



MYANMAR

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 32.2M**

Appeal number **MAAMM002**

In support of the Myanmar Red Cross Society



330

National Society branches



679

National Society staff



40,000

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



202,000

Ongoing emergency operations



20,000

Climate and environment



200,000

Disasters and crises



200,000

Health and wellbeing



10,000

Migration and displacement

IFRC network multiyear focus

Emergency response

- complex emergency

Longer term needs

- health, and water sanitation and hygiene
- protection • livelihoods • disaster risk reduction

Capacity development

- branch development
- volunteer and youth development
- human resources management
- partnerships and resource mobilization

Key country data

Population **54.8M**

INFORM severity rating **very high**

Climate ND-GAIN Index rank **48**

Human Development Index rank **147**

Population below poverty level **24.8%**

Hazards



Floods



Landslides



Cyclones



Climate change



Population movement



Violence

Funding requirements

Total 32.2M CHF

Through the IFRC

10.7M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

7.5M CHF

Host National Society

14M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

4M CHF

Ongoing emergency operations

Longer term needs

850,000 CHF

Climate and environment

2.1M CHF

Disasters and crises

1.7M CHF

Health and wellbeing

350,000 CHF

Migration and displacement

400,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

1.3M CHF

Enabling local actors

Ongoing emergencies

MDRMM016

Myanmar: Complex Emergency

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross

Australian Red Cross

British Red Cross

The Canadian Red Cross Society

Red Cross Society of China

Danish Red Cross

Finnish Red Cross

German Red Cross

Italian Red Cross*

Japanese Red Cross Society

The Republic of Korea National Red Cross

Red Cross of Monaco

The Netherlands Red Cross

New Zealand Red Cross

Norwegian Red Cross

Qatar Red Crescent Society

Singapore Red Cross Society

Swedish Red Cross

Swiss Red Cross

The Thai Red Cross Society

Turkish Red Crescent Society



NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Myanmar Red Cross Society is an independent, impartial and neutral humanitarian organization. It began its operations in 1920 as a branch of the Indian Red Cross. After Burma formally separated from India in 1937, the Society obtained official national status and was admitted to the IFRC in 1946. It is the oldest humanitarian organization in Myanmar. The National Society counts 692 staff and 40,000 volunteers. It operates through 330 township branches, 17 supervisory committees (states, regions and Naypyitaw Union Territory), and has branches in universities, colleges, and sub-branches at town, ward, village tract and schools across the country.

The role of the National Society – to serve independently and voluntarily while acting as the auxiliary of the state in the humanitarian field, in accordance with the Red Cross Red Crescent Fundamental Principles – is enshrined in the [Myanmar Red Cross Society Law 2015](#).

The [Myanmar Red Cross Society Strategic Plan \(2021-2025\)](#) sets the following three goals:

- Build healthier and safer communities, reduce their vulnerabilities and strengthen their resilience
- Promote understanding and respect for the Red Cross Principles, Humanitarian Values, and International Humanitarian Law as a means to promoting social cohesion and non-violence

- Strengthen understanding of the Myanmar Red Cross’s auxiliary role among the humanitarian sector by developing a strong, well-functioning and resourceful National Society

According to its Strategic Plan, 2021–2025, with partner support, the Myanmar Red Cross aims to equip Red Cross volunteers, national headquarters and state, regional and township branches with the technical, financial and material resources “to be a well-functioning National Society with the capacity of providing humanitarian services to the most vulnerable people in Myanmar and beyond.”

The National Society plans to extend its traditional emergency response activities – including the delivery of ambulance and first aid services, primary health care, water, sanitation and hygiene services, psychosocial support and protection – while also developing its preparedness through disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and resilience building.

To support these ambitions, the National Society plans to enhance its institutional capacity through branch development and decentralization, volunteer and youth management and capacity building, resource mobilization and human resource management, and partnership frameworks.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

In 2023, the humanitarian situation in Myanmar will continue to be dominated by the ongoing complex emergency. This protracted crisis is the result of long-standing violence between state forces and ethnic armed organizations in border regions of the country; the situation deteriorated further following a military intervention on 1 February 2021. Moreover, the impacts of COVID-19 continue to slow socio-economic recovery in the country.

Since February 2021, there has been a marked increase in civil unrest and political instability in Myanmar. According to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), there are currently 12 ongoing non-international armed conflicts in the country.

As a result, insecurity is rising throughout the country, including in major urban centres including Yangon. Food insecurity, limited protection and the inability to access basic services – including mental health and psychosocial support, education and shelter – are expected to continue to be serious humanitarian concerns for 2023.

There are currently more than 1.2 million displaced people in Myanmar – the majority of whom were displaced following the military intervention in February 2021. There are also risks that significantly more people will be internally displaced in the near future, as authorities in Myanmar announced a plan to begin the repatriation of Muslims from Bangladesh. Following the outbreak of ethnic violence in Rakhine State in 2017, some 919,000 Muslims fled to Bangladesh.

Elevated and rising levels of displacement, due to increased levels of violence, present a major humanitarian challenge to displaced people and the communities that host them.

The politicization of humanitarian aid has led to operational challenges for humanitarian organizations including the Myanmar Red Cross and the IFRC network. Humanitarian organizations continue to experience restricted access to affected people, which has a significant impact on humanitarian logistics. Financial restrictions, including challenges in accessing currency, changing bank policies and authority-imposed bureaucratic bottlenecks, have negatively affected the scope of resources available for humanitarian programming and threatened the National Society's financial sustainability.

Current financial policies have also led to widespread inflation, which continues to increase humanitarian needs across the country. The depreciation of the local currency and the increase in the official foreign exchange rate are likely to continue to affect the National Society's capacity to plan and implement programmes, while also negatively affecting the ability of humanitarian organizations to deliver aid more broadly.

Accessing health care in Myanmar is difficult, as many health care workers have been participating in civil disobedience activities. Moreover, there is an ongoing lack of medicines and other essential supplies. For internally displaced people, the lack of access to health care is particularly grave as most are unable to access sexual and reproductive services and maternal and child health services. Many are also unable to seek treatment for communicable and non-communicable diseases and do not have access to safe drinking water or sanitation facilities. Additionally, most internally displaced people have unmet needs for mental health and psychosocial support.

