



ICRC OPERATIONS IN KACHIN

JANUARY to DECEMBER 2022

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of the victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance.

The ICRC has been present in Myanmar for over 30 years and we have been working in Kachin State since 2014. We provide assistance to vulnerable communities, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and people deprived of freedom, improving their access to essential services such as healthcare and cleaner water while supporting them in building sustainable livelihoods. The ICRC also raises awareness of risks related to landmines and unexploded ordnances (UXOs). With the Ministry of Health, we also provide physical rehabilitation services for persons living with disabilities resulting from landmine incidents, accidents or health complications at Myitkyina Physical Rehabilitation Centre (MPRC).

We have continued to adapt our response to reflect changing humanitarian needs, working with all communities in rural and urban areas. Over 100,000 persons remain displaced in Kachin State, after more than a decade of conflict. This includes long term displaced as well as newly displaced from more recent waves of conflict and violence.

The ICRC continues to advocate for humanitarian access required by our operational teams to reach affected communities and deliver assistance and adapted support. Particularly in highly affected conflict and hard to reach areas where concerns remain on the worsening negative impacts of armed conflict and violence on all communities. To implement an effective and comprehensive response, our humanitarian work focuses on responding to emergencies and protracted long-term crises.

At all times, we monitor the humanitarian outlook together with the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), and remain committed to a humanitarian response that helps communities live in safety and with dignity.



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OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



Pigs and chickens were vaccinated against the spread of livestock diseases. This vaccination programme was carried out by the community animal health workers (CAHWs) with support from the ICRC and the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD). Since 2021, more than 3,000 families have benefited from this vaccination programme in half of the Townships of Kachin State.

People in Kachin State mostly rely on farming, livestock, and casual labour to earn a living. Ongoing clashes can however endanger these livelihoods – making it harder for people to support themselves. That is why we work with communities to find solutions together. For instance, within the Agricultural Support Project, for monsoon season the ICRC distributed 23 tons of paddy seeds and 69 tons of organic fertilizers to 550 households (representing 2,941 people) in Mansi and Mogaung Townships to help them improve their food production capacity.



ICRC's prosthetists and physiotherapists have been providing support at Myitkyina Physical Rehabilitation Centre for service users with physical disabilities, including amputations due to mine injuries.



The Myitkyina wheelchair basketball team competed in the wheelchair basketball tournament on 3rd of December, International Day for Person with Disabilities. Sport encourages people to gain self-confidence and reintegrate into society.



The ICRC team in Myitkyina helped 94 people reach home with dignity as part of our 'Safe Return Home' programme for people released from detention, covering transportation fees and allowances for food and transitory accommodation.



The ICRC working with the MRCS provided 10 first aid and pre-hospital training sessions for communities in Mogaung, Waingmaw, Mohyin and Myitkyina, so they learnt basic care for those wounded and sick.



The Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) team has been conducting MHPSS sessions and psychoeducation group sessions for the service users of the Myitkyina Physical Rehabilitation Centre (MPRC). Every person is assessed for their mental health in the MPRC. The MHPSS team provides individual counselling services and other MHPSS related activities, if required, to support the continuum of care for the service users.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



