



Republic of the Union of Myanmar

National Unity Government

Prime Minister Office

Date: 18th July 2021

To the Secretary General of the United Nations and the International Community

To International Organizations

To National Governments

To all people of good will

Subject: Urgent request for humanitarian assistance for the people of Myanmar during the escalating COVID-19 crisis:

The people of Myanmar face an unparalleled national crisis as they confront both a failed military coup and the onset of a new wave of COVID19. In the face of these extreme challenges, the National Unity Government of Myanmar would like to request the international community for humanitarian assistance and emergency support to the people of Myanmar.

Since the failed military coup on 1st February 2021, 912 people have died and over 5,277 have been detained, including children and many healthcare workers by armed forces acting on the orders of the illegitimate and unlawful military council. There are now more than 945,000 people in need of aid and more than 336,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) since the coup, and at least 6.2 million people have experienced food insecurity. A third wave of COVID-19 has rapidly spiraled out of control with a death toll that is increasing daily under the mismanagement of the coup council. The military council reported that there were 190 deaths and 6194 new cases on 16th July alone. This data is just the tip of the iceberg due to a combination of the lack of systematic data collection process, limited testing facilities and the inability to access and deploy vaccines. Hospitals are running out of beds and refusing to treat COVID patients. There are growing reports on the shortage of oxygen, as well as the blatant and inhumane seizure of oxygen production facilities by security forces.

There is growing evidence that the military council is purposely targeting the healthcare system and healthcare workers, using the COVID-19 pandemic as a weapon of war against their own

people. Myanmar is now one of the most dangerous places for healthcare professionals, with more than 250 attacks documented on frontline workers and medical staff this year, by far the highest of any country.

Myanmar will likely become a nexus for the regional spread of COVID-19, potentially including new variants, if the international community does not act now. Myanmar's crisis is on the cusp of becoming a resurgent regional and global health crisis. This is no longer just a domestic issue of one country. We therefore request a robust and well-designed intervention from the international community.

The National Unity Government (NUG), as the rightful state authority, places the needs of our people at the forefront of our concerns. The NUG will work through its Central Commission for COVID-19 Control, Management and Treatment to build a people-centred approach to the pandemic, and will seek to ensure the equitable access to vaccinations for all people. We have developed a National Deployment and Vaccination Plan in accordance with the guidance of the World Health Organization and UNICEF, building on the work and utilizing the same network of experience, expertise, and public service initiated under the Ministry of Health and Sports before the coup. The NUG will work closely and in coordination with responsible ethnic organizations and community-based organizations in this shared endeavour to ensure access for all. The NUG will do everything in its power to deliver personal protection equipment and other essential medical supplies for the people of Myanmar. This is our pledge and commitment to service.

We ask you, the international community, to do all that you can for the people of Myanmar in these desperate times. We urge that you not turn away from Myanmar, but work with us and all people of good will to help.

Your goal is ours – that the people of Myanmar be protected from COVID19 and from the immense harm caused by this coup on the health and well-being of the country we love.