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Operation Update Report Myanmar: Mandalay Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n° MDRMM015	GLIDE n° FL-2020-00172-MMR
Operation update n° 1; Date of issue: 16/10/2020	Timeframe covered by this update: 24/07/2020 – 16/10/2020
Operation start date: 24/07/2020	Operation timeframe: Timeframe is extended to 5 months and therefore ending on 31 December 2020
DREF allocation: CHF 200,683	
N° of people being assisted: 20,000	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Danish Red Cross (DRC).	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: State Government (GAD) and Department of Disaster Management (DDM). Weather forecast are monitored through Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH).	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

This operation update is published to formalize the no-cost extension of the operation by two months. The operation is being extended to implement the remaining activities that are planned within the operation which includes procurement and distribution of items that were delayed. The delays were caused by a second flood that occurred in the same area of operation as well as additional restrictions imposed due to the increased severity of the COVID-19 situation within the country. Both events were initially identified as a risk for the operation and measures had been taken to mitigate the challenges.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

A total of 4,000 households of 20,000 people in Mandalay are affected by the rapid onset flood that was caused by a broken geological sedimentary dike¹ on 19 July 2020.

Mandalay is an administrative division in central part of Myanmar and lies on the eastern bank of the Ayeyarwady River. There are seven townships in Mandalay where five are located in urban areas and another two townships (Amarapura and Patheingyi) are located in rural areas which include a farmland covering an area of more than 4.04 km².

The villages in rural area of Amarapura experience flooding from time to time due to its proximity to Ayeyarwady River that rises during heavy rains. However, in July 2020, the water level of Ayeyarwady River has risen to emergency level especially in Amarapura township. The flood situation worsened when a dike broke near Sagaing-Mandalay Highway on evening of 19 July 2020. The event caused a sudden rise of water level downstream in nearby township and villages. About 200 household were immediately evacuated in response to this. MRCS volunteers in coordination with the state government and local authorities supported the evacuation process.

¹ A dike or dyke, in geological usage, is a sheet of rock that is formed in a fracture of a pre-existing rock body. Dikes can be either magmatic or sedimentary in origin.

MRCS Mandalay branch has conducted rapid needs assessment additional 48 hours damage and needs assessment (DANA). The summary of the findings are as follows:

- 22 temporary evacuation centers were in operation during the floods.
- 7 urban ward areas were impacted by the floods.
- Total affected population are 14,410 people (3,362 families)².

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society Response Action

MRCS has formal roles and responsibilities that is part of the Myanmar national legal framework where MRCS is an auxiliary to the government with regards to humanitarian activities – which is defined by the national law and the government's disaster response plan.

According to SOP (draft) of MRCS Emergency Operation Center (EOC), the EOC monitors and collect information on the weather condition and flood alert warnings. This information is then shared to all states and regions as well as Red Cross Executive Committee (RCEC) and volunteers via different forms for communication channels including social media. The MRCS Disaster Management Department also coordinates and support preparedness and response capacity of 23 warehouses countrywide which includes the Mandalay warehouse.

As per initial rapid need assessment done by RCVs, MRCS HQ directly prepositioned 10 life buoys, 3,000 hygiene parcels (of which 300 hygiene parcels were distributed from Mandalay warehouse) and four stretchers.



Precautions against COVID – 19 is practiced throughout the operation.
(Photo: MRCS Mandalay branch)

About 100 volunteers were actively involved since the beginning of the event. The volunteers were involved in dyke prevention, even before it broke out. The volunteers, together with regional disaster response team, evacuated 200 people to safer location, and distributed tarpaulins for construction of temporary evacuation centers. The team also provided psychosocial support to affected communities, disseminated early warning messages to potential flood risk communities and helped in immediate evacuation with coordination and collaboration with Regional Disaster Response Team.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in country

IFRC provided support in the overall planning and implementation of the DREF Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA). IFRC also coordinated early warning information to PNS in country. Further involvement of relevant PNS is coordinated as per impact assessed.

Danish RC provided funding for immediate cash support to families affected. The operation is also supported by the Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) where situation information is updated regularly from Myanmar IFRC country office.

Overview of non-RCRC actors' actions in country

The IFRC country office in Myanmar, in close collaboration with MRCS, in communication with DMH and DDM for the planned operations considering the developing situation. MRCS is a co-chair of Cash transfer working group coordinated by WFP, member of UN Readiness group coordinated by OCHA and member of working group on Migration UN coordination mechanism is not taking place for this emergency and where national level coordination mechanism only exist. IFRC and MRCS have been in constant communication with OCHA to provide updated data from the field to the humanitarian team.

