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DREF final report Myanmar: Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRMM004
GLIDE n° EQ-2011-000031-MMR
24 November 2011

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

Summary: CHF 157,540 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 30 March 2011 to support Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) in delivering assistance to some 7,500 beneficiaries (1,500 households) affected by the earthquake in Eastern Shan or to replenish disaster preparedness stock.

The earthquake struck on 24 March 2011. Based on new information received from the field (as indicated in [Operation Update no. 1](#)), the DREF operation target was revised and accordingly, the DREF allocation was utilized by MRCS to conduct assessments in affected areas and distribute emergency shelter kits and non-food family kits to 701 most affected households. In addition, DREF contributed to the replenishment of 220 family tents.

The DREF operation is part of MRCS's overall emergency response which targeted 1,200 families, and which has received bilateral support from partner national societies and non-Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners.



Affected families using tents received from MRCS as temporary shelters.
Photo: MRCS

The relief assistance helped alleviate the suffering of affected people to some extent and helped them in settling down temporarily during the emergency, and then return to normal lives after the disaster. The affected families have returned to their original locations and resumed livelihood activities.

This DREF operation was concluded at the end of August 2011. The DREF funds (i.e. the allocation provided for Myanmar Red Cross Society's response to the earthquake) was replenished by Canadian Red Cross/Canadian government, Netherlands Red Cross/Netherlands government and the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (DG ECHO). On behalf of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, IFRC would like to thank all donors for their support in replenishing the DREF.

[<click here for the final financial report, or view contact details>](#)

The situation

An earthquake measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale and with a depth of 10 km, hit the southern part of Eastern Shan State in Myanmar on 24 March 2011 at 20:29:30 hrs Myanmar Standard Time (01:55:12 PM UTC). It caused extensive damage to private and public infrastructure, as well as post-event psychological trauma to affected communities. Six aftershocks were reported in affected areas.

A multi-stakeholder assessment conducted by various organizations including MRCS to assess the situation in 58 villages across seven village tracts badly affected by the earthquake, indicated that approximately 2,797 households (11,188 beneficiaries) across all seven tracts were in need of assistance.

Food, drinking water, shelter, health services, non-food items and psychosocial support were identified as the urgent and long-term needs.

Five units of health infrastructure were damaged. Among these, the Tarlay Station Hospital and one rural health centre in Mong Linn were severely damaged. Other public infrastructure damaged consisted mainly of 12 bridges and roads, 20 schools and 63 religious buildings.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In the aftermath of the earthquake, the MRCS headquarters established communications with its branches in the affected areas, and with local authorities to get an overview of the situation. Soon after and in accordance with its contingency plan, MRCS activated its emergency response system on 25 March 2011 by putting an emergency task force into place at headquarters, under the guidance of the society's head of the disaster management division and with the involvement of all other relevant heads of division. The team provided overall guidance and monitoring for the relief operation and handled all operational issues such as beneficiary selection, coordination, transportation, procurement, volunteer mobilization, warehousing, and making arrangements for appropriate office premises in the operational area.

A total of 100 Red Cross volunteers were deployed for the operation from Tachileik township (where Tarlay sub-township is located) as well as Red Cross branches from surrounding townships. Volunteers were engaged in the search-and-rescue of affected people and in providing them with first aid. MRCS distributed relief packages from their existing pre-positioned disaster preparedness stock.

Five senior staff members from the MRCS headquarters were assigned to the operational area in Tachileik to facilitate coordination and relief management efforts as well as participate in the multi-stakeholder assessment with other agencies; two of the MRCS staff members were deployed within 48 hours of the disaster.

On 28 and 29 April 2011, the MRCS Executive Committee member responsible for disaster management, the head of MRCS disaster management division and the IFRC head of country office conducted a monitoring visit to the affected area. The team interviewed affected beneficiaries and received feedback on the relief operation; held meetings with local volunteers involved in the operation and also met with the regional Minister of Agriculture (Shan State) - who is responsible within the regional government for relief and recovery operations - and his senior staff and the Township Red Cross Committee in Tachileik.

Coordination

Representatives of IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Australian Red Cross and French Red Cross attended the meetings convened by the National Society's emergency task force. The IFRC country office supported MRCS in assessment, data collection, operational planning in various sectors, and volunteer management, among others. The IFRC's Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur and its Southeast Asia regional office in Bangkok also supported the operation with additional technical support and close contact with the media and donors.

