

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: EXPLOSIONS

9 May 2005

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 Information Bulletin (no. 01/2005) is being for information only. The Federation is not specifically seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

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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 website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation



Myanmar Red Cross President Dr Hla Myint visits and comforts one of the people injured by the bomb blast in the ICU of Yangon General Hospital. Dr Tun Sein, Honorary Secretary of the Myanmar Red Cross waits to hand over one of the care packages.

Photo: IFRC/Zarni Kyaw Soe

Three separate bomb blasts occurred some five minutes apart in Myanmar's capital city of Yangon on 7 May around 15:00 local time (08:30 GMT), ripping through the Yangon Trade Centre and two shopping malls. Latest casualty figures from the government stand at 12 dead and 162 injured. Of the injured, 140 are being hospitalized; some have been treated at private clinics while others have been released. Most of the patients are suffering from serious burns and wounds caused by shrapnel and flying debris from the blast.

The explosions happened on the back of a similar incident two weeks ago on 26 April when a bomb exploded in a busy market in the city of Mandalay, killing two people and injuring 16 others.

Representatives from the local government have inspected the blast sites and have visited the patients in the hospitals. The Yangon city council has pooled food and other supplies from private companies and individuals for the affected.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Volunteers and staff members from the Myanmar Red Cross Society were active within the first five hours of the blasts, transporting some of the injured using Red Cross ambulances and attending to the patients in all five of the hospitals across Yangon. In the hospitals, Red Cross volunteers cared for the families of the injured and assisted other patients in contacting their family members.

On the evening of the blasts, some 50 participants of the ongoing annual camp for outstanding volunteers held in conjunction with the Red Cross Week donated blood to those affected. The following day, the Myanmar Red Cross organized three groups to visit the hospitals treating the wounded. Members of the groups included the national society's president and members of its executive committee as well as staff members and volunteers.

In total, 141 family packs were prepared and distributed to all families in the hospitals who had a relative killed or injured by the explosions. The kits contained the standard items of clothing, mosquito nets, blankets, kitchen utensils and toiletries (soap, towel etc.). The ministry of industry has distributed 20 items of goods to complement these family kits.



MRCs volunteers packing up the 141 family care packages ready for distribution to all those who had one or more of their family members affected by the bomb blasts.

Photo: IFRC/Zarni Kyaw Soe

The ICRC and the Federation conducted visits to the hospitals on 8-9 May and the Federation is now working with the Myanmar Red Cross to establish a list of medical supplies for the hospitals, some of which will be purchased by the regional delegation in Bangkok and flown in by the evening of 9 May. These supplies, valued approximately at USD 3,745, will be formally presented on 10 May by the Federation's head of delegation in Myanmar. The ICRC will be working with the national society and the Federation to assist with the purchase and distribution. The Myanmar Red Cross also visited two Malaysian nationals who were injured and passed messages from them to the Malaysian embassy, informing as well that further assistance would be provided if necessary.

The disaster management team of the Myanmar Red Cross, assisted by the Federation, entered all relevant information to date in the Federation's disaster management information system (DMIS). Further updates will be posted as the situation develops.

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

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