² Source: MRCS EOC on 24 July 2020.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

A total of 4,000 households (20,000 people) were affected by the rapid onset flood that left their houses and livelihoods damaged. People have been evacuated to safer locations in temporary shelters from the flood-affected areas during night of 20 July and evacuation tool place due to continuous rains.

In August 2020, a second flood affected the same area of operation. The floods affected the same population and had caused delays in project implementation. At the same time, the verification of the people to receive support also had to be repeated as the needs were increased due to the multiple crisis.

Based on the 48 hours damage and needs assessment (DANA) gathered by MRCS Mandalay branch RCVs, the most urgent needs are food and NFIs and water, hygiene and dignity items where particularly the displaced population living in temporary shelters and houses of relatives are prioritized. According to the findings, the affected community do not currently have sufficient floor cover at the temporary shelters, and shelters are overcrowded which need to be followed up as to minimize the possible spread of COVID-19 in shelters.

Secondary risk factors relate to vectoral and water borne diseases such as dengue, malaria, diarrheal diseases and skin infections that now are also elevated as people affected have limited access to adequate amount of safe water in shelters, and the lack appropriate sanitation facilities and increased levels of stagnant water decrease hygiene and increase possibility for infestation of mosquitos. No communicable disease outbreaks linked to flooding has been noticed so far, and additional reports are expected from the MoHS.

In addition, due to pandemic, the affected community has increased risk for transmission of COVID-19, and where MRCS ensured that MoHS guidelines for COVID-19 protection regulations are followed throughout its operations e.g. through provision of masks and hand sanitizers in temporary shelters, and through assuring physical distancing measures are improved within shelters. It is expected that there will be a need to support families with children that are to start schools in one week's time as provide student kits (books, pencils, etc.) as well COVID-19 personal protection items to children to start the school year as they lost these in the flooding.

Data related to the impact on livelihoods, increased shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs is currently limited, but it is foreseen that the assistance for shelter reconstruction will be needed for those that lost their houses. Livelihoods needs have yet to be confirmed. In evacuation sites, the Government, MRCS and other humanitarian organizations have been providing food and NFIs; however, data related to the immediate needs in these centres (e.g. Protection, WASH etc.) is also limited and further assessments will be taking place in a coordinated manner.

Targeting

Through DREF, MRCS will aim to reach at least 100 per cent of the total affected population with access of safe portable Water and temporary Sanitation facilities including hygiene parcels distribution and hygiene promotion as well as 20 per cent (of the affected population) with unconditional /multipurpose cash grants distribution. This is in accordance with the thresholds outlined in the National Society's Disaster Risk Management policy, where the operation is targeting to reach at least 4,000 households (20,000 people), including 500 school children that are to start schools in one week (from date of disaster). The selection of target townships and communities was done in coordination with the Government and other humanitarian organizations.

Scenario planning

The situation is continuing to evolve as the monsoon continues and heavy rains persist, where continuous flooding is highly likely to impact the affected families, and even increase likelihood for further affectation. Forecasts provided by the DMH will be of importance for EOC of MRCS, and the situation will continue to be closely monitored together with DMH.

Operation Risk Assessment

MRCS Emergency Operation Center (EOC) is closely monitoring the flood warning issued by DMH for the additional potential hydro-meteorological risks in the area as for the operational aspects, as well as for the safety and protection of targeted population, RCVs and staff. Due to COVID-19, MRCS staff and RCVs will assure that pandemic preparedness and awareness is crucial throughout the emergency operations activities in Mandalay.

B. Operational strategy

Overall objective

The overall objective is to support the immediate humanitarian needs of 20,000 people (4,000 HH) affected by the riverine flood at Amayapura Township, Mandalay Division.

The operation was initially planned for three months. However, due to the second floods affecting the area as well as stricter restriction due to increased number of COVID - 19 cases, the operation was extended for additional two months making the total operation timeframe to be five months. The operation is ending on 31 December 2020.

Proposed strategy

The response strategy includes provision of assistance to the targeted people including:

- Distribution of unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address basic needs such as food and other household immediate needs. The distribution of cash grants will follow the MRCS Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) guidelines.
- Distribution of household items related to WASH – including hygiene parcels and water purification tablets that will cover the 80 per cent of total affected household needs.
- Assuring access to education for affected families' children: school kits and COVID-19 preventative items for 500 school children.
- Prevention and control of vector-borne diseases for the affected population through provision of mosquito nets and health promotion of related health risks.
- Prevention of transmission COVID-19 among the affected population and MRCS RCVs and staff through provision of mask, hand sanitizers for affected people and RCVs. With additional assessment ongoing and in coordination with authorities, if any additional needs e.g. hand washing facilities are required, the DREF will be revised accordingly.

