resettlements, around 4,800 people resumed maize cultivation after receiving tools and seeds from the ICRC. Over 900 people (185 households) could also restart agricultural activities thanks to the provision of conditional cash grants for land rental.
- In eastern Shan, three hospitals have received equipment or help for rehabilitation projects that will improve the management of medical waste, access to water and sanitation facilities.
- Mine risk education activities and trainings for Myanmar Red Cross volunteers were carried out in communities potentially at risk and in areas recently affected by fighting.

- A new sub-delegation office was inaugurated in Lashio in May to better support ICRC operations in northern Shan in favour of people and communities affected by armed conflict.
- After renewed clashes in northern and southern Shan, around 10,000 people

(2,250 households) could cover their basic needs with cash and/or essential items (mosquito nets, blankets, mats and hygiene kits), and improved their access to water and sanitation with ICRC's help. In Kyaukme and Nam Pha Kar, assistance was provided in collaboration with

- The construction work of a physical rehabilitation centre in Kyaing Tong progressed. The centre will accommodate 35 patients and is expected to be completed by the end of 2016.



## RAKHINE STATE



**Distributing 20 liters bottles of drinking water to the Rakhine displaced people in Say Taung village, Buthidaung Township in Rakhine.**

- In Kyauktaw and Buthidaung Townships, more than 1,000 people (over 180 households) displaced as a consequence of armed clashes could meet their basic needs with the provision of cash and/or essential household items (buckets, cooking utensils, blankets and mosquito nets), charcoal, drinking water, shelter items, and the conduct of hygiene sessions.
- Access to quality health care facilities improved for all communities alike with the ICRC support such as the provision of water filters, medical furniture and materials, the reconstruction of delivery rooms, and the construction of septic tanks and underground reservoir, in three station hospitals, 5 rural health centres and 25 sub-centres.
- The ICRC facilitated transport for medical staff who vaccinated over 30,000 young and 1,000 pregnant women.
- 301 people from different communities were able to safely and quickly access the Sittwe General Hospital thanks to the continued support to the Ministry of Health emergency transport system.
- With conditional cash grants and

business skills training, around 300 people (57 households) started or resumed livelihood activities, such as crafts making, trading and livestock raising.

- 63 community animal health workers were trained in collaboration with the livestock department in Mrauk U, Minbya and Myebon Townships to provide assistance to livestock raisers.
- 20,000 displaced people in four camps covered more than 50% of their cooking fuel needs with the provision of fuel sticks made of rice husks which reduced their need to collect firewood and lower cooking expenses.
- 14,000 people in 18 villages affected by natural disasters received emergency assistance for shelters or water.
- Around 600 basic health staff increased their capacity to prepare for and respond to health emergencies in natural disasters during six workshops organized together with State Health Department in Kyauk Taw, Mrauk U, Myinbya, Pauk Taw, Maungdaw and Buthidong.

## Nationwide



**An inter-university competition of the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) moot court competition (2016) at Yangon University.**

- Detainees continued to receive visits from ICRC delegates who monitored their treatment and living conditions. 32,400 inmates eased their living conditions or the monotony of their confinement with hygiene, recreational and educational items. Over 4,700 inmates in 8 places of detention benefited from the construction/rehabilitation of water and sanitation systems, kitchens and medical facilities. Upgraded sewerage systems eliminated the need for inmates to manually empty septic tanks.
- Inmates re-established or maintained contact with their relatives by exchanging over 2,700 Red Cross messages. 495 detainees met with their relatives through ICRC-sponsored family visits and the ICRC helped 372 released detainees return home safely.

- For the first time in Myanmar, a student competition on IHL was organised in Yangon with representatives from 5 universities.
- Workshops were held with armed group and security forces on respect for International Humanitarian Law or international policing standards.
- The ICRC teams engaged with authorities and communities at local level to address and mitigate the impact of the conflict on the civilian population. Communities were helped to develop self-protection mechanisms and reduce exposure to risks. Weapon bearers enhanced their knowledge of the law of armed conflict and international policing standards through specialised workshops. Bilateral and confidential meetings also took place to discuss humanitarian concerns linked to the behaviour of weapons bearers with the aim to ensure the protection of civilians and lawful conduct of hostilities.



