



# ICRC OPERATION IN MYANMAR

JANUARY to DECEMBER 2024



ICRC

In 2024, the humanitarian situation in Myanmar remained challenging. Armed conflict escalated in several parts of the country, and the ongoing situation forced people to be displaced and live in precarious conditions. There was continuance in shortage of food and clean water, limited access to healthcare and education, restrictions on movement and inadequate humanitarian relief, all which imposed an additional burden on people struggling to survive. Conversely, increasing security risks and restrictions on access in reaching affected communities hindered the humanitarian responders from providing crucial reliefs.

To assist the affected people in Myanmar overcome the challenges above, the ICRC made every effort to provide vital support to communities in need. We provided communities not only with their daily essentials, such as food, water, and household items; but also with vital information regarding the risks of explosive hazards and safer practices to stay safe from potential danger while conducting their daily activities. Whenever possible, we encouraged communities to start livelihood initiatives.

We also supported health structures serving communities with essential medicines and medical equipment. Through our physical rehabilitation programme, people with disabilities were able to receive orthopedic footwear and mobility devices. For those released from detention, we assisted former detainees in returning home with dignity. We also assisted in identifying the whereabouts of people's missing loved ones through our Family Links programme, and whenever possible, we worked to reunite families or maintain contact between family members. We were able to do this by exchanging messages and/or supporting family visits. Finally, we continued to promote the importance of the international humanitarian law (IHL) through various means at different levels of engagement.

Together with the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), our Partner National Societies, and community based civil societies, we organized first aid and prehospital care training sessions for those helping people in emergency situations.

For a quick snapshot of our work in 2024, we provided 120,430 people with seeds and agricultural tools to grow staple crops, while 173,336 people benefited from improved access to water, sanitation, and shelter. A total of 54 health structures received support; 4,880 people with disabilities received rehabilitation assistance; and 5,162 people released from prisons were able to return their homes with dignity.

The following is an overview of the ICRC operations conducted in Myanmar throughout the year 2024.

# OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



## KACHIN

Access to clean drinking water is one of the biggest challenges for internally displaced families. In hopes of helping these families overcome such difficulties, ICRC in Kachin distributed water filters for both host communities and displaced families, benefitting over 3,850 individuals.



## KAYIN

In any armed conflict, communities are severely affected in their lives and well-being, with profound consequences. While some have lost their lives, other have been left without their limbs or have lost their loved ones. The ICRC collaborates with its partners to provide rehabilitation services to people who have lost their limbs due to armed conflict or other health issues, offering with assistive technology, orthopedic footwear, and mobility devices.

## RAKHINE

Not knowing the fate of a loved one puts families through great grief. In Myanmar and worldwide, the ICRC, together with national societies, assists families in clarifying the whereabouts of their missing loved ones. Whenever possible, we help families with reunification or maintaining regular contact.



# OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

## SHAN

ICRC teams remain on the ground, working together with communities affected by armed conflict to identify and respond to the most urgent needs. In the first three months of 2024, we extended our assistance and provided food rations, along with essential household items to 5,434 individuals from 1,574 displaced families.



## MANDALAY

Understanding the dangers and knowing how to stay safe are vital for people living in conflict-affected areas. To provide this important and useful information, the ICRC offers risk awareness and safe behaviour sessions that emphasize the importance of recognizing and avoiding potential hazards, such as explosive devices. In 2024, we conducted 1,761 awareness sessions, reaching 69,871 people with information on the risks of explosive hazards and safer practices.

## YANGON

ICRC is actively implementing programmes and initiatives to help, support and improve first aid and emergency care capabilities of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Myanmar, which play a vital role in providing essential first aid and ambulances services within their communities. Proper first aid practices can save lives and prevent negative consequences. In Yangon, we conducted advance first aid and prehospital emergency care trainings, along with donating First Aid Kits and materials to 21 CSOs actively working on the outskirts of Yangon.



## HELPING AFFECTED PEOPLE MEET THEIR ESSENTIAL NEEDS



**120,430** people received seeds, farm tools and organic fertilizers, and in general support to grow staple crops and vegetables.



