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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Myanmar: Magway Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRMM005
GLIDE n° FL-2011-000167-MMR
3 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 and Red Crescent emergency response. 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.

CHF165,669 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Myanmar Red Cross Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 10,000 of the most vulnerable people affected. Un-earmarked funds to replenish the DREF are encouraged.

Summary:

Tropical Storm Two, which made landfall on the Myanmar-Bangladesh border on 19 October brought heavy rains during the following days to the Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing regions in central Myanmar. Flash floods occurred in several areas, and four townships in Magway region have been hardest-hit. While the situation in Mandalay and Sagaing has improved over the last few days, many villages in the townships of Pakokku, Myaing, Pauk and Seikphyu in Magway region are hardly accessible.

According to present assessment data from the Government of the Union of Myanmar (GoUM) and the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), approximately 35,734 people have been affected in Magway region, with about 150 people killed during flash floods and about 2,500 houses totally destroyed. Heavy damage to infrastructure and agriculture are also reported but no detailed damage reports are available as yet.



The situation in the affected area in Magway region.
Photo: Myanmar Red Cross Society

MRCS immediately deployed its volunteers in the four affected townships of Pakokku, Myaing, Pauk and Seikphyu in Magway region, and have assisted affected communities through evacuation, setting up camp sites, providing first aid and psychosocial support, and dispatching and distributing relief items from the national society's regional warehouse in Magway. The total number of Red Cross volunteers deployed to help in the operation in these four worst-affected areas is currently 113.

This operation will cover the distribution of non-food items (family kits) to 1,150 families in these four affected townships and the provision of clean drinking water to a maximum of 20,000 families¹. The relief operation is expected to be implemented over four months, and will therefore be completed by 3 March 2012. A final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation, by 3 June 2012.

[<click for the DREF budget; contact details; or a map of the affected areas>](#)

The situation

Tropical Storm Two, which made landfall on the Myanmar-Bangladesh border on 19 October brought heavy rains during the following days to the Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing regions in central Myanmar. Flash floods occurred in several areas and four townships in Magway region have been hardest-hit. While the situation in Mandalay and Sagaing has improved over the last few days, many villages in the townships of Pakokku, Myaing, Pauk and Seikphyu in Magway region are hardly accessible.

The Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MoSWRR) has announced that about 151 people have been killed, with about 35,734 people affected and about 2,500 houses totally destroyed.

Four hardest-hit townships in Magway region

Township	People affected	Families affected	Houses destroyed
Pakokku	2,252	820	384
Myaing	1,730	354	89
Pauk	12,381	2,775	380
Seikphyu	19,371	3,659	1,275
Total	35,734	7,608	2,128

Breakdown of affected population in Magway region

Township	Men	Women	Children	Total
Pakokku	1,019	1,233	544	2,252
Myaing	783	947	417	1,730
Pauk	5,601	6,780	2,991	12,381
Seikphyu	8,765	10,606	4,680	19,371
Total	16,168	19,566	8,632	35,734

Many roads and bridges in the area are destroyed and several landslides have made access to many villages extremely difficult. Agricultural production is also severely affected and immense harvest loss is expected in the area.

Immediate response activities were conducted by the local authorities, MRCS, local and international non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. A number of evacuation centres and camps have been established in the affected townships for those who have been left homeless. The Vice-President of the Government of the Union of Myanmar visited the affected area on 23 October, as did the President on 26 October - both provided assistance in cash and kind to affected communities. Relief committees have been established by the local authorities but presently, their coordination function only covers the various centres and camps.

Main needs are reported to be food, emergency shelter and drinking water. The situation on fresh water and sanitation has appeared satisfactory so far but initial unconfirmed reports have just been received in Yangon regarding the lack of fresh drinking water and diarrhoeal diseases. The local authorities have

¹ 1,150 families are the primary target beneficiaries; where water purification capacity is more than required, this will be utilized to support other affected communities in the vicinity as needed.

requested humanitarian agencies to provide water purification tablets and water purification units to avoid the outbreak of diarrhoeal and other waterborne diseases.

Detailed assessments by MRCS, various local and international non-governmental organizations and UN are underway in all four hardest-hit townships. More detailed information is expected to be available by the middle of this week.

Distributions of food items by the local government have begun and the World Food Programme (WFP) has provided food assistance through a number of organizations to approximately 1,550 families in Pakokku and Seikphyu townships.

Several organizations including MRCS have provided family kits and shelter materials, including community shelter kits, to the affected population, during the first days after the disaster, mainly to those living in the temporary camps. The local government has provided cash assistance of MMK² 500,000 (about USD 625 per household) to some of the affected families for the reconstruction of their homes.

Coordination and partnerships

MRCS and IFRC are closely coordinating efforts with local authorities, UN OCHA and other humanitarian organizations in the affected townships and at Yangon level.

