

Annual report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Myanmar

Appeal no. MAAMM002

27 April 2011

This report covers the period
1 January to 31 December 2010



MRCS volunteers visiting the most vulnerable families who were unable to go to relief distribution points.

Photo: MRCS

In brief

Programme outcomes:

- The lives of vulnerable people are improved through increased organizational preparedness in disaster response by the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) and through community participation in risk reduction activities.
- The number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases is reduced.
- The organizational structure and capacity of MRCS is improved at all levels for efficient and effective delivery of community-based services to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in Myanmar.
- MRCS is able to proactively advocate for vulnerable people and mobilize adequate support to meet their needs.

Programme summary:

Although the emergency and recovery operations of the cyclones Giri and Nargis diverted its attention and resources, MRCS managed to complete most of its planned activities in accordance with the country plan for 2010.

Disaster management:

MRCS focused its efforts on improving its organizational preparedness in disaster response and strengthening disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities at community and school levels. Progress was made in the gradual upgrading of regional warehouses. MRCS put in place its nationwide multi-hazard contingency plan and its standard operating procedure (SOP) for localized disasters. It assessed its disaster preparedness capacity by using the checklist of a well-prepared national society (WPNS) self assessment (phase III) in 2010. The society's disaster management policy adopted in 2003, was revised and put into effect in September 2010. MRCS was included in the first and second rounds of IFRC's

regional DIPECHO¹ programme and implemented phase 2 of the preparedness on climate change programme. (PCCP).

With the support of IFRC, MRCS has been conducting the Cyclone Giri emergency relief operation aimed at assisting 13,912 most affected households in four townships of Rakhine state through the provision of non-food items, hygiene and health promotion, and water and sanitation services.

Health and care:

MRCS implemented various health and care programmes on public health in emergencies, community-based health and first aid (CBHFA), malaria prevention, combating tuberculosis (TB), HIV/AIDS, and blood-donor recruitment. At a health and care forum held in February, MRCS reviewed its health and care programmes implemented from 2007 to 2009, and decided to work towards the integration of all activities under the CBHFA-in-action programme. CBHFA materials were printed in the national language and information, education and communications (IEC) materials were produced for targeted communities and volunteers.

Organizational development:

Ensuring the synergy of IFRC's support to various programmes of MRCS, the organizational development programme focused on the following:

- Supporting internal communication and cooperation within the headquarters to maintain harmonious relationships.
- Defining a common community-based model to deliver services to the vulnerable which is realistic and appropriate to the Myanmar context.
- Defining an appropriate operating structure to support township branches and community-based activities.
- Supporting MRCS to develop a new five-year strategy and ensure a smooth transition from the Cyclone Nargis operation.
- Reconciling MRCS's objectives with the scale and realities of the organization.
- Revising the current branch development programme following recognition that the current support is not having the desired long-term impact.

Humanitarian values:

MRCS continued to work on building its communication capacity at various levels and disseminating Red Cross messages to targeted communities.

Financial situation: The total budget for 2010 was increased to CHF 2,387,872 with the Cyclone Giri operation being added to the country plan in October 2010. Coverage of this plan is 157 per cent with overall expenditure for 2010 in relation to the budget at 86.3 per cent.

[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)

See also the latest operations update on the Cyclone Nargis operation [here](#).

No. of people reached: About 650,000 people benefited directly from IFRC-supported programme interventions during the reporting period. Approximately 600,000 people are expected to benefit from the activities planned for the following year.

Our partners:

MRCS has a number of multilateral and bilateral partnerships. The 2010 country plan was supported by Australian Red Cross/Australian government, Austrian Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross/Finnish government, German Red Cross, Hong Kong branch of the Red Cross Society of China, Japanese Red Cross Society, Netherlands Red Cross/Netherlands government, Swedish Red Cross/Swedish government, Taiwan Red Cross Organization and ECHO (European Commission Humanitarian Aid office).

MRCS has also benefited from the support of in-country partner national societies in implementing various programmes. Danish Red Cross is involved in supporting community health projects, including a mass media project; French Red Cross is assisting a disaster risk reduction project and the Cyclone Nargis recovery operation; and Australian Red Cross is focusing its support on restoring family links (RFL) and community health projects. Austrian Red Cross is providing multilateral support to MRCS to develop its water and sanitation capacity. *See the updates of the Cyclone Nargis operation for details of further bilateral*

¹ The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) for Disaster Preparedness.

support to the delta region.

MRCS has established important partnerships with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR and Burnett Institute; and has maintained close relationships with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Welfare and Resettlement, local authorities and various international and national non-governmental organizations.

On behalf of MRCS, IFRC would like to thank all partners and contributors for supporting Myanmar's country plan.

Context

Cyclone Nargis recovery operation

On 16 August 2010, the Myanmar government announced to the humanitarian organizations in the country that it considered the recovery phase of the Cyclone Nargis operation as complete and requested them to focus on development projects in Cyclone Nargis-affected areas. With this announcement, Cyclone Nargis-related visa applications could no longer be processed by the Ministry of Social Welfare and Resettlement but instead needed to be addressed to respective line ministries based on memoranda of understanding to be signed with them. This sudden announcement and related visa issues made it difficult for aid agencies to complete the planned activities and facilitate a phased transition for Nargis recovery programmes. These developments also affected the implementation of the Nargis recovery programmes by MRCS and IFRC as the Nargis operation delegates had to be relocated to Bangkok from late October and early November 2010 to January 2011 because of their expired visas and, as a result, planned activities needed to be rescheduled or scaled down during this uncertain period.

Cyclone Giri emergency operation

On 22 October 2010, Rakhine state in western Myanmar was hit by Cyclone Giri. Many townships, especially Kyaukphyu, Myebon, Minbya and Pauktaw, were severely affected. The cyclone caused severe damage to houses and infrastructure including roads and bridges in coastal areas. According to data released by the local authorities, 45 people were killed or missing and 220,616 households were affected, with 20,380 houses completely destroyed. Many lives were saved thanks to the early warning issued by the Myanmar government and MRCS, and the timely evacuation of people at risk to safe locations. MRCS had actively been involved in a cyclone preparedness and response operation through its branches and volunteers. The MRCS's response before, during and after the cyclone was appreciated by the authorities and international and national humanitarian organizations.

With the support of IFRC, ECHO², AusAID³ and partner national societies including the Australian, Canadian, Netherlands and Swedish Red Cross societies, MRCS has been conducting a relief operation aimed at supporting 13,912 most-affected households in four townships in Rakhine state and one township in Magway region⁴. The operation consists of the distribution of non-food items and the provision of health, and water and sanitation services. CHF 250,000 was allocated from IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support MRCS in providing immediate assistance to 3,750 families (18,750 beneficiaries) affected by Cyclone Giri. The DREF operation was [concluded](#) by the end of January 2011.

Elections

The general elections were held peacefully on 7 November 2010 but only in early 2011 will a new parliament, central government and regional autonomous parliaments and governments, be officially formed to begin their functions. Many issues remain pending during this transitional period.

New National Society headquarters

MRCS moved its headquarters to Naypyidaw, the new national capital, leaving a relatively small number of its staff members in Yangon. It was challenging for MRCS and the IFRC country office to ensure close coordination and follow-up with regard to ongoing Red Cross activities.

Nevertheless, the IFRC country office made use of various available options to maintain close coordination with MRCS and ensure the smooth implementation of programmes. IFRC also relied on the increased

² European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office.

³ Australian Agency for International Development.

⁴ Myanmar consists of state or regional administrative structures.

capacity of its national staff and MRCS staff in monitoring and evaluation of projects, and providing necessary services to vulnerable communities.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster management

Outcomes

- Disaster response assistance is improved through organizational preparedness and institutional development to meet the needs of people affected by disasters.
- Resilience of individuals and communities is increased to reduce their vulnerability to disasters.

