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Information bulletin

Myanmar: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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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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Evacuation of flood affected villagers to safe location in Teikkyi township
Photo: MRCS

The situation

Floods brought by monsoon rains that have been pounding parts of Myanmar since late July 2016 have affected a number of townships in Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawaddy, Magway and Yangon region and to some extent, Kachin State.

According to the latest figures released by the Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD), at least 377 000 people have been displaced from their homes in the six states with Magway being the most affected area – where some 60,000 people have been displaced. Five people have died – two in Sagaing, two in Kachin and one in Yangon. Many schools remain closed across affected areas. Flood waters are gradually moving south towards the Ayeyarwady Delta. Monsoon conditions persist and is moderate to strong over the Andaman sea and the Bay of Bengal, threatening further rainfall.

State and local governments are leading the response, sandbagging vulnerable areas along river banks and providing food, water, relief items, cash and some construction materials to affected people. The Emergency Operations Centre has not been activated at this stage and the response is mostly being managed at the State/Regional level using existing resources. The government is coordinating with the Red Cross and civil society organizations which are providing relief supplies including food, water and oral rehydration salts, as well as assistance with evacuations.

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology has indicated that the swelling of rivers in upper Myanmar comes as the country enters what could be the peak month of the monsoon season.

The table below provides a summary people affected according to information collected by the government.

**Flood Figures from Relief and Resettlement Department in Nay Pyi Taw reported on 9 August
(collected as of 8 August)**

No	Affected State/Region	Affected			Houses washed away	Displaced		Death
		HH	Family	Population		HH	Population	
1	Sagaing	6,262	6,289	27,665	0	6,262	27,665	2
2	Kachin	169	169	811	0	169	811	2
3	Mandalay	17,676	18,396	77,575	0	17,676	77,575	0
4	Magway	46,279	49,404	204,156	0	46,279	204,156	0
5	Ayeyawaddy	7,419	7,395	26,159	5	7,414	26,159	0
6	Bago	10,697	10,697	39,310	121	10,576	39,310	0
7	Mon	40	40	185	0	40	185	0
8	Yangon	515	515	1,806	0	515	1,806	1
Total		89,057	92,905	377,667	126	88,931	377,667	5

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Local authorities on state and regional level, the Union Government, as well as the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) and local civil society organizations have responded to the situation, carrying out rescue operations and providing food, water, blankets, clothes, medical care and other basic necessities to those affected. Populations have evacuated to higher ground and to temporary sites, including monasteries and schools. The international interest has been minimal in comparison to last year's floods.

MRCS volunteers in branches throughout the affected areas have been active since the beginning of the disaster, as the early warnings came in the volunteers were mobilized and prepared to respond. So far, 261 Red Cross volunteers have been directly involved in the immediate response.

The ERTs and the NDRTs were mobilized as well as emergency community volunteers. This has included assisting evacuation of affected households to temporary sites and higher ground, in conjunction with local authorities and RRD.

Warehouse preposition stock was checked. Over 2,500 families have received different non-food items (NFI) through distributions in the flood affected areas. NFIs distributed include family kits, hygiene kits and jerry cans.

Early assessment information points to immediate needs of displaced people in temporary shelters; emergency provision of safe water; and the need to address the risk of disease outbreak following the floods.

MRCS has launched its operational response plan aiming to cover five Regions – Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawaddy, and Magway (Yangon might be included at a later stage) with twenty-one townships, aiming at supporting 20 per cent of the affected population. However, the impact of the additional rains demands a greater response beyond the financial capacity of MRCS, hence the decision to request for initial support from DREF which will cover part of the total MRCS response plan.

The MRCS Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) has been activated for this response on 6 August 2016. MRCS staff – from multiple departments but coordinated by the disaster management (DM) department - are working from the EOC in NHQ in Yangon, supported by IFRC delegates. The EOC is not 24 hours operational but members of the Operation Response Team (ORT) and volunteers in Yangon are receiving and collating information round the clock.

MRCS EOC has been in regular contact with the National EOC over Skype, and this will continue regularly. MRCS and IFRC are closely coordinating efforts with local authorities (especially RRD), UNOCHA, other UN agencies and humanitarian organizations in the affected townships and at Yangon level.

Since the launch of MRCS EOC, the Emergency Task force had its first meeting at 9:00 am on the 7 August. A Movement coordination meeting has been held on Monday 8 August, and Movement partners have been updated daily.

With support from IFRC, the MRCS is assessing data that has come in to develop its operational plan in response to the floods.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and partner National Societies (PNS) present in Myanmar are expected to further support the MRCS response plan with funds and their existing capacity in Myanmar. The overall MRCS response plan including bilateral support will be drafted and made available at a later date. Danish Red Cross DRC has already committed USD 10,000 in support of the MRCS operation.

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.

Contact information

For further information, please contact:

Myanmar Red Cross Society

- U Khin Maung Hla, secretary general; phone: 09 855 3293; email: khinmaunghla@redcross.org.mm
- Daw San San Maw, DM department director; phone: 09 431 597 34; email: sansanmaw@redcross.org.mm
- Daw Moe Thida Win, operations manager; phone +95 943159739; email moethidawin@redcross.org.mm

IFRC Myanmar country office:

- Udaya Regmi, head of delegation; phone: +95 1 383686; email: udaya.regmi@ifrc.org
- Jesper Fridolf, operations manager; phone: +95 9263728300; email: jesper.fridolf@ifrc.org

IFRC Asia Pacific regional office, Kuala Lumpur (phone: +60 3 9207 5700 ; fax: +603 2161 0670):

- Timothy Lam, operations coordinator, email: timothy.lam@ifrc.org
- Clarence Sim, acting head of planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER), email: clarence.sim@ifrc.org



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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**.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
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and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.