On 27 October, UN OCHA organized the first coordination meeting in Yangon, attended by representatives of approximately 20 organizations comprising UN agencies, local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), MRCS, IFRC and ECHO³. Joint assessments are being organized at township level using standard assessment forms in line with the joint Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) Contingency Plan. Local NGOs who have their own contingency plan are also following this standard questionnaire which is available in the Myanmar language. In-country donors have been informed of the coordinated efforts of the HCT and have been alerted to the possible need for funding. The ECHO representative in Myanmar is planning to travel to the affected area for a hands-on assessment of the situation.

Local authorities are conducting coordination meetings in connection with the local operation and Red Cross volunteers present in the area are representing MRCS at these meetings. Coordination at local level is critical as humanitarian organizations receive disparate requests for assistance from authorities at local, regional and central levels. Relief committees have been set up by the local authorities in all townships but these presently focus on the coordination of relief activities at the numerous camp sites.

IFRC and MRCS held a joint meeting on 28 October and all in-country partner national societies (including French Red Cross, Danish Red Cross and Australian Red Cross) have been informed about ongoing MRCS activities and the plan for a DREF operation. The partners are in contact with their respective embassies and in-country back donor offices (e.g. AusAID) for funding possibilities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Red Cross volunteers from MRCS immediately assisted local authorities in the evacuation of affected people in the four affected townships and provided assistance at the temporary camps which have been set up in various locations.

Two of the affected townships (Pakokku and Seikphyu) are areas where the society's community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) programme has been implemented in recent years. This means that a high number of well-trained Red Cross brigade and community volunteers are able to play important roles in the National Society's relief efforts. The G1⁴ of Magway region and one other senior Red Cross volunteer participated in the society's first national disaster response team (NDRT) training workshop recently conducted in September.

With this volunteer capacity on the ground, MRCS immediately dispatched all disaster preparedness stock from its Magway warehouse, comprising family kits and emergency shelter kits for the benefit of approximately 327 affected families in four camps in Pakokku township. Another 850 sets of family kits and

² Local currency – Myanmar Kyat.

³ The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection directorate-general.

⁴ Grade 1 Staff officer of the Red Cross Brigade – this officer holds the highest rank in the volunteer system of Magway region, and is a member of the MRCS Magway Regional Supervisory Committee

emergency shelter kits have been sent from the national society's brand new warehouse in Yangon to the three other affected townships - 600 kits to Seikphyu, 200 to Pauk and 50 to Myaing. A family kit contains non-food items such as clothing for adults and children, a mosquito net and two blankets, while the emergency shelter kit contains two tarpaulins, rope and a hammer.

The stock in the Magway warehouse has been replenished with stock from Yangon.



To support the volunteers on the ground, MRCS headquarters deployed the programme coordinator of its disaster management division to the affected area. MRCS volunteers are continuing with assessments and providing assistance to the affected population in close coordination with local authorities. Upon the request from authorities in several townships, MRCS is presently preparing to deploy one unit of water and sanitation emergency response equipment⁵ (ERE) to the affected area - the final location is still under discussion.

The Myanmar Red Cross Society is distributing family kits and emergency shelter kits to about 1,177 affected families in the four hardest-hit townships comprising Seikphyu, Pakokku, Pauk and Myaing.
Photo: Myanmar Red Cross Society

MRCS relief distributions

Township	Distributions of family kits & emergency shelter kits/ Approximate number of families reached
Seikphyu	600
Pakokku	327
Pauk	200
Myaing	50
TOTAL	1,177⁶

The needs

Selection of people to be reached: According to the present assessment information, approximately 35,734 people are affected by the flash floods in Magway region. Out of this number, about 2,500 families (approximately 10,000 people) have completely lost their homes and belongings, and are mainly living in camp sites or in tents provided by the Relief and Resettlement Department or with host families. The most urgent need, therefore, is the provision of emergency shelter, household items and clean drinking water for these families. As many of these families will soon return to their villages to rebuild their homes, the shelter materials, including community shelter kits, and other non-food items will serve as useful emergency shelters.

The situation in the camp sites may change on a daily basis, as people prefer to return to their homes to recover belongings and look after their livestock and fields. It is anticipated that there may be high needs among communities for recovery assistance, mainly for the rebuilding of homes, and restoration of

⁵ Emergency response equipment is the term MRCS uses to refer to equipment used by water and sanitation Emergency Response Units during the emergency phase of the Nargis operation, and which were thereafter donated to the society.

⁶ 1,150 kits to be replenished via this DREF

livelihoods. Priority should, however, be placed on ensuring that vulnerable communities have access to safe water and improved hygiene (through latrine constructions and hygiene education).