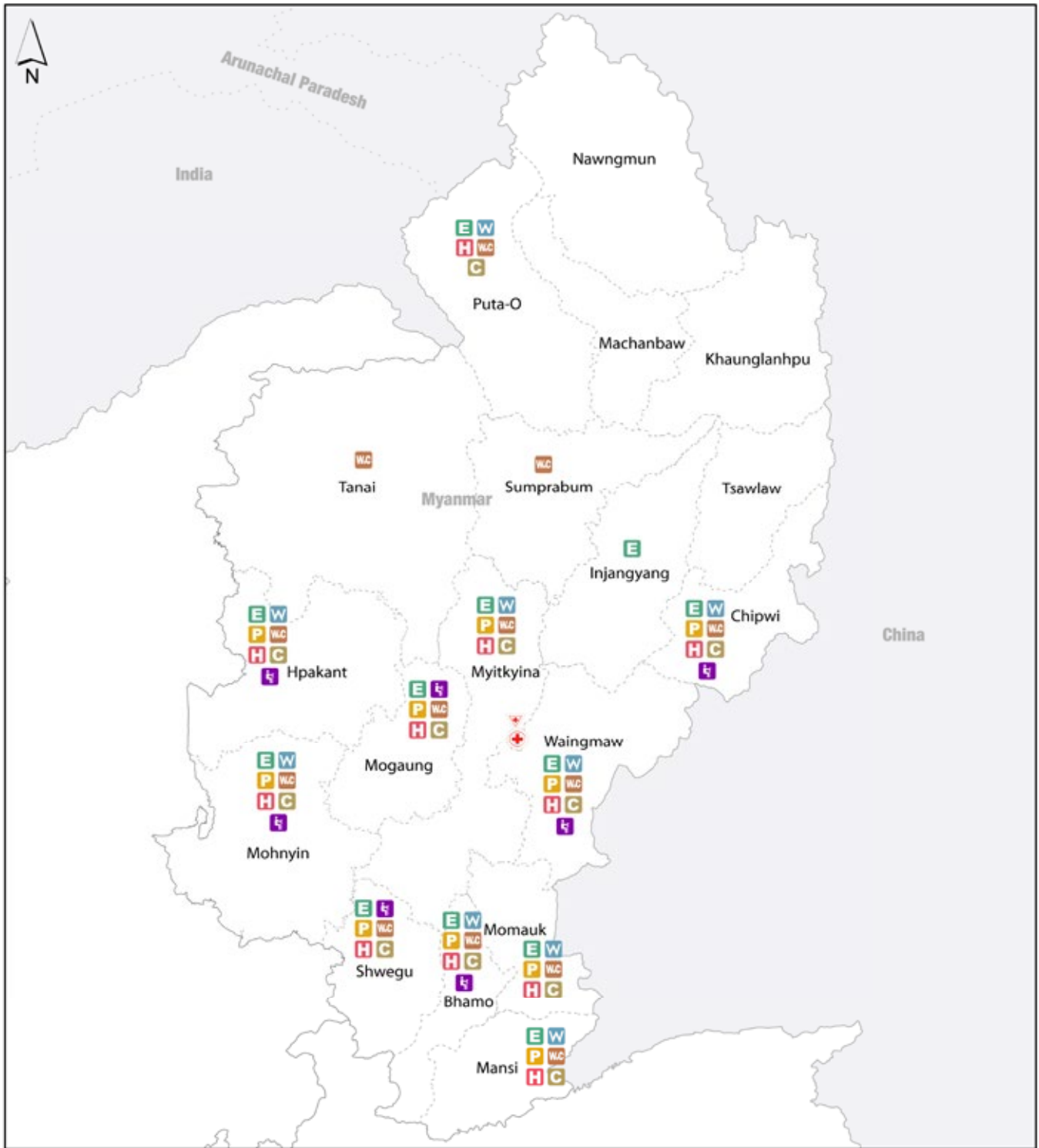
To help people reduce the exposure of risks related to landmines and other explosive hazards in their daily lives and working environments, ICRC and Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) provided mine awareness sessions for communities in 11 Townships in Kachin.



The ICRC implemented a gravity flow water system in Maing Khaung, Mansi Township in 2022. The installation of all main pipelines and distribution lines has been completed and now supplies water to some 6,236 people, including those living in 4 IDP camps.

Across Myanmar, rural health centres play a crucial role in ensuring remote communities can access the medical care they need. Our team in Kachin was able to support the renovation of one such centre in Sadaung, Waingmaw Township. A new latrine, bathroom, medical waste disposal machine, and concrete stairs were also built as part of the renovation.





Legend

-  Sub-Delegation
-  Supported Prosthetic
-  Economic Security
-  Water and Habitat
-  Protection of Civilian Population
-  Weapon Contamination
-  Health
-  Cooperation
-  Physical Rehabilitation Program (PRP)
-  Myanmar
-  Neighboring Countries



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HELPING AFFECTED PEOPLE MEET THEIR ESSENTIAL NEEDS



52,556 people received essential household items such as blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen sets and hygiene items to cover their essential needs after displacement.



16,427 people were supported with various kinds of vegetable seeds, staple crops, and fertilizers to sustain their food production efforts.



