

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

MYANMAR: FLOODS

23 September 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

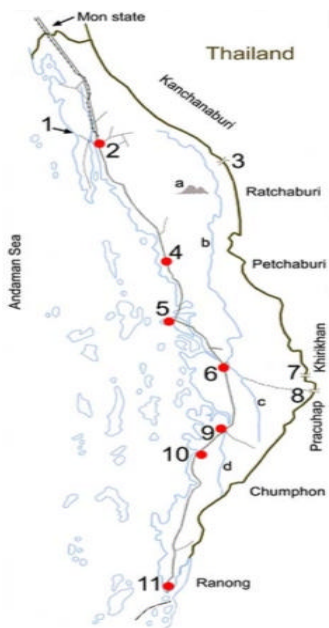
This Bulletin (no. 01/2005) is being issued for information only, and reflects the status of the situation and information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Yangon: Dr. Hla Myint, President of the Myanmar Red Cross Society; email: mrcshs-ec@redcross.org.mm; Phone: +95.1.383.681; Fax: +95.1.383.675
- In Yangon: Joanna MacLean, Head of Myanmar Delegation; e-mail: ifrcmm01@redcross.org.mm; Phone: +95.138.3686; Fax: +95.138.3682
- In Bangkok: Bekele Geleta, Head of Regional Delegation; email: ifrcrh23@ifrc.org; Phone: +66.2.640.8211; Fax: +66.2.640.8220
- In Geneva: Charles Evans or Sabine Feuglet, Southeast Asia Desk, Asia Pacific Department; email: charles.evans@ifrc.org or sabine.feuglet@ifrc.org; Phone: +41.22.730.4320/4349; Fax: +41.22.733.0395

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 \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>



A map of Thanintaryi division. Blue lines indicate areas affected by floods and landslides.

The Situation

Heavy monsoon rains which struck southern coastal areas in Myanmar during the second week of September have triggered landslides in the country's Thanintaryi division on 14 and 15 September, affecting the townships of Palow, Kyun Su and Myeik - a major urban section housing an airport. The flood-affected areas had already sustained damage from the tsunami of 26 December 2004.

According to the latest casualty figures, a total of 27 people have lost their lives, of which many are reported to be children, while 16 were injured. Assessments are ongoing to determine exact figures of the affected people and the extent of damage caused by the floods.

Additionally, on 18 September, an earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale struck the Saigang division of Myanmar. The earthquake, which occurred at 13:56 local time (07:26 GMT), was felt as far away as Bangladesh and India, and in the Chiang Mai province of Thailand. There have been no reports of damages or casualties from Homalin township, the town closest to the epicentre; it lies about 350 km from the capital, Yangon. As such, there has been no emergency response planned.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In response to the landslides, the MRCS chapter in Dawei at Thanintaryi division distributed family sets from its state warehouse to the landslide affected area from 19 to 20 September. Around 25 MRCS staff members and volunteers are currently working on the ground, assisting with the retrieval of the dead and gathering more information from the field.

The Myanmar Red Cross Society's (MRCS) State Disaster Assessment and Response Team (DART) assisted authorities with search and rescue activities, first aid and the provision of temporary shelter to affected individuals. The disaster has come only months after the national society conducted a DART training session in Myeik, Thanintaryi division, in May, critically testing the team's newly acquired skills. MRCS branches are on the front line, frequently responding to natural disasters such as fires and strong winds through the deployment of Red Cross volunteers and distributing relief items from pre-positioned relief stocks at its network of regional warehouses.

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