The proposed operation

With the assistance of the IFRC country office, MRCS will provide emergency shelter materials, including community shelter kits, as well as non-food items, clean drinking water, and water storage containers to the most severely affected communities in the four townships of Magway region; and provide emergency sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion activities to 1,150 families (5,750 people) mainly living in camps and evacuation centres.

The standard MRCS family kit and emergency shelter kit consist of the following:

Non-food family kit	Emergency shelter kit
Kitchen set, 2 blankets, mosquito net, clothes for children and adults, soap	2 tarpaulins, community shelter kit including rope and a hammer (one kit for five families)

Nearly all items are part of existing MRCS disaster preparedness (DP) stock and are being dispatched to the affected locations. The funds provided by DREF will be used to replenish the DP stock. Stock from the warehouse in Magway region and the society's central warehouse in Yangon is being directly transported to the four townships affected, where township Red Cross volunteers are receiving the items.



The Myanmar Red Cross Society is distributing family kits and emergency shelter kits to about 1,177 affected families in the four hardest-hit townships comprising Seikphyu, Pakokku, Pauk and Myaing. (Photo: Myanmar Red Cross Society)

Beneficiary selections are being conducted in close cooperation with the local authorities, and priority will be given to affected families who are presently living in camps, tents (which are provided to those who have left camps to return to their damaged or destroyed homes) or host families.

The latest information received from MRCS as of 31 October states that in Seikphyu township, all camps set up in the 27 affected villages have been closed. The Relief and Resettlement Department distributed 200 tents to families, previously occupying these camps, for use upon their return to their damaged or destroyed homes. In Pakokku township, of the four camps established, one has been closed while the remaining three are still catering for affected families. Camps in the two remaining townships of Pauk and Myaing are also reported to be closed, with displaced families now staying in other camps or with host families.

The following table gives an overview of the affected population as opposed to the total population in the four hardest-hit townships:

Township	Total population	Affected population	Percentage of affected population
Pakokku	441,000	2,252	0.5
Seikphyu	103,844	19,371	18.7
Pauk	219,000	12,381	5.7
Myaing	44,988	1,730	3.8
TOTAL	808,832	35,734	4.4

The tables below reflect the main components of the proposed operation:

Relief distributions (non-food items)

Outcome: 1,150 families (5,750 people) comprising most affected households (who have lost their homes and belongings completely) and displaced families in camps are supplied with standard family kits.

Outputs (expected results) and activities planned:

- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Set clear beneficiary selection criteria and define distribution protocols.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to communities.
- Engage Red Cross volunteers and beneficiaries in relief assistance activities.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.
- Develop a plan for follow-up action.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: A minimum of 1,150 families are provided with clean drinking water, water storage containers and families living in camps are provided with emergency sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion activities to reduce the risk of waterborne and water-related diseases.

Outputs (expected results) and activities planned:

- Assess the existing water and sanitation situation in the camp sites to ensure availability of adequate water supply
- Provide safe water to 1,150 families through the installation of mobile water purification units.
- Distribute water storage containers and control supply movements from point of dispatch to communities.
- Provide emergency sanitation facilities and hygiene promotions to people living in camps and evacuation centres.
- Conduct training/information programmes for Red Cross volunteers and beneficiaries in particular, hygiene promotion and the safe use of water treatment products (e.g. chlorination tablets).

Emergency shelter

Outcome: 1,150 families (5,750 people) comprising most affected households (who have lost their homes and belongings completely) and displaced families in camp sites are supplied with standard emergency shelter materials, including community shelter kits

Outputs (expected results) and activities planned:

- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Set clear beneficiary selection criteria and define distribution protocols.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to communities.
- Engage Red Cross volunteers and beneficiaries in relief assistance activities.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Myanmar Red Cross Society:** Prof Dr Tha Hla Shwe, president; phone: +95 1 363 681, +95 067 419 014; email: president@myanmarredcross.org.mm
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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.