While COVID-19 appears to be under control in the country, [UNICEF](#) reported that one million children have not been immunized against communicable diseases in Myanmar since 2021. Severe disruptions to the Expanded Programme on Immunization and the lack of access to water, sanitation and hygiene facilities are putting children and whole communities at severe risk of infectious and vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks. Internally displaced people are particularly at risk.

Access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities remains inadequate in Myanmar. [UN data](#) indicates that 73.8 per cent of the urban population and 52.1 per cent

of the rural population use safely managed drinking water. Moreover, according to [UN data](#), only 53.4 per cent of the urban population and 64 per cent of the rural population have access to safely managed sanitation.

Myanmar is also a multi-hazard country and is prone to several hydrometeorological and geophysical hazards such as floods, landslides, cyclones, droughts and earthquakes.

Despite the challenging context, the Myanmar Red Cross will prioritize life-saving actions through a coherent and coordinated set of interventions in 2023 to respond to the increasing humanitarian needs across the country.

Ongoing emergency response

For real-time information on emergencies, see [IFRC GO page Myanmar](#)

- Appeal number: [MDRMM016](#) Myanmar Complex Emergency
- Appeal launch date: 10 May 2021
- End date: 31 March 2023
- 14.5 million people affected
- 202,000 people to be assisted

In March 2021, a DREF operation was launched to support the Myanmar Red Cross in responding to civil unrest in the country. Upon the National Society's analysis of the deepening humanitarian crisis, the IFRC launched an Emergency Appeal in May 2021, which was revised in April 2022, extending the operation for another year (to end on 31 March 2023), and renaming it a complex emergency to better reflect the composite humanitarian needs in Myanmar.

The [Revised Operation Strategy](#) further details the context of the complex emergency. This includes amplified humanitarian needs since the third wave of COVID-19 in 2021 and the ongoing political unrest following the military intervention on 1 February 2021. Ongoing armed clashes across multiple states and regions and the overall increase in violence have caused widespread displacement while increasing humanitarian needs. Clashes have intensified particularly in Kayah, Kayah and Chin States, as well as in Magway and Sagaing Regions, resulting in rising numbers of civilian casualties and the destruction of individual and collective property.

These clashes have also spurred internal and cross-border displacement. Subsequently, thousands of people have been left without access to basic health care, safe water and sanitation facilities and livelihood support.

For this complex emergency operation, the Myanmar Red Cross has prioritized the following areas of intervention:

- First aid and ambulance services: national coverage across 330 townships for enhanced first aid capacity for volunteers, community-based organizations and ambulance services.
- Basic health services for communities: community-level access to basic emergency health assistance; strengthened local capacity in basic health and first aid expertise focused on the most vulnerable groups in high-risk locations.
- Socio-economic support: relief and food assistance for households facing immediate food insecurity and other forms of hardship; assistance to vulnerable households with livelihood support and restoration.
- Enhanced disaster response capacity: ensuring National Society disaster response capacity for small- to medium-scale disasters at a nationwide level, with a particular focus on regions and states with an annual vulnerability to natural disasters.

- Psychosocial support and protection: providing specialized support, basic counselling and debriefing assistance to people with traumatic experiences and separation from, or loss of, family due to the ongoing complex emergency; support for referral assistance.
- National Society role and mandate for communications: managing the profile and reputation of the National Society among the public and key stakeholders including the authorities, affected communities, donors and external partners; ensuring that it is perceived positively and understood as a neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian actor focused on the provision of life-saving assistance to all people affected by the crisis.
- Planning, monitoring evaluation and reporting, information management, and community engagement and accountability: supporting effective information management, analysis and reporting, while ensuring there are systems in place for community engagement and accountability.

The IFRC Emergency Appeal for the complex emergency feeds into the Myanmar Red Cross Society's broader response plan, which is also bilaterally supported by other donors. Although the Emergency Appeal operation will cease in March 2023, work to enhance the National Society's response and its preparedness capacities will continue with support from the IFRC network.

Strategic priorities

Climate and environment

The country is exposed to various hydrometeorological hazards, including riverine, urban and coastal flooding, landslides and heatwaves. It is also highly exposed to tropical cyclones and droughts. Climate change poses a severe threat to the country in terms of the impact on hydrometeorological hazards which will likely be exacerbated.¹

Flooding is a major natural hazard and particularly affects communities along the coastline and major rivers. The Ayeyarwady, the Yangon, the Bago, the Sittoung, the Thanlwin and the Atran are six major river basins which are vulnerable to flooding. Yangon

is especially vulnerable to high flood risk as it is located at the confluence of several rivers. Flooding occurs most frequently in between June to October which corresponds with the rainy season in Myanmar. Summer monsoon precipitation will increase during the 21st century, with enhanced interannual variability. The frequency and intensity of heavy precipitation events are also projected to increase, with potential effects in flooding and soil erosion. Relative sea level has increased at a higher rate than global mean sea level around Asia over the last three decades. This trend is likely to continue, contributing to increases in the frequency and severity of coastal flooding in low-lying areas and to coastal erosion.

1 Analysis in this section is supported by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre: <https://www.climatecentre.org/>

Cyclones typically affect Myanmar in the pre- and post-monsoon seasons of mid-April to mid-May and October to November. The impacts of cyclones on coastal regions can be devastating, causing widespread flooding as well as the destruction of property and infrastructure. The coastal regions such as Ayeyarwaddy and Rakhine State or other coastal areas face the highest risk of cyclones and their impacts where events measuring as high as five on the Saffir-Simpson storm intensity scale can be seen. The frequency and intensity of cyclones have increased over the last several decades. Before 2000, cyclones made landfall approximately once every three years; today, cyclones make landfall every year in Myanmar.

A continuation in the increase in drought events is also projected, as rainfall becomes more erratic and unpredictable.

Climate change will also have an impact on health, increasing the risk of vector- and water-borne diseases, as well as damaging health infrastructure. Erratic rainfall events, salinization of farms, high-magnitude cyclones and temperature rise will increasingly impact farming by reducing crop yields, causing crop failures, and disrupting local production systems with direct consequences for income, food security and livelihoods. People who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods and survival are particularly at risk from the impacts of climate change. Large internally displaced populations in Myanmar are particularly vulnerable to these hazards, whether they are living in urban areas, predominantly in informal settlements, or in rural areas in camps or other displacement settings. Climate displacement will also increase.