Achievements

Response preparedness

Disaster management policy

A new disaster management policy of MRCS was developed based on lessons learnt from the Cyclone Nargis operation, recommendations of the disaster management review conducted in 2009 and various commitments made, and was put into effect in September 2010. It covers all components of the disaster management cycle including disaster risk reduction (DRR) and recovery.

Contingency plan and standard operating procedure

MRCS finalized its country-wide multi-hazard contingency plan in line with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) response plan, and organized an induction session in July for 33 people from state/regional branches, various MRCS departments and ICRC. The workshop participants tested the effectiveness of the plan through a desktop simulation and developed an action plan to roll it out, as well as the society's standard operating procedure. Both the contingency plan and the standard operating procedure were used during the response to a landslide in northern Rakhine state in June, and Cyclone Giri in October. A *lessons learnt* workshop is scheduled for early 2011 to make necessary revisions to these tools according to the needs identified during the Cyclone Giri experience.

Sphere manual

The National Society's plan to publish the Myanmar translation of the Sphere⁵ manual (2004 edition) has been put on hold pending the finalization of a new edition⁶ of the manual (English version), which will include some revisions.

Reviews

MRCS reviewed its overall disaster preparedness capacity at a workshop held in July, by using the check list of the well-prepared National Society self assessment (WPNS) - phase III. The IFRC country office, together with the UNHCR⁷, also led the process to revise the IASC shelter response plan in July-August.

Capacity building

MRCS organized training workshops to develop the capacity of headquarters and branch staff, as well as volunteers, in response preparedness. Three training workshops on logistics management were conducted for 96 volunteers from state/regional branches. Some of those trained were deployed during the Cyclone Giri operation. A total of 60 staff and Red Cross volunteers (RCVs) were also trained in two communications workshops organized by the MRCS's communication division in close coordination with the disaster management division. A total of 84 Red Cross volunteers from lower and upper Myanmar participated in two orientation sessions on climate change facilitated by officers of related government departments and MRCS. MRCS closely linked its activities under phase 2 of the preparedness on climate change programme (PCCP) with its community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) and school-based disaster risk management (SBDRM) programmes to increase the awareness of Red Cross volunteers and vulnerable communities on climate change and to equip them with mitigation and adaptation skills.

A total of 26 Red Cross volunteers and MRCS staff attended various disaster management training workshops and meetings held abroad to enhance their capacity and share their experience with other national societies.

⁵ Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere).

⁶ The latest edition is scheduled to be launched in the first quarter of 2011.

⁷ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Disaster preparedness stock and warehouse management

Based on the lessons learnt from the Cyclone Nargis operation and its response to other disasters, MRCS repackaged its disaster preparedness items into standard packs and procured an additional 3,000 packs as disaster preparedness stock. MRCS improved the management of disaster preparedness stock and the communication between warehouses, township branches and headquarters by upgrading four of its regional warehouses in Mandalay, Bago-East, Magway and Sagaing. In addition, MRCS bought a piece of land in Yangon to construct a warehouse, with funding support from Japanese Red Cross Society, and initiated a tender process for the construction. This new warehouse will enable MRCS to not only store water and sanitation emergency response unit (ERU) equipment and some disaster preparedness stock but also strengthen its warehouse management capacity in relation to country-wide needs.

Telephone installations

MRCS installed 23 telephones at its branches located in most vulnerable townships in 11 states/regions with a view to improving communication between the headquarters and branches. One telephone was installed per branch. The value of these telephones was proven during the response to Cyclone Giri in October last year, as branches used them effectively in sending early warnings to villages at risk and maintaining communication with the headquarters.

Response to Cyclone Giri

The MRCS's enhanced capacity for disaster response paid off when disasters struck various parts of the country in 2010. MRCS distributed disaster preparedness stock to a total of 2,976 affected households across 11 states/regions. The households which were located in a total of 43 townships, were affected by floods, fires, strong winds or landslides. The National Society made a timely and effective response to Cyclone Giri which hit Rakhine state in western Myanmar on 22 October. In addition to its involvement in the early warning, assessments and evacuation, MRCS launched an emergency relief operation with the support of IFRC and other partners. The Cyclone Giri operation which is expected to last until the first half of 2011, aims to support 13,912 households (69,560 beneficiaries) in four most affected townships in Rakhine state and one township in Magway region. The affected communities are being assisted with family kits, emergency shelter, hygiene and health promotion, and water and sanitation services. The operation was supported by IFRC, AusAID (via Australian Red Cross), Canadian Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, and ECHO. CHF 250,000 was allocated from IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support MRCS in providing immediate assistance to 3,750 families (18,750 beneficiaries) affected by the Cyclone Giri. The DREF operation was concluded by the end of January 2011.

See [programme update No. 2 for 2010](#) and the [DREF final report](#) for details of the Cyclone Giri operation.

MRCS and the IFRC country office are in discussion with UNICEF⁸ and UNFPA⁹ regarding how to capitalize on the National Society's country-wide presence and support its capacity building.

Emergency management fund

MRCS is working to create an emergency management fund (EMF) of CHF 500,000, which will support proactive assessments and responses to local disasters. The fund will be used to finance the replenishment of disaster preparedness stock, deployment of assessment teams and local transportation of disaster preparedness stock. While calling upon all partners to contribute to this fund, MRCS and IFRC are now finalizing the guidelines for the management of this fund.

Community-based disaster risk reduction

Community-based disaster risk management programme

MRCS conducted three training-of-trainers (ToT) workshops on community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) for a total of 110 volunteers of Tanintharyi, Mon, Kayin and Kachin states/regions. The volunteers comprised 57 men and 53 women from 16 townships. Refresher ToT training was also conducted for 29 volunteers from Rakhine state and Nargis-affected areas. The volunteers comprised 15 men and 14 women from 10 township branches. Some communities-at-risk from Rakhine state and Ayeyarwady region were included in the second year of the CBDRM programme.

As part of the programme, and with the support of township Red Cross volunteers, trained facilitators identified the most vulnerable communities and formed CBDRM multiplier teams at village level. Vulnerability and capacity assessments were conducted among these communities and newly-formed CBDRM multiplier teams were mobilized to strengthen their disaster preparedness. In 2010, MRCS procured and distributed CBDRM kits including early warning equipment to 103 selected communities (one kit per community). A total

⁸ United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

⁹ United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

of 3,229 individuals directly benefited and 283,250 individuals indirectly, from this programme in 2010. Between 2007 and 2010, a total of 180 communities-at-risk were reached through this programme.

CBDRM programme: Beneficiary feedback



“Our CBDRM multiplier team was mobilized to evacuate villagers from the seashore in preparation for Cyclone Giri. We conducted the evacuation in coordination with the township local authority and Red Cross Brigade members. The CBDRM kit which includes a hand [held] loud speaker was very useful during our efforts to warn people and provide life saving support to the most vulnerable like children and the elderly. ”

**Team leader, 50 (on the right in picture)
CBDRM multiplier team, Yan Htaing village tract
Minbya township, Rakhine state**

School-based disaster risk management programme

The National Society's school-based disaster risk management (SBDRM) project was launched in 2010 in the Ayeyarwady Delta and Bago-East regions¹⁰. It was implemented in 20 schools to strengthen the preparedness and awareness of students and teachers and communities-at-large, of hazards and potential risks, and to improve the coping capacity of these communities.

As part of the programme, two teachers from each school were trained as SBDRM facilitators who then trained a total of 600 students (30 from each school) in basic disaster risk management. The students in turn, shared their knowledge with a total of about 10,000 fellow students at their schools.

Facilitator training also included one participant each from respective township education departments and the township Red Cross branches, with the aim of providing subsequent follow-up support during the project implementation. In total, 60 people participated in two SBDRM facilitator courses.

As part of the aim to strengthen the disaster preparedness of the targeted schools and communities, 20 SBDRM kits including early warning equipment were procured and distributed to them.

DIPECHO¹¹ programme

As part of the first round of the DIPECHO programme, MRCS revised and translated the following documents into the Myanmar language:

- Disaster risk reduction (DRR) framework
- Disaster risk reduction education guidelines
- Early warning system (EWS) guidelines
- Vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) guidelines

The translated materials have been distributed to people concerned at all levels.

