

2021



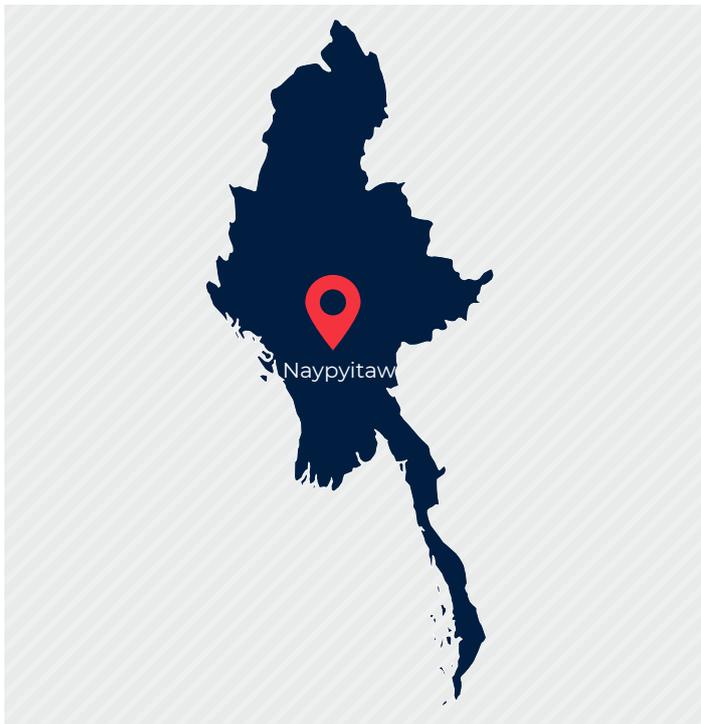
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MYANMAR

IFRC COUNTRY OFFICE

Appeal number
MAAM002

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
7.6 million



National
Society
Branches

330



National
Society
Staff

700



National
Society
Volunteers

44,000

This document details the IFRC's support in areas agreed upon with the relevant National Society. The IFRC seeks resources to carry out this country/cluster plan listed here as funding requirements.

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Population

52 million

2019 Human Development Index Ranking

145

Vulnerability to disasters



Violent conflict



Tropical storms



Poverty



Heatwaves



Earthquakes

Armed conflict, community violence and vulnerability to natural hazards and disasters drive many of the humanitarian needs. More than 985,000 people in Myanmar need humanitarian assistance. This figure includes 864,000 people with critical physical and mental well-being issues, and approximately 973,000 with urgent living standard problems.

Climate change also contributes to increased humanitarian needs. Cyclones, tropical storms and tsunamis, rainfall-induced flooding and landslides are typical in Myanmar. The country is also susceptible to heatwaves such as the one experienced in 2010, where 230 people lost their lives. Earthquakes frequently occur from January to July – the most extensive recording registered 5.3 on the Richter scale.

The most vulnerable people have inadequate housing, lack education and access to adequate health services and nutrition, and have no safe drinking water or sanitation. They are also affected by limited livelihoods, food and direct exposure to armed conflict. In towns directly affected by conflict, living standards are on average 23 per cent lower than in non-conflict affected areas. In states suffering from prolonged armed conflict, there are more than 112,000 displaced people.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many people to lose their means of making a living and has had a considerable impact on Myanmar's weak healthcare system.

Chronic poverty, gender disparities, erosion of social support networks, and underlying inequalities aggravate the situation and exacerbate the needs, vulnerabilities, and marginalisation of people in many parts of the country.

Taking into consideration the increased threat to livelihoods from natural disasters along with the socio-economic consequences of COVID-19, sustained investment in humanitarian programmes will be needed between 2020–2025 to reduce people's vulnerabilities and build community resilience to disasters.



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ROLE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY



Established

1939

The Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) is widely recognised as the largest humanitarian organisation in Myanmar, with access and reach to most vulnerable communities.

