



Information sharing on novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

MRCS's activities supported by the Red Cross & Red Crescent Movement partners in Myanmar

#COVID19 Helping the most vulnerable people through the most local action in Myanmar and globally



Our global appeal

800 million CHF total

See our joint appeal by International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement launched on 26 March 2020 [here](#)

out of which 400 million CHF

to be raised domestically by national societies

and 150 million CHF

dedicated for IFRC to support National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in health care, prepositioning of goods, risk communication, lessons learned from global network of local responders, cash grants for families, and mitigating impacts of large outbreaks – see more [here](#)

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and its 192-member Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, including the Myanmar Red Cross Society, are **front-line community responders** in times of crises. With more than 160,000 local offices and over 13 million highly trusted volunteers and staff, we are **uniquely placed** to support people and their communities to prepare for and respond to COVID-19, an unprecedented global emergency in recent history.

Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), in close coordination with the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) and with the support of IFRC Myanmar Country Office, is leading the Red Cross and Red Crescent's response to COVID-19 in Myanmar. MRCS's **44,000 dedicated and competent community-based volunteers** through its **330 branches** in the country provide MRCS a unique advantage to reach every community in the country – including the most vulnerable population.



Highlights of MRCS Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) as of 30 March 2020

Objective: MRCS's COVID-19 response aims to reduce suffering, mortality and social impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak by preventing or slowing transmission and helping to ensure communities affected by the outbreak maintain access to basic social services and support themselves in dignity.

Priority areas:

- Risk communication, community engagement (RCCE)
- Services in support of government screening, community-based surveillance
- Psychosocial support

Main target group: General population including the most vulnerable people, such as migrants, elderly and people with underlying chronic diseases, IDP camps and those in conflict areas. For all MRCS's activities, Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) aspect will be mainstreamed.

Expected timeframe: 8 months (1 February 2020 – 31 September 2020)

Appeal amount: 1,226,730 CHF

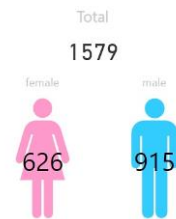
Provinces/Regions targeted: All 17 States and Regions

Partners: With the auxiliary role to the government in humanitarian activities by the national law, MRCS has closely coordinated with MoHS both at national, regional, and township levels, exchanging regular updates on the status of possible COVID-19 cases in the country. MRCS has additionally formed a Red Cross & Red Crescent Movement (the Movement) Task Force which convenes regularly.

Note: This EPoA is currently being further revised to reflect developing situations with increased number of confirmed cases.

MRCS COVID-19 figure and facts (reported as of 24 March 2020)

Number of volunteers mobilized



Number of direct beneficiaries



Services provided: Health screening, risk communications & community engagement, awareness raising, psychosocial support, distribution of hand sanitizers and protective equipment, epidemics control trainings for volunteers, referrals, among others.

Latest statistics from the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) as of 7.30pm, 30 March 2020

Total Person Under Investigation / Suspected - 517

Confirmed - 14

Lab Negative - 426

Lab Pending - 77

Source:

[Surveillance Dashboard](#).
Global figures [here](#).



Red Cross Voices from the field

“ I started my activities on 2 February to support MoHS in distributing COVID-19 information. After attending MRCS's epidemic control training in early March in Yangon, I also give awareness raising sessions, although in small groups due to social distancing. People trust me and consult me on COVID-19 wherever I go. A printing shop also donated 10,000 fliers for Red Cross volunteers to distribute to people. We can do more if we have more support.”

U Kyaw Myint Oo, Red Cross volunteer
Hinthada Township, Ayeerwady region

MRCS's COVID-19 intervention in Rakhine

MRCS has established strong foundations for COVID-19 mitigation and response in Rakhine through its longer-term resilience programming involving WASH, health education, disaster preparedness, livelihood, as well as extensive experience in emergency response operations in Rakhine. Areas of critical capacity include skilled staff and volunteers and the ability to rapidly engage existing township and community linkages in responding to COVID-19.

Currently, MRCS in coordination with MoHS focuses on preventing the outbreak and blocking transmission of the virus. This includes reaching to target villages and township locations with awareness raising and prevention messages. MRCS staff and volunteers in Rakhine State will continue to support pandemic prevention initiatives, in close cooperation with MOHS.



Private sector engagement on COVID-19

On 30 March 2020, Coca Cola Myanmar announced financial support to MRCS to procure personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers and Red Cross volunteers. For more information, see [here](#).



Children's COVID-19 booklet

This children's booklet includes exercises and key messages on the coronavirus. The resource is designed for children aged 6+. The booklet is available [here](#).

Resources and contact information

- [Daily MoHS update on COVID-19](#)
- [WHO global webpage on COVID-19](#)
- [Daily MIMU update on COVID-19](#)
- [IFRC COVID-19 additional graphics](#)
- [Guidance note: Risk communication and CEA](#)

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