IFRC is a member of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO) Forum, and closely coordinates with UN agencies, and national and international non-governmental organizations at central and local level. For the purposes of MRCS's response to the earthquake, the IFRC country office and MRCS jointly participated in various coordination meetings in Yangon.

Achievements against outcomes

Needs assessments

Objective: The immediate needs of affected people are identified to determine a Plan of Action.

Activities planned:

- Engage MRCS branches in affected townships in immediate assessments in the field.
- Mobilize human resources for assessment, coordination and relief management.
- Coordinate with local authorities and various agencies involved in assessments.
- Develop a concrete plan of action based on findings of assessment reports.
- Support MRCS in conducting assessments as per the relevant guidelines.
- Assist MRCS in the collection, analysis and compilation of data and operational planning.

Action taken:

Immediately following the earthquake, MRCS headquarters established communication with affected townships. Within 48 hours of the disaster, two senior staff members from headquarters were mobilized to facilitate coordination and assessments in Tachileik township. These two staff members supported the Township Red Cross Branch in coordinating activities as well as mobilizing of volunteers - a total of 100 volunteers were mobilized from Tachileik and neighbouring townships to conduct assessments and relief distributions. Subsequently, MRCS deployed a further three MRCS headquarters staff members to the area to speed up operations. All five staff members in the operational area were part of the multi-stakeholder assessment and in fact, led teams in a number of village tracts. The assessment involved 10 other local organizations and international non-governmental organizations. It was conducted across 58 villages between 30 and 31 March 2011. The findings were published and distributed to donors, the Government of Myanmar and other stakeholders on 4 April 2011¹

The IFRC country office also supported MRCS in the assessments and in the collection, analysis and compilation of data and operational planning. Below are the summarized needs identified by MRCS assessment teams in close consultation with other humanitarian actors and local governmental authorities on the ground:

Assessment findings

Sectors	Needs
1 Camp management	Family tents, appropriate site for camps
2 Non-food items	Cooking utensils, clothing, bedding, mosquito nets, soap, water containers, and hygiene kits.
3 Health	First aid, essential medical supplies (oral rehydration salts, eye ointment, diarrhoeal kits), psychosocial support; information, education and communication (IEC) materials.
4 Shelter	Shelter materials, tools and technical assistance, repair materials for community buildings (e.g. monasteries), support for permanent housing structure.
5 Water and sanitation	Provision of safe drinking water in villages, repairs to latrines, hygiene promotion, and distribution of water purification tablets, repairs to water sources.

¹ Joint Assessment of Earthquake in Shan State, Myanmar 2011; Report by Monitoring and Evaluation Team, CARE International Myanmar, April 4, 2011.

6	Logistics	Warehouse capacity and transportation for relief distributions.
7	Human resources	Additional Red Cross volunteers specialized in relief distributions, psychosocial support, and community-based health and first aid.

Based on the findings of the assessments, a comprehensive and detailed plan of action was drawn up. MRCS decided to prioritize its support to the most affected households in the sub-township of Tarlay, and cover their needs in shelter, emergency health and care, and water and sanitation, with the support of various partners.

Relief distributions (non-food items)

Objective: 1,500 families (7,500 people) who are the most affected households (i.e. who have lost their homes and belongings completely), or those displaced in evacuation centres, are supplied with non-food items to match their emergency needs.

Activities planned:

- Set clear beneficiary selection criteria and define distribution protocols.
- Mobilize trained staff members as well as trained volunteers for beneficiary selections and relief distributions.
- Dispatch additional 1,000 non-food packages from MRCS warehouses.
- Monitor distributions of non-food items.
- Review the impact of the assistance.
- Replenish 1,500 non-food relief packages comprising kitchen sets, blankets, tarpaulins, materials and tools for house repairs, clothing materials and mosquito nets through either local, regional or international procurement/sourcing options (with necessary support from the regional logistics unit based in Kuala Lumpur) in accordance with IFRC procurement procedures.
- Improve residential conditions and individual privacy in evacuation centres.
- Develop a plan for follow-up action.

