

JANUARY 2020 to JUNE 2020

# OPERATIONAL RESPONSE IN RAKHINE STATE

Since January 2020, Rakhine State has witnessed an intensification of the conflict between the Arakan Army and Tatmadaw. Tens of thousands of people remain displaced, with serious humanitarian consequences for the civilian population. It is reported that the number of incidents involving landmines and unexploded ordnance in the first half of 2020 alone has nearly surpassed the total for 2019 in Rakhine.

The current fighting compounds an already-fragile humanitarian situation prevailing since the conflict in August 2017, coupled with the challenges of preventing and mitigating the risks of the COVID-19 pandemic. The presence of COVID-19 is particularly acute for communities living in areas affected by the armed conflict, including those residing in camps for internally displaced persons.

Since the conflict erupted in 2018, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) have reached 71,000 displaced persons throughout 119 locations in Kyauktaw, Buthidaung, Ponnagyun, Rathedaung, Mrauk-U, Minbya and Maungdaw with a range of humanitarian assistance and protection services.

The ICRC and the Myanmar Red Cross are concerned about the increasing impact upon all communities and are reinforcing their humanitarian response in Rakhine State. The ICRC continues to monitor the situation of the civilian population, share its observations and recommendations with the relevant parties to the conflict, and alongside the MRCS, work to reduce the risks to which communities are exposed, and reconnect families that have been separated.



## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

In addition to food rations, clothes, blankets and other essential household items, our teams have actively been conducting COVID-19 prevention and education sessions with families living in temporary sites in Rathedaung.



### ESSENTIAL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

**67,800** people received kitchen sets, hygiene and dignity kits, solar-lamps, jerry-cans, blankets, matting and clothing.



### FOOD & CASH

**39,900** people received cash for food or food in kind.



## HEALTH

**36,000** consultation sessions were provided through ICRC supported primary healthcare structures;

**1,300** patients benefitted from the ICRC supported emergency transportation;

**170** persons received financial support for medical and other related expenses;

**33** health facilities including primary health care centres and hospitals were provided with emergency health kits, medical supplies and other logistic support.



## WATER & HABITAT

**170,000** people received soap, ceramic filters, plastic buckets, tarpaulins and bamboo to reinforce shelter.

**8,000** people in rural communities benefitted from upgraded health conditions through improved access to water and sanitation.



## PHYSICAL REHABILITATION

**167** services including prosthesis, walking aids, wheelchairs, physiotherapy or consultation support were provided to **102** people with disabilities. Among them, **28** people are the victims of landmines or explosive remnants of war.



## WEAPON CONTAMINATION

**395** people reached with life-saving information on landmines and unexploded ordnance.

**36** Red cross volunteers from Rakhine State were trained on landmine awareness to educate communities.



### MINE RISK EDUCATION AWARENESS:

Posters, leaflets, colouring books, information sessions are just some of the ways we are working with Myanmar Red Cross Society to increase awareness on risks of landmines and UXOs in Rakhine State.



## RESPONSE TO COVID-19

**450** health staff received PPE items for reducing the risk of COVID-19 infection.

**130** health staff boosted their knowledge related on COVID-19 through **19** training sessions.

**7,300** displaced people benefitted from installing handwashing

stations and soap donations.

**102** tailors in IDP camps benefitted from cash for their work to produce cloth masks.

**890** released detainees were supported with food, blankets and hygiene kits in quarantine sites in Rakhine.



### ADAPTED DISTRIBUTION PROCESSES DURING COVID-19:

ICRC and Myanmar Red Cross Society teams continue to help all communities affected by the ongoing armed conflict. At the same time, we are adapting our programmes to comply with COVID-19 prevention measures put in place by the authorities, to ensure the safety of all communities, staff and volunteers.

## BANGLADESH

