Armed clashes continued across Myanmar throughout 2022, which resulted in a significant increase in people needing humanitarian aid as their lives and livelihoods were severely impacted by the violence. As the violence intensified in some parts of the country, thousands of families were displaced and continue to struggle without access to basic services and food supplies. Restrictions imposed on humanitarian organizations made it even more difficult to reach affected people.

Amidst all this, teams at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) continued to support all communities – including those displaced – with assistance to respond to the urgent needs and whenever possible to bolster communities’ long-term self-sufficiency and resilience by giving them the means to restore their economic security in a sustainable way, repair vital infrastructure, support health care and help communities stay safe in their environment.

At the same time, the ICRC continued to raise awareness of international humanitarian law (IHL) among all parties concerned, reminding them of their obligations to protect the civilian population from the adverse effects of hostilities. Whenever possible, we continued to raise concerns over the impact of the conflict and other violence on communities with different parties through bilateral and confidential dialogue.

Despite the continued suspension of visits to prisons, we supported inmates and their families with services such as helping to clarify the whereabouts of their loved ones or helping released detainees to return home safely.

Throughout the year, close to 139,000 people were provided with food and more than 113,300 farmers of small holdings were provided with agricultural equipment to grow staple crop. We supported over 288,000 people in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine, Chin, Kayah and Kayin states with better access to shelter, cleaner water and sanitary facilities.

The ICRC also supported 21 hospitals with technical expertise and equipment, helping them provide better services to their patients. Our teams also supported over 4,200 people living with disabilities through the physical rehabilitation programme. These projects were implemented in coordination with the health authorities to support local partners and health service providers.

The following overview highlights some of the ICRC’s operations in Myanmar from January to December 2022. We continue to work alongside our partners, including the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), in our humanitarian response while also operating independently across the country to maintain vital support to affected communities.
“I have persevered in my desire to become a designer despite all the obstacles. I will continue to do so”, says San Htoi Mun, who was trained under the ICRC’s livelihood initiative in 2022. The ICRC promotes socio-economic inclusion by providing vocational training or long-term livelihood support so that people can generate regular income and rebuild their lives.

SHAN

Our team in Lashio provided filter sets for clean drinking water in Pong Mon village in Lashio township. More than half the community living here have fled violence and face multiple challenges including difficult access to cleaner water.
RAKHINE

Through our Safe Return Home programme, we helped former detainees get home safely and reconnect with their families. We supported released detainees across the country, as well as in Rakhine (as seen here), with transport costs and necessary information for a safe and dignified passage home.

RAKHINE

To raise awareness about the safer access and delivery of health care in areas affected by conflicts and other emergencies, the ICRC in Maungdaw trained about 180 community health workers from township hospitals and Myanmar Red Cross members from Buthidaung and Maungdaw.

KAYIN

To mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities, athletes from Myitkyina, Kyaing Tong and Hpa-An competed in a wheelchair basketball tournament.
HELPING AFFECTED PEOPLE MEET THEIR ESSENTIAL NEEDS

226,181 people were provided with essential household items such as blankets, mosquito nets and kitchen sets.

138,924 people were provided with food or support to buy food.

113,368 people received seed, farm tools and fertilizers to grow staple crops.

50,673 people received fuel sticks for cooking.

4,681 people received support for their small business initiatives.

2,546 people earned income through various work programmes.

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

IMPROVING ACCESS TO WATER, SANITATION AND SHELTER

288,020 people in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine, Chin, Kayah and Kayin states gained better access to water, sanitation, shelter and emergency hygiene systems as part of the ICRC’s emergency response programmes.

86,615 displaced people in Kachin and Rakhine states benefited from improved water and sanitation facilities.

4,455 formerly displaced people who returned to their villages in Kachin and Shan states were provided with either newly built or renovated shelters and homes, as well as improved road access.

168 Red Cross volunteers participated in water access, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) training provided by the ICRC.

52,016 people living in rural areas of Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states were provided with better access to clean water.

Renovated basic facilities and constructed new Emergency and Outpatient ward in 6 hospitals and 4 primary-health centres in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States.
HEALTH

82,421 people including 31,327 children under five years, were given vaccinations through an ICRC-supported immunization programme.

ICRC supported 50 health facilities across Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine, Shan States and Mandalay Region where 12,124 antenatal care consultations and 68,786 curative consultations were provided.

ICRC team supported 21 hospitals (general, district and township hospitals) that served about 58,575 people including 81 wounded patients and 9,073 surgical patients.

3,709 patients were transferred or transported for urgent and immediate medical care from rural areas.

474 wounded patients were supported with their medical expenses.

PHYSICAL REHABILITATION

4,230 people living with disabilities including 1,121 people affected by explosive hazards were supported through the physical rehabilitation programme.

334 people living with disabilities participated in rehabilitative sport activities, while 45 people received support and training to start small-scale businesses.