Main actions and areas of support

The Myanmar Red Cross is part of the IFRC's [Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts, while building community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and most marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The Myanmar Red Cross has signed the Climate and Environment [Charter](#) for Humanitarian Organizations in 2022. The National Society, with support from the German Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross and the IFRC, has also launched the development process for two Early Action Protocols (EAPs) for floods and heat waves.

In response to the climate and environmental risks, the National Society, with support from IFRC network partners, has mainstreamed climate change-related activities in its operational strategy, with a focus on sustainable livelihoods and disaster risk reduction. Activities include:

- Develop a climate change policy, strategy and framework
- Engage in advocacy on climate change issues
- Implement environmental conservation actions (Green Response), with Swedish Red Cross and IFRC support
- Strengthen branches' capacity to act on climate change issues through awareness-raising and community-based activities
- Develop capacities to implement early actions nationwide, based on local capacities and impact forecasts
- Develop Early Action Protocols (EAPs) for main hazards in the country (floods, cyclones, heatwaves, droughts) and allow access to anticipatory funding via the Disaster Response Emergency Fund
- Develop technical tools such as trigger and risk mapping
- Participate in the Technical Working Group for Anticipation Actions (with UN Agencies, civil society organizations, international non-governmental organizations and authorities)

The IFRC, Finnish Red Cross, German Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross will continue to support actions in this area. The National Society will also seek additional partnerships to expand anticipatory action in multiple regions.

Disasters and crises

Myanmar faces some of the highest disaster risk levels in the world and is ranked 17 out of 191 countries by the 2022 Inform Risk Index (DRMKC, 2022). In addition to hydrometeorological hazards impacted by climate change, Myanmar is also a geologically active country, with six earthquakes of magnitude 7 and above since 1930. Smaller quakes regularly shake large parts of the country.

Myanmar is currently facing the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, economic instability and socio-political violence. Humanitarian needs across the country are expected to grow in 2023 because of the ongoing complex emergency, the escalation of armed clashes and rising internal and cross-border displacement.

Food insecurity is on the rise. As people are forced to abandon their livelihoods, they are faced with increasing prices and limited availability of basic food items. The National Society is distributing rice to affected people according to an ongoing arrangement with the UN World Food Programme. The IFRC is providing technical support to better enable the National Society to deliver livelihoods interventions to displaced populations and host communities. These programmes aim to reduce reliance on emergency aid for basic provisions and build a foundation for recovery.

Cash and voucher assistance will continue to be a preferred way for the National Society to provide assistance in a dignified and flexible manner that meets the needs of people affected by the emergency. The IFRC will also assist in scaling up the use of cash and voucher assistance by facilitating ongoing and future agreements with financial service providers to support activities. It will also aim to engage these providers as potential substitutes for international fund transfers from the IFRC.

As a pilot country for the IFRC network New Way of Working initiative, the Myanmar Red Cross and in-country partners are preparing a multi-year plan to incorporate all the IFRC network's work in Myanmar. This will include IFRC network-supported initiatives to strengthen the National Society's ability to respond effectively to new or increasing needs, as guided by the results of a recent PER self-assessment.

The National Society has identified the need to improve logistics and supply chain management throughout its branch network to enhance its response capacity. Warehouse management and storage capacity, coordination and information sharing, procurement and standard procedures, are all sectors that will be targeted for further development.

The IFRC regional operational procurement, logistics, and supply chain management unit supports international procurement. This is necessary when it is not possible to source items locally, either due to a lack of local availability or due to financial restrictions. This unit will also offer context-based technical training in logistics to the IFRC network in Myanmar, which is important

for quality assurance and fosters the standardization of in-kind goods and procured items.

Main actions and areas of support

As a core area of the Myanmar Red Cross, the IFRC and all participating National Societies will continue their support in disaster and crisis response. To strengthen its disaster management department, operations management unit and logistic department, the Myanmar Red Cross receives support from American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent. The New Zealand Red Cross provides remote technical support in logistics capacity development.

Activities foreseen in 2023 include:

- Provide support to affected populations for livelihoods and basic needs, through in-kind and/or cash and voucher assistance and skills development
- Develop a food security and livelihood strategy
- Revise the standard operating procedures and guidelines for cash and voucher assistance
- Implement the preparedness plan 2022-2025, which aligns with PER prioritization
- Develop a recovery, sustainability and resilience plan
- Update the disaster risk management policy, strategy and response plan to adjust to new needs
- Strengthen existing Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) and expand to additional states and regions
- Develop contingency plans for the complex emergency in states and regions
- Implement the logistics and supply chain capacity development plan, which includes construction and reconstruction of the National Society warehouses, as well as training and software
- Adopt an integrated institutional stock management approach
- Establish framework agreements for non-food items (tarpaulins, long-lasting insecticidal nets, blankets), for fuel, and with financial service providers for cash assistance
- Provide coordination and oversight of the nationwide fleet management system
- Expand mine risk education



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Health and wellbeing

Access to health care has become severely limited as a result of the ongoing complex emergency. Access to primary, secondary and tertiary health care continues to decline. Similarly, access to routine immunization has declined dramatically. Moreover, humanitarian agencies, including the Myanmar Red Cross, have identified nutritional deficiencies among communities that are directly and indirectly affected by the complex emergency.

The National Society is well known and respected for the provision of first aid and emergency health care in Myanmar. It aims to expand and enhance its first aid and ambulance services by standardizing its services. Beyond advanced training needs and the updating of guidance documents, the National Society needs a national command control centre to oversee and coordinate the township branches that provide ambulance services. The National Society branches also require material support, as fuel, maintenance and logistics costs have skyrocketed in recent months.

The National Society recognizes the need and has the capacity to further develop and enhance its capacity in first aid, including through the establishment of more community first aid posts. The German Red Cross will continue to work with the National Society to further expand and professionalize these services.

The IFRC network will continue to support the National Society's priority COVID-19 response activities. This includes preventative measures such as hygiene promotion and ongoing support for vaccination efforts, alongside preparedness training for epidemics and pandemics.

The complex emergency in Myanmar has had a negative impact on affected populations' psychological well-being. National Society volunteers and staff who have provided support in affected regions have also suffered from compromised psychological well-being. Age-appropriate and culturally sensitive psychosocial support that protects people's well-being is urgently needed. The National Society aims to strengthen provision of psychological first aid, which has been incorporated into all first aid programming. Plans are underway to strengthen capacities to provide psychosocial support at the national headquarters and throughout the branch network.

