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# Information bulletin

## Myanmar: Tropical Cyclone Mora

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>Information Bulletin No. 1</b>	<b>Date of issue:</b> 1 June 2017
<b>Glide n°</b> <a href="#">TC-2017-000058-BGD</a>	<b>Point of contact:</b> Joy Singhal, Head of Country Office, IFRC Myanmar
<b>Date of disaster:</b> 30 May 2017	
<b>Host National Society:</b> Myanmar Red Cross Society	
<b>Number of people affected:</b> Not available	
<b>Movement partners currently involved in the operation:</b> IFRC, ICRC, American Red Cross	
<b>Categorization of crisis<sup>1</sup>:</b> Yellow	

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is required, and a DREF request is currently being prepared.

## The situation

Tropical Cyclone (TC) Mora hit the southeastern coast of Bangladesh on May 30 with winds up to 117 kilometers per hour. In Bangladesh, the cyclone brought strong winds and heavy rains in its path, affecting areas near Myanmar border such as Chittagong and Cox's Bazaar. In Myanmar, TC Mora affected the state of Rakhine, particularly Northern Rakhine. It also affected other states and regions such as Chin, Ayeyarwady, Magway and Sagaing but initial reports indicated limited damages in these areas.

The estimate for total number of people affected by the cyclone in Myanmar is not yet available. However, initial results from MRCS rapid assessments that were conducted on 30 and 31 May indicated that 12 out of 17 townships in Rakhine State were affected by the cyclone. The initial figures showed that 3,517 houses were partially damaged while 967 houses were completely damaged in Maungdaw township. 823 houses were damaged in Sittwe, Minbya and Rathedaung townships. Additionally, the national level Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) had reported some damage to buildings, including schools, across townships in Rakhine. Initial information also indicated that a significant number of longhouses and other infrastructure, including latrines and temporary learning spaces, have been destroyed or severely damaged in existing IDP camps in Sittwe and Pauktaw townships. Additionally, two townships in Ayeyarwady, one township in Chin State and one township in Magway region (Salay) are reported as affected by strong winds and heavy rains, whereas Hakha and Mogoke township (Mandalay Region) have been affected by landslides.

Assessments are still ongoing, but the most urgent needs identified are food, clean drinking water and other basic assistance (including tarpaulins) as well as the need to repair infrastructure and houses totally or partially damaged by the cyclone.



MRCS volunteers assess damage and clear debris caused by cyclone Mora in Sittwe, Rakhine on 30 May 2017.

<sup>1</sup> Based on the IFRC Secretariat's Operational Response Framework. This categorization implies that the response intervention is within the capacity of the National Society of an affected country to manage with resources available in-country. If requested, the IFRC Country Office may provide any necessary technical or management support to the National Society, and if required, the IFRC Regional Office may support the mobilization of regional disaster response tools, with Geneva supporting the allocation of Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF).

## Actions by the authorities

The Government's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) has been activated and is collecting data and information from states/regions. The Government had taken preparedness actions in the affected areas and early warning messages such as messages on preparedness measures, helpline numbers and staying prepared for possible evacuations were broadcasted on MRTV and radio were issued. The Fire Services Department also shared early warning information with people in the areas along the projected path of the cyclone and search and rescue teams were on standby to be deployed as required.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

MRCS branches and volunteers in Chin, Rakhine, Magway and Sagaing were placed on alert and emergency response teams were activated from the onset of the cyclone alert. Early Warning messages were disseminated to at risk communities in Ayeyarwady, Rakhine, Chin and Sagaing, and volunteers were on standby to respond, conduct assessments and distribute relief items. The emergency response teams (ERTs) as well as emergency community volunteers were mobilized. They assisted in the evacuation of affected households of some affected villages to temporary shelters such as monasteries and higher ground schools, in conjunction with local authorities and RRD. MRCS staff in Sittwe and Maungdaw are working closely with the volunteers and local authorities.

The MRCS Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) was activated for this response on 29 May, following the Standard Operating Procedures for MRCS disaster response. The Emergency Task Force had its first meeting on 30 May to plan for the response. MRCS staff, from multiple departments but coordinated by the disaster management (DM) department, are working from the EOC in national headquarters (NHQ) in Yangon, supported by the IFRC country office. Based on needs, MRCS stands ready to provide assistance to affected communities.

MRCS is working in close coordination with National EOC and with the Department of Meteorology EOC in Nay Pyi Taw. MRCS and IFRC are also closely coordinating efforts with UNOCHA and other UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations in the affected townships and in Yangon. A Movement coordination meeting was convened in Yangon on 30 May.

MRCS, with the support of IFRC and Movement partners, is currently preparing an Emergency Plan of Action for a DREF request. MRCS DM department are leading the response operation, in coordination with logistics, health, organizational development (OD) and finance departments. IFRC DM delegate, who is based in Yangon coordinates the operation at HQ level. IFRC Programme Delegate who is based in Sittwe, that was deployed in May 2017 to support MRCS operations in northern areas of Rakhine, supports MRCS assessment and planning efforts at field level.

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## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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**For queries on resource mobilization and pledges:**

- Please send all pledges for funding to [zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org](mailto:zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org)

**For logistics and supply chain management queries:**

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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



**Save lives.**  
protect livelihoods,  
and strengthen recovery  
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**  
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**  
and a culture of  
**non-violence** and **peace**.

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