

RED CROSS MOVEMENT

RAKHINE OPERATIONAL RESPONSE

JUNE 2018



FOREWORD

The world has been watching Myanmar closely since the outbreak of violence in Rakhine State on 25 August 2017. The violence resulted in one of the largest humanitarian crises in recent history, with more than 700,000 people fleeing to Bangladesh and thousands more displaced internally within the state.

Since 07 September 2017, upon the request of the Union Government, the Red Cross Movement – comprised of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Myanmar Red Cross Society, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies – has been providing humanitarian assistance in Maungdaw and Sittwe districts in the northern areas of Rakhine State.

Our work continues in 2018 with the goal of providing essential protection and assistance to populations that are directly or indirectly affected by the crisis. Our programming takes into account the recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission, as we are not only focusing on the emergency phase of our operations, but looking at the long-term recovery and development of Rakhine State.

As one of the only actors with humanitarian access in Rakhine in 2017 and early 2018, the Red Cross Movement understands first-hand the scope of challenges that communities and the government face in Rakhine.

We believe there have been many positive steps forward that are being made on a daily basis, particularly through the provision of essential services and protection activities. The help we provide has made a real impact for the people affected, and these steps on the ground are key to building confidence and providing a measure of stability and peace in Rakhine, and Myanmar at large.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to our partners, and everyone involved in the Rakhine operation, for their ongoing support and trust in the Red Cross Movement as we continue our operations in 2018.

We remain committed to providing the best humanitarian services possible, and we are hopeful that a better, and more peaceful future lies ahead for everyone. We will do our best to turn that hope into a reality.



FABRIZIO CARBONI
Head of Delegation
International Committee
of the Red Cross



PROF. DR. DAW MYA THU
President
Myanmar Red Cross Society



JOY SINGHAL
Head of County Office
International Federation of
Red Cross and
Red Crescent Societies

INTRODUCTION

Since the crisis in Rakhine began on 25 August 2017, the Red Cross Movement has been actively responding to the humanitarian needs of affected communities in areas of northern Rakhine. In the initial phase of our operation in 2017, the Red Cross reached 180,000 people in 3.5 months.

On 30 March 2018, Red Cross Movement partners met with Dr Win Myat Aye, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, and agreed with a renewed affirmation by the Union Government that the Red Cross Movement would continue to provide assistance and protection to affected persons in the northern areas of Rakhine State¹. We will concurrently deliver long-term programmes in Rakhine, in order to build resilience of vulnerable communities, and contribute to the stability in Rakhine by strengthening critical elements of the state's infrastructure and social services.

The following document provides an overview into our operations as well as our plans in 2018. It complements the first Rakhine Operational Response Report published in January 2018, which outlines the achievements from the initial phase of our emergency operations.

Red Cross Movement staff get ready to distribute emergency aid in Inn Chaung village tract, Maungdaw township for more than 5,000 people.



Hla Yamin Ein/ICRC

The main goal of Red Cross interventions in 2018 is focused on protection and the provision of humanitarian assistance for affected populations. Yet we recognize the resilience of communities is inextricably linked to the broader social and economic situation in Rakhine State, and it is equally important to move towards more sustainable solutions that support the long-term peace and stability.

1. For the purpose of this report, the townships referred to under 'northern areas of Rakhine' are Rathedaung, Buthidaung and Maungdaw, even though administratively Rathedaung is part of Sittwe District which is part of central area of Rakhine State.

