BACKGROUND

In recent history, Myanmar has undergone significant transition. From 2011, after years of conflict and isolation there is a transition from a military regime to a more democratic government. Additionally, there is also a transition to a more market oriented economy. A further social transition is underway as Myanmar emerges from decades of relative isolation from the global community. However significant humanitarian and development needs remain which are a factor of a complex combination of high vulnerability to natural disasters, health, food and nutrition insecurity, violence, inter-communal tensions, displacement and migration among others. The situation is worsened by chronic poverty and lack of access to basic services which results in increasing vulnerabilities, fragile communities, and protracted needs of affected people in many parts of the country.

The Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) is consistently first in responding to disasters, widely networked in communities across the country and mandated as auxiliary to the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. This acceleration plan outlines results that MRCS aims to achieve during 2019 with collaborative and technical support of the IFRC Myanmar Country Office. It also integrates the initiatives of the 2018–2019 MRCS Rakhine Community Resilience Programme. Overall, this plan contributes to
the achievement of the Myanmar Red Cross Strategic Framework 2020 and is aligned to certain elements of the Government of Myanmar’s Sustainable Development Plan (2018–2030). The goal is to strengthen community resilience and lessen dependence on humanitarian aid, building towards sustainable solutions.

This plan will be delivered through interventions across seven interrelated Areas of Focus and implemented with strategies of implementation that support development of the Myanmar National Society. Its fundamental objective is to strengthen MRCS as a national level institution with local branches and volunteers to deliver quality services and fulfill its mandate as auxiliary to the Government of Myanmar to deliver humanitarian services according to the Red Cross Principles and Values.

Through this plan IFRC will continue to support MRCS to prepare for and respond to humanitarian needs of populations affected by disasters and to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable people and communities. Efforts in 2019 will include a focus on enhancing the systems and procedures of the MRCS and coordinating support to MRCS multilaterally with new and existing partners including the American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Norwegian Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross.
AREA OF FOCUS

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
DRR

80,000
PEOPLE TO BE MADE RESILIENT AGAINST DISASTERS

AREA OF FOCUS

LIVELIHOODS AND
BASIC NEEDS

55,000
PEOPLE WILL GAIN LIVELIHOODS SUPPORT

AREA OF FOCUS

HEALTH

165,000
VULNERABLE PEOPLE’S HEALTH AND DIGNITY ARE IMPROVED THROUGH INCREASED ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE HEALTH SERVICES

AREA OF FOCUS

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

19,000
VULNERABLE PEOPLE HAVE INCREASED ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE AND SUSTAINABLE WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE SERVICES

AREA OF FOCUS

MIGRATION

22,000
PEOPLE ON THE MOVE WILL ACCESS VARIOUS SERVICES

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES
- ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT
- INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNER
- ENSURE A STRONG IFRC
AREA OF FOCUS

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Myanmar is vulnerable to a wide range of natural hazards and disasters caused by extreme weather events such as cyclones and floods. Being located on major fault lines, Myanmar is also exposed to earthquakes including the most inhabited and urban centers. The combination of natural hazards, protracted crises in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan, and intermittent civil unrest makes it one of the most vulnerable countries in the world. INFORM risk index identifies Myanmar the 12th country globally with the highest risk from humanitarian crises and disasters that could overwhelm national response capacity.

All disaster risk reduction efforts of MRCS are guided by its Strategy 2020 “Goal 1: Build healthier and safer communities, reduce vulnerabilities, and strengthen resilience” and its Resilience Strategy 2018–2030: Towards Resilience. The overall objective of the disaster risk reduction interventions is to strengthen the preparedness and anticipatory capacities of communities and local authorities so that they are in a better position to respond when a disaster occurs; to promote activities and actions that mitigate the adverse effects of hazards; and to protect and ensure sustainability of development gains.

