

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



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: FLOODS

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*This Bulletin is for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.*

### *The Situation*

In Hpa-an, Kayin State, the water level of the Thanlwin River has broken previous records, causing the worst floods in living memory. 12 evacuation centres located above flood level have been set up at monasteries, schools and other buildings for the affected population of over 300 families, including nearly 1,000 children. As the local authorities and neighbouring communities are providing them with rice and basic food items, the current identified needs for assistance are blankets, clothes, soap, candles and drinking water. The situation is expected to last for the next two weeks or longer.

The authorities of Kayin State have also organized two temporary shelters, with concrete floors and water and sanitation facilities, at schools in Kyondo for the population affected by the floods and strong winds. 309 people lost their houses, and an additional 1,989 people have been evacuated from their homes because of the seasonal flooding. The majority of them are accommodated with their relatives and friends. These people are accommodated at temporary shelters are considered as the priority group for the assistance since they have lost all of their belongings. Basic items such as mats, blankets, clothes, mosquito nets, cooking utensils, soap and candles are needed to meet their essential needs.

Some 2,000 people in Myawaddy, an Eastern Kayin town near the border with Thailand, have been affected by floods since 18 August. Some casualties are reported. The authorities have organised three shelters in the town. There have been reports of floods in Kyain-seikgyi and Hling Bwe townships as well.

In Mon State, while the severity of the floods in Mawlamyine is reportedly still comparable to previous years, already 6 out of 12 wards in the state capital's urban poor areas are affected, leaving some 600 families in acute need for the assistance. A further 1,200 people were displaced from 12 villages of Kyaikmayaw township, situated in 17 km to the southeast of Mawlamyine, and are now accommodated at 3 temporary shelters. Most of the displaced families could take their basic belongings with them, but the assistance in the form of food items is required.

Monywa, the commercial centre of Sagaing Division, is another town affected by the unusual floods. The flood that started on 17 August is the worst in 50 years. The water level of the Chindwin River has risen over a metre above the officially recognised danger level of 10 metres. According to a local official, buildings in 17 out of 24 wards in the town were submerged, severely affecting 9,460 families, or 48,819 people. All the business, including three markets in the town, were closed down by 18 August. Some 1,000 families, or nearly 4,500 people took shelter at camps set up at 19 sites within the downtown area. Around 200 families evacuated from villages across Chindwin River from the town are accommodated at another temporary shelter, where accessibility is a major problem, and are reportedly in the worse condition. While the local authorities and community are organising distribution of rice bags and some food items, the food supply is expected to further deteriorate soon.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

In Kyondo, local MRCS volunteers are organising the collection of food donation from community and distribution to the affected people twice a day, taking into consideration the special food requirements of the affected Muslim population as well.

Two MRCS staff from its Disaster Preparedness and Response Division were dispatched to Kayin and Mon States with the initial 100 sets of relief supplies on 23 August. Existing MRCS emergency relief items including 130 blankets, 162 female blouses, and 144 male pants are also available at Hpa-an. Upon arrival at Hpa-an and Mawlamyine, they will establish a contact with the respective local authorities and cooperate with the MRCS Supervisory Committee of each state to organise relief distribution and conduct further needs assessment. The ICRC has offered complementary support for the MRCS and the Federation in information gathering and logistics through its sub-delegation offices in the two states. It is reported that Save the Children UK and World Vision, who have local presence in the concerned area, are also planning relief assistance, and the MRCS intends to coordinate its activities with them.

The MRCS and the Federation Myanmar Delegation received an official request for assistance from the local authorities in Sagaing Division on 23 August. A joint relief team of five members from the MRCS and the Federation will depart on 25 August when the necessary preparation is done. It is currently planned that food and non-food items for relief distributions will be procured in Mandalay, on the way from Yangon to Monywa, while ensuring coordination with the authorities, the local Red Cross, and other NGOs that have local offices in the area. As the health situation is expected to deteriorate while the emergency response capacity of the MRCS and the Federation become overstretched, the ICRC sub-delegation in Mandalay will be requested to provide the team with technical assistance.

On 22 August, the Acting Head of the Federation's Myanmar Delegation participated in an information sharing meeting on the current flood situation, coordinated by the United Nations World Food Programme and attended by officials of relevant government agencies and international NGOs in the country. There was an expectation expressed by the present stakeholders that the MRCS, with assistance from the Federation and the ICRC, should take more proactive leadership in the coordination of disaster relief activities and information sharing among the concerned organisations.

*For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)*

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*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.*

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