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

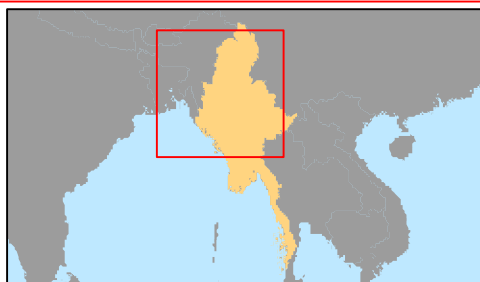
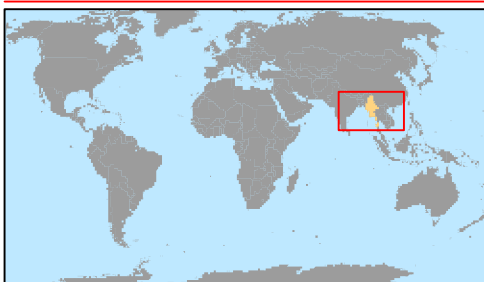
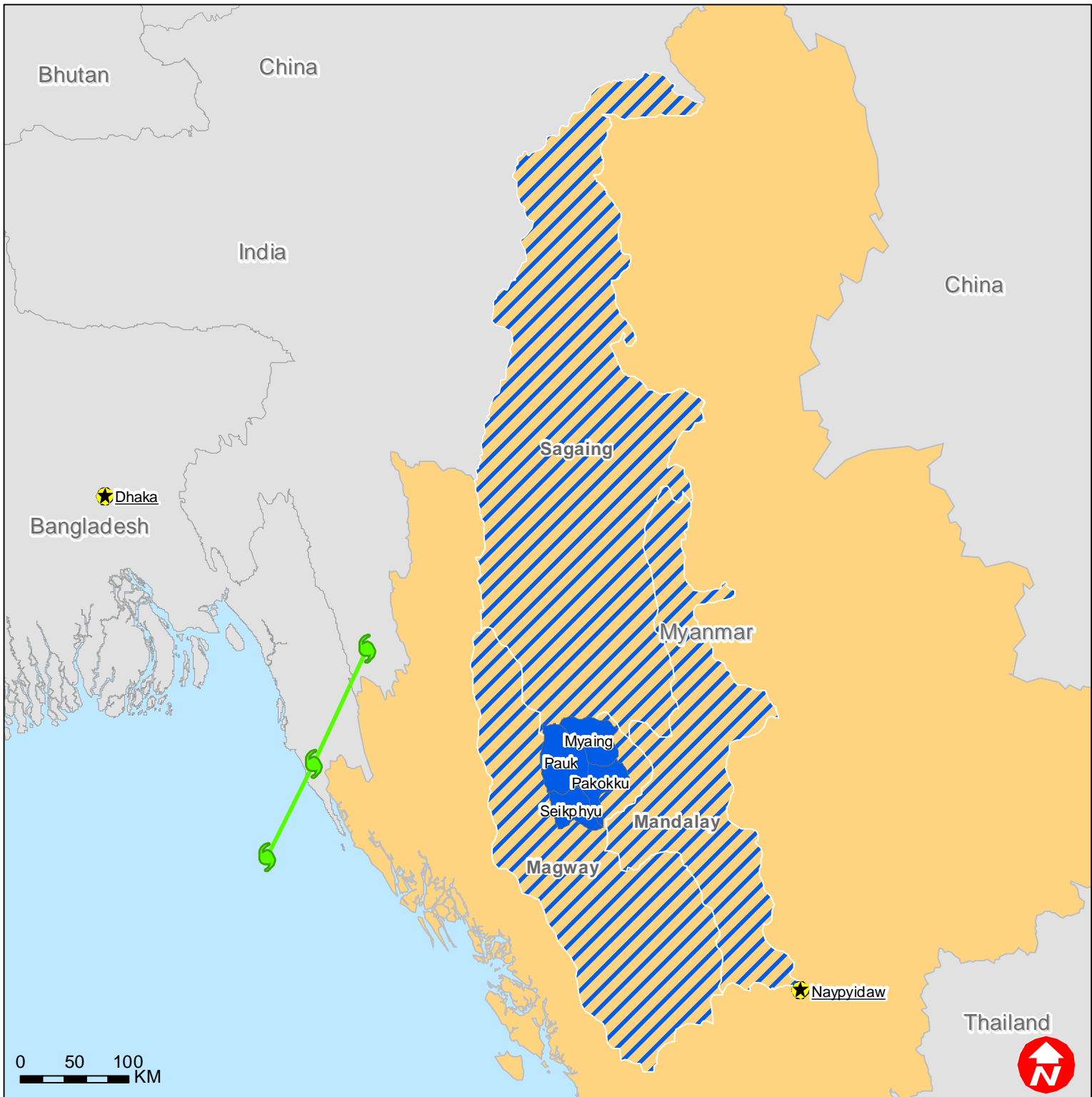
1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief	50,510	50,510
Clothing & Textiles	31,625	31,625
Water & Sanitation	25,807	25,807
Utensils & Tools	9,200	9,200
Total Supplies	117,142	117,142
Storage	3,576	3,576
Distribution & Monitoring	7,500	7,500
Transport & Vehicle Costs	750	750
Total Transport & Storage	11,826	11,826
National Society Staff	19,129	19,129
Total Personnel	19,129	19,129
Travel	1,250	1,250
Office Costs	500	500
Communications	1,000	1,000
Financial Charges	2,000	2,000
Total General Expenditure	4,750	4,750
Programme Support	10,111	10,111
Total Programme Support	10,111	10,111
Services & Recoveries	2,711	2,711
Total Services	2,711	2,711
TOTAL BUDGET	165,669	165,669



Myanmar: Floods



- Tropical depression Two
- Affected regions
- Most affected townships