

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Myanmar: Cyclone Giri

DREF operation n° MDRMM003
GLIDE n° **TC-2010-000211-MMR**
29 October 2010

The IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the IFRC's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 250,000 (USD 255,775 or EUR 183,300) has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to 3,750 households (18,750 beneficiaries) for three months. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary:

Category 4 Cyclone Giri made landfall in western Myanmar's Rakhine State on 22 October at about 8.00 pm, triggering storms, heavy rains and huge tidal surges in coastal areas. The cyclone damaged infrastructure, buildings and houses in its path towards Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions. The most affected townships in Rakhine State are reported to be those in coastal areas, especially Kyaukpyu, Minbya, Munaung, Myebon and Pauktaw. Several townships in Magway Division, including Salin, Seikphyu, Pakokku and Pauk, were also affected to varying degrees. Many roads, bridges, utility and telecommunications facilities and houses, have been partly or completely destroyed. Power supply and phone lines have been cut off and most roads, if not all, are currently inaccessible.

The Myanmar government immediately mobilized its National Disaster Preparedness Coordination Committee (NDPCC). It sent a mission to the affected areas on 23 October to assess the situation. Local authorities and communities have been providing assistance to the population through distributions of relief items and the establishment of temporary shelters. The authorities have sent food, water and relief supplies to affected areas by plane and helicopter, and plan to airlift more relief supplies in the coming days. Rescue teams from fire brigades are working in the affected areas.

International and local humanitarian organizations, as well as the UN, have dispatched assessment teams to affected areas and have started distributions of relief items in close consultation with local authorities.

The Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) has activated its emergency management system and initiated its emergency response to the disaster by mobilizing Red Cross volunteers. It has dispatched three assessment teams to the affected areas and is deploying two water and sanitation emergency response teams with three water purification units. As part of its emergency response, MRCS has decided to focus Red Cross support on supplying drinking water and distributing non-food items to 3,750 families comprising most affected households (who lost their homes and belongings completely) and displaced families in evacuation centres in Rakhine State.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 31 January 2011. A final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation, by 30 April 2011.

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

The situation

Category 4 Cyclone Giri made landfall in western Myanmar's Rakhine State around 8.00 pm on 22 October, triggering storms, heavy rains and huge tidal surges in coastal areas. Tidal surges hit the islands and coastal areas seven to eight metres above normal water levels. The speed of winds was measured as 177 kph (110 mph) upon landfall.

The cyclone damaged infrastructure, buildings and houses in its path towards Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions. The most affected townships in Rakhine State are reported to be those in coastal areas, especially Kyaukpyu, Minbya, Munaung, Myebon and Pauktaw. Several townships in Magway Division, including Salin, Seikphyu, Pakokku and Pauk, were also affected to varying degrees. Many roads, bridges, utility and telecommunications facilities and houses have been partly or completely destroyed. Power supply and phone lines have been cut off and most roads, if not all, are currently inaccessible.

According to the reports received so far from MRCS assessment teams and based on local data collected in the affected areas, the estimated damage caused by the cyclone in Rakhine State and Magway Division is as follows:

Estimated damage according to initial MRCS assessments and local data

354 villages in 51 village tracts affected	
7,132 houses	destroyed
3,114 houses	severely damaged
19,379 houses	partially damaged
The total number of families or people affected as a result of the above damage is 46,687 households (241,500 people).	

People who lost homes or whose houses were completely or partly destroyed are now staying in temporary shelters set up in various places by local authorities and the MRCS.

The Myanmar government and local authorities prepared themselves for a timely response, and search and rescue efforts before the cyclone hit the country. State radio and television announcements warned communities about the storm in advance. Local authorities evacuated people to safer places. Red Cross volunteers took an active part in relaying early warning messages to people living in areas at risk, setting up relief camps and helping people evacuate in time.