Information, education and communication (IEC) materials

MRCS has also printed and distributed 11 types of information, education and communication (IEC) materials on potential hazards and relevant coping mechanisms. These materials were designed specifically for Red Cross volunteers, CBDRM multiplier team members, teachers, non-governmental organizations and local authorities.

¹⁰ This programme is partially funded by Cyclone Nargis operation funds.

¹¹ The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) for Disaster Preparedness.

*International Day for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR Day)*¹²

In October, MRCS celebrated UNISDR Day with social mobilization and advocacy. Its staff and volunteers passed the main message of *Making Cities Resilient*, to 7,000 people in 16 townships. Vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) exercises and public awareness campaigns were also organized in the same townships for 48 communities participating in the CBDRM programme. The materials and the event were useful to sensitize communities about various hazards, vulnerability, coping mechanisms and ways of responding to emergencies.

Constraints or challenges

The society's disaster management division has been overwhelmed by the workload related to the Cyclone Nargis recovery operation as well as the Cyclone Giri relief operation. The frequent travel of senior disaster management staff to and from Naypyidaw, as well as their long stay there, has affected the pace of programme implementation and the development of future strategies and plans.

As Red Cross volunteers are tasked by branches with ad hoc work, it has also been challenging to complete planned activities in time.

As part of efforts to address these challenges, MRCS and the IFRC country office formed task forces for the Nargis and Giri operations to ensure that the implementation of annual programme activities was not affected by emergency operations. Plans of action were agreed upon in advance, and close communication and coordination was maintained between both MRCS and IFRC disaster management teams to mitigate the impact of their physical separation. The disaster management and organizational development divisions have also been working closely to address the issues related to Red Cross volunteers involved in various programmes.

Health and care

Outcomes

The number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases is reduced.

Achievements

Public health in emergencies (PHiE)

MRCS implemented the PHiE project in four states/regions of Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Sagaing to help vulnerable communities respond to and reduce the potential outbreak of communicable diseases such as malaria, dengue, diarrhoea, and human and avian influenza. Health education sessions on seasonal diseases were conducted for 727 Red Cross volunteers from 17 states and regions. PHiE workshops on responding to the outbreak of communicable diseases during emergencies were also conducted for 116 volunteers from 21 townships in four states/regions.

A total of 45 Red Cross volunteers who attended CBFA refresher training, distributed 2,000 pamphlets on avian influenza and 2,000 posters on hand washing to vulnerable communities during their health education sessions. As part of awareness raising and preparedness for potential outbreak of human and avian influenza, MRCS organized a workshop in October for 43 Red Cross volunteers from Naypyidaw. A total of 100 CDs with information on hand washing were also distributed to communities.



**Red Cross volunteers help check passenger temperatures at Tarchileik airport.
(Photo: MRCS)**

In addition, MRCS provided 17 vials of viper snake anti-venom and 18 vials of cobra snake anti-venom to Kungyangon and Singu townships for the benefit of the farming communities there. A total of 100,000 sachets of oral rehydration salts were procured and distributed to 14 state and regional Red Cross branches for the prevention and treatment of acute water-borne diseases among high-risk groups. Reports from branches say that, as vulnerable people in these areas could not afford to buy these anti-snake venoms and ORS, these medicaments from MRCS were useful in treating their snake bites and acute water born diseases.

Health education sessions have helped vulnerable communities become aware of communicable diseases and make efforts to safeguard their health by changing habits and lifestyles which includes practising better

¹² http://www.unisdr.org/eng/public_aware/world_camp/2010/

hygiene. Most vulnerable people in communities and local volunteers are now able to cite and recognize symptoms of diseases and refer people at risk to hospitals.

As part of the Cyclone Giri operation, MRCS conducted three training workshops for 104 volunteers from targeted villages. These trained volunteers organized two community meetings in each village on a monthly basis to raise the knowledge on hygiene promotion, communicable disease prevention and psychosocial support. Some 4,000 people and school students benefited from these meetings. Besides this, these trained volunteers visited at least 20 households every month to improve their health knowledge and hygiene promotion. The community meetings proved helpful in identifying the people who need PSP, first aid and referral services. MRCS distributed 2,122 mosquito nets to the families with pregnant women and children under the age of five. It also distributed 79,057 oral rehydration solutions (ORS) packs and 10,784 IEC materials to affected people, and provided first aid services to 1,027 people.

Water and sanitation

With the support of IFRC, the MRCS's water and sanitation unit conducted emergency response training in Yangon in July for 41 staff members and volunteers. The participants were from Cyclone Nargis affected-areas and four selected townships in the Mandalay and Magway regions.

Water and sanitation teams visited Nahtogyi and Pyaw Bwe townships in Mandalay region in September to prepare for the implementation of the community-based water and sanitation project supported by Austrian Red Cross. The final selection of targeted townships and villages is subject to the results of a baseline survey to be conducted in early 2011.

Immediately following Cyclone Giri, MRCS deployed two water and sanitation emergency response teams with three water treatment units to affected areas. It had received these units from IFRC at the conclusion of the relief phase of the Cyclone Nargis operation, where they were deployed as ERUs. MRCS had conducted water and sanitation emergency response training using this equipment in order to increase their capacity to respond to water and sanitation needs in emergencies. One water treatment unit was installed in Kyaukphyu Township and the other two units in Myebon Township. Up to 315,000 litres of safe drinking water were provided to 583 families up to the beginning of December. The teams also cleaned 15 wells and five ponds, and constructed one temporary water reservoir in order to meet the water needs of affected communities. MRCS is now in a process of distributing pans and pipes, water purification tablets, jerry cans and IEC materials, and is involved in various activities including the cleaning of ponds and wells, and the construction of latrines and water tanks. See the DREF final report and situation reports no. 1 and no. 2 for details.



Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities conducted for Cyclone Giri-affected communities in Rakhine State. (Photo: MRCS)

Community-based health

Red Cross volunteers and community volunteers in Natmauk and Pwint Phyu townships conducted activities such as health talks, as well as the distribution and use of mosquito nets, with the assistance of MRCS project staff. A total of 20,841 people were reached through 242 health education sessions and the distribution of information, education and communication (IEC) materials. A total of 5,000 households were also provided with mosquito nets while primary schools in all villages were provided with hygiene kits. Farmers were also provided with boots for protection against snake bite; a total of 7,010 boots were distributed.

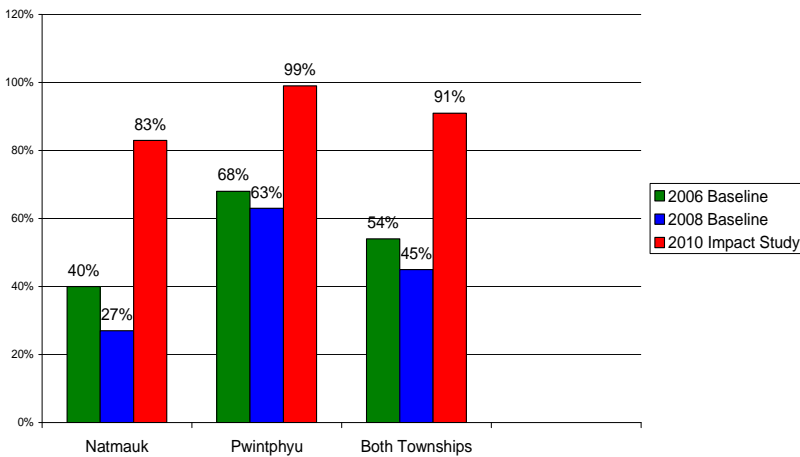
Community volunteers trained in CBFA also reached 3,318 and 3,594 households in Natmauk and Pwint Phyu townships respectively, through health education on preventing seasonal diseases.

