

Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Myanmar: Floods

DREF Operation n° MDRMM007	Glide n° FL-2016-00058-MMR
Date of issue: 18 August 2016	Date of disaster: 6 August 2016
Operation manager: Jesper Fridolf, operations manager, IFRC Myanmar country office	Expected end date: 30 November 2016 (3 months)
DREF allocated: CHF 317,098	
Number of people affected: 377,000	Number of people to be assisted: 50,000 (10,000 families)
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS): 30,000 active volunteers, 321 staff, 334 branches	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation (if available and relevant): IFRC, ICRC, Danish Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: UN OCHA, Save the Children, WFP, government departments of Relief and Resettlement Department, General Administration Department	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Though the monsoon started in early June 2016, the later floods brought by monsoon rains that have been pounding parts of Myanmar since late July have affected a number of townships in Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawaddy, Magway and Yangon region and to some extent, Kachin State. According to the figures released by the Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) on 9 August, at least 377,000 people have been displaced from their homes in the six states with Magway being the most affected area – where some 60,000 people have been displaced. Five people have died – two in Sagaing, two in Kachin and one in Yangon. Many schools remain closed across affected areas. Flood waters are gradually moving south towards the Ayeyarwady Delta. Monsoon conditions persist and is moderate to strong over the Andaman sea and the Bay of Bengal, threatening further rainfall.

State and local governments are leading the response, sandbagging vulnerable areas along river banks and providing food, water, relief items, cash and some construction materials to affected people. The Emergency Operations Centre has not been activated at this stage and the response is mostly being managed at the State/Regional level using existing resources. The government is coordinating with the Red Cross and civil society organizations which are providing relief supplies including food, water and oral rehydration salts, as well as assistance with evacuations.

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology has indicated that the swelling of rivers in upper Myanmar comes as the country enters what could be the peak month of the monsoon season.

Summary of situation released by the Relief and Resettlement Department in Nay Pyi Taw on 9 August

No	Affected State/Region	Affected			Houses Washed away	Displaced		Death
		HH	Family	Population		HH	Population	
1	Sagaing	6,262	6,289	27,665	0	6,262	27,665	2
2	Kachin	169	169	811	0	169	811	2
3	Mandalay	17,676	18,396	77,575	0	17,676	77,575	0
4	Magway	46,279	49,404	204,156	0	46,279	204,156	0
5	Ayeyawaddy	7,419	7,395	26,159	5	7,414	26,159	0
6	Bago	10,697	10,697	39,310	121	10,576	39,310	0
7	Mon	40	40	185	0	40	185	0
8	Yangon	515	515	1,806	0	515	1,806	1
Total		89,057	92,905	377,667	126	88,931	377,667	5

Note – the situation is dynamic, and information from some areas remains scarce, so it is expected that these numbers may change.

Summary of the current response

Local authorities on state and regional level, the Union Government, as well as the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) and local civil society organizations have responded to the situation, carrying out rescue operations and providing food, water, blankets, clothes, medical care and other basic necessities to those affected. Populations have evacuated to higher ground and to temporary sites, including monasteries and schools.

MRCS volunteers in branches throughout the affected areas have been active and prepared to respond since the beginning of the disaster. The emergency response teams (ERTs) and the national disaster response teams (NDRTs) as well as emergency community volunteers were mobilized. They assisted in the evacuation of affected households to temporary sites and higher ground, in conjunction with local authorities and RRD. Warehouse preposition stock was checked (current stock so far: hygiene parcel – 473, jerry can – 196, drinking water (water bottle 1 liter) – 7,800, water purifier – 24,480 etc.). MRCS has launched its operational response plan aiming to cover five regions (Yangon may be included at a later stage upon further assessment) with 21 townships. MRCS is aiming to support up to 20 per cent of the affected population. However, the impact of subsequent rainfalls in the coming weeks may demand a greater response beyond MRCS's capacity. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), on behalf of the MRCS, has requested for an initial support from the IFRC's disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) to complement the MRCS current response plan to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of the affected population.