Access to safe drinking water is particularly poor among rural and displaced populations. Emergency water, sanitation and hygiene interventions need to be scaled up to provide a full package of humanitarian services to target populations throughout the country.

These services will also continue to form part of ongoing COVID-19 prevention activities.

Main actions and areas of support

The Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross and the IFRC will continue to support the National Society in Myanmar in emergency health, public health and community-based health programming. The Swedish Red Cross is the co-lead with the Myanmar Red Cross on water, sanitation and hygiene programming. The IFRC will also continue to offer technical support in health and water, sanitation and hygiene programming, and the rollout of global and regional tools.

Activities foreseen in 2023 include:

- Update the health policy and strategy
- Develop and expand first aid services, including psychological first aid and commercial first aid
- Enhance ambulance services through service mapping, standardization, the medical emergency ambulance system and crew training, also focused on safety and security awareness, command/control centre, and ambulance procurement
- Provide primary health care, including reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, and including through mobile clinics
- Provide community-based health (public health in emergencies, reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, community-based health and resilience, among others)
- Provide epidemic preparedness and control including ongoing COVID-19 prevention and response
- Incorporate psychosocial support with first aid, protection, gender and inclusion activities, and in volunteer and staff management
- Roll-out water, sanitation and hygiene in emergencies (prepositioning of water, sanitation and hygiene equipment, capacity building, among others)
- Provide community-based water, sanitation and hygiene as standalone as well as integrated with other interventions
- Update water, sanitation and hygiene guiding documents, such as standard operating procedures, training curriculum, guidelines
- Maintain physical rehabilitation services (supported by ICRC)
- Grow voluntary non-remunerated blood donation

Migration and displacement

There are currently 1.2 million internally displaced people in the Myanmar, of whom 946,000 have been displaced since 1 February 2022. An additional 44,000 people were displaced to neighbouring countries. While the overall figure for internally displaced people includes the 183,000 Muslim people in Rakhine State who were displaced prior to February 2021, it does not include the 936,000 people who remain displaced in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh.

The Myanmar Red Cross, alongside other humanitarian actors, has stated that conflict-related internally displaced people urgently require food, access to health care services, shelter, education support and access to safe water and sanitation facilities. In many cases, host communities are also affected by the influx of a displaced population that strains already limited resources and livelihood opportunities. The protracted displacement will require expanded support for livelihoods, and will require durable and integrated solutions. Internally displaced people, migrants and returnees also need to participate in community-based disaster risk reduction activities.

The National Society has been operating in border regions, assisting people who are returning to Myanmar. Working in tandem with the ICRC, the National Society has been working to reunite separated families. In the coming years, the National Society aims to continue to provide its principled humanitarian services in return and relocation contexts.

Main actions and areas of support

The IFRC, the British Red Cross and the Italian Red Cross continue to support Myanmar Red Cross Society's migration and displacement actions. The British Red Cross has historically supported internally displaced people and host communities in Rakhine State. For 2023, the Danish Red Cross has offered support for the implementation of the National Society's migration and displacement strategy, including the development of standard operating procedures and ongoing capacity building. The IFRC will continue to support the National Society through the provision of technical guidance on migration and displacement, training and peer-to-peer information exchanges. Activities for 2023 include:

- Scale up and adapt migration and displacement services and programmes
- Conduct integrated assessments on internally displaced persons and migrants' needs

- Integrate response actions to support migrants and internally displaced persons in existing programmes (preparedness and disaster risk reduction) and operations (complex emergency)
- Implement community-based actions in communities of origin, transit and destination (safe referral networks, awareness sessions on family separation, restoring family links services, support to families of the missing)
- Provide restoring family links services along migrant routes and in detention
- Engage in advocacy for access to essential services by migrants and internally displaced persons
- Leverage information as aid (information on services, risks, rights and entitlements) to migrants and prospective migrants
- Develop sectoral standard operating procedures
- Establish communication protocols with neighbouring National Societies
- Participate in humanitarian coordination mechanisms on migration and displacement

Values, power and inclusion

The Myanmar Red Cross recognizes the varied protection needs required to maintain the dignity and security of women, men, girls and boys in emergency contexts. With partner support, the National Society aims to incorporate a protection, gender and inclusion perspective within its work, while applying a dignity, access, participation and safety approach across its actions in disaster and crisis response, health interventions, water sanitation and hygiene, and psychosocial support programming.

The National Society is developing its policy on prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse, and expects to receive approval for this plan in 2023. It is aiming to build upon participating National Society policies as well as IFRC policies on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. It is also looking to leverage elements from policies on protection, gender and inclusion, as well as child protection and safeguarding within the IFRC network. Ongoing support from the IFRC will be vital for the development of the policy.

The Myanmar Red Cross is committed to mainstreaming community engagement and accountability across all its programmes and operations to ensure that community voices design and guide its work. The medium-term goal is to have community engagement and accountability focal points in all branches that support complex emergency operations. Training in the creation and use of feedback mechanisms is a high priority.

Main actions and areas of support

Alongside IFRC overall support on protection, gender and inclusion, and community engagement and accountability, many participating National Societies have expressed interest in supporting the Myanmar Red Cross Society's work on protection, gender and inclusion. In 2022, a technical working group on protection, gender and inclusion was established in Myanmar. Currently the Swedish Red Cross is a co-leader in this working group, alongside the Myanmar Red Cross. Activities in 2023 include:

- Draft the policy on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse
- Revise the child protection policy with a safeguarding focus
- Translate, print and disseminate the IFRC minimum standards on protection, gender and inclusion
- Set up protection, gender and inclusion and community engagement and accountability networks at the headquarters with focal points from each department contributing to the institutional task force
- Mainstream protection, gender and inclusion in all operations and programmes, directly linking with psychosocial support work
- Support the integration of returnees, internally displaced persons and migrants in communities of origin, transit and destination (aligned with actions in migration and displacement section above)
- Integrate community engagement and accountability into programmes and projects
- Train volunteers, staff and leadership in community engagement and accountability
- Set up and roll-out a common community feedback mechanism

Enabling local actors

Based on the findings of the January 2022 [OCAC](#) self-assessment, the Myanmar Red Cross identified four inter-related elements that will enable it to become a stronger National Society: branch development and decentralization; volunteer and youth management and capacity building; resource mobilization and human resource management; and partnership frameworks.