Project staff assisted communities in forming village health committees in 10 new villages and developing their action plans. They facilitated community mobilization and helped community members move towards an integrated programme approach which includes project cycle management. Monthly volunteer meetings took place at village level and township steering committee meetings were held on a quarterly basis to follow up on activities and submit reports.

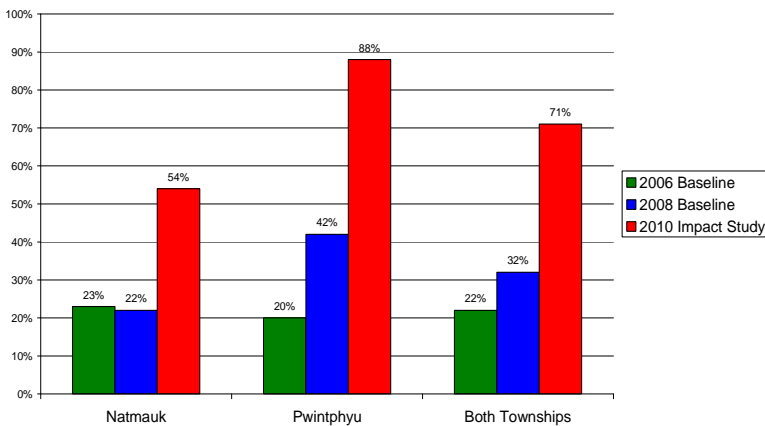
Multiplier training on participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) was conducted for 25 Red Cross volunteers in Natmauk and Pwint Phyu townships in September. After the training, the volunteers applied PHAST methodologies in their respective communities. Based on findings of assessments conducted in villages in the two townships, MRCS constructed the following:

- A deep tube well, an overhead storage tank and a pump house with an engine and compressor at Yebokegyi village in Pwint Phyu township.
- A deep tube well and an engine attached with compressor at Chaungsone village in Pwint Phyu township.
- A deep tube well, a filter tank and a pump house with engine and compressor at Latagundaing village in Natmauk township.
- Pans and pipes were distributed to 520 households in Pwint Phyu township, and 538 households in Natmauk township.

Knowledge on malaria transmission through mosquito bite



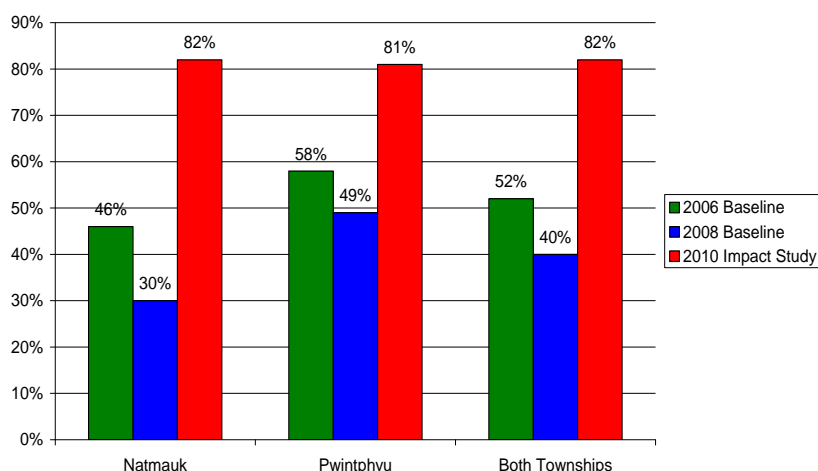
TB transmission by coughing and sneezing



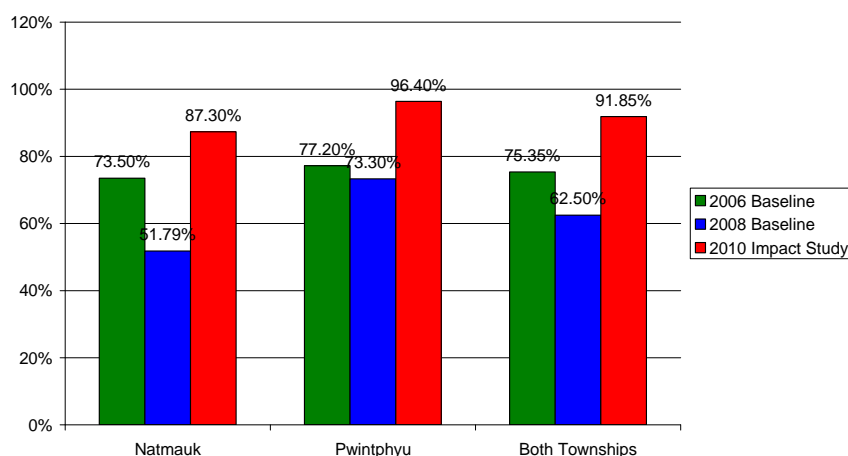
MRCS's headquarters staff visited Yebokegyi village in Pwint Phyu township and met with members of the village water committee and villagers to discuss the achievements and constraints of the project. The committee members appreciated the assistance of MRCS in providing safe drinking water supply. With the support of Red Cross and funds raised by the community, the committee has managed to supply water to 2,700 people every day.

An impact study of the community-based health project in Magway was carried out by an external consultant in December. The study results showed that the project had contributed to bringing about positive changes in people's behaviour and knowledge. A soft copy of the impact study is available upon request. *Some of the impact study results are presented in adjacent charts.*

Practice of Hand washing with soap after defecation



Knowledge on Ever heard of HIV



Malaria

A total of 320 Red Cross volunteers trained in malaria prevention conducted health education sessions on the use and care of mosquito nets for 16,000 households. Refresher training was also conducted for 170 community volunteers in three townships in September and October.

A total of 11,200 long-lasting impregnated nets (LLIN) and 15,000 insecticide tablets were distributed to at-risk people in Kachin, East Shan, Magway, Mandalay and Bago states/regions. The communities are located across 66 villages.

During beneficiary selections, priority was given to households with pregnant women and children under the age of five. A project staff member visited Minbu, Madaya, Zeegone and Mogaun townships in October to meet with members of township Red Cross branches, and discuss the malaria situation. He was informed that the number of malaria cases in the areas had dropped considerably compared with previous years.



Demonstration on the use and care of mosquito nets in Minbu township. (Photo: MRCS)

Myanmar is waiting for a grant from the Global Fund (to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria) in 2011. As part of a national anti-malaria programme, the MRCS's malaria project is expected to be supported by this grant from next year onwards.

HIV/AIDS

The HIV coordinator of the IFRC Southeast Asia regional office and the Chairperson of the Asian Red Cross Red Crescent AIDS Task Force (ART) visited Myanmar in February to facilitate a review workshop, in which a reporting and monitoring system was developed and a standard reporting format was finalized. The workshop recommended training for people living with HIV (PLHIV) self-help groups and home-based care groups. Following a joint workshop with the national AIDS programme in April, PLHIV self-help groups were established in three townships. In June a mid-term review workshop was held in Mandalay and was attended by IFRC delegates, MRCS staff, volunteers and PLHIV self-help groups.

Up to 18 trained Red Cross volunteers supported the project for HIV prevention outreach by conducting health education sessions for truck drivers. A total of 506 health education sessions were conducted for 10,135 beneficiaries. Condoms, IEC materials, posters, pamphlets and belts bearing the message “*Your choice is your life, use a condom*”, were distributed to truck drivers at highway bus and truck terminals. Out of 179 people who had been referred to the mobile voluntary counselling and confidential testing (VCCT) services provided at the terminals, seven cases were reported as positive.

A total of 15 Red Cross volunteers who were previously trained in home-based care and counselling in five townships made home visits to people living with HIV (PLHIVs) on a weekly basis, to provide care and nutritional and psychosocial support. During monthly PLHIV gatherings, 75 people received nutritional support through the project. Those who required opportunistic infections (OI) treatment were referred to professional medical services. In addition, eight families of deceased PLHIVs received funeral support. A total of 30 peer educators and 15 PLHIVs were also trained in basic home-based care and counselling.

Ceremonies were held at MRCS’s new headquarters in Naypyidaw and various townships on 4 December to celebrate World AIDS Day.