MRCS also needs operational support for an effective and efficient response through the following:

- Replenishment of NFIs distributed to affected families as an immediate support.
- Safety of RCVs and staff for COVID-19 through personal protective equipment and measures.
- Trainings /orientations for staff and volunteers related to response activities, incl. further response DM training. The decision to conduct these trainings/orientations is based on lessons learned from the 2019 DREF operation.

Operational support services

The operation timeframe extension did not cause any significant changes with regards to the strategies and approaches for the operational support services. Details of the support services can be obtained from the [DREF Operation Emergency Plan of Action](#).

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 4,000

Male: 1,920

Female: 2,080

Livelihoods and basic needs Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of households have food to meet their emergency needs	800	ongoing

Livelihoods and basic needs Output 1.5: Households are provided with food package and unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of households assisted through cash and voucher assistance	800	ongoing

Progress towards outcomes

MRCS staff and volunteers have conducted the assessment and validation on the distribution of unconditional/multipurpose cash grants for early recovery with Local Disaster Management Board and had finalized the list for the recipients of the cash grants. The National Society finalized the beneficiary selection and is addressing complaints/feedback from the affected communities.

Cash grants of MMK 200,000 (equivalent to CHF 128) is now ready to be distributed with the support from the financial service provider, Ayar Bank with the support from respective MRCS branch.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, volunteers are taking the risks for COVID-19 transmission while conducting the assessment and restricted movement it was difficult to conduct assessment and validation.

However, during this pandemic, it was found that Cash activities is very useful for the affected families where affected families are able to use the cash grant on necessary items.

The post distribution monitoring activity will be conducted after the cash distribution.



Health

People reached: 17,580

Male: 8,438

Female: 9,142

Health Outcome 2: The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduce through improved access to medical treatment

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Immediate risks to the health of the 4,000 households from the affected populations are reduced through health support	4,000	2,194

Health Output 2.1: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of people receive immediate assistance where their risk for COVID -19 and vectoral disease are reduced	20,000	17,580
Number of households received mosquito net	4,000	1,458
Number of people reached through health promotion	20,000	14,410

Narrative description of achievements

As of reporting period, MRCS has conducted health promotion activities on the prevention of vector-borne diseases to 14,410 people in the targeted community as they are living in camp like temporary shelters surrounded with stagnant waters – high risk for vectoral and gastrointestinal diseases at the Amayapura Township. In addition to the health promotion, MRCS took the opportunity to educate the communities on the risk of COVID-19 transmission where volunteers stressed on the importance of physical distancing and wearing proper protection measures to reduce the risk of local transmission.

Together with the health promotion, MRCS distributed 17,580 disinfectants and masks to the targeted communities. In addition, 1,458 units of mosquito nets (family sized) were also distributed to the floods-affected households.

With regards to the COVID-19 pandemic and regulated restrictions, there were several challenges faced by MRCS in implementing the distribution such as to control or reduce the risk of transmission during distribution activities. It was also challenging for the community to practice physical distancing in the area. MRCS volunteers are taking necessary steps to reduce these risks.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 20,000

Male: 9,600

Female: 10,400

WASH Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of people provided with safe WASH services that meet agreed standards according to specific operational and programmatic context	20,000	20,000

WASH Output 1.2: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of people are provided with safe water	20,000	20,000
Number of households received hygiene parcel	4,000	2,194
Number of people reached through health promotion	20,000	20,000

Progress towards outcomes

Within the reporting period, MRCS has successfully distributed hygiene parcels to 2,194 households with a one-month supply consisting of a pack of sanitary napkin, 5 toothbrushes, a tube of toothpaste, 5 towels, a bath soap, a packet of laundry soap, 2 rolls of tissue, a packet of detergent powder, 2 plastic cups and a comb. The hygiene parcel is meant to cover for a family of five members. The distribution of hygiene parcel is still on-going. The distribution activity was conducted together with hygiene promotion and awareness to the flood-affected people. The topics for hygiene promotion include personal hygiene and handwashing. Information, education and communication (IEC) materials were also distributed together with the hygiene items.

In addition to the distribution of hygiene parcels and hygiene promotion activities, MRCS has also completed the distribution of water purification tablets to 4,000 households. This was done together with the orientation sessions on the use of the water purification tablets.