Action taken

Beneficiary selection

MRCS instituted a beneficiary selection process in accordance with its standard operating procedures (SOPs) and maintained close coordination with local authorities and other humanitarian actors to avoid duplication in this process. The beneficiary selection process was supported by Red Cross volunteers and community representatives. Due consideration was given to people who were disadvantaged or excluded socially, physically and economically in accordance with IFRC's standard assessment guidelines and the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in disaster relief.

As a result, beneficiaries selected for DREF operation assistance comprised the most-affected households including displaced families living in evacuation centres or with host families, as well as families who sustained severe loss or damage.



Affected families receive family packages from MRCS.
Photo: MRCS

Relief distributions

DREF funding was used to support 701 most affected families, through the replenishment of 701 sets of the non-food family kits and emergency shelter kits, including tarpaulins, blankets, mosquito nets and kitchen sets. The 701 families reached is a revision of the original target of 1,500 households (*the revision was*

based on detailed information received from the field and was previously mentioned in Operation Update no. 1). The 701 families are in Monglin East village tract, Monglin West village tract, and Tarlay sub-township.

In addition, DREF funding was used to procure 220 family tents (this is a reduced figure from 229 due to a variation in the estimated cost (also mentioned in Operation Update no. 1). These were part of 300 family tents in total, which were distributed by MRCS as part of its overall operation for 1,200 affected families (see bilateral support below).

Efforts were made to ensure that the respective sector standards in Sphere (the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response) were met during relief distributions. The affected families were reached with relief stock which were pre-positioned at the society's warehouses situated in Eastern Shan and Yangon.

The composition of non-food family kits and emergency shelter kits is as below:

Non-food family kit	Emergency shelter kit
One kitchen set, two blankets, one mosquito net, clothes for one boy and one girl, <i>longyi</i> (traditional garment) for one man and one woman.	One rope, one hammer, and two tarpaulins.

Distribution data for the DREF operation follows:

Locations	Non-food family kits	Emergency shelter kits	Family tents
1 Mong Lin (West)	70	70	38
2 Mong Lin (East)	250	250	129
3 Tarlay Sub-Township	381	381	133
Total	701	701	300

Overall operations including bilateral support

The DREF operation is part of MRCS's overall emergency response which targets 1,200 families, and which includes bilateral funding from partner national societies and non-Red Cross Red Crescent partners.

With bilateral support, MRCS was also able to provide the following assistance to affected communities in the same locations:

MRCS assistance funded by bilateral partners

Type of assistance	People/households (hh) reached
300 family tents	300 hh
164 community shelter kits	820 hh
600 sleeping mats	600 hh
Construction materials for 50 families	50 hh
1,000 cement bags	50 hh
Traditional containers for 1,000 families to store water or food	1,000 hh
Health care activities	1,500 people
Construction of 34 water tanks	340 hh
5 shallow wells	100 hh
5 community latrines	50 hh
300 dignity kits	300 hh
200 clean delivery kits	200 hh
10,000 packets of oral rehydration salts	330 hh
Food items	500 hh

The construction of the Red Cross branch office in Tachileik township was also made possible through bilateral support received.

The following table gives details on the support MRCS received for its overall Tarlay Earthquake operation:

	Partners	Type of support	Amount (in USD)
1	Red Cross Society of China	Cash	50,000
2	Government of the Republic of Korea	Cash	200,000
3	Private donors in Myanmar	Cash	3,303
4	Thai Red Cross Society	Kind	28,691
5	IFRC/DREF	Cash	157,540 (CHF)

Red Cross volunteer mobilization

A total of 100 MRCS volunteers were involved in relief distributions, administering first aid and psychosocial support and raising public awareness about potential communicable diseases. They distributed 1,000 information, education and communication (IEC) materials to people living in affected areas.

Impact

Beneficiaries

The immediate relief assistance provided by MRCS was helpful in alleviating the suffering of affected people – it helped them settle down temporarily during the emergency period and resume their everyday lives after the disaster. Many of the affected families have returned to their homes and resumed livelihood activities.

See also the Beneficiary feedback below:

Beneficiary feedback



A Nah, a father of four, rebuilt his damaged home with a shelter kit provided by the Myanmar Red Cross Society. His new home is made of bamboo and other wood he chopped from the forest nearby.

“The kit was useful”, he says. “We got a hammer, saw, hoe and some other materials. We keep the kit for communal use. Anyone can use it when needed.”

The tent provided by MRCS was also useful. A Nah says it is better than a tarpaulin as he has used the tent to sleep in and store family possessions, while his children sleep in his newly-built home.