Branch development and decentralization

The National Society has conducted branch organizational capacity assessments in more than 170 of its branches. Outcomes from these assessments are guiding capacity-building activities on financial management, resource mobilization, human resources, planning and monitoring. This work is supported by the IFRC Asia Pacific Branch Organisational Capacity Assessment Hub, hosted by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

Main actions and areas of support

- Conduct branch organizational capacity assessments Create and monitor branch action plans (based on branch organizational capacity assessment findings) and incorporate these into all projects and programmes
- Enhance and expand the branch development decentralization strategy

Volunteer and youth management and capacity building

A decline in the number of active volunteers, due to the ongoing complex emergency, has affected the National Society's capacity to deliver its objectives. In response to falling numbers of volunteers, the Myanmar Red Cross plans to promote volunteering through greater incentives and recognition. It will also expand the profile of volunteers and update its volunteer policy to match the current context. This will enable the National Society to make better use of volunteers by mapping their capabilities and strengthening their understanding of the Red Cross Red Crescent Fundamental Principles so that they can better advocate for the Myanmar Red Cross Society's auxiliary role to public authorities.

Main actions and areas of support

- Develop a minimum training package for Red Cross volunteers

- Review and revise the volunteer policy, incorporating updated guidelines for volunteer development in the ongoing complex emergency
- Create and disseminate a unified volunteer management system by strengthening the integrated management system volunteer module in all states and regions

Resource mobilization and human resource management

The country context has led to a decline in the National Society's general funds. Similarly, the context has reduced the National Society's ability to secure additional support, and it continues to face severe banking challenges. The Myanmar Red Cross requires support around flexibility in financial management, particularly around the limited availability of auditable material, to ensure its continued functioning. It also needs support to remedy issues around staff turnover.

In 2023, the National Society will build on the strong elements of its financial management system and review its core cost recovery system. This system enables the National Society to have a seven per cent financial buffer to support personnel and other overhead costs that are not covered by programme and project expenses. Core staff positions and salary scales will form part of this review. With the review and its audited annual financial reports, the National Society will be in a better position to present potential proposals for changes to its cost recovery system.

The National Society is also aiming to develop a business continuity plan, which will encompass finance and other institutional areas. This plan will be critical to ensure that the National Society is able to maintain its prioritized services and continue its humanitarian actions.

Main actions and areas of support

- Increase the National Society's general funds through maximizing current income generation activities and exploring new ones
- Update and implement the resource mobilization strategy 2022-2025, including measuring its effectiveness and relevance in the long-term
- Develop resource mobilization guidelines and tools, train and disseminate to branches

- Conduct an internal cost recovery review (core structure, pay scale and adjustments for current context)
- Design a human resources development policy and guidelines, incorporating skilled volunteers and internship programmes
- Enhance safety and security management, including in relation to the Safer Access Framework

Partnership frameworks

The Myanmar Red Cross aims to maintain the in-country support of participating National Societies and the IFRC, while simultaneously facilitating communication, coordination and support from other National Societies. The National Society's partnership and relations department enables this collaboration by providing direct support for the work of international representatives of the IFRC and participating National Societies. This includes, but is not limited to, obtaining necessary visas, domestic travel authorizations, and permissions for short-term missions from international partners from the IFRC network.

Main actions and areas of support

- Establish a working group on partnerships with IFRC network members
- Develop guiding documents including a strategy, terms of reference, job descriptions
- Co-create a partner financial mapping database
- Enhance capacity for partner legal contractual agreements and related documents
- Promote peer-to-peer support with IFRC members' partnership teams
- Develop an online partner package for dissemination

Other support from the IFRC

The situation in Myanmar is highly polarized. Humanitarian action is constantly politicized, while humanitarian principles are regularly challenged. Within this context, the IFRC plays an important role

by engaging in humanitarian diplomacy with a range of decision-makers within Myanmar. Moreover, the IFRC supports the National Society in developing public messaging to reinforce the importance of the fundamental principles, the auxiliary role of the Myanmar Red Cross and the role of the IFRC network. This work is essential in countering the politicization of humanitarian action and misperceptions that can affect community acceptance of the National Society as well as the safety of Red Cross Red Crescent personnel.

The IFRC will continue to support the National Society in developing its capacity and engaging in advocacy with local and national authorities. Particular focus will be placed on amplifying the needs of internally displaced people, migrants and returnees. The IFRC will also aim to extend these advocacy efforts regionally and globally while also highlighting elements of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in Myanmar.

In 2022, the planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting unit launched a process to create standard organization-wide indicators to be used by the National Society in Myanmar and all its partners. In 2023, past indicators will be updated and brought into line with the newly identified indicators; standard reporting templates and a unified monitoring system will also be rolled out to ensure organizational consistency.

The National Society's information management and technology unit enables its branches and headquarters to advance the National Society's digital transformation. Information management in emergencies – which includes data and information collection, dashboard and infographic development, and geographic information system mapping – will remain a substantial area of work for this unit in 2023 and beyond. The unit also aims to produce products that enable decision-makers and end users at the National Society's headquarters and branches to make timely, well-informed decisions based on accurate, updated and accessible data. In 2023, the information management and technology unit will develop an information and communications technology strategy and digital transformation roadmap.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC delegation in Myanmar was established in 1993. With its main office in Yangon, it has a sub-delegation in Rakhine state. The IFRC provides support to the Myanmar Red Cross on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme. In recent years the IFRC supported the Myanmar Red Cross through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) operations in relation to floods, landslides, cyclones, and a mine collapse, and the ongoing complex emergency operation.

National Society development is at the core of IFRC support. In 2021 and 2022, this included support for leadership development, resource mobilization (with a grant to increase its financial sustainability), branch development capacity through the Emergency Appeal operation, and Organisational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC). The IFRC also provided support for the revision of the National Society Partnership Framework, strengthened its partnership management skills, and improved its human resources systems and development. The IFRC also provides technical guidance on finance, communications, and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

The IFRC continues to provide technical support for a security management system at the headquarters and in state and regional branches. This system, created in coordination with the ICRC, will provide enhanced security and safety for Red Cross volunteers and National Society staff.