RED CROSS MOVEMENT RESPONSE 2017 TO PRESENT



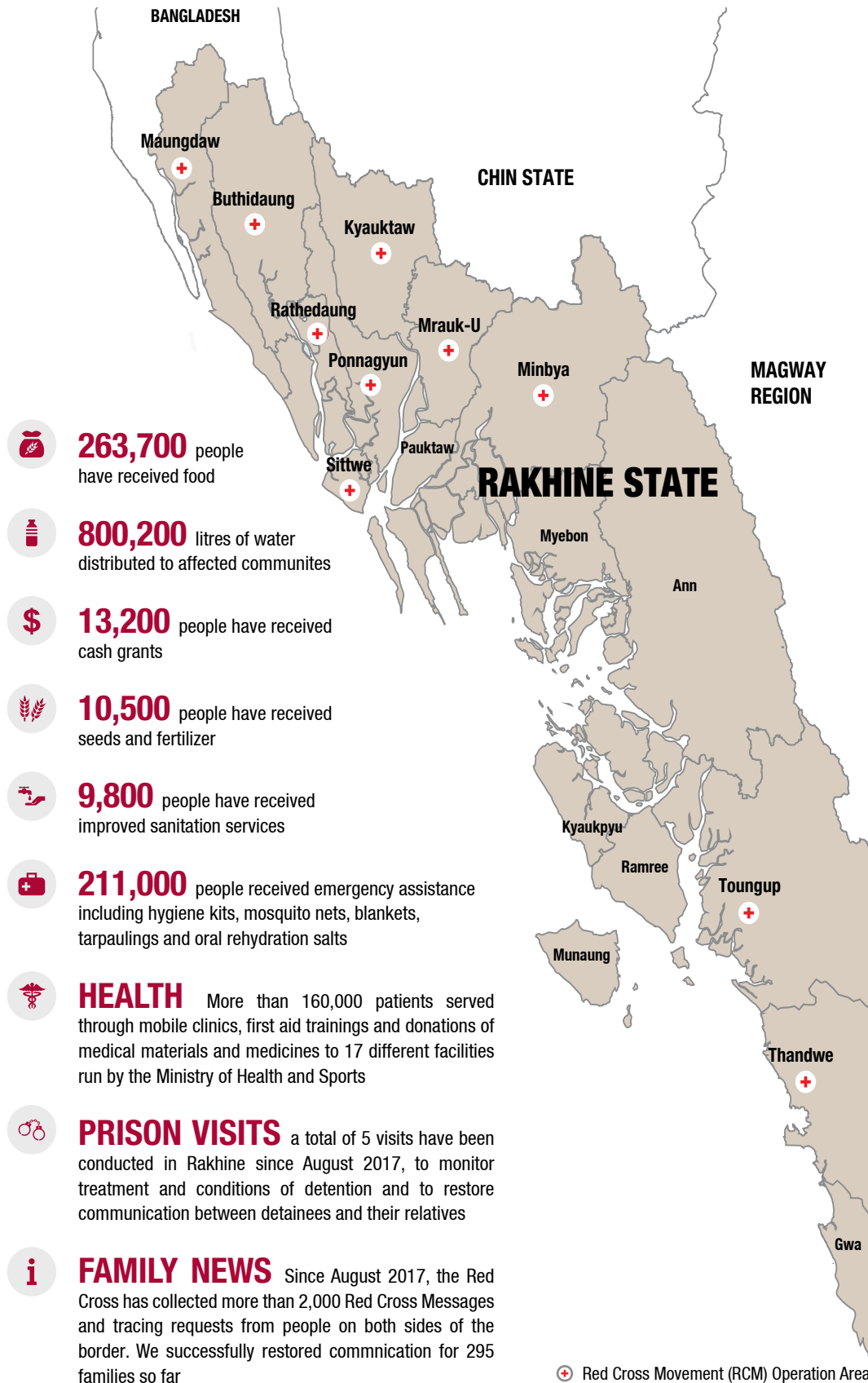
Hla Yamin Ein/ICRC

Red Cross teams are regularly delivering healthcare equipment to health facilities in Maungdaw Township such as examination beds, delivery tables, medicine storage cabinets, and emergency health kits. The support is coordinated with the Ministry of Health and Sports.

- 25 AUGUST 2017:**
Coordinated attacks inside and around Maungdaw town.
- 7 SEPTEMBER – 31 DECEMBER 2017:**
Based on Myanmar Government request, the International Committee of the Red Cross launched an appeal for 17 million Swiss francs enabling the Red Cross Movement to deliver assistance to 180,000 people and build Myanmar Red Cross Society's capacity
- 01 JANUARY 2018:**
Red Cross Movement continues its response by starting to operate a number of Mobile Health Clinics
- 01 FEBRUARY 2018:**
Red Cross Movement increased food and non-food assistance from 10,000 families per month to 17,000 families
- 30 MARCH 2018:**
Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement requests the Red Cross Movement to continue operating in northern areas of Rakhine State

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Since the outbreak of violence on 25 August 2017, the Red Cross Movement has been actively providing humanitarian assistance in the northern areas of Rakhine. In the first three months, we visited over 130 villages and reached more than 180,000 people. The figures below outline some of the key achievement of our operations from 07 September to 25 May 2018.



TIMEFRAME

JANUARY 1, 2018 - DECEMBER 31, 2018

**Number of people to be assisted in the northern areas of Rakhine State in 2018:
150,000**



25,000 families to be assisted with food



20,000 families to be assisted with essential household items



15,000 families to receive hygiene kits



15,000 families to be accommodated in temporary shelter



DISASTER RESPONSE (MONSOON)

in Rakhine State: potential of reaching 55,000 people



FAMILY LINKS working on restoring family links for separated families

OPERATIONAL APPROACH

Communities at the centre

Engaging with the communities where we operate is a key driver behind our needs-based approach. Whether through local media, community dialogue, or networking with community-based organizations, we are listening to the needs and concerns of the people in northern areas of Rakhine. We value the role that community leaders and other locally-based organizations can play in dispelling rumours and correcting misinformation. With two-way dialogue, we aim to incorporate feedback to improve our services, and we will continue to share information that communities need, and explain what they can expect from the Red Cross Movement for transparency and accountability. In 2018, our operations will continue to be guided by this work because it is important that the communities we work with can communicate with us, helping us to build understanding and trust.