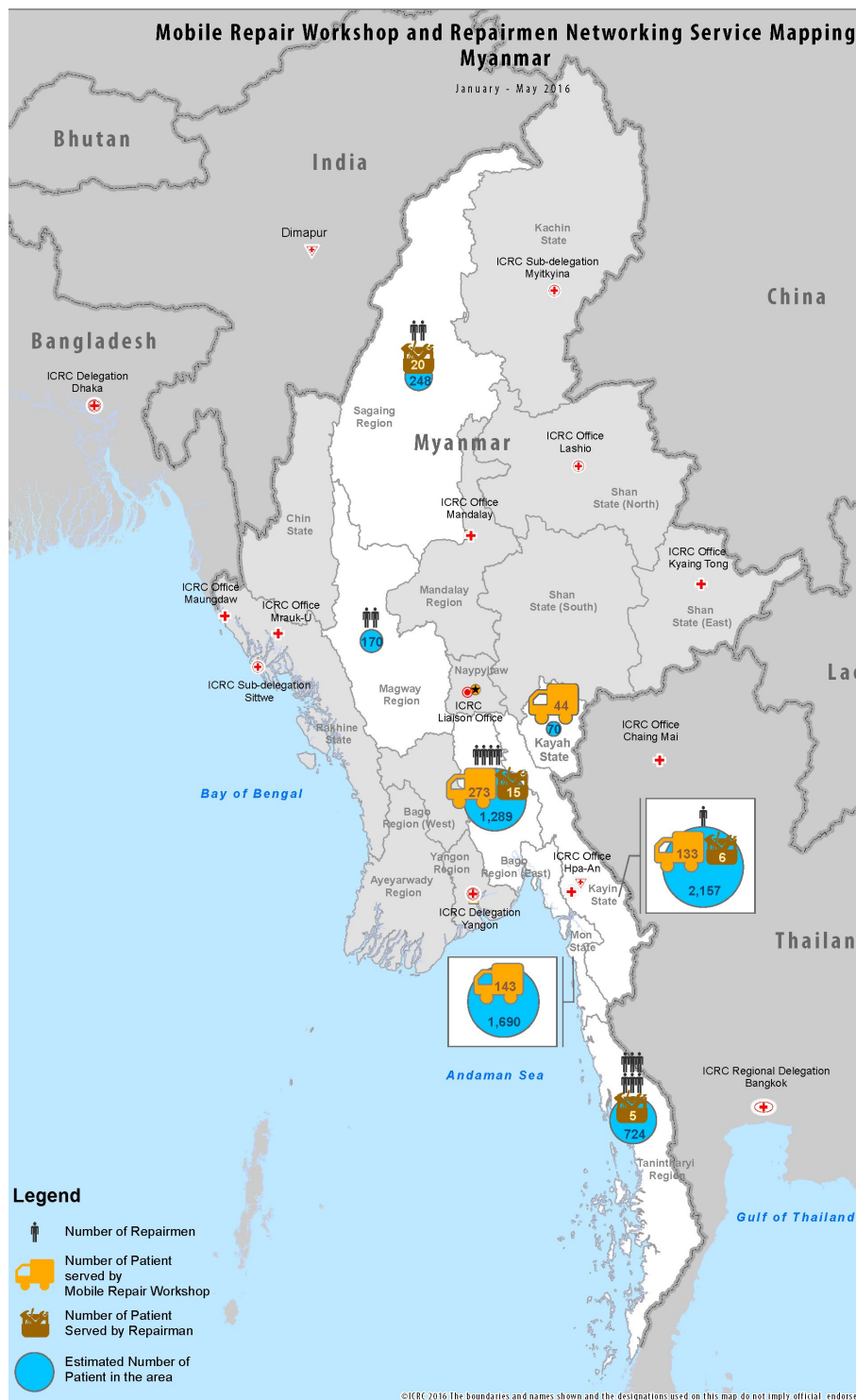
### The construction of physical rehabilitation centre at Myitkyina General Hospital.

- 593 patients living in remote areas in Tanintharyi Region, Eastern Bago and Kayin State received foot and strap services from ICRC-supported mobile repair workshops.
- 1,386 people with disabilities improved their mobility at the two ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres (one run by the Myanmar Red Cross and the other by the Health and Sports Ministry) with mine victims receiving 38% of the prostheses delivered.

### Mission

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Cover photo: Water supply project at Mong Si area in Kutkai Township, northern Shan State to assist communities who host displaced people.



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