**52,624** people received fuel sticks for cooking.



**49,621** people were provided with essential household items such as blankets, mosquito nets and kitchen sets.



**41,480** people provided with food rations.



**22,119** people received support to purchase their daily essentials.



**2,319** people received support for their small business initiatives.



**303** people earned income through various work programmes.



**318** people were trained to sharpen their skills in farming and livestock breeding.

## IMPROVING ACCESS TO WATER, SANITATION AND SHELTER



**173,336** people in Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Rakhine, Shan, Sagaing and Mandalay gained improved access to water, sanitation, shelter, and emergency hygiene systems as part of the ICRC's emergency response programme.



**4,778** residents living in rural areas of Kachin and Shan states gained better access to clean water.



**2,982** people in Sittwe benefited from improved infrastructure including pond embankments, as well as the installation of fencing, stairs, floating jetties, and solar lighting.



Health facilities, including **one medical warehouse and one physical rehabilitation centre**, were renovated or upgraded.



**1,599** people in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states were provided with newly built or renovated shelters and homes, along with improved access to essential services.



**678** residents living in urban areas of Shan and Rakhine states benefited from improved water and sanitation facilities.



**42** Red Cross Volunteers (RCVs) joined in WASH training sessions, while **30** from Kayin state received eWASH technical support. Additionally **13** MRCS staff from Myitkyina Branch participated in capacity-building trainings, briefings, and awareness sessions.

# HEALTH



**54 health facilities** across Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine, Shan states and Mandalay region providing **12,394 antenatal care consultations** and **114,987 curative consultations** received support.



**20 hospitals** (general, district and township facilities) which served **81,510 people** including 2,375 surgical treatments and 9,883 general treatments were provided with assistance.



**7,055 patients** were transferred or transported for urgent medical care.



**2,169 wounded patients** were provided with support for their medical expenses.



**2,150 primary health staff** sharpened their skills through **61 training sessions**.



**1,296 ambulance service providers** (of civil society organizations and national society) took part in



**64 training sessions** on stabilizing patients and patient care, among others.



A capacity building training was provided for **20 hospital staff**.

# PHYSICAL REHABILITATION



**4,880 people** with disabilities, including **1,818 people affected by explosive hazards** were supported through our physical rehabilitation programme.

**26,498 SERVICES** provided including:

**22,775**  
PHYSIOTHERAPY  
SESSIONS



**1,391**  
WALKING AIDS



**1,309**  
PROSTHESES



**698 people** with disabilities who received physical rehabilitation services from ICRC-supported rehabilitation centres also received counselling services or participated in psychosocial support related activities.

**875**  
ORTHOSES



**460 people** with disabilities participated in adaptive sport activities and **63 people** with disabilities who obtained self-employment support.

**148**  
WHEELCHAIRS



**4 people** with disabilities received support for their education.

## RESTORING FAMILY LINKS



**5,162** people were provided with support upon release from prison, allowing them to return home with dignity.

**1,520** people received support to visit their detained loved ones.



Families of **419** people were helped to identify the whereabouts of their loved ones.



**870** Red Cross Messages and oral messages with family news were shared between separated family members.

## EXPLOSIVE HAZARD RISK AWARENESS AND PROMOTING SAFE BEHAVIOUR



**69,871** people learned more about the risks of explosive hazards and received information on safe behaviour through **1,761** awareness sessions.



**46,793** people participated in awareness sessions, held by ICRC-trained Red Cross volunteers on the risks of explosive hazards and safer behaviour.



**11,773** people participated in awareness sessions, held by the ICRC on the risks of explosive hazards and safer behaviour.



**11,305** people participated in awareness sessions, held by ICRC-trained community volunteers on the risks of explosive hazards and safer behaviour.



**433** Community volunteers and **163** Red Cross Volunteers were trained to promote awareness of risks and safer behaviour.



**1,035,257** people were reached through **2** safety messages as part of our social media campaign.

# WORKING WITH MYANMAR RED CROSS SOCIETY



**1,952** Red Cross **Volunteers** joined 52 training sessions led by MRCS on safer access.



**122,650** visibility items and IEC materials, such as vest and aprons, vinyl and awareness raising materials were provided to MRCS.



**3,000** copies of Basic First Aid manual book, **3,000** triangular bandages, **500** instructor pins, **200** refill kits and **30G** manikins were supported to MRCS for their First Aid trainings.



**408** Red Cross **Volunteers** were trained in first aid for emergency response and preparedness through **14** training sessions.



**158** Red Cross **Volunteers** and MRCS staff participated in **8** communication training sessions supported by the ICRC and conducted by MRCS.