Conflict-sensitive programming

The Red Cross understands the importance of maintaining a fair and transparent process with regards to protection and assistance in a sensitive environment. We are acutely aware of the different needs that relate to various communities in areas of northern Rakhine, and as a result we operate on needs-based and 'Do No Harm' approach. We address the specific needs of all affected groups, while communicating to key stakeholders to make sure that communities and ethnic groups do not feel unfairly treated, nor are they left out or marginalized by Red Cross interventions.

The Red Cross Movement also acts in accordance with our Fundamental Principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. We refrain from participating in activities that might be perceived as supporting a political agenda, or being detrimental to any community.

Emergency, recovery and resilience

In Rakhine we are simultaneously operating emergency assistance and early recovery and resilience programmes. The three components are not considered separate “phases” in this response, but they run in parallel. Our goal is to strengthen community resilience and lessen dependence on humanitarian relief, building towards sustainable solutions. In the case of disasters caused by natural hazards, the Red Cross remains committed to continuing its role as a key first responder, and we have plans in place to ensure the assistance is ready to be deployed if required.

Returns and resettlement

The humanitarian activities of the Red Cross Movement are contributing to create a stable, peaceful environment for those who do return from Bangladesh, as well as those still living in Rakhine. We hope that the political solutions necessary will be found, in order to allow safe, dignified voluntary returns to take place as soon as possible. The process of return must be voluntary, safe and dignified. The conditions on the ground must be there to give people the confidence to return without fear.

This 71-year-old grandmother, a Dinet ethnic group in U Zun Taung Lower Village, Kyauk Taw Township, Rakhine State has been weaving clothes since she was 14 years old, but life hasn't always been easy. "We used to go to the forest to dispose of our waste. But we built a new toilet at the start of May and have learned about how to practise good hygiene," she says. She is one of 1,347 families in A Pauk Wa village tract who have received latrine construction materials and hygiene training from ICRC and Red Cross volunteers.



COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Red Cross Movement continues to engage with the Myanmar authorities at national, state, district and township levels with full transparency to ensure that all concerned parties are well informed on our operational plans. Red Cross teams meet regularly with various community and government leaders to convey messages concerning the impartial nature of the Red Cross Movement's humanitarian work, listening to their advice and concerns.

We have guidelines for managing coordination with the civil military and police in the case of a natural disaster or in the situation of violence or conflict, and the Red Cross participates as an observer in meetings with the United Nations Humanitarian Country Team and the Maungdaw Inter-Agency Group in order to cover gaps, and avoid duplication of assistance. Other stakeholders such as the World Food Programme, and community enterprises assigned by Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in the northern area of Rakhine, are also vital for coordination in humanitarian assistance.

Internally among the Red Cross Movement partners, we operate with strategic decision-making and information sharing between Yangon, Sittwe, Mrauk U, and Maungdaw. Based on internal agreements and joint planning, delivery approaches are coordinated with an effort to cover all emergency and long-term programme areas, while also building the capacity of the Myanmar Red Cross branches that are based in the northern areas of Rakhine State.

RESPONSE PLANS FOR 2018

The overall objective of the Red Cross Movement response is to provide protection and assistance to 150,000 people in Rathedaung, Buthidaung and Maungdaw township areas in a timely, effective, and efficient manner throughout 2018. We are focused on helping people affected by the crisis, including resident populations in all communities, who are progressively recovering from the crisis.

The crisis had an immense impact on the local economy and the livelihoods of communities. In Maungdaw District, the entire resident population has been directly or indirectly affected. Chronic development needs in northern areas of Rakhine will require interventions, and health and education services will also need to be restored or enhanced. Emergency assistance may still need to be provided in this transition period based on assessed needs.

OUR PLANS FOR 2018 INCLUDE INTERVENTIONS IN THE AREAS OUTLINED BELOW:



ECONOMIC SECURITY

Basic relief items and food will continue to be distributed throughout 2018, and longer-term solutions will be explored in the second half of the year. Whenever possible, food distribution will be replaced with a combination of agro-inputs (seeds, fertilizers, tools) and cash-based projects in selected areas. The Red Cross Movement will also support efforts to strengthen livelihoods and the resilience of communities with access to markets to stimulate the local economy. Training of community members and technical governmental counterparts is also being considered, while communities that face challenges in accessing the broader economic fabric of Rakhine State due to law and order, or movement restrictions, will still need a more direct in-kind support to maintain minimum living standards.