The National Society is consistently the first to respond to disasters and emergencies through its vast network of 330 branches with 44,000 active trained volunteers in communities across the country and mandated as auxiliary to the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The Myanmar National Society's new strategy 2021–2025 has the three following goals:

Build healthier and safer communities, reduce their vulnerabilities, and strengthen their resilience.

Promote understanding and respect for the Red Cross principles, humanitarian values, and international humanitarian law to promoting social cohesion and non-violence.

Strengthen understanding of the National Society's auxiliary role among the humanitarian sector by developing a strong, well-functioning and resourceful National Society.

As climate change is increasingly affecting the already disaster-prone country, a strong focus of the National Society is gearing up its efforts to reduce the risk of disasters through early warning and early action, while building capacities of its dedicated volunteers.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT FOOTPRINT

Movement coordination

Name of Partner National Society	Climate	Crises	Health	Migration	Inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
American Red Cross	✓	✓						
Finnish Red Cross	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Danish Red Cross	✓	✓	✓					
Noregian Red Cross	✓		✓			✓		
British Red Cross	✓	✓	✓	✓				
German Red Cross	✓	✓		✓	✓			
Turkish Red Cross	✓	✓	✓					
ICRC		✓	✓	✓	✓			

Movement footprint

To make a sustainable difference to vulnerable communities in Myanmar and to help them prepare for and recover from crises, the National Society partners with the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**, the **International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** and other National Societies.

The IFRC will support the Myanmar National Society to ensure that its operational plans align with the strategy for 2021–2025. The IFRC network will provide financial support from **Australian Red Cross**, **British Red Cross** and **Finnish Red Cross** and coordinating technical guidance. The IFRC will also support the National Society to organise regular coordination meetings and map the technical, financial, and human resources of other National Societies working with them.

Movement partners will be encouraged to collaborate with the National Society in Myanmar in response to disasters and crises through joint planning and reporting immediate emergency response plans and secondary impact response plans and action the sharing of data relevant to humanitarian response in crises.

The IFRC will support the Myanmar National Society to prepare for and respond to the humanitarian needs of people affected by disaster and crises to strengthen the resilience of their communities. Activities will include enhancing the systems and procedures of the National Society and coordinating support multilaterally with new and existing partners.

Activities will strengthen the National Society's countrywide branches, so they're able to respond to local needs quickly and at scale. The Movement members commit to prioritising people most in need – regardless of the difficulty in reaching them – and to strengthen the investment in the operational capacity of the National Society's staff and volunteers as frontline responders.



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CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

550,000

People to be reached

30,000

The Global Climate Risk Index (2020) lists Myanmar as one of the top three countries most affected by extreme weather events between 1999 to 2018.

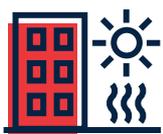
A recent study found that Myanmar's climate will shift dramatically in the coming decades. Temperatures will rise by 1.3–2.7 degrees centigrade by 2050. The eastern and northern hilly regions are likely to see the most dramatic warming, with temperatures rising as much as three degrees centigrade during the hot season. The country will have 4–17 days of extreme heat every month, in contrast to just one day a month between 1981–2010.

Myanmar also has five major fault lines, making it prone to earthquakes. The Mandalay Region is near one of the fault lines and this area has the highest population density.

The IFRC will support the National Society to take urgent action to adapt to the rising risks from climate and environmental crises, including to develop heat action plans that outline what to do before, during and after a heatwave; and implement early warning early action systems, which anticipate a disaster and take action before it happens, especially in urban areas.

The IFRC will also support the National Society to assess communities' vulnerabilities and their abilities to adapt, and lead community-based programmes aimed at protecting people's lives and property against disasters. Communities will be included in the assessments and encouraged to contribute their own insights, knowledge and ideas.

The IFRC will support the National Society to promote environmentally sustainable practices within communities such as reducing waste, reusing items and recycling. Also, the IFRC will support the National Society to increase their partners' and governments' ambition to amplify action against climate change, for example, through the Global Shelter Cluster. The cluster is a network of organisations, led by the IFRC, that provide shelter to people affected by a humanitarian disaster.

