

EXECUTIVE BRIEF ON ICRC MYANMAR

No.3, NOVEMBER, 2016



Win Myint/ICRC

Supported by the ICRC, the first physical rehabilitation centre in the northern part of Myanmar has officially opened its doors in Myitkyina.

The ICRC's 30th anniversary of work in Myanmar was marked in 2016. While activities and areas of operations have changed over this time, our commitment to the people of Myanmar, and especially to those affected by conflict and violence, remains as strong as ever.

Today, our main operations are in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine, covering a range of activities, all of which aim to better protect and assist people affected by conflict and violence. These activities include visiting prisons, supporting health and water systems to ensure access to health care and water, supporting livelihoods for people displaced or otherwise affected by violence, assisting mine-affected and other people with physical rehabilitation services, and promoting respect for the law of armed conflict/international humanitarian law. We work with more than 500 committed staff members, the overwhelming majority of whom are Myanmar people, to protect and assist their fellow citizens, and with a budget of 33.7 million Swiss Francs/41.1 billion Myanmar Kyats. This is a very large operation for the ICRC - our 15th largest in the world and 2nd largest in Asia - and

reflects both the humanitarian needs in Myanmar, and the ICRC's commitment to help meet those needs.

While we remain a purely humanitarian organization, and we perceive ourselves as an efficient emergency responder, when one is present in a country for as long as we have been in Myanmar, you cannot only provide emergency food or water. We have to aim, where feasible, for more sustainable solutions to help people in need. In September 2016, the ICRC published a new report on its work in protracted conflict around the world. We provide below a brief summary of the main messages in this report, and would be happy to share the full report with anyone who is interested in it (p. 2).

As Myanmar continues its democratic transition, there is - correctly in our view - a growing focus on development. While we see conflict and violence, especially recently in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan, creating very real humanitarian needs, we also are hopeful that the 21st Century Panglong Peace Process and the efforts by the government to address the root causes of the situation in Rakhine will bring peace and stability. We want to

share our view that our humanitarian efforts can contribute to stability, and can connect to development. With this and in future editions, we aim to better explain our approach to and contribution in protracted conflict, highlighted with examples from our work in Myanmar. The first example is the livelihood support we provided to a grandmother in Mong Si (p. 3). We hope you find this information useful, and if you have any questions, or have any feedback, please write to us at yan_yangon@icrc.org.



Jurg Montani
Head of Delegation



ICRC

Protracted conflict and humanitarian action - Some recent ICRC experiences

Key messages in the report

The ICRC spends about two thirds of its budget in countries affected by protracted conflicts. The average length of time the ICRC has been present in the countries hosting its ten largest operations is more than 36 years. Protracted conflicts are a major source of human suffering and a cause of protracted displacement, migration and development reversals. The report contributes to important humanitarian policy discussions on the relief-development relationship.



The ICRC's 30th anniversary of work in Myanmar was marked in 2016. Humanitarian efforts such as the ICRC's can contribute to stability, and can connect to development.

Protracted conflicts are characterized by their longevity, intractability and mutability.

Some are based on a single conflict. Others are a series of multiple conflicts. The parties to long conflicts typically fragment and mutate over time. Conflict often ebbs and flows unevenly across a country, with varying moments of intensity. A conflict may also be reframed with different goals over time and be internationalized in a variety of ways.

Lack of respect for IHL is a major source of human suffering in protracted conflicts. The humanitarian consequences of protracted conflict are severe and can be immediate and cumulative.

People's experience of a protracted conflict typically involves immediate direct suffering as a result of attacks, deprivation and displacement, and more indirect suffering due to the cumulative deterioration of basic services, life chances and livelihoods. People's needs cut across many different sectors and extend over many years.

Today's protracted conflicts create some new challenges for humanitarian action.

The intensity and longevity of protracted conflicts also create greater expectations of sustainable and individualized services across a wide range of vulnerable groups. The absence of development investment makes it difficult to build strong local partnerships to ensure humanitarian continuity during and after a conflict.