(Photo: May Myat Swe / MRCS)

MRCS image

As a result of its disaster response efforts, MRCS's image as a leading humanitarian organization has been further strengthened among communities and local authorities in the affected areas, as well as among national and international humanitarian agencies.

Challenges

During the initial phase of the operation, rescue and relief operations as well as assessments were hampered in most of the affected areas because of the breakdown in communication systems and transportation networks. Many areas were inaccessible as roads and bridges were destroyed and could only be reached on foot. The lack of access, human resources and communications represented the biggest challenges.

In spite of these challenges, MRCS, with the support of IFRC, instituted or engaged in the following:

- Transportation of relief items from nearby warehouses in coordination with local authorities.
- Transportation of family tents from Yangon in coordination with authorities.
- Coordination with other partners in assessments and relief operations.
- Deployment of human resources from headquarters for coordination, assessments, and the distribution of relief items and shelter materials as well as health and water and sanitation activities.
- Mobilization of 100 volunteers from Tachileik township and nearby townships for the operation.

Conclusion

Overall achievements

The experience and capacity which MRCS gained from the Cyclone Nargis operation (2008-2011) and Cyclone Giri operation (October 2010-2011), paid off when responding to the Tarlay earthquake. In this regard, the society's contingency plan (CP) and standard operating procedures (SOP) which were finalized in 2010, helped ensure greater effectiveness in the relief operation, particularly in the swiftness of response. The new warehouse manual also added significant value to managing pre-positioned disaster preparedness stock systematically at field level.

Lessons learnt

The DREF operation was completed by the end of August 2011, in accordance with its revised plan of action. While the operation came to a successful conclusion, it generated some valuable lessons for MRCS and IFRC, which can be summarized as follows:

- MRCS needs to be part of inter-agency joint assessment teams and ensure its regular and active participation at coordination meetings.
- MRCS insured 100 Red Cross volunteers under the IFRC global insurance policy – this move showed volunteers that their well-being was looked after and also served as a source of motivation.
- MRCS needs to engage in community-based disaster risk reduction in earthquake-prone areas. It is highly likely that such efforts will be well received by vulnerable communities given the significant role played by Red Cross volunteers and community volunteers in the response to the Tarlay earthquake. In this connection, MRCS distributed two community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) kits to the Red Cross branch in Tachileik township, with the support of the annual programme to further enhance community preparedness for future disasters.

Contact information

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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 \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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.



IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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MDRMM004 - Myanmar - Earthquake

Appeal Launch Date: 29 mar 11

Appeal Timeframe: 29 mar 11 to 31 aug 11

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/3-2011/10
Budget Timeframe	2011/3-2011/8
Appeal	MDRMM004
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	157,534					157,534
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	<i>157,540</i>					<i>157,540</i>
C4. Other Income	157,540					157,540
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	157,540					157,540
D. Total Funding = B + C	157,540					157,540
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	157,540					157,540
E. Expenditure	-156,553					-156,553
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	987					987

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III. Consolidated Expenditure vs. Budget

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		157,534					157,534	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	97,080	87,866				87,866	9,214	
Clothing & Textiles	21,858	20,902				20,902	956	
Utensils & Tools	4,786	4,553				4,553	233	
Total Relief items, Construction, Supplies	123,724	113,321				113,321	10,403	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	6,000	6				6	5,994	
Distribution & Monitoring	4,000	8,439				8,439	-4,439	
Transport & Vehicles Costs		10				10	-10	
Logistics Services		5,693				5,693	-5,693	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	10,000	14,148				14,148	-4,148	
Personnel								
International Staff		132				132	-132	
National Society Staff	7,850	3,109				3,109	4,741	
Volunteers		5,430				5,430	-5,430	
Total Personnel	7,850	8,670				8,670	-820	
General Expenditure								
Travel	4,750	4,493				4,493	257	
Information & Public Relations		24				24	-24	
Office Costs		350				350	-350	
Communications	1,595	1,426				1,426	169	
Financial Charges		4,566				4,566	-4,566	
Total General Expenditure	6,345	10,858				10,858	-4,513	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	9,615	9,555				9,555	60	
Total Indirect Costs	9,615	9,555				9,555	60	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	157,534	156,553				156,553	981	
VARIANCE (C - D)		981				981		