

EMERGENCY APPEAL



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

MYANMAR: CYCLONE RAKHINE

Appeal no. 14/2004
4 June 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

THIS EMERGENCY APPEAL SEEKS CHF 201,000 (USD 163,770 OR EUR 134,204) IN CASH, KIND, OR SERVICES TO ASSIST 14,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR THREE MONTHS
(click here to go directly to the attached appeal budget)

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's web site at <http://www.ifrc.org>

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The situation

An estimated 220 people were killed by a cyclone that hit the western state of Rakhine in Myanmar at 8am on 19th May. Winds of up to 112km/hour hit the coastal townships of Sittwe, Myae Bon, Pauk Taw, Myauk Oo, Ponnar Kyun, Min Byar, Kyauk Phyu, Ann and the numerous islands off the coast. Tidal surges and flooding followed the storm leaving more than 18,000 people homeless and an unknown number are still missing.

An initial report by the Relief and Resettlement Department, Social Welfare Ministry, and Fire Services Department on 26th May reported numerous buildings were damaged, including 300 schools and approximately 2,800 houses. Water supplies were contaminated and the threat of water-borne disease remains high. An additional report from the Myanmar Red Cross assessment team which travelled to the area reported damage to homes, public buildings, and to the main electricity grid and phone lines. Roads were completely washed away. At least 200 boats were destroyed, affecting both livelihoods and transportation. Travel within the area remains difficult and many areas are still inaccessible.

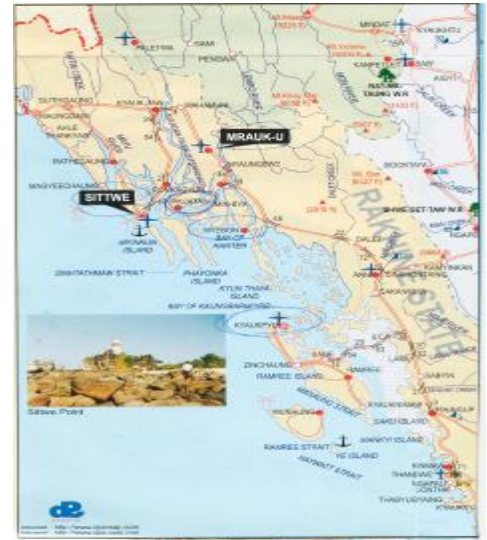
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Rakhine is a sparsely populated state, with 2.7 million people, covering 14,200 square miles. Sittwe, the state capital, is the biggest city.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

The overall goal of this appeal is to provide immediate assistance to those affected and, in the longer term, reduce risk of disaster and enhance resilience of some of the most vulnerable people in Myanmar.

Preliminary government assessments indicate that the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) has carried out initial emergency response activities in the cyclone area in a timely and effective manner. To date, working in close cooperation with the local authorities, MRCS was involved in search and rescue and evacuation operations, as well as cleaning of wells and the purification of drinking water in the affected areas.



In addition, the MRCS has distributed household kits, each containing 24 basic household items, to 250 families. Items distributed amounted to the total stock from the Sittwe warehouse and the national warehouse in Yangon.

Over 100 volunteers have so far been involved in the response to this disaster, and a local Red Cross leader (a Grade 1 officer at the State Red Cross level) was involved in assessment with the local authorities. It is particularly important to note that this officer's contribution and ability to run this operation to date was largely due to the Disaster Assessment and Response Team (DART) training conducted in 2003.



The needs

The priority for the Red Cross in the first phase is to supply food and basic non-food items to the four most affected townships: Sittwe, Myae Bon, Pauk Taw and Myauk Oo. Relief supplies will be provided to approximately 2,850 families (approximately 14,000 persons). Data on affected families was gathered by the local authorities. Selection of recipient households will be undertaken by the Red Cross in close coordination with the local authorities.

Coordination

The MRCS headquarters is in direct and regular communication with the state level Red Cross committee. The state level Red Cross is working closely with the local authorities, where the MRCS is represented as a member of the National Disaster Relief Committee. The Federation delegation is working to support the MRCS particularly in terms of logistical and administrative support and additionally to coordinate the international appeal.