**4 – 17**

expected days of
extreme heat per
month

**1.3 – 2.7**

expected temperate
increase in degrees
centigrade by 2050

TARGET 1

Reach 30,000 people through heatwave early warning early action systems with a focus on urban areas.

TARGET 2

75% of operational plans and emergency appeals will be climate-smart.



EVOLVING CRISES AND DISASTERS

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
1.4 million

People to be reached
300,000



Myanmar is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. Every state and region in the country is susceptible to at least one hazard, and according to historical data, the likelihood for medium- to large-scale disasters every couple of years is high.

The worst disaster in Myanmar's history was Cyclone Nargis in 2008, which affected 2.4 million people and killed more than 138,000 people. It led to high levels of displacement as communities moved from Ayeyarwady to Yangon region.

To tackle the impact of disasters, the IFRC will support the National Society to increase its emergency response and preparation process. Also, the IFRC will support the National Society to build its capacity for creating risk profiles, that analyse past disasters to identify the most likely hazards in the future. Risk profiles play an important part in considering the existing vulnerabilities of people and communities that are the most likely to be affected by another disaster and measures that will reduce their exposure.

The IFRC will support the National Society to reinforce its partnerships with local authorities with an inclusive approach and strengthen communities to make them more resilient.

The IFRC will also support the National Society to exchange information with partners to understand best practice around forecast-based financing, which uses weather forecasts and risk analysis to predict and anticipate extreme weather. It also allows early access to humanitarian funding in preparation for disaster.

🎯 TARGET 1

200,000 people per year are supported to reduce and mitigate disaster risks, increase their community resilience, and prepare for response and recovery.

🎯 TARGET 2

100,000 people per year are provided with services and financial assistance and unconditional cash grants to most vulnerable households.



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GROWING GAPS IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
2.75 million

People to be reached
500,000



Myanmar has the second-highest rate of deaths in Southeast Asia due to complications from pregnancy or childbirth. The under-five mortality rate and the infant mortality rate are also the second-highest in the region.

The cases of HIV and tuberculosis (TB) are also very high, and tuberculosis is a leading killer of people aged 15–49. Migrants living in congested urban areas without proper amenities and sanitary facilities are even more susceptible. Preventing new HIV transmissions in high-risk groups is a crucial priority as the number of HIV infections is exceptionally high. Almost all adults in Myanmar are at risk of non-communicable disease (due to factors like smoking or alcohol consumption).

The most common sources of drinking water in Myanmar are tube wells or boreholes and protected wells. A lack of safe drinking water and knowledge of hygiene and sanitation perpetuate the cycle of disease and poverty. 40 per cent of people live in households, predominantly in rural areas, that depend on transported water that has higher risk of contamination.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made a major impact on the already weak healthcare system, and it has the potential to reverse the progress made on people's health and well-being.

The IFRC will support the National Society to strengthen the capacity of communities and their resilience to health, water and sanitation issues, by improving access to affordable, quality health services. It will expand its community-based health and resilience programmes and ensure that communities outside of the system are not excluded. Communities will be given support such as cash grants to recover from the effects of an emergency.

The IFRC will also support the National Society to have discussions with stakeholders in the government and local authorities to advise on national plans and policies related to public health and epidemic/pandemic response.

● TARGET 1

Reach 500,000 people per year with health services.

● TARGET 2

Provide 10,000 people every year with water, sanitation and hygiene services.

● TARGET 3

Immunise 10,000 people against Covid-19



MIGRATION AND IDENTITY

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

725,000

People to be reached

50,000



Millions of people move to or from Myanmar seeking opportunities for work, education and to be with family members. Conflict, violence, human rights abuses and the effects of disasters and climate change force others to flee their homes.

An estimated one in four people in Myanmar will migrate or be displaced during their lifetime. Currently, there are around 10 million people who have been displaced within Myanmar and more than 4.25 million migrants who have moved to different countries.