The project coordinator attended an ART meeting in Viet Nam, in August. Three project staff attended a HIV prevention, care and support workshop in Beijing in December.



Red Cross volunteers distribute TB care kits to beneficiaries. (Photo: MRCS)

Tuberculosis (TB)

Project staff held advocacy meetings with local authorities, health officials and community leaders. In collaboration with the national TB programme (NTP), MRCS trained 87 Red Cross volunteers in new case detections, referrals, care and support. Refresher training workshops were organized for 10 assistant field supervisors and 203 trained volunteers in eight townships. A multiplier training course was conducted for 40 community volunteers in one township. Health education sessions reached 160,280 people. Among 2,835 suspected cases referred to the NTP for diagnosis and treatment, 481 cases (17 per cent) were detected as TB positive. These cases received DOTS¹³

treatment and were observed by Red Cross volunteers. A total of 3,160 TB patients in 12 townships were supported with TB care kits, nutrient cereals, vitamins

and handkerchiefs. Thanks to the early detection and referral of suspected cases by Red Cross volunteers, patients were able to receive early treatment, thus avoiding further transmissions or infections. The provision of care and support with care kits, enabled TB patients to feel more confident and adhere to treatment.

Monthly volunteer meetings were held in every township to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experiences. The World TB Day was celebrated in 12 selected townships and other community-based health development project areas. TB care kits and multi-vitamins were donated to TB patients at the Aung San TB hospital and the New Yangon General hospital. The daily activities of Red Cross volunteers were monitored by assistant field supervisors.

The deputy head of health division of MRCS attended the Red Cross Red Crescent global TB technical working group meeting in March in Cape Town, South Africa, which standardized TB indicators and set them in line with the CBHFA programme. MRCS now uses agreed TB indicators. It also became a member of the central DOTS committee under the Ministry of Health.

¹³ Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS).

The deputy head of health and a project officer of MRCS attended a community-based directly observed treatment short-course (DOTS) meeting held by the national TB programme in Naypyidaw, in August. Issues raised at the meeting included how to reach vulnerable groups, the use of agreed indicators, incentives and how to standardize TB support.

Voluntary blood donation

With the active involvement of 117 Red Cross volunteers, MRCS recruited 202 Red Cross volunteers from Yangon, Mandalay and various universities and colleges – this effort has helped address the drop-out of blood donor recruiters. Mass blood donation events were held in colleges and universities throughout the country. A total of 1,900 units of blood were collected from colleges, universities and various townships. MRCS supported blood donor teams with transportation fees after the blood donation drives. In collaboration with the National Blood Bank, the MRCS's blood donor recruitment working group met six times to discuss issues related to regular blood donations and to conduct campaign activities.

A total of 400 new blood donors were recruited from universities and colleges and Red Cross branches. Red Cross blood recruiters formed a network with blood banks and prepared a donor calendar to facilitate blood donations. Certificates of honour signed by the MRCS president were presented to regular blood donors, along with donor pins and badges, in appreciation of their service.

Coordination meetings were held in March and April in Yangon and Mandalay. Two blood recruiter training workshops were conducted respectively in Mawlamyine, Mon state, in September, and in Naypyidaw, in November. A youth forum was also organized to attract potential blood donors.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, MRCS held ceremonies in June and December, to commemorate World Blood Donor Day and National Blood Donor Day respectively. Two MRCS health staff members attended a blood donor recruitment seminar in Japan in November, and two staff members participated in a regional blood donor meeting in Bangkok, in December.

First aid and safety

MRCS conducted two first aid instructor courses for 81 people in May and July in West Bago region and Mon state. It also held two first aid refresher courses in Mandalay and Yangon for 84 instructors from the upper and lower parts of Myanmar in July.

Two community-based first aid refresher courses for 81 CBFA instructors from upper and lower parts of Myanmar took place in Naypyidaw and Yangon in September. In an effort to strengthen their capacity after the refresher courses, the trained instructors conducted 17 multiplier refresher training sessions for 516 people in 10 states/regions. CBFA instructors conducted 171 multiplier courses for 5,166 community members (2,173 men and 2,993 women) to enable communities to respond to injuries and accidents.



Success story

This Red Cross volunteer (on the right) from Mon State stands hand-in-hand with the six-year old he saved from drowning in a river. Applying first aid skills learnt, he administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on the child, saving his life.
(Photo: MRCS)

A contest on first aid success stories was organized on 11 September, on the occasion of the World First Aid Day. Out of 23 competitors, five emerged as winners and were awarded prizes. The first aid and safety services unit also conducted commercial first aid courses for 4,981 people from non-governmental organizations and companies.

During their monitoring and evaluation trips to the Bago, Magway and Chin regions/states, MRCS staff met with local authorities and RCVs, and discussed issues related to the practice of first aid in daily lives. The positive feedback received was as follows:

- Training workshops were encouraged and supported by the township Red Cross branches and brigades, and coordinated with the local communities.
- Relationships between Red Cross volunteers and community volunteers improved

- The number of Red Cross volunteers and community volunteers increased to 1,722 and 3,444 respectively.
- Increased community recognition of MRCS and its activities
- Local authorities showed more interest in first aid training.
- A good representation of community members was seen among participants of multiplier workshops. This has enabled Red Cross branches to disseminate first aid messages to targeted communities more effectively.

Psychosocial support

MRCS has worked to integrate psychosocial support elements such as psychosocial first aid, worker support, stress and coping, and supportive communication into mainstream programmes such as health, disaster management and volunteer management. To sensitize selected middle managers and field-level 2iCs¹⁴ in this process and provide them with advocacy tools, MRCS organized an advocacy workshop in Yangon in August. The workshop enabled the 30 participants to develop a common understanding about psychosocial support, recognize psychosocial support needs, and also do some groundwork in developing strategies and guidelines to integrate psychosocial support within various projects or programmes such as life skills, public health in emergencies (PHiE) and TB in both Nargis and non-Nargis areas.

A total of 264 persons were given PSP support and 4,036 people benefited from school-based and community-based activities. Information, education and communication (IEC) materials were distributed to 58,800 people in areas affected by the Nargis and Giri cyclones.

In January-March, a survey was conducted in Yangon, Kungyangon, Labutta, Ngapudaw and Bogale townships in order to examine the relevance, effectiveness, sustainability and impact of the PSP project. The survey report is available upon request. The final findings of the survey included, among others:

- Psychosocial support activities were relevant, acceptable and satisfactory to the community.
- Beneficiary tensions and distress were reduced.
- Community members still showed signs of distress, although there has been improvements.
- Feelings of uncertainty, insecurity, somatic complaints and fear over their future were recorded.
- The staff and volunteers had provided high-level psychosocial support even though they had only attended a three-day PSP course.

A total of 32 people attended a psychosocial support training-of-trainers workshop in Naypyidaw in April. PSP training manuals and kits were also translated into the Myanmar language.

Constraints or challenges

The following challenges were encountered:

- Planned activities of PHiE, HIV and blood donor recruitment projects in 2011 are expected to be scaled down because of low-level funding. The uncertainty of these projects makes it difficult to recruit or retain Red Cross volunteers and staff.
- Some communities have been resistant to changing their behaviour because of their socio-economic conditions and traditional habits. In this regard, Red Cross branches with the support of volunteers, are strengthening their public awareness campaigns and health education sessions aimed at bringing about positive changes in vulnerable communities.
- TB patients in remote areas have had difficulty in accessing professional treatment because of travel distances. In response, MRCS is reconsidering travel allowances for Red Cross volunteers engaged in the TB project to enable them to provide support to TB patients living in remote areas.
- MRCS branches in states and regions have encountered some problems in getting working advances for first aid refresher courses and reporting on them to headquarters in time. As a measure to address this, the health and finance divisions are looking for ways to improve working advance flows to branches and their timely clearance.
- Some branches do not have sufficient training materials and some ethnic communities have had difficulty in understanding training manuals and materials printed in the Myanmar language. Accordingly, MRCS plans to provide its branches with more training materials and print some of them in ethnic languages.