12,780 farmers had their livestock treated and vaccinated.



1,947 people received assistance to solve their daily essential needs.



49 people improved their capacity through agricultural and livestock trainings.



427 People were supported to run a small business and sustain their livelihoods.



4 agricultural farms in Myitkyina and Waingmaw Townships were supported to recover structural gaps in their service delivery system.

#The support above helped to address the most, the urgent and basic requirements of communities in need of assistance.

HEALTH



557 people received COVID-19 vaccinations in five Townships (Myitkyina, Waingmaw, Bhamo, Mansi, and Momauk) in collaboration with local health departments.



Healthcare support was provided for **11,816 people** including 115 weapon-wounded treatments and 2,282 surgical treatments in ICRC-supported health facilities in Myitkyina, Bhamo, Hpakant and Waingmaw Townships.



19,280 curative consultations were provided in 8 health structures in Kachin State, such as in hospitals and sub-centres.

PHYSICAL REHABILITATION



OUR SERVICES supported:

365 people living with disabilities

148 people affected by mines or other explosive ordnances

2,512 PHYSICAL REHABILITATION SERVICES and devices were provided, including:



2,097
Physiotherapy
sessions



179
Prostheses



167
Walking
aids



38
Wheelchairs



31
Orthoses



3 people living with disabilities were supported to start small businesses to build sustainable livelihoods.



73 people living with disabilities participated in sporting activities and vocational training to encourage their integration into society.



6 Mental Health Psychosocial Support group sessions (MHPSS) were conducted in the last months of 2022 for at least 13 service users in the MPRC. Individual assessments for the mental health conditions of the service users of the MPRC are regularly done.

RAISING MINE RISK AWARENESS AND PROMOTING SAFE PRACTICES



10,865 people received life-saving information about the risks of landmines through 219 awareness sessions conducted by MRCS and ICRC.



61 school teachers from 36 different community-based schools were trained as mine risk education (MRE) trainers. They were then able to share MRE messages with their students and respective communities.



1 humanitarian mine action workshop was conducted with representatives of various agencies in January 2022.



12 MRE and Myitkyina Physical Rehabilitation centre **billboards** were installed in Momauk, Bhamo and Mansi to pass key preventive messages to the local communities.



IMPROVING ACCESS TO WATER, SANITATION AND SHELTER



9,634 people received donations of emergency response items such as water filters, water pipes, light bulbs, wire tie, plastic bowls, plastic buckets, temporary latrines and shelter materials in Waingmaw, Bhamo, Momauk, Hpakant, Puta-O and Myitkyina Townships.



6,236 people living in rural areas in Maing Khaung under Mansi Township had better access to safe and cleaner water through ICRC's rural water and sanitation programme.



2,660 IDPs from Maina KBC IDP camp in Waingmaw Township benefited from the installation of 22 solar streetlights for safety, and the construction of borehole with electrical pump for access to cleaner water.



750 newly displaced people from a Shan IDP camp in Bhamo gained smoother travel access with a road constructed by the ICRC.



750 students and their parents from Maina KBC IDP camp, were able to travel more easily by using a wooden bridge built by the ICRC inside the compound of the camp.



324 IDPs in Na Sa and Hka Karan Yang Resettlement sites benefited from the construction of shelters, including kitchens, installation of household solar power system and streetlights.



250 people improved their living conditions when household solar system was installed and renovated.



50 beds were made available for patient aftercare through health facilities improvement project in Waingmaw Township Hospital, and 3 beds in Sadung Main Sub Rural Health Center.



1 MRCS branch office in Chipwi was constructed and supported through the MRCS support programme.

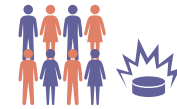
SUPPORTING PEOPLE AFFECTED BY LANDMINES AND OTHER ORDNANCES, DETAINEES AND THEIR FAMILIES



94 people released from detention facilities were supported to return home to their families.

6 families searching for their loved ones received news about their fate or whereabouts.

4 families received support that allowed them to meet their loved ones in detention.



42 civilians affected by landmines and other ordnances received assistance to aid their recovery process.