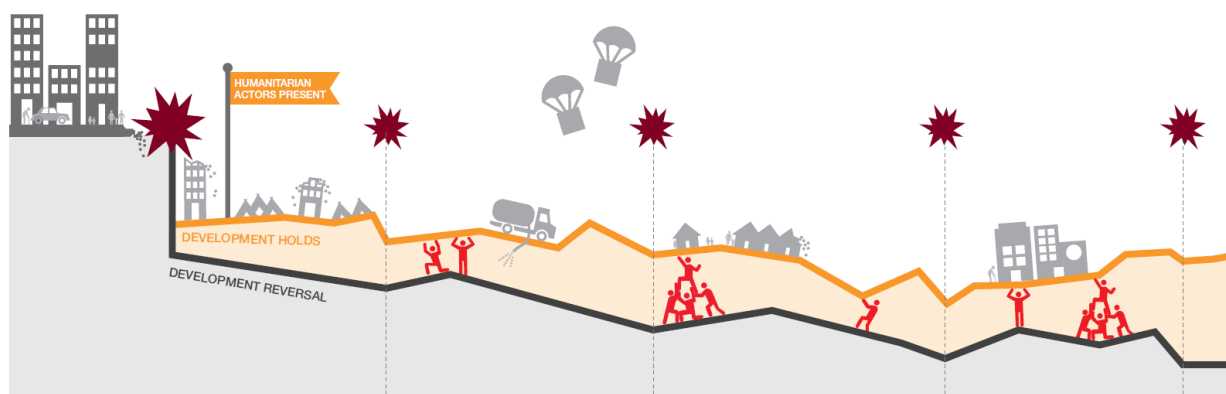


Figure 1 shows ICRC operations with partners engaged in development holds as a situation is deteriorating.

The ICRC responds to needs in protracted conflict by implementing a “combined approach” that operates in the short and long terms to meet immediate needs and mitigate cumulative impact.

This involves working with two timelines simultaneously - one that plans week to week, and another that thinks two to five years ahead. The ICRC works quickly to address immediate needs and also works deeply with regard to the various health, water, livelihood and protection systems that ensure people's survival and dignity.

Agility and proximity remain critical to the ICRC's operational approach, which must be able to adapt to the fluidity of armed conflict. The ICRC aims to improve its general approach in protracted conflicts in the following ways.

It will develop its *multi-year approach* to focus more on outcome goals in protection and assistance. It will concentrate on securing *development holds* against the development reversals of protracted conflict. It will seek partnerships that can ensure *humanitarian continuity* during and after conflict, and it will deepen its *engagement with affected populations*.

Read the full report: <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/protracted-conflict-and-humanitarian-action>

Cash grant programme leads to new and restored livelihoods



Myanmar. KBC internally displaced people's camp, Mongsi, northern Shan State. Ms Jhone Zay in her shop.

Market day is on Wednesday this week in Mongsi, a small town of around 6,000 people in northern Shan State. It is a busy day for Daw Jhone Zay. The 45-years-old, mother of three and proud grandmother of an energetic little boy sets out early to set up her stall with the products she got from a wholesaler the day before.

This week she has sweet litchi, ruby-red tomatoes, fresh green beans, chili, cucumber, cabbage and potatoes, brought mostly from Lashio to Mongsi via the bumpy Asia Highway.

This is Daw Jhone Zay's fourth year in an internally displaced people's camp near Mongsi. She fled here with seven other family members because of an increase in the fighting around her village, a three hours' drive from Mongsi. Before fleeing, Daw Jhone Zay owned a small grocery shop and sold goods at the local market.

Despite having very little in the way of money or space, but with a fierce determination to provide for her family, Daw Jhone Zay used her business skills and part of her shelter normally dedicated to the kitchen to set up a shop. She began by selling a few chicken eggs, noodles, washing powder and some snacks for children - items high in demand in the camp.

At the end of last year, based on a business plan she developed, following a training session with the ICRC, Daw Jhone Zay received a conditional cash grant of 134,000 MMK (110 USD) to help her build her business. She was able to invest in diversifying her inventory and maintaining sufficient stock levels to meet the demands of her customers. While maintaining her business in the camp, she now partners with two women from the host community to rent a stall in the Mongsi market and sells fresh produce every week.

"I speak Kachin, but I have also learned Chinese and Shan, which serves me well in town," says Daw Jhone Zay. "Earlier, I didn't have money to have my own space in the market, so I was selling for shop owners from the side of the road. But it was not enough."

Daw Jhone Zay is one of 29 people who received a cash grant from the ICRC in her internally displaced people's camp managed by the Kachin Baptist Church. Six months after receiving the grant, and four years since fleeing her village, she is at last able to adequately support her family of eight, no longer having to borrow money for extra food, clothes, school fees and health services: "Now, I

can play my role without any worry", says Daw Jhone Zay.

The ICRC instituted this "conditional cash grant" programme in January. While purely humanitarian in nature - beneficiaries are selected from amongst particularly vulnerable poor families - this type of programme seeks to contribute to the local economy by generating new goods and services. This approach also seeks to contribute to the stability of the area, rather than disrupt the market by distributing to people, food and other goods brought from outside the area.

"This was a pilot project in northern Shan State. While most people opted for livestock-raising businesses, Daw Jhone Zay was a pioneer with her small shop business model. What she chose for her activity was very beneficial for her, enabling her to safely provide for her family, and her partnership with local women was a good step in building ties between the local community and the displaced population," says Martin Samtan, ICRC field officer in charge of the programme.

