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## Information bulletin Myanmar: Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Glide n° <a href="#">FL-2015-000080-MMR</a> & <a href="#">FL-2015-000089-MMR</a>	Date of issue: 3 August 2015
Information bulletin n° 1	Date of disaster: 30 July 2015
Host National Society: Myanmar Red Cross Society	

*This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Myanmar Red Cross Society, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has analyzed that the available information points toward significant humanitarian needs. A scaled-up response which will require support from the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) or other international disaster response mechanisms is envisioned.*

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Red Cross volunteers from Mokaung and Myitkyina branches of MRCS were immediately deployed to assist the evacuation of affected households due to heavy rains in Kachin. Above: families with children assisted by Red Cross volunteers in Mokaung township, Kachin state on 29 July 2015. Photo: MRCS

## The situation

Heavy rains have caused floods and landslides in several parts of Myanmar during the last two weeks of July. Cyclone Komen, which made landfall in Bangladesh on 30 July after sitting off the coast of Western Myanmar for several days, brought intensified winds and further heavy rains, which resulted in more floods and landslides in several states and regions in Western and Northern Myanmar. According to available data from Myanmar Red Cross Society branches in the affected areas, as of 2 August, a total of 89,107 persons from 16,386 households have been affected by the flooding and landslides. A total of 27 fatalities and 26 injuries have also been reported. Communications and transportation infrastructure have been impacted, and flood waters have not receded in many areas – these factors combined mean that it is still difficult to access areas and information remains scarce. Meanwhile current weather forecasts are predicting that rain will continue for several more days, which could result in further flooding. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, flooding has inundated nearly 400,000 acres of farmland, destroyed 30,000 acres and damaged more than 73,000 acres.

The Government's Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) is reporting that over 156,000 people have been affected across Sagaing, Kachin, Shan, Mandalay, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin, Mon, Bago, Magway, Ayeyarwady and Yangon States and Regions. However, estimates from other government departments are significantly

higher and information on the impact and number of people affected in the three of the worst affected states - Rakhine, Chin and Magway – is still very limited. Figures could increase significantly in the coming days as assessment teams access more areas and further information becomes available. According to government sources, at least 27 people have been killed by the floods in July, but this figure is expected to rise as more information becomes available.

On 31 July, the President of Myanmar issued a statement declaring natural disaster zones in Chin and Rakhine states and in the Sagaing and Magway regions, stating “the following regions which are hugely affected by natural disasters and have challenges for rapid restoration to normality, are announced as natural disaster zones (1) Chin State, (2) Sagaing Region, (3) Magway Region and (4) Rakhine State.”

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

MRCS Emergency Operation Center (EOC) has been activated for this response on 30 July. MRCS staff – from multiple departments but coordinated by the disaster management (DM) department - are working from the EOC in the national headquarters (NHQ) in Yangon, supported by IFRC delegates. The EOC is not 24 hours operational but many of MRCS staff and volunteers in Yangon are receiving and collating information round the clock.

MRCS volunteers in branches throughout the affected areas have been active since the beginning of the disaster. This has included assisting evacuation of affected households to temporary sites and higher ground, in conjunction with local authorities and RRD. Distributions of relief items from existing stocks have been made in a number of locations. However, the impact of the additional rains and high winds caused by the passing Cyclone Komen demands a greater response.

MRCS and IFRC are closely coordinating efforts with local authorities (especially RRD), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) and other humanitarian organizations in the affected townships and at Yangon level. In Rakhine State, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has a strong operational presence, and is working with MRCS on the ground to plan further response activities.

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has called for a meeting on 3 August. The meeting will be an opportunity to discuss the current flooding situation in Myanmar, levels of emergency preparedness, current response, and planned next steps. In Rakhine, coordination meetings organized by local authorities (State Health Department) and UN OCHA have been organized on daily basis since Friday 31 July.

Based on the available information that points toward significant humanitarian needs and with further information through assessments when safety conditions allow, the IFRC is working closely with MRCS to determine the appropriate scaled-up response and support from the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) or other international disaster response mechanisms.

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## Contact information

**For further information, please contact:**

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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 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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