The approach applied by IFRC and MRCS focuses on championing local expertise and knowledge in addressing, through community led action, the different impact shocks and stresses can have on diverse groups, taking into account gender, age and disability. In line with an integrated resilience-building approach reducing risks is also an aim of community-based programming with a primary focus on livelihoods, water and sanitation or health described in subsequent sections. The interventions are undertaken in close collaboration and cooperation with local authorities such as disaster management department and the department for meteorology and hydrology, community based organisations and agencies to harness their knowledge and connect them with vulnerable communities in areas of expertise that are outside MRCS core services.
In 2019, MRCS with IFRC’s support will continue and scale up risk and resilience interventions in urban contexts in Ayeyarwady Region focusing on two main work streams; multi-sectoral risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and institutional disaster response and preparedness in collaboration with local authorities. In Rakhine, Kachin and Shan attention will be given to community-led disaster risk reduction (DRR) and disaster preparedness interventions.

To further scale-up climate-smart, community-led urban and rural DRR action, learning from previous resilience-based programmes will be capitalized upon through evidence-based studies. In 2019, a study will be undertaken to assess the feasibility of Forecast-based Financing a mechanism that enables funding for early warning and early action based on in-depth forecast information and risk analysis.

1. Increase awareness and knowledge about disaster risks and climate risks through public campaigns
2. Undertake small scale mitigation measures based on community action plans that considers changing and new risks
3. Train and equip township and community disaster response teams and organize drills and simulations
4. Establish early warning early action systems and train volunteers as early warning agents
5. Support local authorities with the development and implementation of township disaster risk management plans

PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH PROGRAMMES ON DRR AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE 80,000
COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS THAT REDUCE DISASTER RISKS IN PLACE AND IMPLEMENTED 40
EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS IN PLACE LINKED TO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES 40

OUTCOME
COMMUNITIES IN HIGH RISK AREAS ARE PREPARED FOR AND ABLE TO RESPOND TO DISASTER AND CRISIS, ADOPT CLIMATE RISK INFORMED AND ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE VALUES AND PRACTICES
AREA OF FOCUS

LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS

Many people living in camps or camp-like situations remain dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs. For some, this is a result of continued restrictions on their freedom of movement while for others it relates largely to limited livelihoods opportunities. Long-standing conflict in Kachin and Shan, inter-communal tensions in Rakhine, and recurrent climate-related shocks continue to undermine the stability, sustainability of households’ sources of income and their physical and economic access to food and basic services.

Livelihoods is an integral part of MRCS’ community resilience programming and is essentially linked to multi-sectorial, community-led and community-based initiatives aimed at reducing vulnerabilities of targeted populations and increasing community resilience. The contexts of protracted crises require interventions with a strong nexus between development and humanitarian aid. Interventions will aim at complementing family income, reducing the use of negative coping mechanisms and increasing access to economic opportunities of communities and households. Interventions will provide job opportunities to promote self-reliance and reduce dependency on humanitarian assistance.

IFRC provides most relevant technical support to MRCS in the coordination and implementation of programmes that factor assessment and development for design and delivery of innovative, community driven livelihoods interventions. In 2019, IFRC will continue to accompany MRCS in implementing key livelihoods interventions in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan, predominately delivered through the provision of both unconditional and conditional cash grants to address basic needs and improve livelihoods opportunities among vulnerable households affected by violence and crisis. The “community cash grants” approach piloted in 2018 will be rolled-out in 2019 through village resilience committees that receive financial assistance to implement various micro-projects for resilience building. This approach places significant responsibility on the community in terms of quality, sustainability and overall management of the micro-project.
In all interventions, participatory community assessments will inform the most appropriate livelihood support for communities and people in need. Delivery of interventions will uphold a needs-based and do no harm approach, operating in a conflict-sensitive manner to address specific needs of all groups affected by natural and human induced disasters and will aim to strengthen resilience of affected communities and mitigate the effects of protracted crisis.