The Myanmar Government immediately mobilized its National Disaster Preparedness Coordination Committee (NDPCC). It also sent a mission to the affected areas, the next morning (23 October) to assess the situation. The mission was composed of senior officials of the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement; and the Ministry of Home Affairs. Local authorities and communities have been providing assistance to the population through distributions of relief items and the establishment of temporary shelters. The authorities have sent food, water and relief supplies to affected areas by plane and helicopter, and plan to airlift more relief supplies in the coming days. Rescue teams from fire brigades are working in affected areas.

International and local humanitarian organizations, as well as the UN, have dispatched assessment teams to the affected areas and have started distributions of relief items in close consultation with local authorities.

Coordination and partnerships

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), UN agencies, and international and local non-governmental organizations that form the Humanitarian Country Team¹, met on 23 October to discuss the situation and share information on activities planned by different agencies. An inter-agency coordination mechanism has been established and accordingly, coordination meetings have been held regularly in Yangon and in the field, to coordinate the response and assessments in the affected areas. In anticipation of a possible cluster activation, sector leads have been confirmed at the Yangon and Rakhine levels, in order to strengthen the coordinated response. These include the food, health and nutrition, shelter;

¹ The in-country inter-agency coordinating body for the response to Cyclone Nargis. The Humanitarian Country Team replaced the Inter-Agency Standing Committee as the main forum for inter-agency coordination in Myanmar, in mid-2009.

and water, sanitation and hygiene sectors. The formation of logistics and livelihoods sectors is under discussion.

The Myanmar government responded to the emergency through the provision of relief items and the establishment of temporary shelters in affected areas. Additional relief supplies are being sent to the areas by planes and ships. These include food, roofing sheets and timber.

The World Food Programme (WFP) plans to distribute 900 tonnes of rice, while Save the Children has a project to provide food to 1,500 households in Kyaukpyu Township. Six Myanmar non-governmental organizations are planning to provide emergency food assistance (rice, oil, salt and pulses) to 5,000 affected people for one week. Action Aid Myanmar distributed food to 1,000 families in Kyaukpyu and Myebon townships.

Health and medical care support actors comprise the Ministry of Health, Myanmar Medical Association, WHO², UNICEF³, UNFPA⁴ and other agencies. They are sending medical equipment, family kits, water, sanitation and hygiene items, oral rehydration salts (ORS), high-energy biscuits, baby kits, bleaching powder and other medical supplies.

MRCS, the Metta Development Foundation and some other agencies, are engaged in distributions of non-food items.

MRCS and the IFRC country office are closely coordinating with the authorities at various levels and key humanitarian agencies operating in Myanmar. They attend coordination meetings organized by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), a donor forum called the Myanmar Humanitarian Partnership Group (MHPG) and the International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO) Forum. As a shelter cluster lead, the IFRC Delegation organized a shelter coordination meeting in Yangon on 26 October, which was attended by representatives of 11 organizations including UN OCHA⁵ and UN Habitat. MRCS staff and IFRC delegates also attended the health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) coordination meetings convened by WHO and UNICEF on 27 October and informed the participants of Red Cross plans of action in affected areas. MRCS closely coordinates its activities with various ministries concerned and local authorities in the field, and regularly shares its assessment results with other agencies.

Representatives of IFRC and French Red Cross in-country have joined the MRCS emergency task force and the three parties maintain close coordination with each other to aid effective assessments and a timely response. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegation in the country is on standby to provide support if needed. IFRC has deployed a senior field officer to Kyaukpyu township in Rakhine State, and a French Red Cross officer has been stationed in Sittwe township in the same State, to ensure close coordination with local authorities, MRCS branches and other agencies in the field. MRCS, IFRC, French Red Cross and ICRC are holding daily coordination meetings. The IFRC country office is supporting MRCS in assessments, data collection, operational planning in various sectors, and volunteer management, among others. It has also requested travel authorizations to the affected areas for its delegates.