The MRCS Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) was activated for this response on 6 August, together with the Standard Operating Procedures for floods situations. The Emergency Task Force had its first meeting on 7 August to plan for the response. MRCS staff – from multiple departments but coordinated by the DM department - are working from the EOC in national headquarters (NHQ) in Yangon, supported by the IFRC country office. The EOC is not 24 hours operational but members of the Operation Response Team (ORT) and volunteers in Yangon are on shifts to coordinate information and response actions.

MRCS EOC is also keeping regular communication with government staff that normally belongs to the National EOC to ensure updated information. MRCS and IFRC are closely coordinating efforts with local authorities (especially RRD), UNOCHA and other UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations in the affected townships and at Yangon level.

Movement Coordination

A Movement coordination meeting had been organized on 8 August, and daily updates provided to the Movement partners.

MRCS and IFRC have worked jointly to assess the data that has come in and based on this, developed this operational plan. So far, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is indirectly supporting through the organizational development (OD) department with visibility material for volunteers and other contributions. They are standing by ready to discuss special requests and provide (RFL) disaster tracing support. In the case of expansion into States and Regions where they have an operational presence, further support and joint operations are foreseen. Partner National Societies (PNS) present in Myanmar are also invited to further support the MRCS response plan with funds and their existing capacity in Myanmar. The overall MRCS response plan including bilateral support will be drafted and made available at a later date. DRC has already committed USD 10,000 in support of the MRCS operation as has the Qatar Red Crescent.

Coordination with other stakeholders

MRCS and IFRC have been regularly sharing information and updates with RRD and UNOCHA. UNOCHA confirmed that they will be considering the MRCS data while triangulating figures of affected and needs. At the township and state level, MRCS is regularly working in coordination with the local authorities especially General Administration Department (GAD). At the same time, MRCS has been receiving updates from OCHA and RRD. The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) has been sharing regular weather updates with MRCS. IFRC regularly attends the meetings of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in Myanmar. As government has not requested any assistance for INGOs and hardly any assistance from UN agencies, the risk of duplication is minimal. WFP will do some food distribution and UNICEF some assessment.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

As per assessment information, approximately 377,000 people have been affected by flash floods, flooding and landslides in several parts of Myanmar. The most urgent needs identified relate to the displacement of people in temporary shelters, such as food, hygiene items, clean drinking water and other basic assistance. As the rains continue there is a risk that people will be in these temporary evacuation centres until the water subsides.

Last year in Ayeyawaddy one community intervention aimed at improving the villages resilience to flood meant that an evacuation centre was constructed. This was used this year as a temporary evacuation centre.

Contamination of water sources; hand pumps, wells and ponds; is also an issue in many places. Water purification tablets will be required, and it is possible that emergency provision of water will be required in selected locations.

In flood disasters, there are issues of poor sanitation and overcrowding in displacement centres; in this situation there is likely to be a higher risk of recurrence of outbreaks of communicable diseases in affected people who stayed in the temporary camps. But as the displacement centres are temporary, and people are already moving back home, MRCS will at a later stage once people move back assist communities in showing them how to build better latrines, by building model latrines in villages. This intervention will be covered by other funding sources than the DREF

Due to the likely issues related to water and sanitation, and possible public health problems as a result, dissemination of key messages related to hygiene promotion and health education need to be reinforced with affected communities (eg – safe household level water treatment).

The need for RFL services will continue to be monitored and should needs be identified, appropriate support will be mobilized, with the support of ICRC as needed.

The MRCS response through this DREF will therefore be mainly focused on distributing non-food items (NFI) in Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawaddy, Magway region in the immediate stage as well as ensuring that people have increased access to safe drinking water – this will be done through provision of water purification tablets (provided through MRCS overall operational plan) and jerry cans. Trained volunteers from other regions and states will be mobilized as and when needed.

Markets are functional. Local people can buy daily necessities from small stores in proximity to displacement centres. Most of these centres also have village markets nearby. People therefore can buy daily necessities from these markets.

A total of 21 townships have been prioritized by MRCS, based on the following criteria: guidance/requests from authorities; severity of impact and needs; townships where other humanitarian organisations do not have existing operations; townships where MRCS has existing operations/capacity. These criteria have guided the selection of the townships shown in the table as below.