WORKING WITH MYANMAR RED CROSS SOCIETY



Together, MRCS and ICRC have been working on MRE (Mine Risk Education) programmes in Kachin since 2016. In

2022, we ran **activities in 11 Townships**. We work to enhance the knowledge of Red Cross Volunteers and community leaders in risk awareness and safer behaviour, through mine risk education activities across the State. We have installed **MRE billboards** in Momauk, Bhamo and Mansi townships and regularly broadcast MRE messages through local radio channels.



On World Red Cross Day, the ICRC, with the MRCS, provided plastic mats, body soap, face masks, face shields and hand gels to about 190 elderly persons in Palana IDP camps I and II, and Trinity IDP camp in Myitkyina. A **blood donation campaign**, involving more than 50 volunteers was held at Myitkyina general hospital.



The ICRC **constructed and donated a new office** for the Chipwi MRCS branch, a two-story building including storage space and a deep well.

INFORMATION AS AID



29 posts on Facebook highlighting operations and activities in Kachin State generated

128,076 views and an engagement of 17,491 likes/shares/comments.



140 People from academia, civil society and religious leaders participated in 10 meetings to discuss International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law issues.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

This is Ko Ying Zung. He is currently living in Myitkyina, Kachin State with his daughter. He has opened a motorcycle repair shop in town. He learned how to repair motorbikes before his life changed with one misstep on a landmine outside his village. Ying started this small business with crutches. He also received new prosthesis and got some assistance from the ICRC to better manage his workshop. He faced some misperceptions by some of the clients. Due to his disability, they thought, he couldn't fix their motorcycles. He overcame many challenges and stood strong for his daughter. Now he has regular customers in the shop and can run a sustainable business activity in Myitkyina. "Don't feel discouraged," he advises others facing similar situations.

The ICRC has been collaborating with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to provide rehabilitation services such as prosthetic and orthotic devices, physiotherapy, mobility aids, including, wheelchairs, special seats and walkers for persons living with disabilities as well as developing the capacity and skills of technical staff to support physical rehabilitation in Kachin State at Myitkyina Physical Rehabilitation Centre (MPRC).

In our Physical Rehabilitation Centre, we not only provide social and psychological support, but we also help people start small business by providing them with vocational skills to reintegrate into society. To stand with their own business in the community, we supported people living with disability with sewing training. Through these initiatives, we aim to help people rediscover vital social skills, be empowered and independent.



HELPING PEOPLE TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES THROUGH OUR LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMME

“We are very grateful for these seeds. Once fully grown, our family can enjoy fresh and nutritious vegetables and we can sell the rest at the market to earn a little income.” These are some of the plans of Daw Hkon Hpng to support her family in the midst of economic hardship. Daw Hkon Hpng’s family was one of the families, in Kachin State, that the ICRC supported with vegetable seeds and fertilizers.

In Kachin State, many people rely on farming, livestock and casual labour to earn a living. But ongoing clashes can endanger their livelihoods – making it harder for people to support themselves. In 2022, for the monsoon season, the ICRC team in Myitkyina distributed 23 tons of paddy seeds and 69 tons of organic fertilizers, and for winter season the team distributed vegetable seeds (11 varieties of vegetable seeds such as tomato, chili, kailan, radish and garden pea) and 62 tons of organic fertilizer. In total, 3,050 households representing over 16,000 people from displaced, returnee, resettlement and resident communities of Myitkyina, Waingmaw, Bhamo, Mansi, Mogaung, Mohnyin, Chipwi and Puta-O Townships benefited from the agricultural assistance.

In addition, community representatives from the assisted villages received training on best agricultural practices, to spread the knowledge within their communities. By cultivating a variety of vegetables and staple crops, vulnerable families in Kachin State will be able to reduce their food costs and improve their food production capacity.

Some families are from displacement sites, some are from their own village, and some are from new resettlement sites,” said Thi Thi Nyunt, from ICRC office in Myitkyina. “Our aim is to provide the seeds in time for them to grow during the monsoon and winter seasons and be able to produce food for themselves and their families.”

“We try to provide the most vulnerable farmers with high-quality farming supplies, technical knowledge and information that they need to bolster their resilience and develop their livelihoods in a lasting way”, said the head of ICRC EcoSec department in Kachin State, Khurshed Musoyatov.





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