1. Provide conditional cash grants to most vulnerable people to restart and/or strengthen their livelihoods
2. Avail relevant and context adjusted inputs (in-kind or through cash-based interventions) to meet immediate food needs or contribute to protect or replace productive assets
3. Provide conditional cash grants for community led interventions
4. Increase economic opportunities and income through skills development and trainings
5. Capture and present best practices and case studies as advocacy tool for longer term livelihood support

PEOPLE STABILIZE THEIR NET INCOME THROUGH SKILLS-BUILDING, ASSETS IMPROVEMENT AND MICRO FINANCE SUPPORT

- 22,000

PEOPLE STRENGTHEN OR PROTECT THEIR LIVELIHOODS

- 24,000

PEOPLE REACHED WITH FOOD ASSISTANCE OR CASH FOR BASIC NEEDS

- 9,000

OUTCOME

COMMUNITIES IN DISASTER OR CRISIS AFFECTED AREAS RESTORE AND STRENGTHEN THEIR LIVELIHOODS
Insufficient adequately skilled health workers and high out-of-pocket expenses contribute to a weak health infrastructure in Myanmar. Nationwide data indicates hard to reach areas as well as areas with recurring conflicts score lowest in terms of access to basic health care services and having the highest disease burden. Myanmar’s Ministry of Health provides basic health care services through rural, sub-rural and urban health centres. Due to lack of resources and limited number of active trained community health workers, rural health centres are challenged in reaching the communities with promotive and preventive health activities. Trained MRCS volunteers can fill this gap by providing quality health information and basic health services, engaging communities to improve their health and wellbeing and providing support through referrals.

The overall aim of the health interventions is to strengthen the capacity of communities to address their needs of health, water and sanitation with support of trained staff and volunteers in collaboration with key stakeholders. In 2019 with technical support from the IFRC, MRCS will further scale-up its community-based health activities using Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA), MRCS’ flagship approach for health incorporating health in emergencies, epidemic control, maternal, child and adolescent health and nutrition. This is further strengthened by the MRCS Integrated Community Assessment for Building Resilience tool which guides multi-sectoral needs assessment that identify priorities in an inclusive and participatory way with a representation of vulnerable groups.

In 2019, this plan will continue to focus on effective services to vulnerable communities by Community-based Health and Resilience (CBHR) work. Evidence-based results and impact will be documented through evaluation and midterm review of the work in Kayah and Rakhine. CBHR interventions will expand to replicate and integrate water, sanitation and hygiene promotion components. This work will be guided by MRCS’ Health Strategy to be developed and rolled-out with the support from the IFRC. New interventions will expand the scope in maternal, child and adolescent health. It is expected to generate replicable best practices for MRCS to scale up its health programmes. IFRC will also support MRCS to work in partnership with communities and other organizations to: prepare, prevent and respond to outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics at a local level.
A pilot of unconditional cash transfers targeting breast-feeding and pregnant women was integrated into the health programme in 2018, and its impact will be assessed for possible replication in 2019.

1. Continue and scale up holistic community-based health programmes in Kayah and Rakhine

2. Continue to provide and scale-up basic health services through mobile clinics in Rakhine

3. Provide trainings and skills enhancement for volunteers and staff

4. Provide basic first aid trainings to community members as an entry point for engagement

5. Focus on epidemic control activities, including contingency planning

6. Undertake impact evaluations and look back studies to inform and improve programming

**Outcome**

_Vulnerable people’s health and dignity are improved through increased access to health services_

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People Reached</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Programmes and Services</td>
<td>91,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services to Reduce Relevant Health Risks</td>
<td>57,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Action Plans Developed to Address Identified Health Risks</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Health Clinic Services</td>
<td>33,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
AREA OF FOCUS
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

The most common sources of drinking water in Myanmar are tube wells or boreholes and protected wells. In the dry season, 9.7 million people rely upon unimproved water sources from ponds, rivers, and water delivered in trucks. Approximately 40 per cent of the population live in households that need to transport water from source; a predominant issue in rural areas that increases the risk of water contamination. The task of fetching water usually falls to the women and children.

Latrines are still uncommon in many rural areas, and knowledge of basic hygiene and sanitation is scant. Many people do not make a link between poor water quality and diseases such as diarrhoea, intestinal worms and skin diseases. Dirty hands and unsanitary waste disposal perpetuate the cycle of disease and poverty.