Myanmar Red Cross Society 2016 Flood Response Operational Data (updated on : 7 August 2016)				
S/R #	Affected State/Region	Selected Townships for MRCS response	Total affected Households (figures from RRD)	Total affected Population (figures from RRD)
1	Sagaing	4	5,654	24,943
		Kamti		
		Myinmu		
		Khin-U		
		Sagaing		
2	Magway	5	45,062	187,226
		Pwintphyu		
		Sidoktaya		
		Aunglan		
		Pakokku		
		Yesagyo		
3	Bago	7	16,537	20,970

		Padaung			
		Zeekone			
		Letpadan			
		Pyay			
		Shwetaung			
		Moenyo			
		Minhla			
4	Ayeyarwaddy		3	1,330	5,373
		Hinthada			
		Myanaung			
		Ingapu			
5	Mandalay		2	17,660	74,675
		Patheingyi			
		Pyigyitagon			
Total			21	86,243	313,187
MRCS target: 20% of affected HH and population in selected Townships				17,248 HH	62,637 people

Beneficiary selection will be conducted in close cooperation with the local authorities, and priority will be given to affected families who are presently living in the temporary sites (schools, monasteries, churches) and based on MRCS selection criteria.

Note: While keeping the 20 per cent of the total affected population as the assistance target, MRCS will conclude how the division of the total number of beneficiaries among the five regions will be made, by end August, when more assessment results are known.

Risk Assessment

Some affected areas are still inundated by floodwaters. However, it is expected that access will improve in the coming days when floodwater recede. If the rains persist in the coming weeks, additional humanitarian needs may arise in some areas in Yangon, in which MRCS will decide on the most appropriate response.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

The overall objective is to ensure that the immediate needs of the 10,000 flood-affected families are met through provision of emergency relief items and safe drinking water over a three-month period.

Proposed strategy

This DREF appeal will contribute to the wider MRCS operational plan. Other sectors and areas will be covered through bilateral contribution by PNS or UN agencies or from private donations. Based on learning from last year's emergency appeal some interventions will be geared at cash distribution.

The DREF operation will focus on the following areas:

1. Distribution and replenishment of hygiene parcels to 10,000 families;
2. Distribution and replenishment of water purification tablets and jerry cans to 6,000 families;
3. Provision of unconditional cash grant (of CHF 85) to 1,800 families.

The distribution of hygiene parcels will target to the most severely affected communities in 21 townships across Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Ayeyarwady region, mainly families currently relocated in temporary sites (schools, monasteries, churches); and the means to purify water for 6,000 households (these will be the same beneficiaries).

Based on information of the assessments, 1,800 of the most vulnerable households will be provided unconditional cash (CHF 85 per household) to cover their most basic needs. It's based on the minimum wage which is 3,000 MMK per day which would be 90 000 MMK per month plus an extra 10,000 for eventualities. This equals 82.24 CHF up to 85 CHF per house hold. This is the result of last year's intervention and a lessons learned workshop which showed that there was an interest and know-how within MRCS.

Nearly all of the relief items of this operation are part of existing MRCS disaster preparedness (DP) stock. The items have been dispatched to the affected locations – although in some location stocks are already in situ. The allocated DREF will replenish part of the distributed relief items. Stock from the warehouses in Sagaing, Magway, Mandalay, Ayeyarwady, Bago regions and the MRCS central warehouse in Yangon are to be directly transported to the 21 townships affected, where township Red Cross volunteers are tasked to distribute the items. All material will be funded through other funds at disposal for the overall MRCS operation.

Safety and visibility material will be provided to the MRCS volunteers actively working on this operation, through their overall operational plan which will be covered by MRCS's existing resources.

MRCS will integrate community engagement and accountability (CEA) into the response to ensure that affected populations have direct access to information on the nature and scope of services provided by MRCS, along with key issues facing them (disaster/health related). The communications and community engagement team, support by IFRC, will use a mix of mass communication (radio, TV, Facebook) and information, education and communication (IEC/ (posters, flyers) and face to face options through social mobilization to meet the information needs of affected people, as identified in assessments and by MRCS staff and volunteers. IEC materials have been pre-positioned and will be dispatched alongside distributions. CEA will also be integrated into the emergency cash process, including beneficiary selection and enabling community feedback. Where possible the new CEA minimum standards for emergencies will be followed.