IFRC's Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur and the Southeast Asia regional office in Bangkok are supporting the operation with additional technical support and close contact with the media and donors.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

On 20 October, MRCS headquarters and state/divisional branches issued an early warning to respective township branches, which alerted the communities concerned and put Red Cross volunteers on standby. In close cooperation with local authorities, township branches were actively engaged in cyclone preparedness and the evacuation of people in areas at risk to safer places.

In the immediate aftermath of the destruction caused by the cyclone, MRCS volunteers began the emergency response. Together with rescue teams from the fire brigade, they were involved in rescuing affected people and providing first aid and other necessary assistance. They also helped by clearing blocked or damaged roads in order to access the most affected villages. Red Cross volunteers are busy with assessments, as well as caring for people staying in temporary shelters in stadiums, monasteries and schools. Many of the cyclone-affected areas are townships in which MRCS has implemented its community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) programme with the support of IFRC. In each township, MRCS trained six community

² World Health Organization.

³ United Nations Children's Fund.

⁴ United Nations Population Fund.

⁵ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

members as CBDRM facilitators who then conducted multiplier courses in villages. These trained people are playing key roles in the ongoing assessments and the emergency relief operation.

On 23 October, MRCS held its first emergency management meeting in the presence of all people concerned from different departments within the society, as well as IFRC and French Red Cross. It confirmed the formation of an emergency task force composed of representatives of relevant MRCS departments, IFRC and French Red Cross, which would be responsible for the emergency relief operation including an immediate needs assessment. The National Society has activated a 24-hour duty system mainly comprising staff of its disaster management division and put 30 Red Cross volunteers of the MRCS branch for the Yangon division area on standby for immediate deployment to operational areas if needed.

MRCS dispatched three assessment teams to Kyaukpyu, Myebon and Pauktaw townships respectively in Rakhine State, to conduct immediate needs assessments in the cyclone-affected areas. MRCS has prepositioned disaster preparedness (DP) stock for 1,600 households at its regional warehouses in Sittwe, Kyaukpyu and Thandwe townships in the same state. The MRCS branch in Kyaukpyu has already distributed 200 family kits to affected households in Kung Thar Yar Village. Each kit contains 2 tarpaulins, 1 kitchen set, 2 blankets, 1 mosquito net, and clothing for adults and kids. A total of 1,500 kitchen sets and family kits are being transported from regional warehouses in Yangon and Delta areas to Sittwe and Kyaukpyu for immediate distribution to affected people living in Kaukpyu, Myebon and Pauktaw townships. MRCS is also deploying two water and sanitation emergency response teams with three water purification units (scan filter) plus equipment. The exact location of the teams will be decided in the coming days, based on recommendations from the assessment teams on the ground. The National Society also plans to send the following relief items to affected areas: water and sanitation, and first aid items such as oral rehydration salts (ORS), first aid kits, soap, jerry cans (6,000 pieces) and water buckets (5,000 pieces), as well as additional mosquito nets (5,000 pieces).

In coordination with local authorities, MRCS is sending 600 Red Cross volunteers from Yangon, Mandalay and West Bago Divisions, to the affected areas. They will be involved in distributing relief items and providing first aid, and water and sanitation assistance, as well as assistance in clean-up campaigns.

MRCS relief assistance

Supply of drinking water
Family kits (2 tarpaulins, 1 kitchen set, 2 blankets, 1 mosquito net, and clothing for adults and kids)
Additional mosquito nets
Oral rehydration salts (ORS)
First aid kits
Water buckets
Jerry cans
Soap

The needs

The overall needs will be determined as soon as the ongoing rapid needs assessments are completed. However, reports from MRCS branches and humanitarian agencies working in the field have indicated that food, water and sanitation, and shelter, are the most urgent needs of affected communities. The MRCS's proposed operation has been designed on the basis of these needs.