**689** Red Cross **Volunteers** and staff members participated in **15** Red Cross Dissemination workshops, supported by the ICRC.



ICRC supported the MRCS in **developing guidelines and tools** to strengthen the branches' capacity in preparedness in case of escalation of violence and conflict.



**56** Red Cross volunteers were trained in **Restoring Family Links** activities.



**31** Red Cross Volunteers participated in disaster management training sessions, while **4** MRCS branches received our support to set up their emergency operation centres (EOCs).



**272** Red Cross **Volunteers**, who were displaced, received support through financial contributions made by the ICRC, while **125** Red Cross **Volunteers** participated in additional training sessions on safety and security.



**163** Red Cross **Volunteers** and Staff members attended **3** branch coordination workshops organized by the MRCS, with support from the ICRC and other International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners.



**14** strategic dialogues with MRCS leadership on various files, and **42** partnership discussion with Movement partners were held in 2024.



**6** MRCS branches were supported for infrastructures renovations or construction.



# BUILDING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



**93** community volunteers improved their knowledge in reproductive health through **4** training sessions.



**3,316** community members participated in **103** sessions on raising health awareness.



**84,649** people from 26,663 households benefited from seasonal dengue response conducted in 288 separate locations of Rakhine and Shan, while **25,920** people participated in **344** mosquito-control fogging sessions.

# PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW



**6,097** people learned more about the work of ICRC, our mandate and the principles which guide our work through **159** general awareness sessions.



**243** people from academic, legal and religious circles participated in **14** events to discuss issues related to humanitarian law and human rights law.



**616** people, including weapon bearers, representatives of civil society organizations and international organizations and government staff, learned more about international humanitarian law (IHL) through **45** awareness sessions.



**33** participants, including MRCS leadership and branch representatives, participated in a roundtable session on international humanitarian law, supported by the ICRC.



**Over 150** people including Red Cross partners, UN agencies, diplomatic and religious entities were participated in an ICRC organized photo exhibition, commemorating on 75th anniversary of Geneva Conventions, which highlighted on the importance and the relevance of IHL and the obligations of States.

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE

## HELPING THE PEOPLE FROM WAINGMAW IN THEIR ADAPTATION TO MYITKYINA

The changing nature of conflict, taking place in densely populated areas, has increased the risks for communities in Myanmar. In Waingmaw township, Kachin State, people who have been facing despairing consequences from the ongoing conflict, left their homes and belongings behind to seek a safer place. Among them, 61 families relocated to Myitkyina and are adjusting and adapting to their new reality. The ICRC, together with Myanmar Red Cross Society, talked with these families to have a better understanding of their challenges and needs.



A community member is receiving some household materials from the ICRC.

We provided construction tools including iron wire, scotch tape, and plastic roofing to help them in building their new shelters. We also distributed kitchen sets to each family to make cooking and preparing their meals easier. We are now looking to help them to initiate their livelihood activities.

Our teams have been helping communities not only in Kachin State but also throughout the country to overcome challenges amid ongoing conflict.

# COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

When international humanitarian law (IHL) is respected, lives are saved, and people's dignity is upheld. At the core of the IHL are the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, international treaties that contain the most important rules limiting the suffering in war. They specifically protect people who do not partake in the hostilities, including civilians, health workers and aid workers, and those who are no longer participating such as wounded, sick, shipwrecked soldiers, prisoners of war and people detained in relation to conflict.

To highlight the importance of these rules, the ICRC delegation in yangon organized an exhibition, encouraging the understanding IHL's importance and relevance, especially focusing on the obligations of the States to ensure compliance with IHL to fulfil its protective purpose.



An ICRC staff is explaining visitors about a photos that showed in the exhibition.

The exhibition featured impactful photos and videos that portrayed the historical journey and evolution of international humanitarian law (IHL), emphasizing its role in protecting human dignity and mitigating suffering in armed conflicts around world. More than 150 people including Red Cross partners, UN agencies, diplomatic and religious entities visited the exhibition that offered an opportunity to reflect on the importance of the rules of war in addressing today's humanitarian challenges.



**ICRC**

**International Committee of the Red Cross**

2(c), Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, 8<sup>th</sup> Mile,  
Mayangone Township, Yangon, Myanmar

T +95 9 77 666 2555

F +95 1 650 117

E [yan\\_yangon@icrc.org](mailto:yan_yangon@icrc.org)

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