Operational support services

Human resources

Twenty staff from the MRCS disaster management (DM) department are leading the response operation. The coordination with logistics, health, organizational development (OD), restoring family links (RFL), and finance departments is done at all levels of the National Society. All concerned departments are represented in the ORT.

Over 250 MRCS volunteers have been mobilized and are involved in relief distributions, administering first aid, search and rescue, RFL and psychosocial support. Of these, 200 will be involved in relief distribution (hygiene parcels) and 50 for the cash distribution.

IFRC has an operational manager for the 2015 floods who is contracted until the end of September 2016. After which the programme coordinator and DM delegate will continue to manage the operation.

To help MRCS strengthen their information management (IM) skills an IM RDRT will be recruited and support MRCS for one month during this operation.

Logistics and supply chain

Implementation of activities in areas of intervention will rely on the existing logistics capacity of MRCS in country. The procurement of NFI (DP replenishment) will be done according to procurement plan.

Warehousing capacity is sufficient for the current plan and will not require additional capacity. All transportation needs, both for relief items and staff, will be handled with MRCS current vehicle fleet or, when needed, with public transportation systems.

Security

The present monsoon season with accompanying heavy rains has resulted in floods and landslides in various parts of the country. The weather situation continues to be fluid and although it now looks like there will be some relief from the rain, the rain season will continue until end September. MRCS together with IFRC has set up a security and safety committee that will assist in setting up security systems and ensure that safety messages are developed and shared with all staff and volunteers working on this operation.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER)

MRCS will be responsible for day-to-day monitoring of the emergency operation in accordance with MRCS normal PMER guidelines.

Reporting on the operation will be carried out in accordance with the IFRC DREF minimum reporting standards. At least two updates will be issued during the operation timeframe and a final report within three months of the end of the operation.

Administration and Finance

The IFRC operations manager will be responsible for managing the budget, and will support MRCS with their financial management (through provision of regular working advances). The operations manager of MRCS DM department will be responsible for daily operations, including authorising expenditures. Funds will be transferred by MRCS NHQ to the bank accounts of the respective regions MRCS branches.

Existing MRCS policies of volunteer management, HR and administration will guide this operation, under the oversight of the MRCS Deputy SG for Program support.

The planned response reflects the current situation and information available at this time. As the operation is evolving, further developments and detailed assessments will inform a revision of this plan.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Food security, nutrition and livelihoods

Needs analysis: Evacuations are expected, especially in rural areas of the worst affected townships in Ayeyawaddy, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, and Sagaing state/regions are expected. In addition, the results of flooding of dwellings will result with families losing basic household items. Building on last year's interventions in cash, American Red Cross will give technical support to further enhance the programming.

Population to be assisted: Approximately 1,800 families will be provided with unconditional cash transfers, which might be a separate beneficiary caseload from those households who will receive NFIs from existing stocks, with possible overlap. Focus in the selection of these beneficiaries will be based on the selections criteria developed last year during the 2015 floods.

Outcome 1: Immediate needs of the disaster affected population are met																	
Output 1.1: Unconditional cash is distributed to 1,800 vulnerable households																	
Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2.1.1 Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments		x															
2.1.2 Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance		x	x	x													
2.1.3 Conduct awareness/information sessions with appropriate CEA messages among targeted population				x	x												
2.1.4 Disbursement of cash to 1,800 most vulnerable households						x	x	x									
2.1.5 Post distribution monitoring						x	x	x	x	x	x	X	x				

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Needs analysis: A total of 50,000 people have been identified as being in need of assistance.

Population to be assisted: MRCS is aiming at providing assistance to a total of 10,000 households (50,000 people) with hygiene kits distribution in specific areas. In addition 6,000 of the targeted households (within the 50,000 people targeted) will be able to purify their water in jerry cans (20L) and with water purification tablets on household level.