Based on the impact of the disaster, urgent needs identified, and the capacity of its branches in the affected areas, the MRCS has decided to target the most affected households (who lost their homes and belongings completely) and displaced families in evacuation centres, and assist them through the supply of drinking water and the distribution of non-food items.

The proposed operation

This DREF operation aims to meet the immediate needs of most affected households (who completely lost their homes and belongings) and displaced families in evacuation centres. Red Cross support will focus on the supply of drinking water and the distributions of non-food items such as kitchen sets, blankets, tarpaulins and mosquito nets.

The DREF operation will be conducted in Rakhine State and beneficiaries will be selected in the most affected townships. Based on the findings of the ongoing assessments, MRCS will determine the precise nature and extent of needs in the affected areas and fine-tune the future Plan of Action.

The main components of the operation are as follows:

Needs assessments

Objective: The immediate needs of affected people are identified to determine a Plan of Action.

Activities planned:

- Engage MRCS branches in affected townships in immediate assessments in the field.
- Dispatch three MRCS assessment teams to affected areas for detailed assessments in various sectors.
- Coordinate with local authorities and various agencies involved in assessments.
- Develop a concrete Plan of Action based on findings of assessment reports.
- Support MRCS in conducting assessments as per the relevant guidelines.
- Assist MRCS in the collection, analysis and compilation of data and operational planning.

Distributions of drinking water and non-food items

Objective: 3,750 families (18,750 people) comprising most affected households (who lost their homes and belongings completely) and displaced families in evacuation centres, are supplied with drinking water and non-food items.

Activities planned:

- Set clear beneficiary selection criteria and define distribution protocols.
- Deploy two water and sanitation emergency response teams and equipment to affected areas and supply drinking water.
- Procure, transport and distribute non-food items comprising kitchen sets, blankets, tarpaulins and mosquito nets to 3,750 families.
- Engage Red Cross volunteers in first aid, relief assistance, water and sanitation support, and clean-up activities.
- Monitor and evaluate the water supply and the distributions of non-food items.
- Develop a plan for follow-up action.

How we work

All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

- Myanmar Red Cross Society
 - Prof Dr Tha Hla Shwe, president, e-mail: mrcs-pres@redcross.org.mm, phone: +951 383 681, fax: +951 383 685.
- IFRC country office, Myanmar (phone: +63-2-309-8622, fax +63-2-524-3151):
 - Bernd Schell, head of country office, e-mail: ifrcmm01@redcross.org.mm, phone and fax: +951 383 686, 383 682.
 - Chang Hun Choe, programme coordinator, email: ifrcmm12@redcross.org.mm, phone and fax: +951 383 686, 383 682, mobile: +959 512 6221.
- IFRC Asia Pacific zone office, Kuala Lumpur (phone: +60-3-9207-5700, fax +60-3-2161-0670):
 - Jagan Chapagain, head of operations; email: jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org
 - Heikki Väättämoinen, operations coordinator, email: heikki.vaatamoinen@ifrc.org
 - Alan Bradbury, head of resource mobilization and PMER; email: alan.bradbury@ifrc.org
Please send all pledges of funding to zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org
 - Jeremy Francis, regional logistics coordinator; phone: +6012 298 9752; fax; +603 2168 8573; email: jeremy.francis@ifrc.org

[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

MDRMM003 - MYANMAR CYCLONE GIRI

DREF BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief	112,500	112,500
Clothing & Textiles	52,500	52,500
Utensils & Tools	24,372	24,372
Total Supplies	189,372	189,372
Distribution & Monitoring	16,000	16,000
Total Transport & Storage	16,000	16,000
National Society Staff	8,000	8,000
Total Personnel	8,000	8,000
Travel	14,400	14,400
Office Costs	1,670	1,670
Communications	5,300	5,300
Total General Expenditure	21,370	21,370
Programme Support	15,258	15,258
Total Programme Support	15,258	15,258
TOTAL BUDGET	250,000	250,000



Myanmar: Tropical cyclone Giri