The IFRC facilitates coordination between its members for more effective and efficient humanitarian impact in Myanmar, and support to the National Society. The IFRC also supports the National Society's engagement in humanitarian diplomacy. This includes the buttressing of the National Society's auxiliary role to the State authorities in the humanitarian field. The IFRC contributes to harmonized actions of all Movement partners in Myanmar, particularly the ICRC, to ensure the dissemination and widespread understanding of the Red Cross Red Crescent Fundamental Principles.

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing common priorities; co-developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, development assistance, and the auxiliary role efforts to reinforce the role of National Societies in their respective countries.

The Myanmar Red Cross is part of the IFRC network New Way of Working initiative, which is piloted in 14 countries. It aims at establishing a new model of membership coordination, working over multiple years to instill a thorough change management in the ways the IFRC network works together, and placing the National Society of the country at the centre. This includes prioritizing effective coordination for much greater gains, optimizing the power of working as one IFRC network by sharing resources, learnings, and common standards, and to ultimately achieve greater impact. Particular attention is given to collective planning to ensure that National Society partners present in the country participate in one multi-year country plan, which will ensure that the resources and expertise of the network in the country are used in a complementary and efficient way.

In 2022, with guidance from the IFRC and support from participating National Societies, the Myanmar Red Cross initiated a shared leadership approach in certain sub-sectors of humanitarian action. Complementary to the New Way of Working initiative, IFRC network partners will continue to develop and enhance the understanding and implementation of what shared leadership looks like in practice in 2023, including the roles, responsibilities and tools required.

Participating National Society Support - Bilateral

Name of Partner NS	Funding Requirements	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
American Red Cross			●						
Australian Red Cross	CHF 0.37M	●	●	●		●			
British Red Cross	CHF 0.19M	●	●		●				
Canadian Red Cross			●						
Danish Red Cross			●	●	●	●			
Finnish Red Cross	CHF 1.03M	●	●	●		●	●		
German Red Cross	CHF 1.00M	●	●	●	●	●			
Japanese Red Cross			●	●					
Korean Red Cross			●						
Monaco Red Cross			●						
Netherlands Red Cross			●						
New Zealand Red Cross			●						
Norwegian Red Cross	CHF 1.85M	●	●	●					
Qatar Red Crescent			●	●					
Red Cross Society of China			●	●					
Singapore Red Cross Society			●	●					
Swedish Red Cross	CHF 2.72M	●	●	●		●			
Swiss Red Cross			●						
The Thai Red Cross Society			●	●					
Turkish Red Crescent	CHF 0.33M		●						

Total

7.49M

IFRC network long-term support to the Myanmar Red Cross includes the following:

The **American Red Cross** has had a working relationship with the Myanmar Red Cross since 1994 and has been present in-country since 2013. It provides bilateral support to the National Society, and channels funding through the IFRC using a multilateral approach to support emergency response operations. The American Red Cross provides support, resources and services throughout the cycle of disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery, while emphasizing elements of organizational development.

The American Red Cross objectives are aligned with the Myanmar Red Cross strategic plan. It includes to be a co-leader with other partners in supporting effective Myanmar Red Cross emergency response, guide and support the National Society to have a measurable impact on community and school preparedness, and ensure the impact is visible within communities and to donors, the government, and other appropriate stakeholders. It also includes to provide significant technical and financial support to strengthen the Myanmar Red Cross at township, state and national levels, and to conduct work in conflict-affected and disaster-prone areas not already supported by other partners. The American Red Cross will emphasize climate change initiatives by supporting youth action, climate change in coastal cities, urban heat risk and anticipatory action, in line with the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre's 2021–2025 Strategy.

Historically, the **Australian Red Cross** has supported the Myanmar Red Cross in the areas of community health and disaster management programming, as well as restoring family links. The Australian Red Cross continues to provide multilateral support to the National Society through the IFRC, and consistently supports the ICRC in Myanmar.

In line with its Grand Bargain commitments, since 2019, the Australian Red Cross has centred its programme model for Myanmar on the principle of localization. A key element of this approach is the removal of the Australian Red Cross's in-country presence. As a result, costs that would have been associated with being there are reinvested into National Society-led programming, enabling more strategic partnerships alongside a range of strategic and technical support that is provided remotely.

Australian Red Cross is focusing on institutional strengthening, preparedness and advocacy-related activities. This involves providing support for National

Society development, financial sustainability, disaster preparedness and response, epidemic preparedness, strategic communications, and programming around protection, gender and inclusion.

The **British Red Cross** has worked with and supported the Myanmar Red Cross for more than a decade. Since 2015, the British Red Cross has primarily engaged with the National Society's programming in Rakhine State and continues to work multilaterally with the IFRC in this region to support the Rakhine Community Resilience Programme. It has also supported the Myanmar Red Cross in strengthening its capacity to undertake migration and displacement activities – contributing to the development of displacement and migration policies and strategies at the National Society level.

In 2023, British Red Cross support will focus on enhancing the National Society's development initiatives in disaster management and cash programming. It will also continue to work with Myanmar Red Cross in the areas of migration and displacement, while enhancing its capacity for advocacy and human rights diplomacy.

The **Red Cross Society of China** is a historic sister National Society to the Myanmar Red Cross, and has provided first aid and resilience-building support over recent years. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Red Cross Society of China supported emergency response programming in Myanmar and was vital in the provision of vaccination support in border regions. Cooperation will continue after the expiry of the 2012-2022 memorandum of understanding between the two National Societies.

The **Danish Red Cross's** international work supports bilateral operations through collaboration with other National Societies. It also supports operations multilaterally through the IFRC and the ICRC. This support draws on diverse funding sources which include ECHO, DEVCO and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Myanmar is among the Danish Red Cross's 25 priority countries, with funding provided by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DG ECHO, Danish foundations and internally from the Danish Red Cross. This funding supports National Society development in Myanmar, as well as the Danish Red Cross's Myanmar Country Strategy 2022–2025. The strategy was developed in cooperation with the Myanmar Red Cross in 2020 and aims to enhance health and well-being, disaster response and preparedness, and protracted crisis response.

To ensure that people in Myanmar are better able to manage their physical and mental health and well-being

concerns, the Danish Red Cross provides technical support in the areas of reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, along with mental and psychosocial support and other specialized health services.

In terms of disaster preparedness and response, the Danish Red Cross is supporting volunteer training and management alongside activities that enable the readiness of the National Society's Emergency Operation Centres in Yangon and Naypyidaw. It is also supporting the National Society as it integrates its mobile health and mental health and psychosocial support services across disaster response activities. Other actions in terms of disaster response and preparedness include supporting the National Society in its headquarters and branch development, the implementation of early warning systems, and the development of community committees and feedback mechanisms. Through this work, the Danish Red Cross also supports Movement coordination mechanisms in Myanmar.