The overall aim of water and sanitation interventions are to increase the sustainable access to water, sanitation and hygiene knowledge for the people most in need both in areas of protracted crisis and in the dry zone during disasters and as part of long-term development programming. IFRC will focus its support on trainings for staff and volunteers in line with a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Competency Framework to be developed in 2019, provision of technical supervision, development of guidelines and standards and actively engage MRCS in national technical working groups. Using community-based approaches MRCS will continue to strengthen the sustainability of work on water systems and access to safe water in dry zone areas of Myanmar. IFRC will support MRCS’s updated hygiene promotion approaches that focus on water safety planning, menstrual hygiene management and, if needed, maintenance and/or rehabilitation of existing water schemes.
Strategic direction of Emergency WASH will be taken up as a key agenda to consolidate approaches to response, focusing on locally managed small-scale emergencies. Following assessment of MRCS’ capacity for emergency response in terms of human resources and equipment, activities involve developing a WASH in emergencies guideline and training curriculum based on the WASH Competency Framework, and adaption of hygiene promotion, menstrual hygiene management in emergency modules. IFRC will support MRCS in liaison with national government and attendance in thematic working groups. MRCS is increasingly engaging local and regional government in development projects though utilization of government specialist equipment and utilization of expertise during monitoring and evaluation.

Institutional capacity of the MRCS WASH Unit will be built in dissemination of the newly completed Menstrual Hygiene Management toolkit, completion of MRCS standardized drawings with gender and diversity considerations and development of any related WASH guidelines. Moreover, IFRC will use its wide network and pool of expertise to support MRCS capacity in specific thematic topics and peer-to-peer initiatives as a way of learning and sharing the experience and knowledge.

1. Provide communities sustainable access to safe water including the development of water safety plans

2. Conduct hygiene promotion campaigns in schools and communities including menstrual hygiene management

3. Contextualise menstrual hygiene management in emergencies

4. Develop guidelines on water, sanitation and hygiene in emergencies

5. Undertake end line surveys to measure impact

HOUSEHOLDS PROVIDED WITH IMPROVED ACCESS TO SAFE WATER AND KNOWLEDGE TO IMPROVED EXCRETA DISPOSAL

3,000

HOUSEHOLDS REACHED WITH KEY MESSAGES TO PROMOTE PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY HYGIENE

4,000

OUTCOME VULNERABLE PEOPLE HAVE INCREASED ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE AND SUSTAINABLE WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE SERVICES
Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) is IFRC’s cross cutting approach to ensure the dignity, access, participation and safety for all individuals across all activities and programming. It is based on a thorough and ongoing analysis of how people’s gender, disability, age and other diversity factors affect their vulnerability to harm before, during and after a disaster.

Building on the work done in gender and diversity mainstreaming in 2018, the common thread of all the work planned in 2019 is especially focused at engaging with those people who face risks of marginalisation, inequality and violence through addressing issues of exclusion, discrimination and inequity through:

1. Greater emphasis on stand-alone protection areas including anti-trafficking assessments, piloting projects to protect adolescent girls on the move from sexual gender-based violence and upholding of sexual and reproductive health rights and services during emergencies. In complex humanitarian settings, IFRC is aiming to increase local capacities to implement community-based protection assessments to identify context specific protection concerns, risks and needs of girls, boys, women and men and analyse its intersection with other diversity conditions.
2. Inclusive and protective disaster response operations based on a gender and diversity analysis. IFRC’s revised Minimum Standard Commitments to Protection, Gender and Inclusion in Emergency Programming which includes establishing and strengthening referral pathways and ensuring access to multi-sector response services will be disseminated and integrated into trainings for surge capacity as well as PGI integration in emergencies.

3. Encouraging local, evidence-based solutions using research and best practice approaches to advance gender equality and inclusion within the protection framework. Inclusion of people with disabilities as well as sexual and gender minorities in all aspects of our programmes remains a priority and an imperative for the region.

4. Improvements in Sex, Age and Disability Disaggregated data collection and analysis through existing data collection mechanisms, enabling research and new learning content and tools needed for staff and volunteers to specifically address inclusion of people with disabilities and gender and sexual minorities in the different settings where we are operating.

MRCS is guided by its Gender Policy to mainstream themes of PGI into its organizational structure and operations. The MRCS Gender and Diversity focal point will be supported to develop and roll out a Gender and Diversity Policy implementation plan. Opportunities will be sought to support expansions of child protection programming; and while doing so, support the dissemination of the MRCS Child Protection Policy in collaboration with the MRCS human resources department.