Inclusion and Protection

People reached: 500

Male: 250

Female: 250

Inclusion and Protection Outcome 1: Communities identify the needs of the most vulnerable and particularly disadvantaged and marginalized groups, as a result of inequality, discrimination and other non-respect of their human rights and address their distinct needs		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of school children receive school kits that lost during floods i.e. stationary, books, uniforms, masks and hand sanitizers	500	500
Protection, Gender & Inclusion Output 1.2: Programmes and operations prevent and respond to sexual- and gender-based violence and other forms of violence especially against children.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of school children receive school kits that lost during floods i.e. stationary, books, uniforms, masks and hand sanitizers	500	ongoing
Narrative description of achievements		
<p>MRCS has conducted the assessment at five schools to assess the potential in accessibility of school children of the flood-affected community to education services and identifying their loss of educational materials. The assessment was also conducted to understand more on the availability of COVID-19 protection measures among school children i.e. PPE such as facial mask. Together with the Education Department, it was found that students' level of protection is at satisfying level where students have the access to school uniforms and are wearing proper mask in schools.</p> <p>Selection process has been completed and the distribution of books, pencils, school uniforms, raincoats plus facial masks and disinfectants/sanitizers for the 500 targeted school children is ongoing.</p> <p>MRCS is facing procurement and logistical challenges due to COVID-19 restrictions which may cause potential delays in acquiring the items and distribution.</p>		

Strengthen National Society		
S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
MRCS has strengthened response preparedness capacities	Yes	Yes
Output S1.1.7: NS capacity to support community-based disaster risk reduction, response and preparedness is strengthened		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
MRCS target state/region branches are better equipped to respond to disaster	Yes	Yes
Narrative description of achievements		
<p>All 100 MRCS volunteers for this response has been insured to ensure their safety and protection. MRCS staff and RCV volunteers were provided with necessary orientations related to the response activities, including disaster management response training for volunteers plus the do's and don'ts for COVID-19 risk for RCV, staff and targeted population. Additional training for staff and volunteers is planned to be conducted on 25 October 2020 to ensure their efficiency and effectiveness in handling the response.</p> <p>MRCS is planning to provide 5 rescue rubber boats to team for more effective preparedness and response.</p> <p>Similar to health and PGI, MRCS is facing procurement and logistical challenges where some suppliers (for hygiene parcels and boats) are forced to delay the delivery due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Movement restriction also caused the postponement of the Management and Disaster Management trainings for staff and volunteers.</p>		

Influence others as leading strategic partner		
Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy,		
Indicators:	Target	Actual

Lesson learned workshop is conducted	Yes	To be conducted
Narrative description of achievements		
MRSC is planning to conduct the lesson learned workshop in December 2020 to capture learnings on the response. Findings from this workshop will be reflected in the DREF Operation Final Report.		

D. THE BUDGET

Total allocation of the DREF fund is CHF 200,683 out of which CHF 200,368 has been utilized (99.84 per cent). Detailed expenditure is outlined in the financial report attached at the end of this update.



Click here for:

- [DREF Operation](#)

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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 (NGO's) 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

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2020/7-9	Operation	MDRMM015
Budget Timeframe	2020/7-10	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 30/Oct/2020

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRMM015 - Myanmar : Mandalay Floods

Operating Timeframe: 24 Jul 2020 to 31 Oct 2020

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	200,683
DREF Allocations	200,683
Expenditure	-200,368
Closing Balance	315

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction			0
AOF2 - Shelter			0
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	121,442	200,368	-78,926
AOF4 - Health	25,347		25,347
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	30,566		30,566
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	6,225		6,225
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	183,579	200,368	-16,788
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	15,293		15,293
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	1,491		1,491
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			0
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	320		320
Strategy for implementation Total	17,104		17,104
Grand Total	200,683	200,368	316

DREF Operation

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2020/7-9	Operation	MDRMM015
Budget Timeframe	2020/7-10	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 30/Oct/2020

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRMM015 - Myanmar : Mandalay Floods

Operating Timeframe: 24 Jul 2020 to 31 Oct 2020

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	169,645		169,645
Clothing & Textiles	22,925		22,925
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	28,700		28,700
Medical & First Aid	4,550		4,550
Teaching Materials	1,470		1,470
Cash Disbursement	112,000		112,000
Land, vehicles & equipment	7,000		7,000
Vehicles	7,000		7,000
Logistics, Transport & Storage	1,400		1,400
Transport & Vehicles Costs	1,400		1,400
Personnel	3,335		3,335
National Society Staff	560		560
Volunteers	2,775		2,775
Workshops & Training	4,725		4,725
Workshops & Training	4,725		4,725
General Expenditure	2,330	4	2,326
Information & Public Relations	700		700
Communications	210		210
Financial Charges	1,420	4	1,416
Contributions & Transfers		188,135	-188,135
Cash Transfers National Societies		188,135	-188,135
Indirect Costs	12,248	12,229	19
Programme & Services Support Recover	12,248	12,229	19
Grand Total	200,683	200,368	316