At the end of 2019, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) estimated that there are more than 273,000 internally displaced people across Myanmar, of whom 69 per cent are women and children. Most displaced people have moved because of long-running violence and conflicts between the Myanmar military and ethnic armed groups. Every year hundreds of thousands of people are displaced from their homes due to seasonal monsoon flooding, storms and cyclones.

Many people from Myanmar are victims of forced labour, forced marriage or sex trafficking, and 600,000 children are involved in hazardous work.

The IFRC will support the National Society to run community programmes to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants and displaced people, and it will strengthen its response to human trafficking. The National Society will introduce humanitarian service points along migratory routes and ensure assistance for host communities and migrants.

25%
people who migrate or are displaced

69%
Displaced people that are women or children

TARGET 1

Assess the needs of migrants and displaced people.

TARGET 2

Integrate migration and displacement into strategic planning.

TARGET 3

Reach 50,000 migrants and displaced people for assistance and protection per year.



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VALUES, POWER, AND INCLUSION

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
265,000

People to be reached
5,000



The IFRC will use robust, detailed and context analysis to allow it to have an accurate understanding of the vulnerabilities in Myanmar.

The IFRC will support the National Society to strengthen the active role of youth volunteers by empowering them to be leaders of change in their community. Building on the vast experience the National Society has of working with young people, its football youth and community development flagship programme will be scaled-up. The IFRC will support the National Society to partner with education authorities to teach schoolchildren first aid, how to reduce the damage caused by natural hazards and how to take action to counter climate change. These activities will promote and support more inclusive, diverse, equal and cohesive societies – and encourage others to follow this example.

Meeting immediate humanitarian needs will be the primary focus, as a part of a longer-term strategy in building resilient communities and a more robust National Society.

The IFRC will dedicate financial resources, skills and experiences to strengthen the Myanmar National Society's business systems and replicate successful programmes. The IFRC will support the National Society to run programmes that have a strong emphasis on principles and values, expanding and diversifying the National Society's volunteer base, investing in financial sustainability and engaging with donors on longer-term investment in its work.

The IFRC will also ensure that all the National Society's work pursues equality of power, opportunities and access to resources and services for all and will involve people affected by crises in decision-making.

🎯 TARGET 1

Reach 5,000 young people per year with skills- and values-based humanitarian education in a flagship programme.

🎯 TARGET 2

All emergency appeals will include the education community to support as part of early recovery.

🎯 TARGET 3

Reach 2,000 people per year with protection, gender and inclusion programming.



ENABLER 1

ENGAGED WITH RENEWED INFLUENCE, INNOVATIVE AND DIGITALLY TRANSFORMED WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

95,000

The IFRC will support the National Society to build its profile in Myanmar as a conscientious, neutral humanitarian and development actor. This profile and trust will enable the National Society to influence public behaviour so that people and communities take steps to safeguard their health and strengthen their resilience to crises. The National Society will launch a communications strategy and actively engage with local stakeholders.

The IFRC will also support the National Society to influence policy-makers within and outside Myanmar to adopt new or updated decisions, laws, policies and practices that champion the safety and well-being of vulnerable people. Besides, the IFRC will support the National Society to develop advocacy strategies for Myanmar that align with the IFRC's global strategy through transparent planning processes, monitoring, reporting and evaluations.

The IFRC will support the National Society to have a more significant impact and reach more people in need by sharing leadership responsibility so that people within their teams lead each other. In addition, the broader IFRC network will commit to accountability principles to ensure that all planning processes are transparent. It will monitor and evaluate activities to confirm they align with the National Society's goals.

Also, the IFRC will support the National Society to use innovative and transformative approaches to anticipate better, adapt to and change complex humanitarian challenges and opportunities. The IFRC will support leaders, in particular, to strive for innovation. It will support, fund and sustain IT services and skills to ensure the National Society can use digital tools and share information with other National Societies to meet its humanitarian goals.