The Danish Red Cross will support the Myanmar Red Cross to ensure that people affected by protracted crises can rebuild and lead dignified lives. It will do so by supporting capacity building efforts as well as the development of standard operating procedures for migration. The Danish Red Cross will also provide technical and human resourcing support across areas of livelihoods, cash, migration programming and the integration of protection, gender and inclusion approaches across National Society programming

The **Finnish Red Cross** has been supporting the Myanmar Red Cross for nearly two decades in development cooperation and humanitarian aid. It provides bilateral support to the National Society for health programming, while providing multilateral support through the IFRC for humanitarian aid programming. Based on strategic priorities identified with the Myanmar Red Cross, the Finnish Red Cross supports community safety and resilience initiatives in Myanmar, and this includes programming in health, disaster risk reduction, disaster preparedness and organizational capacity development. The Finnish Red Cross and Myanmar Red Cross Societies share the mainstreaming priorities of gender and diversity, social inclusion, climate change and community engagement and accountability.

The Finnish Red Cross ensures that National Society development is systematically embedded within project plans, with a particular focus on strengthening township branch structures. This also supports the National Society's branch decentralization actions. Finnish Red Cross support has also contributed to the rollout of

branch organizational capacity assessment mechanisms and financial development, as well as the dissemination and implementation of Red Cross Law in Myanmar.

Finnish Red Cross funding for programming in Myanmar comes from the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and donations from the public in Finland. The Finnish Red Cross also supports the Myanmar Red Cross through ECHO funding, in cooperation with the Danish Red Cross.

The **German Red Cross** has been present in Myanmar since the end of 2018 and works in a bilateral partnership with the Myanmar Red Cross. As part of this, the German Red Cross supports Myanmar Red Cross across areas of disaster risk management, first aid, urban disaster risk reduction, forecast-based actions and anticipation, conflict-sensitive programming and organizational development. The German Red Cross also supports the Myanmar Red Cross Society's response to the ongoing complex emergency in Myanmar, in complementarity with other Movement partners. The German Red Cross also engages in learning, replication and scaling up with Movement partners in Myanmar.

Geographically, the German Red Cross supports the Myanmar Red Cross in the Yangon Region and is consolidating and expanding support to Rakhine and Kachin States. It is also providing support to township branches in coastal risk areas to support adjusting and preparedness initiatives, based on current and forecast scenarios.

Between 2022 and 2024, the German Red Cross will focus on disaster risk management programming at the Myanmar Red Cross headquarters and selected branches throughout the country. This will include providing support for applying the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) approach, first aid and safety services, and branch development and volunteer engagement. It also encompasses support to adopt a resilience approach, and for networking with state offices, related agencies and stakeholders.

German Red Cross support will also focus on ensuring that internally displaced people and host communities in fragile areas in Myanmar can access comprehensive, multi-sectoral humanitarian and transitional aid services. This includes the implementation of programming in disaster risk reduction and water, sanitation and hygiene, as well as the provision of livelihoods support and cash and voucher assistance.

German Red Cross will continue to engage in conflict-sensitive disaster risk management, anticipation and preparedness, through multi-sectoral programming. Innovative approaches for evolving scenarios

in Myanmar will be explored, linking with regional initiatives in Bangladesh, Nepal and the Philippines and with IFRC Reference Centres, including the Urban Hub, the Climate Centre and the Anticipation Hub. This also includes collaboration with both Movement and non-Movement humanitarian actors.

The German Red Cross funding that supports the Myanmar Red Cross comes from the German Government, specifically the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and Federal Foreign Office.

The **Japanese Red Cross Society** has supported the Myanmar Red Cross for many years in the areas of first aid services and road safety. It has deployed staff for direct support to the National Society in the past. Currently it provides multilateral support to the Myanmar Red Cross through the IFRC complex emergency operation. It also provides support to the ICRC in Myanmar and is seeking potential support for the Myanmar Red Cross plan to strengthen its ambulance service.

The Japanese Red Cross has been instrumental in starting the IFRC network New Way of Working initiative in Myanmar and is committed to providing technical and strategic support to the initiative.

The **Republic of Korea National Red Cross** started its collaboration with the Myanmar Red Cross as part of the response to cyclone Nargis in 2008, and later supported the National Society in water, sanitation and hygiene programming. The Korean Red Cross supported the Myanmar Red Cross in its COVID-19 response activities through the provision of financial and in-kind contributions. The Korean Red Cross also supports the National Society as it responds to the ongoing complex emergency in Myanmar and, in 2022, it made a critical financial contribution to the IFRC Emergency Appeal, placing it as the largest contributor to date. The Korean Red Cross has designated Myanmar as one of its priority countries in its International Humanitarian Assistance and Cooperation Development Strategic Plan 2022–2025.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** is a historic partner of the Myanmar Red Cross and has supported emergency response operations, including with human resources. The Netherlands Red Cross currently provides multilateral support to the Myanmar Red Cross through the IFRC Emergency Appeal for the complex emergency in Myanmar. It has designated Myanmar as one of its priority countries and is looking at expanding its support to the National Society in the areas of emergency preparedness and response, and climate change.

The **New Zealand Red Cross** has a longstanding relationship with the Myanmar Red Cross. Most recently, the New Zealand Government funded the Better Warehousing initiative, which resulted in the establishment of the Sittwe warehouse in June 2022. The New Zealand Red Cross is currently reviewing its operating model and will be considering all international engagement activities from 2023 onwards as part of that process.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** has been present in Myanmar since 2013, supporting the Myanmar Red Cross to enhance its organizational capacity and to provide services to vulnerable communities. The Norwegian support currently focuses on health and financial development. In terms of its engagement in the health sector, the Norwegian Red Cross supports the National Society's activities in Rakhine State (Maungdaw, Buthidaung and Sittwe) as well as in North and South Shan and Chin; it supports mobile health deployments while also investing in fixed clinics in Maungdaw. In Rakhine, the Norwegian Red Cross supports the Myanmar Red Cross programmes in sexual and reproductive health, the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and related outreach in camps of internally displaced people.