In addition, IFRC will continue to promote importance of regular collaboration and coordination with other national and international agencies and key coordination mechanisms, most importantly with the national and state level gender-based violence sub-clusters led by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Collaboration and coordination with the sub-cluster will be particularly emphasized in the event sexual gender-based violence trainings are conducted.

OUTCOME

COMMUNITIES BECOME MORE PEACEFUL, SAFE AND INCLUSIVE THROUGH MEETING THE NEEDS AND RIGHTS OF THE MOST VULNERABLE
Migration and displacement within, from and to Myanmar is linked to complex and often critical drivers of movement. Myanmar is the largest country of origin for migrants in the Greater Mekong Sub-region and there are an estimated 4.25 million Myanmar nationals living abroad. However, this number is likely to be considerably higher, as many irregular or undocumented migrants are not accounted for. Drivers of regional migration include livelihoods with higher wages in neighbouring countries, as well as migration and displacement due to conflict and violence, environmental degradation and disasters, among other factors.

Following an outbreak of violence in August 2017, more than 700,000 have fled Rakhine State across the border to Cox’s Bazaar, Bangladesh. This large-scale displacement has created one of the most challenging and complex emergencies in the Asia Pacific region in decades.

The overarching aim of MRCS migration and displacement actions is to support the needs of migrants and their families and those assisting migrants at all stages of migration (origin, transit and destination). MRCS in this work seeks to apply a mainstreaming approach and integrate migration and displacement concerns in its programmes and operations for example by adjusting livelihoods assistance for the context and situation of displacement.
In 2019, IFRC will continue to provide technical support to advance MRCS capacity in meeting the humanitarian needs of displaced and vulnerable migrant groups in Myanmar. An analysis “Addressing humanitarian needs in the context of migration and displacement - the role of MRCS” and resulting 10-point Plan of Action provide a platform for MRCS leadership, operational staff and volunteers to strengthen the engagement in different forms of migration and displacement within, from and to Myanmar, and increase the conception of current and emerging humanitarian trends, dynamics and challenges related to migration and displacement.

With the technical support from IFRC, MRCS will formulate a strategic approach in undertaking assistance, protection and humanitarian diplomacy in the context of migration and displacement. This work will also build on the Migration and Displacement policy guidelines developed in 2017 addressing how MRCS works with internally displaced persons (IDP), refugees, migrants and other groups on the move. The policy outlines minimum requirements agreed by MRCS and in-country partners to guide the types of assistance to be provided for either return, integration or resettlement of IDPs and returnees. All initiatives will align with the overall MRCS 2018–2030 Resilience Framework to “mainstream” migration and displacement concerns through existing programming.

1. Develop MRCS migration and displacement training programme
2. Undertake field-based needs assessments in priority contexts
3. Develop MRCS Policy on migration and displacement
4. Engage in national and regional/state level multiagency and government dialogues
5. Prepare Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on Migration and Displacement

OUTCOME

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SERVICES FOR MIGRATION

22,000

COMMUNITIES SUPPORT THE NEEDS OF MIGRANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND THOSE ASSISTING MIGRANTS AT ALL STAGES OF MIGRATION (ORIGIN, TRANSIT, DESTINATION)
STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES

Overall IFRC’s strategy of supporting MRCS will be to have strong systems, processes and capacities to manage risk and strengthen resilience of vulnerable and fragile communities and this will be deeply embedded in all the programmes and investments. IFRC will continuously use robust, detailed, and continual context analysis to enable a more accurate, nuanced, and context-specific understanding of vulnerability. It will manage risk through achieving very-high standards of analysis which innovate and creatively address both the causes and consequences of vulnerability and fragility. IFRC plans to dedicate financial resources, skills, and experience over a sufficiently long timeframe and invest limited financial resources strategically into strengthening MRCS institutional systems and enabling scale-up and replication of successful programmes for greater impact of our work with vulnerable and fragile communities. This will include a strong emphasis on programme skills, principles and values of human resources, expanding and diversifying Red Cross volunteer base, investment in financial sustainability and engaging with donors on flexible, predictable and longer term investment in our work. Overall, our humanitarian work, however focused on meeting immediate needs, will be a part of a longer-term change process resulting in resilient communities and a stronger MRCS.