ACTIVITIES

- Develop advocacy strategies aligned with global IFRC advocacy strategy.
- Allow budget to prioritise innovation in operational plans.
- Establish a communications strategy.
- Improve response planning, including a smoother transition from relief to recovery and using cash and voucher assistance.
- Provide support, tools, systems and resources that allow the National Society to experiment with new approaches to work.
- Put communities and volunteers at the centre of all digital transformation goals by creating digital volunteer platforms.



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ENABLER 2

ACCOUNTABLE WITH AN AGILE MANAGEMENT AND A RENEWED FINANCING MODEL WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

723,000

The IFRC will support the National Society to focus on quality in the delivery of services, by reviewing and improving its work and taking stronger actions to safeguard assets and manage financial resources efficiently. The National Society will prioritise policies, procedures, tools, and guidelines and work together as a united organisation with support from the IFRC network.

The IFRC will conduct an organisational assessment of gender and diversity to produce recommendations for the National Society. It will also provide staff with digital systems that integrate processes for organisation practices such as human resources and logistics.

As staff and volunteers need to work in complex and unstable environments, the IFRC will support the National Society to enhance its risk management practices, ensuring that it is compliant with rules and regulations and delivers on its duty of care to humanitarian workers.

The IFRC will ensure there is equality within gender and diversity at all levels, and zero tolerance on fraud and corruption, sexual harassment, exploitation or abuse.

The IFRC will support the National Society to find and apply for funding for its core humanitarian activities and to diversify its income bases. If the National Society can increase its financial resources in the form of unearmarked funding – which it can spend as and where it prioritises – it will be less dependent on programme funding. The IFRC will therefore support the National Society to develop multiple sustainable partnerships per year with different stakeholders (such as international financial institutions and within the private sector internationally) for the National Society's programmes. Activities will include securing funding only available to international organisations, piloting innovative and social financing partnerships, and digital global fundraising campaigns. These activities will contribute to the National Society's longer-term development and financial sustainability.

🎯 TARGET 1

Have access to 500,000 million Swiss francs of unearmarked funding per year.

🎯 TARGET 2

Train 21 staff on the mitigation of fraud and corruption, sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse.



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ENABLER 3

TRUSTED BY COMMUNITIES, OWNED AND VALUED BY THE MEMBERSHIP WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

1.085 million

Access to vulnerable people that need humanitarian aid is crucial, and it requires significant trust, so the IFRC will focus on greater localisation. The IFRC will support the National Society to empower communities to take part in decision-making that directly impacts them. By doing this, the National Society will also improve people's knowledge of the country's vulnerabilities and strategies to reduce risks. It will help the National Society to build trust with – and have access to – those communities.

The IFRC will also support the National Society to enhance its legal base and confirm that efficient systems and structures are in place. All of this will feed into a strategic development plan to increase the National Society's sustainability and its capacity to help people in the future. The IFRC will support the National Society to become the trusted partner of choice for local humanitarian action in Myanmar with capabilities to act in the global network.

The IFRC will provide the National Society with support on the adoption of guidelines and policies to prevent and address reputational issues and risks, such as fraud and corruption, discrimination, harassment and child safeguarding.

Another way the IFRC will support the National Society to develop is by prioritising the safety and security of staff and volunteers. It will support the National Society to allocate space for staff and volunteers' development, innovation and empower them to make contributions to the National Society's humanitarian programmes.

🎯 TARGET 1

At least one partner National Society will specialise in financial sustainability support for the National Society.

🎯 TARGET 2

Deliver annual training to at least 10% of Myanmar Country Office staff on approaches to coordinating with membership.

🎯 TARGET 3

IFRC will achieve 80% of actions in the Strengthening Movement Cooperation and Coordination 2.0 work plan to improve the capacity of the Movement to provide complementary responses to medium- and large-scale emergencies, assisting the National Society and reaching the affected communities.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

Contact Information

Joy Singhal

Head of Delegation

joy.singhal@ifrc.org

Country Delegation, Myanmar

Red Cross Building

42 Strand Road

Botataung Township

Yangon

Myanmar