25,881 SERVICES provided including:

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SUPPORTING DETAINEES AND THEIR FAMILIES

- **18,397** detainees in prisons were supported with COVID-19 prevention materials.
- **1,806** people were supported upon release from prison, allowing them to return home safely to their families.
- **386** families were provided with support to deliver food parcels and letters to their detained loved ones.
- **120** Red Cross messages containing family news were shared between separated relatives.
- **63,039** people learned more about the risks of explosive hazards and received information on safe behavior through **1,424** awareness sessions.
- **151** community volunteers and **123** Red Cross Volunteers were trained as trainers to raise awareness of risk and safer behaviour.
- **63** victims of explosive devices were provided with support to cover their medical costs.
- **Risk Awareness Safe Behaviour sticker campaigns** were conducted with MRCS in 17 townships in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine, Kayin, Chin and Mon States.
- **9** billboards with Risk Awareness and Safe Behavior messages and information on physical rehabilitation centres were installed in different camps for internally displaced people in Mindat, Chin State.

RAISING MINE RISK AWARENESS AND PROMOTING SAFE PRACTICES

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WORKING WITH MYANMAR RED CROSS SOCIETY

915 Red Cross Volunteers were trained on safer access in 39 training sessions.

Red Cross Volunteers and the ICRC distributed food, fuel sticks, household items and other supplies in 442 distribution drives in Rakhine, Kayah and Kayin States.

21 coordination meetings for field operations and emergency responses and 25 partnership meetings held with MRCS and the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) on safety and security management and possible action.

2 MRCS-ICRC joint operations were facilitated in Chin and Kayin States as part of our emergency response.

BUILDING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

5,945 people who have access to market received support to buy their daily essential needs.

25 people attended in an ICRC-supported community health meeting.

1,184 people participated in 58 first-aid training sessions.

10 auxiliary midwives training sessions were conducted for 502 people.

INFORMATION AS AID

21,976,673 views of 250 ICRC operational and thematic posts on Facebook, with an engagement of 283,770 likes/shares/comments.

5,103 people, including weapon bearers, civil society organizations and government staff, learned more about the ICRC and IHL through 195 our general awareness sessions.

605 people from different entities such as academic and legal circles, community and religious leaders participated in 28 events to discuss issues related to IHL and other humanitarian norms.
470 people learned more about international humanitarian law through 39 awareness sessions.

10 advocacy meetings were held with international and national entities to promote awareness of and better respect for humanitarian law and international human rights law.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE:

SUPPORTING PEOPLE LIVING IN NINE CAMPS IN RATHEDAUNG WITH FOOD AND HYGIENE ITEMS

NEARLY 3,000 PEOPLE RECEIVED FOOD RATIONS AND HYGIENE ITEMS:

- 750 RICE BAGS
- 4,500 LITERS OF OIL
- 3,750 FISH CANS
- 750 PEA BAGS
- 750 SALT BAGS
- 750 TEA LEAVES PACKS
- 1,500 SUGAR BAGS
Conflict, climate change and rising living costs continue to pose challenges for families in Rakhine State, leaving some in need of urgent support.

“Some people borrowed rice and money from their friends or neighbours. Some looked for food and firewood near their village,” explains U Maung Aye Thein, one of the community leaders from Zaydi Taung East camp for internally displaced people.

In December 2022, our teams were able to reach families living in nine camps in Rathaedaung, including Zaydi Taung East camp, to offer support through food rations and hygiene items for nearly 3,000 people.

“Although access to communities is challenging, our team is ready to help those most in need, and we hope to continue our support to help communities cope with the impact of violence,” says Aline Dessarzin, from ICRC office in Sittwe.

Representatives of each family living in Tharthana Rakhita monastery camp collect the food rations they received.
A community animal health worker, trained by the LBVD department in Kachin with the ICRC’s support, vaccinates the chicken of a family from San Lun Yang resettlement in Mansi Township.

HELP COMMUNITIES TO BUILD SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

ANIMALS OF 1,500 PEOPLE WERE IMMUNIZED:

- 2,700 PIGS
- 12,000 CHICKENS
Throughout 2022, the ICRC team in Myitkyina supported the immunization of over 2,700 pigs and 12,000 chickens, belonging to 1,500 families living in Hpakant, Waingmaw, Sumprabum, Puta-O, Momauk and Mansi Townships.

To prevent the spread of diseases among animals, the ICRC worked with the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD) to help the affected communities and train people in remote areas as Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs).

“Our objective is to reduce the mortality rate of chickens and pigs suffering from annual disease outbreaks and improve meat consumption in the communities,” says Seng Ja, ICRC veterinarian in Myitkyina.

We will continue to make every effort to help communities to build sustainable livelihoods.

Cover photo: A resident of Pong Mon village in Lashio Township registers to collect food rations for his family.