¹⁴ 2 i-C: Second-in-command who is the manager of a township Red Cross Volunteer brigade.

Organizational development

Outcomes

MRCS is better structured and organized with more competent human resources at all levels for the efficient and effective delivery of community-based services to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in Myanmar.

Achievements

As highlighted in the programme updates, the year 2010 witnessed substantial changes and restructuring within the MRCS's organizational development (OD) division, which had immediate and positive impact on some components such as the establishment of a human resources unit under the administration department. Other components such as branch development required some 'tweaking' before an effective long-term structure emerged in late 2010. Overall, it was a year of transition which was not easy or without challenges for those involved. However, the MRCS leadership believes the organizational development division is now well set for its important role in the future. During this somewhat uncertain process, the IFRC country office endeavoured to support the development of harmonious relations between those in the organizational development and other departments, as well as a cooperative and coordinated approach towards the moving forward of the National Society. IFRC recognizes the demands placed on the National Society and continuously seeks to support internal dialogue and consensus building.

With the support of IFRC and Swedish Red Cross, MRCS developed a new Strategic Plan for 2011-2015 in October, which will chart its course for the next five years. IFRC will support MRCS with its implementation plans to turn its vision into reality.

MRCS established an income generation unit which, while only just established, was able to raise in excess of MMK 6,700,000 (some CHF 952,000) to support those affected by the devastating Cyclone Giri. It is currently setting up a water bottling and distribution business as part of its income generation efforts.

MRCS made progress in the transition of the Cyclone Nargis operation, especially in the area of assets and human resource management. The transition team comprising MRCS and IFRC staff coordinated and resolved key strategic and operational issues. This is an ongoing process with the transition team focusing on other topics in 2011.

With the support of IFRC, MRCS undertook a study visit to Nepal Red Cross Society in September. This trip had some immediate impact with information flowing directly into the revision of the *MRCS branch development model*. The IFRC country office, together with the IFRC Asia Pacific zone office, organized a planning, monitoring and evaluation workshop for 25 persons in Yangon in September. IFRC also supported MRCS in participating in key regional meetings.

Branch development

The 66th Central Council meeting of MRCS held in September set the 30-point minimum criteria for a Red Cross branch. The organizational development division (DOD) is assessing the existing branches based on the criteria and also working on a realistic branch development model.

It was challenging to achieve the expected results in the three targeted townships i.e. Pinyin in Mandalay Division; Hakha in Chin State; and Tabayin in Sagaing Division. Many of the planned activities were not undertaken and unfortunately those that had, were not carried out effectively enough, reducing their impact considerably. Out of six planned 2IC meetings, only three meetings took place in these townships. With the installation of telephones, communication improved between these branches and the headquarters and state/division branches. With the organizational development funding support, the Red Cross supervisory committees of the Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Magway and West Bago states/divisions organized G1 and 2IC meetings as planned and delivered their messages to 129 targeted township branches. Two meetings of branch representatives and G1 officers were held in March and July.

Four planned training workshops for branches regarding vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCAs), business analysis, monitoring and evaluation, and financial management could not be conducted because of delay in developing a relevant training curriculum. Due to a limited capacity of the DOD, the monitoring and evaluation support was provided to only three targeted township branches. DOD organized leadership training sessions for branch officers in December but some of the targeted branch officers could not attend it as their contracts were terminated prior to that.

With organizational development funding support, 12 state/division branches held ceremonies to celebrate the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day and used the occasion to better profile MRCS publicly.

In order to assist branches in their resource mobilization activities, DOD developed a template of income generation proposals and distributed it to all state/division branches.

A key issue identified in MRCS's Strategic Plan for 2011–2015 is the need to develop a sustainable branch platform from which to springboard community-based programmes. As MRCS has committed itself to a community-based approach for its future activities, there is some urgency to address the branch development strategy. IFRC believes that with greater engagement from the National Society, the IFRC's organizational development support can add significant value to MRCS's branch structure and outputs.

Legal base

The situation regarding the draft revision of the Red Cross Act remains unchanged. A final draft was agreed by the MRCS leadership and they are currently monitoring the situation to identify an appropriate time to seek formal approval from the Central Council and the country's Parliament. This is not expected to be resolved in the short term.

Red Cross youth and volunteers

The organizational development division supported a number of training sessions, workshops, coordination meetings, camps and advocacy sessions, as well as recognition ceremonies for outstanding volunteers. See *the programme updates for details*. For the last 12 months, the number of registered volunteers trained and available for immediate deployment during an emergency increased from 26,574 to 29,556 (or by 11 per cent). MRCS continues to update its volunteer database with necessary information about volunteer education, blood type, contact details, insurance, types and dates of training, experience, voluntary activity record, and type of recognition received from MRCS. According to the volunteer database, the gender balance is 40 per cent women which is higher than the targeted 30 per cent and shows how women volunteers are increasingly attracted to working with MRCS.

The information in the volunteer database was effectively used during the Cyclone Giri operation in identifying the appropriate volunteers with necessary skills for emergency deployment. The organizational development division selected, briefed and deployed three teams consisting of 158 trained volunteers in the immediate aftermath of the cyclone. The division requested the disaster management and health divisions to specify the skill sets needed for secondary volunteer deployment in order to ensure a match between needs and competency. It is worth noting that during the first weeks following Cyclone Giri, the UN system used the MRCS's assessment data provided by local volunteers and deployed headquarters staff as it was seen as the most credible source of information.

MRCS continued to support university-based Red Cross teams with the dual objectives of sensitizing the country's educated classes and supporting mass blood donations. This has been supported by providing a small amount of money for appreciation items and sweet drinks, following the blood donations. Currently, MRCS has Red Cross teams in 113 universities across 15 states/regions. The total number of reported blood donation units (500cc) was 1,900. The number of pledged blood donors (those donating blood at least two times per year) is 999. The Red Cross university teams played an important role in supplying mass blood to the hospitals supporting mobile units.

Financial management

The computerized accounting system established at the MRCS's hub offices in January enabled the improvement of the quality of financial reports from hubs and their compliance with the National Society's financial regulations and guidelines. The volume of working advances at hubs was reduced considerably as a result of the efforts of finance staff at all levels.

MRCS is in the process of developing a financial guideline for township branches with the support of IFRC's regional finance development delegate in order to support the community-based health and disaster risk management programmes in 2011.

Due to a number of factors including the demands of the Cyclone Nargis operation, MRCS was unable to enter their accounting data into the Peach Tree financial software system. Following this, IFRC supported MRCS to contract an external agency to enter accounting data for financial years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 into the system during the fourth quarter of 2010.

The plan to replace the accounting software at headquarters has been rescheduled for the last quarter of 2011 in response to the redefined finance development priorities, including the development of financial regulations for township branches, and a professional and orderly close to the Cyclone Nargis operation.

The Cyclone Giri operation placed an additional workload on the MRCS finance staff. However, there was no problem in the financial management of the Cyclone Giri operation thanks to the experience gained from the Cyclone Nargis operation.

A finance development review team from IFRC visited MRCS in 2010 to assess the impact of the society's finance development on beneficiaries during the last 10 years. MRCS arranged the external audit of its 2007-2008 financial year which had been delayed due to the Cyclone Nargis operation. The audit of the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 financial years is due in 2011.

Human resource development

Significant changes occurred in 2010, most notably the relocation of the human resources (HR) unit within the administration division and the appointment of a new HR administrator. In a comparatively short timeframe, the following was achieved:

- A filing system for personal data of all staff put in place with electronic and hard copies.
- A common salary scale approved and implemented for all employees.
- All staff contracts revised from a permanent contract to fixed-term renewable contracts, and all employees have their signed contracts.
- All staff job descriptions reviewed and finalized.
- Performance appraisal format approved, with 50 per cent of evaluations completed in mid-December.