The proposed operation

Relief: distribution of food and basic non-food items.

Activities planned:

Food and non-food relief items will be distributed to approximately 2,855 families (approximately 14,000 persons). The food items, which will be procured locally following Federation procurement procedures, include containers of drinking water, rice, cooking oil, salt, peas and sardines, according to the needs of the affected people. These will be distributed by Red Cross volunteers to households in the four townships. The non-food items included in the 24 item household kit comprise: kitchen sets, mosquito nets, blankets, clothing, soap and plastic sheeting. It is estimated that approximately 2 household kits will be distributed to each family. A total of 5,000 – 6,000 household kits will be purchased. Relief supplies will be assembled for distribution in Sittwe, in co-operation with the National Disaster Relief Committee, of which MRCS is a member. MRCS volunteers will take a lead role in the distribution of the relief supplies.

Recognizing that the Sittwe warehouse and national warehouse are now depleted and it is the only the very beginning of the five month monsoon season, it is essential to rapidly replenish the relief stocks in the warehouses in Sittwe (for Rakhine State) and in the national warehouse in Yangon. Of the total of 5,000 to 6,000 family kits to be purchased, a small portion will be used to replenish the warehouse stocks to replace the 250 household kits already distributed to affected families. This relief operation is expected to be completed within a three month period.

Communication - Public Information

The Federation office, situated in the MRCS building, is in constant communication with the MRCS Disaster Management Team, and is providing regular information to the ICRC delegation in Myanmar. The office also maintains close contact with the Federation's Regional Delegation in Bangkok and the Geneva secretariat. International and local media, donors and other stakeholders are updated regularly on Red Cross action.

Updated information is posted on the Federation's Disaster Management Information System (DMIS - <http://www-secure.ifrc.org/dmis/index.htm>)

Safety and Security

Access to some of the affected townships is limited and difficult because of their remote geography and isolated location. In addition, there is a need to observe and respect local regulations.

Capacity of the National Society

The Myanmar Red Cross Society is a long-established National Society with 34 branches throughout the country, and about 300,000 volunteers. The experienced headquarters disaster management team is mobilized and alert at all times. Over the past few years, the MRCS has taken significant steps to enhance its capacity in disaster management. Since 2002, the disaster assessment and response team (DART) was established, which has been important in improving MRCS's capacity to gather, analyse and act on accurate and timely information at the time of disasters. All MRCS warehouses were replenished in 2002/03 with support from partner National Societies. For details of the MRCS disaster management programme and the Federation's ongoing support to the programme, please see the Federation's Appeal 2004 for Myanmar (appeal no 01.65/2004).

Monitoring and Evaluation

A minimum of four monitoring and evaluation trips will be conducted by teams from the MRCS headquarters, including Federation delegates, over the next three month period. It is expected that a Federation delegate will accompany an MRCS team to the affected area during the week commencing 7 June.

Capacity of the Federation

The Federation has a country delegation in Myanmar, composed of four delegates (head of delegation, organisational development / disaster preparedness delegate, and two health delegates) and eight local staff,

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providing support to the MRCS. Technical and administrative support is also provided by the Federation's Regional Delegation for Southeast Asia in Bangkok.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

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Secretary General

[Budget below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

BUDGET SUMMARY

Myanmar - Rakhine cyclone

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TYPE	VALUE
RELIEF NEEDS	IN CHF
Shelter & constructions	12,000
Clothing & textiles	59,000
Food & seeds	54,000
Water & sanitation	10,000
Medical & first aid	12,000
Utensils & tools	7,000
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	154,000
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<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	
Programme support (6.5% of total)	13,000
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>	
Transport & vehicle costs	6,000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>	
Expatriate staff	15,000
National staff	5,000
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>	
Travel & related expenses	3,000
Administrative & general expenses	5,000
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	47,000
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TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	201,000
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LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)	0
NET REQUEST	201,000
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