Key achievements July-October 2016

The following examples highlight some recent work of the ICRC in both systemic and emergency modes. For an overview of the entire ICRC operation and budget, please see map on page 6 or previous Executive Briefs.
(<http://www.icrc.org/en/document/myanmar>)

Overall

- Over 6,300 people in Shan, Kachin and Rakhine could start or resume livelihood activities such as farming, gardening or business projects through cash grants and trainings.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Health and Sports, access to quality health care has increased with support (medical material, improvement of infrastructure, trainings, waste management) provided to 10 hospitals in Rakhine and Shan. The ICRC also supported a hospital in a non-government controlled area of Kachin.
- Detainees benefited from ICRC visits aimed at supporting detaining authorities to improve living conditions (access to water, hygiene, health-care, etc.), treatment of detainees and to help re-establish family links. Through that support, 628 families met their detained relatives and more than 600 released detainees returned home safely.

Kachin



A community animal health worker is doing pig vaccination in a camp in Kachin State.

Previously, a patient would need to go to Mandalay, more than 20 hours away by bus. The ICRC designed and paid for the construction, an investment of 1.98 billion Kyats/1.5 million CHF.

- Livestock are an important part of people's livelihoods in Kachin and throughout Myanmar. The ICRC has a "Conditional Cash Grant" programme that supports livelihoods of people affected by conflict, and many beneficiaries of this programme opt for livestock as their investment. In parallel, the ICRC also trains and equips community animal health workers to help protect the livestock of these people. Consultations for vaccinations and treatments from six community animal health workers helped protect the livestock of over 2,100 displaced people and residents in Kachin.
- International Humanitarian Law/Law of Armed Conflict (IHL) is the body of law that sets the rules and balances humanity with military necessity in war. It is important that people throughout the world know and respect these laws. More than 500 students from Myitkyina University learned about IHL in July.
- We are proud to open in November, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Sports, the first physical rehabilitation centre in the north of Myanmar. Located in Myitkyina, the centre will have a capacity of 60 beds and will provide prostheses and orthosis for disabled people, aiming to significantly improve their mobility and independence.

Shan

- In addition to the centre in Myitkyina (see Kachin section above), we are proud to announce that - again in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Sports - we will open a physical rehabilitation centre in Kyaing Tong in early 2017. Previously, patients would need to travel to Yangon to receive an artificial limb. This centre will have a capacity of 36 beds, and was designed and paid by the ICRC, an investment of 1.85 billion Kyats/1.4 million CHF.
- The ICRC continues to invest significantly in the training of Myanmar health professionals, and is contributing to the Ministry of Health and Sports efforts to strengthen emergency care. Recently, the ICRC conducted a second emergency trauma training for 25 medical doctors and nurses from nine townships in Lashio, and 25 ambulance volunteers in Kutkai.
- Fighting and displacement in Shan State continues. The ICRC provided emergency assistance to people displaced by the fighting, specifically: unconditional cash grants to more than 10,000 displaced people in northern and southern Shan. In Namtu, more than 400 persons received cash and also construction material (roofing, tarpaulin sheets) to build shelters, mats and essential items (plastic buckets, cups and brushes).

Rakhine



Cash grant is distributed to vulnerable members of a community in Kyauk Pyin Seik village, Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State.

- The ICRC was recognized by the State Forest Department for its contribution to sustainable development in Rakhine through the distribution of rise-husk fuel sticks. Since 2014, around

20,000 people in Pauktaw and Myebon have received this environment friendly cooking fuel support on a monthly basis.

- The ICRC supports existing health care facilities of the Ministry of Health and Sports, with a specific attention to fill the gaps along the “continuum of care”, and to build the foundations for a well – functioning, accessible health care system for all. Ensuring care for women and girls is an essential part of this effort, and the ICRC provided a training for 100 health staff on safe delivery and maternal health in Pauktaw and Maungdaw.
- The ICRC supports the Myanmar Red Cross in its efforts to help people displaced because of the recent violence in northern Rakhine. Working together, we provided more than 1,000 displaced people in Maungdaw, Mrauk U, Sittwe and Kyauktaw with essential items such as drinking water, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, hygiene kits and tarpaulins.

Kayin

- The ICRC and Myanmar Red Cross Society together helped over 5,000 displaced people affected by armed clashes in Kayin State in September 2016. Working in partnership, we supplemented the timely and generous support already provided by the monasteries, authorities and civil society by providing essential items such as mosquito nets, garbage bins, sleeping mats and solar lamps.



The ICRC and the MRCS distributed jointly emergency assistance in Kayin State.

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.

ICRC OPERATIONS, EXPENDITURES AND STAFF