In cooperation with the Myanmar Red Cross's Operational Management Unit, the Norwegian Red Cross aims to support the National Society in enhancing its deployment of health teams in both Shan and Chin States, to address the growing needs with a particular focus on vulnerable populations. The Norwegian Red Cross is also discussing future areas of potential support in response to the growing humanitarian needs in Eastern Shan and areas in Sagaing.

The Norwegian Red Cross has also been supporting a finance development project in Myanmar since 2019. The project has enabled the Myanmar Red Cross to update and implement its finance manual, and to begin to reconfigure its organizational structure.

In the future, Norwegian Red Cross support may include community-based surveillance with a possible pilot project in Shan State. It may also support the Myanmar Red Cross in its health care in danger and climate change approaches. The Norwegian Red Cross is also interested in supporting programming that centres on community engagement and accountability.

The **Qatar Red Crescent Society** has historically been a partner of the Myanmar Red Cross and has provided multi-year support to the National Society in the areas of shelter, water and sanitation, and health. The Qatar Red

Crescent operated four mobile clinics in Sittwe, Rakhine State for six years, built health posts and trained community health promoters. In coordination with the IFRC, it also implemented a livelihoods programme. In 2023, the Myanmar Red Cross will continue to engage with the Qatar Red Crescent, seeking renewed cooperation.

The **Singapore Red Cross Society** provides financial and in-kind support for the Myanmar Red Cross Society's complex emergency operations; this support enabled the implementation of first aid and ambulance services as well as associated overhead costs. The Singapore Red Cross Society also convenes South East Asia National Societies to establish a network of responders in Myanmar. This will contribute to the founding of a centre of excellence for pandemic preparedness.

The **Swedish Red Cross** initiated its support to the Myanmar Red Cross in 1979. Myanmar is a priority focus country for the Swedish Red Cross, which has established a permanent delegation in the country since 2013. It supports the Myanmar Red Cross in the areas of health care, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods support, and health care and water and sanitation programming. It also supports resilience activities, National Society development, and the mainstreaming of protection, gender and inclusion, environmental sustainability and green response throughout its programming. It also provides technical support for volunteers in conflict and emergency contexts.

The Swedish Red Cross provides bilateral support to Myanmar Red Cross, as well as multilateral support

through the IFRC. The Swedish Red Cross also works in consortium with other participating National Societies. For 2023, the Swedish Red Cross will continue its current support through the Building Resilience and Inclusive Community programme and complementary Water for Future project, as well as the Ready to Respond project. It will also continue to support the IFRC complex Emergency Appeal, while looking for additional support.

The **Thai Red Cross Society**, as a neighbouring National Society, is a strategic partner of the Myanmar Red Cross Society. Both National Societies collaborate around issues that affect both Thailand and Myanmar, including migration, displacement and the COVID-19 pandemic. The Thai Red Cross has provided support for the ongoing complex emergency operation, making contributions to ambulance services and internet connections, and providing information technology support for National Society branches.

The **Turkish Red Crescent Society** established its presence in Myanmar in 2019, and provides bilateral support to the Myanmar Red Cross. This includes providing in-kind and cash assistance, maintenance and capacity building of warehouses, and distribution of food parcels in Sittwe and Buthidaung.

Additional IFRC network partners to the Myanmar Red Cross Society include the Canadian Red Cross, the Red Cross of Monaco and the Swiss Red Cross, which provide support to the National Society through the IFRC Emergency Appeal for Myanmar's ongoing complex emergency.

Movement coordination

The Myanmar Red Cross Society convenes meetings at leadership level with the IFRC and the ICRC to ensure close Movement coordination. Tripartite engagements, including the executive committee, the security cell and the security working group, are expected to continue in 2023. Information sharing also includes participating National Societies. In 2023, Movement partners will give a particular focus to develop a common understanding of the [Seville Agreement 2.0](#). This calls upon National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC to take on coordination responsibilities, and implement them in an inclusive, collaborative and mutually supportive manner, in order to make the best use of complementary strengths to deliver the strongest possible humanitarian response for people in need.

In Myanmar, the ICRC provides humanitarian assistance to people affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence. ICRC has been present in Myanmar for over 30 years, including in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine states. Its response is inclusive of emergency aid as well as long-term assistance. ICRC improves access to clean water, health-care facilities and better living conditions, promotes international humanitarian law and spreads education about risks related to landmines. It seeks to visit places of detention with an aim to secure better living conditions for all detainees, restore communication between them and their loved ones, and reunite families. Many of ICRC's programmes are jointly carried out with the Myanmar Red Cross Society.

Together with the National Society, the ICRC is strengthening its efforts to address emergency response needs in the Magway, Sagaing and Mandalay Regions.

Coordination with other actors

The Myanmar Red Cross Society receives support from the following United Nations agencies:

- The United Nations Population Fund – for support in mobile sexual and reproductive health care in Yangon and Northern Shan Regions
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – for reintegration support in Kayin State and in the Tanintharyi Region for returnees, internally displaced people and host communities
- The United Nations Office for Project Services – for three projects for community-based tuberculosis care in Yangon, Mandalay, Ayeyarwady, Magway and Southern Shan, as well as community-based malaria prevention in Southern Shan and general COVID-19 support
- The World Food Programme – for rice distribution
- The World Health Organization – for patient referral services in the Yangon Region

The Myanmar Red Cross Society shares information with other humanitarian actors and engages in coordination activities to avoid duplication of efforts and foster complementarity. At the national level, it has observer status in the Humanitarian Country Team. The National Society also co-chairs the emergency response preparedness working group, which is organized by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian

Affairs. As part of this, the Myanmar Red Cross facilitates information sharing which enables humanitarian partners to establish predefined roles, responsibilities and coordination mechanisms for emergency response. The National Society also acts as a co-chair for the cash technical working group; in this capacity, the National Society contributes to the development of a cash preparedness and readiness package which is informed by risk assessments and information sharing between in-country partners.

The Myanmar Red Cross also maintains observer status in the INGO Forum, a national-level platform that fosters coordination and partnership among international non-governmental organizations in the country.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and some of its member countries donated medical supplies, equipment and vaccines for the National Society in Myanmar to distribute throughout the country. The Royal Thai Government donated COVID-19 vaccine supplies to the National Society for use in border regions as well as other areas with low vaccination coverage.

The National Society also coordinates with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management for the provision of humanitarian assistance within Myanmar.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) data
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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