The HR unit is working closely with the Nargis transition team. A proactive HR strategy was agreed between IFRC and MRCS, ensuring that each staff member will be encouraged to stay until the completion of their specific tasks in the operation. A good example of a practical contribution to MRCS is the HR transition plan for the Cyclone Nargis operation. Under this ongoing process, it was agreed that as the Nargis operation scales down, some 300 MRCS field staff will end their contracts. Staff will leave with letters of recommendation by MRCS, receive training in interview techniques, and be recognized during end-of-contract appreciation ceremonies. More than 100 staff left the employment of MRCS in December, and expressed satisfaction with their circumstances.

“The developments in HR are leading us to become a more consistent and professional National Society with increased harmony, motivation and accountability among our staff.”

Feedback from
MRCS President Dr Tha Hla Shwe

Coordination and cooperation

During the 2011 country planning process, the organizational development division coordinated multiple meetings with the health and disaster management divisions to ensure that organizational development activities are well-aligned to maximize the impact of the technical programmes. The organizational development team participated in monthly Nargis operation hub managers meetings to identify their challenges and provide solutions to branches and volunteers, such as volunteer life insurance, medical cost reimbursements, and volunteer replacements for field staff positions during the transition period.

Constraints or challenges

The ability for MRCS to concentrate on specific issues with clear focus, cooperate internally and reach consensus has been a challenge. Branch reporting is still a challenge although it's steadily improving. The frequent change of counterparts and the head of the organizational development division impacted the achievements of the organizational development programme. All activities under the area of organizational development require reflection and space for internal dialogue while planning the way forward.

Other challenges include a lack of clarity with government institutions following the election, the approaching end of the Nargis operation, and the relocation of the MRCS headquarters to the new capital, Naypyidaw. A number of key staff resigned from MRCS in recent months, including the head of the income generation unit, head of international relations, a branch development officer, and two health officers. The MRCS headquarters' move to the new capital significantly impacts the ability of IFRC staff to support their counterparts in the National Society.

As part of efforts to address these challenges, the organizational development division and the IFRC organizational development delegate have worked closely to agree on priority areas, revise plans of action and explore ways of improving reporting from branches. The IFRC country office supported MRCS in setting up a virtual private network in Naypyidaw to ensure regular internet communication between the two sides.

MRCS and IFRC are exploring various other ways to maintain close communication and coordination with each other while their offices are based in two different locations. They have also discussed and taken various measures to limit the number of MRCS staff resigning because of the move to Naypyidaw.

Humanitarian values

Outcomes

MRCS is able to proactively advocate for vulnerable people and mobilize adequate support to meet their needs.

Achievements

The humanitarian values programme was supported by both IFRC and other Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners including ICRC, Australian Red Cross and Danish Red Cross. In 2010, MRCS focused its support on the Cyclone Nargis-affected townships and the capacity building of the headquarters and selected township branches. The IFRC regional office in Bangkok provided technical support for a media package.

With the support of Australian Red Cross, MRCS extended its humanitarian values programme by including the restoring family links (RFL) services to improve the lives of communities affected by displacements. This humanitarian gap was identified by MRCS and formalized during the MRCS's strategic planning process.

Communication development

In collaboration with the disaster management division, the MRCS's communication division organized five communications workshops for 178 persons from the headquarters and 24 township branches, to improve communication at various levels, especially during emergencies. As a follow-up to these workshops, 44 participants wrote stories about Red Cross activities in their own areas and some of these stories were published in the *MRCS News Journal*.

MRCS published four issues of its *News Journal* in 2010 and distributed 4,500 copies of each issue. This journal served as a source of motivation for branches and volunteer communicators and proved helpful in introducing Red Cross activities to readers at home and abroad.

The communication division continued to update the website of MRCS which provides comprehensive information about its activities. More than 174 articles were posted there and the number of hits was recorded at 15,682 in 2010 as opposed to 6,785 in 2009. (Source: *StatCounter.com*)

The communication division supported the Cyclone Giri operation by deploying a reporting officer to the field immediately following the disaster in order to provide timely reports from affected areas. The division circulated situation reports and beneficiary feedback to the people concerned in MRCS as well as its partners and also posted them on the National Society's website. The website also acted as a fundraising tool with a donation button on the home page.

With a view to strengthening its work with the media, MRCS conducted a media dissemination workshop in Yangon in October. This was attended by 48 representatives from various media organizations including television stations, the Myanmar Music Association, film companies, 16 local newspapers and journals, and others. The workshop provided MRCS with privileged access to local media outlets, particularly during the Cyclone Giri operation.

The communication division provided information technology services for the National Society, as well as IT maintenance services to all hub offices in the Cyclone Nargis-affected areas. The IT team also undertook IT infrastructural work for the new building of the MRCS headquarters in Naypyidaw.

With the training of several communication officers at the headquarters, MRCS has improved the capacity of the communication division and its ability to achieve its programme objectives.

Dissemination

The MRCS's dissemination activities reached a total of 6,855 people, including Red Cross staff and volunteers at various levels, workers, students, military officers, local authorities, teachers and government officials. These dissemination activities were carried out in the form of workshops, integrated with Red Cross programmes and presentation on Red Cross activities during various events organized by other institutions or organizations. The topics of dissemination included the history and Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, the history, vision, mission and activities of MRCS, emblem use, the Code of Conduct, and International Humanitarian Law.

Dissemination activities have helped people and the authorities gain a better understanding of MRCS activities and contributed to facilitating these activities during emergencies. The increased public awareness of MRCS activities made it easier for the National Society to operate in affected areas during the recent Cyclone Giri operation and benefit from closer cooperation from the authorities concerned.

A clear example of the good reputation of MRCS is the arrangement by local authorities at their expense, for the transportation and deployment of 141 Red Cross volunteers from different states/regions to Cyclone Giri-affected areas and providing MRCS with unrestricted access to operational areas.

Constraints or challenges

The actual integration of communications into other Red Cross programmes remains somewhat challenging as some departments/divisions do not consider this an immediate priority. Taking the close collaboration with the disaster management division as a good example; however, the communication division is motivating other departments to follow suit.

With the planned completion of the Nargis operation in 2011, MRCS is faced with the challenge of maintaining the current communication structure and capacity in a normal funding environment. For the last two years, the humanitarian values programme received low funding. In this regard, MRCS and IFRC country office are working together to explore a new source of funding.

The relocation of key MRCS communication staff to Naypyidaw has impacted the ability of IFRC staff to provide close support to MRCS. Accordingly, MRCS and IFRC have made efforts to improve this situation by finding ways to engage in closer communication and by strengthening internet connectivity.

Working in partnership

MRCS and the IFRC country office maintained close coordination through daily, weekly and monthly meetings. With the support of IFRC, the National Society was better able to conduct inter-divisional IFRC/MRCS meetings as well as MRCS/IFRC/ICRC/partner national society coordination meetings. IFRC held the Movement coordination meetings on a monthly basis with the four in-country partner national societies and the ICRC. MRCS, IFRC, ICRC and in-country partner national societies also met on a regular basis to coordinate the Cyclone Giri relief operation.

MRCS, IFRC and Japanese Red Cross Society cooperated collectively in the implementation of the community-based first aid (CBFA) programme in Myanmar, in accordance with the tripartite cooperation agreement concluded in 2008. In April 2010, MRCS, IFRC and Austrian Red Cross signed a two-year cooperation agreement which stipulates their roles and responsibilities in implementing a water and sanitation project in Myanmar.

IFRC continued to provide standard services to the in-country delegations of Australian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross and French Red Cross, in accordance with the Administrative Service Agreements signed with them.

MRCS has important partnerships with the ICRC, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, and Burnet Institute, and has maintained close relationships with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Welfare and Resettlement, local authorities, and international and local non-governmental organizations. It is also a member of the national TB programme as well as a member of the national AIDS/malaria technical working group.

