



ICRC OPERATION IN RAKHINE

JANUARY to JUNE 2023

The ICRC has been providing humanitarian assistance in Myanmar for more than 30 years. We have been working in Rakhine State since 2012, assisting those who were and have been affected by armed conflicts and other situations of violence, both in urban and rural areas. The aftermath of the conflict in recent years, as well as the effects of COVID-19 in 2020 and Cyclone Mocha in May 2023 are examples of how our work has had to adapt to the needs of communities. Within Rakhine and beyond, thousands of people remain displaced and in dire need of humanitarian assistance.

The humanitarian access required by our operational teams to deliver aid remains challenging, especially in rural areas. Amidst the constraints or lack of conditions the ICRC must reach certain areas, we carry out activities to help the most in need, and they are meaningful to hundreds of thousands of people every year.

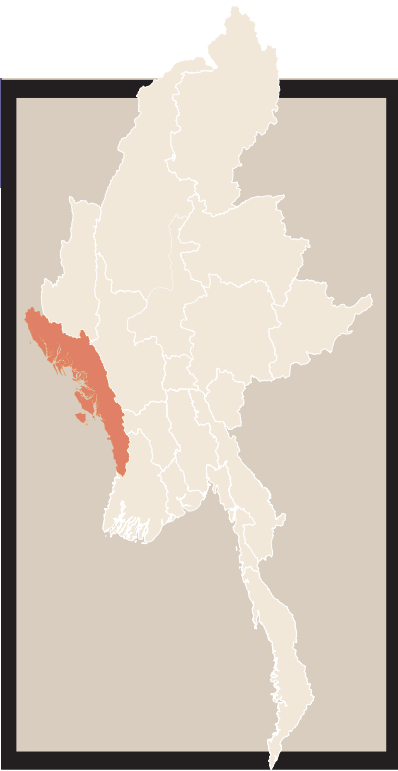
The ICRC remains concerned about the impacts of conflict and violence on all communities in Rakhine, and we continue to share these concerns with relevant authorities. In order to respond effectively, we frame our humanitarian work through the lens of both emergencies and long-term crises.

At all times, the ICRC monitor the humanitarian landscape and, as part of the Red Cross Movement, alongside with the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), remain committed to a humanitarian response that helps communities live in safety and with dignity.



ICRC

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



Cyclone Mocha severely hit the western part of Myanmar, mainly in Central and northern parts of Rakhine state, leaving many people in need of basic essentials. To ease their struggling, ICRC teams in Rakhine provided food, hygiene kits and shelter materials to the families living in areas severely affected by the cyclone.



Over 2,400 people including communities, CSOs, INGOs and government staff from Sittwe, Ponnagyun, Kyauktaw, Mrauk-U, Rathedaung, Pauktaw, Maungdaw, Buthidaung and Paletwa townships learnt more about ICRC and its mandate, operations, and principles through 80 awareness sessions.

BANGLADESH

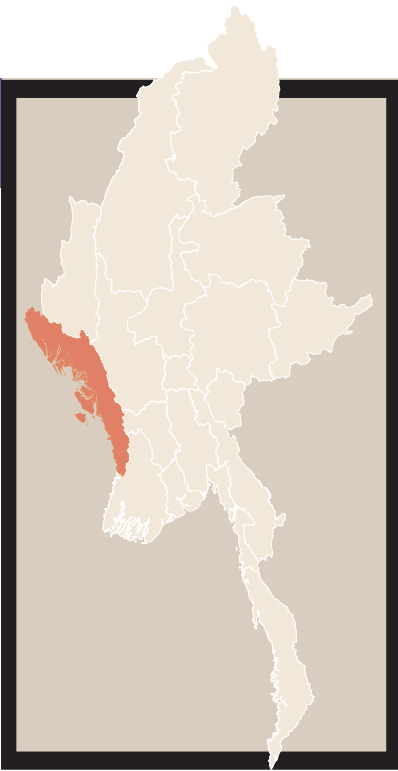


ICRC team in Maungdaw supported Ministry of Health's immunization programme conducted in 5 rural health centres in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships, benefitting 31,692 children under 2 years, as well as 4,731 pregnant women.



ICRC team in Sittwe supported more than 100 released detainees to cover their travel, food, and transitional housing expenses, which allowing them to return home safely to their families.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



ICRC facilitated “Amputee Pre-Prosthetic Management” trainings for 62 nurses in Maungdaw and Buthidaung to improve the quality of services offered in healthcare facilities there. The early rehabilitation practices will help service users in adaption and regaining their function and mobility once they’re fitted with prosthetic or mobility devices.



To improve rice production, maintain sustainable access to food and enhance food security in Rakhine, ICRC provided paddy seeds to 4,000 farmers from 45 villages in Mrauk-U and Pauktaw townships and 7,235 households from 48 villages from Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships.