Outcome 2: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities																	
Output 2.1 Hygiene-related goods (NFIs) are provided to the target population																	
Activities planned	Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2.1.1 Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.		x															
2.1.2 Distribute Jerry cans and water purification tablets from MRCS pre-positioned stocks			x	x	x												
2.1.3 Procuring and restocking of jerry cans		x	x	x													
2.1.4 Distribute hygiene kits			x	x	x	x											
2.1.5 Procuring and restocking of hygiene kits		x	x	x													
2.1.6 Monitoring and reporting		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				

Quality programming

Needs analysis: MRCS, supported by Movement partners, has initiated an immediate response with assessments – to determine the needs of affected people – being conducted alongside initial relief distributions. Operation supporting systems are being identified and set up in consultation with partners

Outcome 3: Continuous and detailed assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation
Output 3.1: Needs assessments are conducted and response plans updated according to findings

<i>Activities planned</i>	<i>Weeks</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
3.1.1 Mobilize staff and volunteers for assessments (including Movement Partners' resources)		X	X														
3.1.2 Undertake assessments to determine specific needs of beneficiaries		X	X														
3.1.3 Develop detailed response plans with activities that will meet identified beneficiary needs		X															
Output 1.2: Additional assistance is considered where appropriate and incorporated into the plan																	
<i>Activities planned</i>	<i>Week</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
3.2.1 Ensure that any adjustments to initial plans are informed by continuous assessment of needs				X													
Output 1.3: Mechanisms are in place to facilitate two-way communication with and ensure transparency and accountability to disaster-affected people																	
<i>Activities planned</i>	<i>Week</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
3.3.1 Provide appropriate information, including on the scope and content of projects, to disaster-affected people				X				X	X								
3.3.2 Ensure that affected people can deliver feedback on the programmes and report any complaints, in confidence, and that such are actioned by MRCS and its partners (No extra budget needed as it is covered by other funds)		X	X		X	X	X	X									
Output 1.4: Management and delivery of the operation is informed by an appropriate monitoring and evaluation system																	
<i>Activities planned</i>	<i>Week</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
3.4.1 Develop and utilize an appropriate M&E system to support monitoring of the operation progress, including final evaluations and lessons learnt activities			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
3.4.2 Conduct one lessons-learnt workshop (No extra budget needed as it is covered by other funds)													X				

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

Myanmar Red Cross Society:

- U Khin Maung Hla, secretary general; phone: 09 855 3293; email: khinmaunghla@redcross.org.mm
- Daw San San Maw, DM department director; phone: 09 431 597 34; email: sansanmaw@redcross.org.mm
- Daw Moe Thida Win, operations manager; phone +95 943159739; email moethidawin@redcross.org.mm

IFRC Myanmar country office, in Yangon:

- Udaya Regmi, head of delegation; phone: +95 1 383686; email: udaya.regmi@ifrc.org
- Jesper Fridolf, operations manager; phone: +95 9263728300; email: jesper.fridolf@ifrc.org

IFRC Asia Pacific regional office, in Kuala Lumpur:

- Martin Faller, deputy director; email: martin.faller@ifrc.org
- Necephor Mghendi, operations coordinator; phone: +60-122-246-796; email: necephor.mghendi@ifrc.org
- Riku Assamaki, regional logistics coordinator; mobile: +6012 298 9752; email: riku.assamaki@ifrc.org
- Patrick Fuller, communications manager; phone: +603 9207 5705; email: patrick.fuller@ifrc.org
- Diana Ongiti, resource management manager, emergencies; email: diana.ongiti@ifrc.org
- Peter Ophoff, head of PMER; email: peter.ophoff@ifrc.org

IFRC Geneva:

- Susil Perera, senior officer, response and recovery; phone: +412 2730 4947; email: susil.perera@ifrc.org
- Cristina Estrada, response and recovery Lead; phone: +412 2730 4260; email: cristina.estrada@ifrc.org



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How we work

All IFRC 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 the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The 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.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace.**

DREF OPERATION

18/08/2016

MDRMM007 : Myanmar Floods

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	60,000
Utensils & Tools	18,000
Cash Disbursements	153,000
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	231,000
Distribution & Monitoring	18,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	4,200
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	22,200
National Society Staff	7,800
Volunteers	10,275
Total PERSONNEL	18,075
Travel	24,000
Communications	2,200
Financial Charges	270
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	26,470
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	19,353
Total INDIRECT COSTS	19,353
TOTAL BUDGET	317,098