BACKGROUND

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been working in Myanmar’s Kachin State since 2014 to help people affected by armed conflict. Neutral, impartial and independent, we provide protection and assistance to the most vulnerable communities. In Kachin State, our work includes supporting health-care facilities, offering physical rehabilitation services, improving infrastructure in places of detention, improving access to clean water, providing livelihood support to affected populations and raising awareness of risks related to landmines. The Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) is a close partner in our efforts.
IMPROVING QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE AND HEALTH FACILITIES

60 staff of Myitkyina prison and 20 teachers from Nam San Yang Village received basic first aid training. Two auxiliary midwife training sessions supported in Waingmaw and Hpakant townships, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Sports. Each session lasted 6 months. 120 standard treatment reference books donated to Waingmaw and Hpakant township hospitals for basic health staff. Drugs and medical items donated to the Kachin state health department, Myitkyina General hospital, township hospitals and rural health centres. Splint sets, dressing sets and Interagency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK) donated to Hpakant township hospital to support in the treatment of the people wounded in landslide incidents. 45 body bags also donated to the MRCS to support in dignified management of the deceased.

MYITKYINA PHYSICAL REHABILITATION CENTRE

In support of the Ministry of Health and Sports’ Physical Rehabilitation Centre in Myitkyina: 172 service users were registered at the centre. 567 physiotherapy sessions conducted. 51 prostheses and 37 orthoses provided for service users. 84 walking aids and 3 wheelchairs also provided. In total 828 services provided - including physiotherapy sessions, assistive devices delivered, repairmen services, repairs in the centre etc. 350 reusable masks and 100 gowns donated to Myitkyina General Hospital (MGH). 750 face shields donated to Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS).

Min Htet Oo, who received a prosthesis from Myitkyina Physical Rehabilitation Centre plays with a physiotherapist at the centre. The three year old was born with a lower limb deficiency. The ICRC was able to replace his old prosthesis with a new one when the centre was re-opened while following strict COVID-19 guidelines.
ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AND SHELTER

In 2020, we supported displaced and host communities by improving access to clean water and enhancing their living conditions.

- Within ICRC’s ‘Home Adaptation Programme’, the houses of 2 people living with disabilities in Myitkyina and Chipwe were adapted to their specific needs (construction of easier access to sanitation and latrine facilities)
- 10 fogging machines were donated to Kachin State Health Department for their dengue prevention programme.

**Putao Township:**
- Nearly 900 people in Sumpiyang, Putao township, benefited from gravity flow water system installation that improved their access to clean water and enhanced their living conditions.

**Sumprabum Township**
- 178 households in 11 villages received materials to reinforce their homes.

**Hpakant township**
- About 3,900 people in Lawar village benefited from gravity flow water system installation that improved their access to clean water and enhanced their living conditions.
- 250 people in Lawar resettlement site now have better access to clean water, sanitation facilities and homes equipped with solar panels.
- Additional shower facilities were constructed for families at the Nam Ma Hpyit IDP camp.
- Students at Hpakant high school now have 14 new latrines with 4 septic tanks, 4 soak-away pits, 1 waste collection tank and hand washing basins. This will help prevent water borne diseases and COVID-19 infection.

**Waingmaw Township**
- 32 households in Sadung IDP camp were provided with liquid soap, tarpaulin sheets, binding wire and water PVC pipes for shelter renovation.

**Mansi township**
- 920 people benefited from Taunglin Gravity Flow Water System with the completion of retaining wall.
An ICRC veterinarian monitors the raising and breeding of pigs in a household in Waingmaw Township. Livestock are provided by the ICRC as part of its Micro-economic Initiative Programme to start their own farms.
A mine risk education training session being conducted for Nam San Yang teachers at Myitkyina by the ICRC weapon contamination unit. The teachers will then transmit these safe practice messages to affected communities.

WEAPON CONTAMINATION

In partnership with MRCS, safe practice messages on mine risk behavior were shared with nearly 6,000 people in 11 townships.

MRCS and ICRC conducted a mine risk education advocacy workshop with MRCS Executive Committee (EC) members in 11 townships in Kachin State.

In commemoration of International Mine Action Day on 4th April, key messages on safe practices and mine risk awareness were broadcast over Pandamayar FM. Other radio channels also carried these messages throughout the year.

Mine risk education materials were distributed to 9 IDP camps in Myitkyina and Waingmaw townships.

26 school teachers from conflict-affected townships received mine risk education training (Training of trainers) from the ICRC to re-transmit safe practices message to the affected communities.

Cash assistance provided to 14 landmine victims.
COOPERATION WITH MYANMAR RED CROSS SOCIETY

A 2 day Coordination Workshop for COVID-19 response in Kachin State was jointly organized with the Kachin State Health Department and Kachin State Red Cross Supervisory Committee for the Red Cross Volunteer leaders from across Kachin State.
Infra-red thermometers, masks and gloves were donated to the Kachin State MRCS for distribution to Red Cross Volunteers in support of Kachin State’s COVID-19 response.
Mobile top-up cards were provided to the MRCS Red Cross Volunteers (RCVs) from respective townships in Kachin State, who were actively participating in the COVID-19 response activities.
Structural design support provided for MRCS’s office in Chipwe branch. (The construction project is to be implemented in 2021.)

As a part of ICRC’s response to the communities affected by the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in Kachin, tailors from Lhaovo zonal camp in Waingmaw township received raw materials and cash assistance to produce face masks.
Financial support was provided for three months to 30 community health volunteers including auxiliary midwives in Hpakant township for COVID-19 surveillance activities.

Financial support for essential items for COVID-19 response was provided to Laiza Central Civilian hospital for their isolation ward.

In collaboration with the MRCS, the ICRC provided mobile top-up cards to 224 individuals in 7 quarantine centers in June 2020 to maintain contact between family members.

Support provided to Myitkyina and Mohinyin prisons through the donation of hygiene items (soap, washing basins, etc.) and personal protective equipment (PPE) for detainees and prison staff as well as provision for COVID-19 related training for prison staff.

27 quarantine centres supported through the donation of 900 soap bars and 106 handwashing stations, upgrading of shower facilities and latrine, providing hygiene supplies, medical equipment and technical assistance in Myitkyina, Waingmaw, Hpakant, Mansi and Sumprabum townships.

More than 72,000 fabric masks and 2,200 liters of detergent were distributed to 4,400 households in Myitkyina, Sumprabum, Putao, Waingmaw and Hpakant.

77 tailors received raw materials and cash assistance to produce 123,700 product masks.

More than 10,300 people from conflict-affected communities received COVID-19 multi-purpose cash grants.

COVID-19 awareness and safe hygiene sessions provided to 70 MRCS volunteers.
Myanmar: ICRC Presence and Activities 2020 in Kachin State

ICRC Myitkyina Sub-Delegation
448, Myay Myint Ward, Lane 13, Myitkyina, Kachin State, Myanmar.
Tel: 074 20496, 074 20156

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