At the heart of all MRCS humanitarian actions are the services of its 44,000 volunteers. An essential component of IFRC’s work is to continue to support efforts that strengthen all aspects of youth and volunteering including inspiring and investing in innovative volunteer and youth actions, and achieving a diverse representation of volunteers in leadership and governance with a particular focus on youth.
Based on IFRC's National Society Development Framework, focus will be on:

1. **Strengthening the areas of foundation and institutional legal base, finance and resource mobilization** to expand and diversify income streams to sustain MRCS' core structures. IFRC will work with partners to increase MRCS' capacity to create adaptive and innovative resource mobilisation initiatives and to generate diversified resources for enhanced financial sustainability and stability. This includes formation of formal partnerships, community of practice and social entrepreneurship that optimise resource mobilisation potential.

2. **Strengthening MRCS’ disaster preparedness and response capacities at local and national level to saving lives, protecting livelihoods, and strengthening recovery.** This includes training and equipping National Disaster Response Teams and Township Emergency Response Teams. The Standard Operating Procedures for disaster response will be further contextualized and disseminated at State, Region and Township levels. Emphasis will be placed on strengthening Community Engagement and Accountability and institutionalizing cash-based interventions in humanitarian response. The work will be guided by the 2018 revised Disaster Management Policy and the Preparedness for Effective Response assessment.

3. **Evidence based research** to support strong planning, monitoring, accountability and learning across the programme cycle.

4. **Logistics focusing on warehousing, fleet management, procurement,** maintaining a critical number of well-prepared logistic staff as well as expanding and strengthening warehouse capacity and management.

5. **Additional support to branches in terms of human, financial and technological resources and systems to make way for decentralization** that gives branches greater decision-making power, responsibility and accountability for their services to diverse groups of people. This contributes directly to localization, with the branches at the forefront of resilience building and humanitarian action in collaboration with other local actors.

Overall, the National Society Development actions will aim at positioning MRCS as a stronger, relevant and credible institution with well-functioning systems, processes, competencies and financial foundation for delivering needs-based services to the most vulnerable people according to its principles and values.
ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT

In 2019, the Myanmar Country Office will continue to support and coordinate Red Cross Movement partners’ technical expertise for MRCS to strengthen its readiness to situations of disaster, disease and displacement and building upon a ‘Preparedness for Effective Response’ assessment in 2018. In social readiness, MRCS will continue to maintain readiness and agility to respond to displacement and population movement resulting from situations of violence, as well as preparedness to provide humanitarian aid to returnees in line with its fundamental principles and international standards. Building on the work and trainings in 2018 in community-based surveillance for disease outbreaks, MRCS and IFRC will continue the collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Sports in defining the role of MRCS and the Red Cross Movement in case of disease outbreaks. The feasibility for integration of Forecast-based Financing into MRCS response readiness will be further explored in terms of the MRCS emergency relief fund and in-country funding mechanisms for disaster response.

In case of disaster(s) requiring support through the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) and emergency appeals, the Country Office in Myanmar shall ensure effective and coordinated international disaster response within the framework of Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation and according to the Global Emergency Response Framework. This includes ensuring office readiness to support response to disasters, compliance with the Red Cross Red Crescent Principles and Rules of Humanitarian Assistance, strengthening MRCS institutional preparedness, the quality of assessment and reporting in emergencies, community engagement and accountability in emergencies, through joint coordination tools and mechanisms and by supporting coordination with relevant government agencies and other humanitarian actors in-country.

In its role as convener of the Shelter Cluster in disasters caused by natural hazards, IFRC will mobilize and deploy surge capacity from its global shelter cluster during emergency responses based on request.