HEALTH

Ongoing collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Sports will continue in order to maintain and improve support provided to health facilities and community health workers. This will include the provision of drugs, equipment, and training, depending on needs. The main objectives are to assist the Ministry to rebuild the health system, and ensure a continuum of care and access to health care for all communities in the northern area of Rakhine State. In areas where the health system is heavily disrupted and no sustainable solutions can be found, mobile health clinics will continue to operate to respond to identified gaps regarding access to health. This may include the possibility of supporting Ministry of Health and Sports Rapid Response Teams to carry out mobile health clinic activities.



WATER, SANITATION AND HABITAT

The Red Cross Movement will continue distributing water and emergency shelter materials, while improving sanitation practices. We will also focus on projects aimed at improving and rehabilitating key infrastructures. Additional projects aimed at improving access to drinking water, and the rural and urban water supply will also be considered following ongoing assessments in priority areas. Complementary hygiene promotion activities will be implemented, supported by capacity-strengthening for Myanmar Red Cross volunteers to support sustainability of services and community programmes.



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Rakhine is one of the most disaster-prone states in Myanmar. It is affected annually by numerous disasters caused by monsoon rains, strong winds and cyclones. Strengthening Myanmar Red Cross Society's capacities in disaster preparedness for response in the northern areas as well as Rakhine State at large is a key programming element in 2018, so that the Red Cross staff and volunteers can respond at speed and scale if and when required. In disaster prone communities, activities focus on early warning and early action dissemination to reduce the impact of potentially adverse weather events during the monsoon.



DEVELOPMENT OF THE MYANMAR RED CROSS SOCIETY

As one of the main humanitarian actors in Myanmar, efforts in 2018 will include a focus on enhancing the systems and procedures of the Myanmar Red Cross Society. This includes strengthening of their core structures (i.e., state and township branches in Rakhine), human resources, logistics, financial and administrative systems, as well as support to staff and volunteers so they can deliver or scale-up services to those most in need.



PROTECTION

Activities will continue in 2018. The International Committee of the Red Cross will carry out its protection responsibilities in accordance to its mandate, such as visits to places of detention, protection of the civilian population, clarifying the fate of the missing, helping to maintain contact between detainees and their families separated by the violence together with the Myanmar Red Cross Society. The International Committee of the Red Cross will continue monitoring the security situation and bring to the attention of relevant authorities' issues impacting the protection of the civilian population, in particular in relation to the maintenance of law and order and the effects of restrictions of movements on people's lives.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

AUGUST 2017 - MAY 2018

TOWNSHIP	ESSENTIAL HH ITEMS		FOOD PARCEL		SANITATION INFRASTRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION		WATER DISTRIBUTION	
	HH	POP	HH	POP	HH	POP	HH	POP
Buthidaung	17294	89255	25418	137008	417	2094	0	0
Kyauktaw	378	1430	306	1142	275	1069	0	0
Maungdaw	10447	54423	17515	96645	685	3460	770	3810
Minbya	133	658	133	658	0	0	0	0
MraukU	176	670	207	722	77	289	0	0
Ponnagyun	130	466	67	227	0	0	0	0
Rathedaung	2147	11867	2147	11867	0	0	0	0
Sittwe	1765	7548	1346	5458	0	0	0	0
Thandwe	8	28	0	0	0	0	0	0
Toungup	35	164	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	32513	166509	49139	263727	1454	6912	770	3810

TOWNSHIP	CASH GRANT DISTRIBUTION		HEALTH KIT DISTRIBUTION		NUTRITION ITEM AND ORS DISTRIBUTION		SEEDS DISTRIBUTION	
	HH	POP	HH	POP	HH	POP	HH	POP
Buthidaung	194	581	76	76	344	1720	0	0
Kyauktaw	269	982	0	0	0	0	645	3593
Maungdaw	217	713	314	314	1809	7364	1327	6885
Minbya	0	0	0	0	60	300	0	0
MraukU	0	0	0	0	176	670	0	0
Ponnagyun	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rathedaung	934	4705	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sittwe	31	88	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thandwe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Toungup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	3530	13148	390	390	2389	10054	1972	10478

TOWNSHIP	TEMPORARY SHELTER		WATER FILTER DISTRIBUTION		WATER INFRASTRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION		HYGIENE SANITATION ITEMS DISTRIBUTION	
	HH	POP	HH	POP	HH	POP	HH	POP
Buthidaung	5047	25751	7433	38720	0	0	6081	29709
Kyauktaw	20	39	112	404	0	0	402	1488
Maungdaw	6769	33697	5031	25712	743	4708	7125	36765
Minbya	0	0	0	0	0	0	133	658
MraukU	0	0	0	0	0	0	204	757
Ponnagyun	0	0	0	0	0	0	130	466
Rathedaung	0	0	0	0	0	0	1115	5163
Sittwe	0	0	0	0	0	0	1764	7548
Thandwe	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	28
Toungup	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	164
TOTAL	11836	59487	12576	64836	743	4708	16997	82746