Contributing to longer-term impact

MRCS and IFRC are working closely together to make optimum use of the Cyclone Nargis operation, in the best interests of the National Society. Both parties are implementing a jointly-developed transition plan aimed at making MRCS stronger at the end of the operation. The experience and capacity building gained by MRCS staff in the course of developing an effective monitoring and evaluation system for the Nargis operation with the support of IFRC, were used in implementing the annual programmes. A good example of this strengthened capacity is the use of a monitoring and evaluation tool in the Cyclone Giri operation.

MRCS is being supported in a holistic review of its development through the integrated CBHFA approach, and through working together to address key issues raised during the Nargis transition. MRCS is also paying due attention to maintaining a good gender balance and diversity among staff, volunteers and beneficiaries. In the coming years, it will be encouraged to expand this to key decision-making positions as well, at the

governance and management levels. There will be support to address this while pursuing the revision of its statutes.

Looking ahead

MRCS stands at an important crossroads of its development. The two cyclone operations are due to be completed in the first half of 2011 and the National Society has a new strategy for 2011-2015. With the successful completion of the Nargis and Giri operations, MRCS is envisaged to have a better image and reputation in the country and to be in a better position to develop itself into a stronger National Society. Besides this, the revision of its legal base and its new strategy, will help strengthen its mandate within Myanmar society, and follow the clear directions set for its development and programming.

Despite these promising elements, however, MRCS is also faced with challenges such as ensuring a successful transition from the Nargis and Giri operations to country-wide annual programming, volunteer management, the development of an appropriate organizational structure, and, more importantly, to diversify its sources of funding. The constant shuttling of MRCS staff between Naypyidaw and Yangon may continue to impact the effective functioning of its departments, the smooth implementation of various programmes and the resignation of experienced staff, as well as the close coordination with Movement partners, for quite some time.

MRCS and IFRC will work together more closely in the months to come in order to make the best use of available opportunities in the best interests of the National Society's development and look for best solutions to its challenges. They will make joint efforts to incorporate community-based approaches in MRCS programmes and develop Red Cross branches through the implementation of community-based programmes.

How we work	
<p>All 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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises. 2. Enable healthy and safe living. 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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[<financial report below; click here to return to title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAMM002 - Myanmar

Annual Report 2010

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/1-2010/9998
Budget Timeframe	2010/1-2010/12
Appeal	MAAMM002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	1,198,125	587,747	396,306	56,065	149,629	2,387,872
B. Opening Balance	120,249	609,312	268,668	60,359	40,031	1,098,619
Income						
Cash contributions						
<i>Australian Red Cross (from Australian Government)</i>	92,092					92,092
<i>China Red Cross, Hong Kong branch</i>	100,339	-0				100,339
<i>European Commission - DG ECHO</i>	1,416,110					1,416,110
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>		21,591				21,591
<i>Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)</i>		122,347				122,347
<i>French Red Cross</i>	-40					-40
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>		55,104				55,104
<i>Netherlands Red Cross</i>			-199	-755	-239	-1,193
<i>Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)</i>	-487					-487
<i>New Zealand Red Cross</i>	-9					-9
<i>Other</i>	49	325	1,124			1,498
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>	195,648					195,648
<i>Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>	101,759	145,371	180,589	7,269		434,987
<i>Taiwan Red Cross Organisation</i>			2,182		83,718	85,899
C1. Cash contributions	1,905,462	344,737	183,696	6,513	83,479	2,523,887
Inkind Personnel						
<i>Other</i>					123,600	123,600
C3. Inkind Personnel					123,600	123,600
Other Income						
<i>Services Fees</i>					5,052	5,052
C4. Other Income					5,052	5,052
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	1,905,462	344,737	183,696	6,513	212,131	2,652,539
D. Total Funding = B + C	2,025,711	954,049	452,364	66,872	252,162	3,751,158
Appeal Coverage	169%	162%	114%	119%	169%	157%

II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	120,249	609,312	268,668	60,359	40,031	1,098,619
C. Income	1,905,462	344,737	183,696	6,513	212,131	2,652,539
E. Expenditure	-983,894	-535,734	-337,504	-54,095	-149,629	-2,060,856
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	1,041,816	418,316	114,860	12,777	102,533	1,690,302

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAMM002 - Myanmar

Annual Report 2010

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/1-2010/9998
Budget Timeframe	2010/1-2010/12
Appeal	MAAMM002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		1,198,125	587,747	396,306	56,065	149,629	2,387,872	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	382,291	240,738					240,738	141,554
Clothing & textiles	218,350	130,456	55,413				185,869	32,481
Food	2,596		4,370				4,370	-1,774
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	125,784	11,434	12,413				23,847	101,937
Medical & First Aid	97,610	50,105	36,956	2,044			89,106	8,504
Teaching Materials	3,016		1,016				1,016	2,000
Utensils & Tools	2,500	90,616					90,616	-88,116
Other Supplies & Services	2,989	82,096	11,031				93,127	-90,139
Total Relief items, Construction, Supplies	835,136	605,445	121,199	2,044			728,688	106,448
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Land & Buildings	7,267			7,267			7,267	0
Vehicles	7,866		8,938				8,938	-1,072
Computers & Telecom	7,925	2,868	3,153	4,711			10,732	-2,807
Office & Household Equipment	4,899			1,899	1,715		3,614	1,285
Others Machinery & Equipment		1,593					1,593	-1,593
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	27,957	4,461	12,091	13,877	1,715		32,143	-4,187
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	56,896	37,158	74	4			37,237	19,660
Distribution & Monitoring	30,538	19,087	3,541	12			22,640	7,898
Transport & Vehicle Costs	22,214		7,657	424			8,082	14,132
Logistics Services		2,846	1,741				4,587	-4,587
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	109,648	59,092	13,013	441			72,546	37,103
Personnel								
International Staff	414,240	38,367	865	124,339		146,299	309,870	104,370
National Staff	1,093	153	1,519	631	396		2,700	-1,607
National Society Staff	235,475	27,168	100,146	52,175	12,412		191,902	43,573
Volunteers		365	15,033	4,485			19,884	-19,884
Total Personnel	650,808	66,054	117,564	181,630	12,809	146,299	524,355	126,453
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Consultants	7,722	2,467	952	1,900			5,319	2,403
Professional Fees	8,000				789		789	7,211
Total Consultants & Professional Fees	15,722	2,467	952	1,900	789		6,108	9,614
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	431,020	50,744	189,178	58,175	5,105	405	303,607	127,413
Total Workshops & Training	431,020	50,744	189,178	58,175	5,105	405	303,607	127,413
General Expenditure								
Travel	57,432	2,342	8,428	13,237		395	24,402	33,030
Information & Public Relation	85,629	7,480	44,544	11,041	15,995	75	79,135	6,493
Office Costs	32,963	2,262	15,130	7,160	872	845	26,271	6,692
Communications	2,691	2,959	492	107			3,558	-866
Financial Charges	239	5,316	-99	63		21	5,301	-5,062
Other General Expenses	210		4	16			21	189
Total General Expenditure	179,164	20,359	68,501	31,624	16,867	1,336	138,687	40,476
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		112,894	-22,826	27,343	13,500		130,911	-130,911
Total Operational Provisions		112,894	-22,826	27,343	13,500		130,911	-130,911
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Service Support	138,417	60,387	32,789	20,470	3,310	1,589	118,545	19,873
Total Indirect Costs	138,417	60,387	32,789	20,470	3,310	1,589	118,545	19,873

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/1-2010/9998
Budget Timeframe	2010/1-2010/12
Appeal	MAAMM002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure						TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination			
A		B						A - B	
BUDGET (C)		1,198,125	587,747	396,306	56,065	149,629	2,387,872		
Pledge Specific Costs									
Earmarking Fee		1,292	1,973				3,265	-3,265	
Reporting Fees		700	1,300				2,000	-2,000	
Total Pledge Specific Costs		1,992	3,273				5,265	-5,265	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	2,387,872	983,894	535,734	337,504	54,095	149,629	2,060,856	327,016	
VARIANCE (C - D)		214,231	52,013	58,803	1,970	-0	327,016		