1. Develop multi-hazard contingency plans and pre-disaster agreements
2. Provide technical support for the revision and roll-out of trainings for MRCS national disaster response teams and specialised emergency response teams
3. Enhance collection, management and analysis of data and systems, digitalise multi-sectoral disaster needs and gaps assessments, increase the application of mobile technology

340,000 SWISS FRANCS Sought
4. Enhance readiness for cash-based interventions and assistance during disasters

5. Strengthen MRCS’ logistics capacity and readiness to provide relief assistance to families in case of disaster.

In October 2018, MRCS launched the Myanmar Coalition for Resilience as a partnership platform symbolising resilience as a sunflower. Through the One Billion Coalition for Resilience, MRCS encourages its partners; private sector, government, institutional partners, civil society organizations, and private individuals alike, to contribute to improving the resilience of five million people in Myanmar by 2025. In particular, MRCS will form collaborations and partnerships with schools and academia to scale-up and reach the resilience coalition targets. IFRC will support MRCS’ comprehensive engagement with youth and children in Myanmar to become more resilient at school and at home through Youth in School Safety, sports and various Red Cross activities. In this regard, IFRC will support MRCS to build alliances and networks that contribute to its goal and to establish mechanisms to monitor and measure resilience building contributions.

In 2019 the IFRC will seek to replicate and expand the programmatic reach in protracted crisis building on learnings from the resilience programme in Rakhine. Importantly, in parallel with service delivery to vulnerable people, the interventions will strengthen MRCS branch structures, youth and volunteers as the primary agents delivering services to people and communities both in terms of longer term development as well as in disaster response.

The priority for IFRC is to identify and generate long-term predictable funding that enables a steady capacity strengthening of MRCS systems and structures including decentralisation, empowerment and strong leadership of local branches.

In 2019, IFRC and MRCS will engage in the revision of Myanmar’s Disaster Management Law, based on the International Disaster Response Law research undertaken in partnership with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and
Resettlement. Support will be provided to MRCS to enhance its legislative advocacy capacity to confidently and systematically engage in the disaster risk management policy dialogue at national, regional and global level.

1. Replicate and scale-up support for resilience programmes in protracted crises
2. Broker alliances and partnerships between MRCS and stakeholders that promote effective service delivery and innovation
3. Provide technical inputs to the National Disaster Law revision process and its elements of International Disaster Response Law

OUTCOME

THE PROGRAMMATIC REACH OF MRCS AND IFRC IS EXPANDED

STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

ENSURE A STRONG IFRC

IFRC will reinforce its institutional commitment to:

1. Compliance with highest accountability standards to all relevant stakeholders through a wide-scoped framework and tools that include code of conduct, principle and rules for humanitarian assistance, audited reports of expenditures and a wide-ranging monitoring and evaluation methodologies.
2. Amenability to key management performance indicators, a results-based approach for all work outlined in long-term plans and emergency operations. All activities via IFRC are monitored through a detailed measurement system with indicators at different levels to track performance.
3. Full adherence to IFRC’s Fraud and Corruption Prevention and Control policy and facilitate effective risk management and the development of a culture of transparency as part of a robust framework that contributes to sound management practices.
4. Strict concession to IFRC’s Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse policy that ensures every necessary step is taken to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse by IFRC Personnel and to respond adequately to those incidents it cannot prevent. The policy prioritises the well-being of the survivor and accountability and integrity of IFRC’s engagement with members of local communities.
5. Highest commitment to ensuring a safe working environment and effective human resource management towards greater diversity and gender equality

All IFRC supported programmes will follow the IFRC and MRCS planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) processes, technical programme guidelines and frameworks, and financial and procurement policies ensuring accountable and cost-effective programme delivery. Staffing capacity in PMER will be increased to provide regular support to MRCS for strengthening
programming quality and reporting. The IFRC Myanmar Country Office technical resources will be encouraged to engage and contribute to regional and cross-country technical forums for programme design, workshops facilitation and trainings.

1. Ensure 100% compliance among staff for policies and guidelines
2. Systematically measure impact and track performance in line with IFRC guidelines and procedures
3. Trainings for staff in financial systems and procedures and implementation of internal audit recommendations.
4. Roll-out and trainings of MRCS fraud and corruption policy.
Contact information of the IFRC Country office, for partners who wish to find out more

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