Our ICRC team in Sittwe was able to reach families living in camps and villages across Rathedaung township to provide food rations and hygiene items, which covered more than 20,000 people.

Access to clean water and sanitation facilities is vital to everyone. In early May this year, our team in Maungdaw distributed materials to construct latrine for more than 400 families, benefitted over 3,000 people from two villages of Tha Peik Taung village tract in Buthidaung township.



210 women and 150 men from Hnget Chaung camp in Pauktaw township received materials to restart their fishing net making business, enabling them to support their families.





ENCOURAGING THE ABILITY OF PEOPLE TO MEET THEIR NEEDS



89,250 people received essential household items like blankets, mosquito nets and kitchen sets.



84,862 people received food rations.



71,724 people received seeds, farm tools and fertilizers to cultivate staple crop and vegetable.



27,310 people received fuel sticks for cooking.



2,520 people were supported to start a small business or maintain the existing one.



1,724 people earned incomes through various work programmes.



1,724 people who have access to market received support to buy their daily essential needs.



86 people were trained with training for farming and livestock breeding.



HELPING TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO WATER, SANITATION AND SHELTER



79,442 people improved their access to water, sanitation, shelter and received hygiene materials through ICRC's emergency response.



40,500 people living in urban areas including where IDPs are living had better access to clean water.



17,037 people who returned to their villages of origin were provided with either newly built or renovated shelters/homes, as well as improved access to essential services.



1 hospital and 7 primary health centres in Rakhine were rehabilitated and/or upgraded.



HEALTH



35,352 people including
30,515 children under
age five were immunized as part of
an ICRC supported immunization
programme.



ICRC supported **14** health
facilities in Rakhine provided
9,013 antenatal care
consultations and
20,004 curative
consultations.



3,706 patients
including **2** weapon
wounded patients and
354 surgical patients
were admitted to ICRC supported
6 hospitals.



1,082 patients were
transferred or transported for urgent
and immediate medical care.



44 people from Civil Society
Organizations participated in 2 basic
stabilization and care training and
other skills training sessions.



PHYSICAL REHABILITATION



84 people living with disabilities
including
27 people affected by explosive
hazards were supported through our
physical rehabilitation programme.



1,550 services provided including:



1,326
Physiotherapy sessions



115
Mobility
aids



84
Prostheses



23
Wheelchairs



2
Orthoses



10 people living with disabilities
were participated in vocational
training.



SUPPORTING DETAINEES AND THEIR FAMILIES



276 people supported financially upon release from prison, allowing them to return home safely to their families.



166 families were supported with transportation cost to deliver food parcels/letters in the prisons.



ICRC helped **16 families** identify whereabouts of their loved ones.



14 family news were shared between separated families through Red Cross Messages.



We helped **14 people** affected by explosive hazard with their medical costs.



RISK AWARENESS AND PROMOTING SAFE BEHAVIOUR



3,000 people learned more about the risk of explosive hazards and received information on safe behavior through

102 awareness sessions.



ICRC team in Sittwe provided **17 sessions** on Risk Awareness and Safe Behaviour during their operation in Chin State, a total of

911 people benefitted. .



WORKING WITH MYANMAR RED CROSS SOCIETY



895 Red Cross Volunteers provided their help in ICRC distribution for food, fuel sticks, household items and other supplies in Rakhine.



64 Red Cross Volunteers were raised their awareness on “Safer Access” through ICRC advocacy/dissemination sessions.



3 coordination meetings for field operations and emergency were conducted.



INFORMATION AS AID



741,353 views of 17 ICRC operational and thematic posts on Facebook with an engagement of **56,954** likes/shares/comments.



41 news articles focused on or mentioned ICRC in local media outlets.



36 people from different entities such as academic or legal circles, as well as with community leaders and religious leaders participated in **2 meetings** to discuss IHL/IHRL issues.

RESPONDING THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY ARMED CONFLICT



Food and other essentials were provided to communities living in Kan Thit IDP camp in Ponnagyun Township.

Following the recent intense clashes, many people from different townships of Rakhine were forced to flee their homes and most of them sought shelter in Ponnagyun township.

"Most of them arrived here in last November and were in need of food and other supplies. They have been relying on the rice donated by the nearby villages", said U Win Shaw Khine, helping people voluntarily at Yoe Ta Yoke camp.

In January, the ICRC team in Sittwe managed to distribute food rations, hygiene kits, supplies for women, blankets, mosquito nets, solar lamps, and other essential items to over 1,900 people temporarily living in Ga Nan Taung, Ah Myat Hle, Ah Htet Myat Hle, and Yoe Ta Yoke camps in Ponnagyun township.

We also provided makeshift latrine kits, tarpaulins, and other materials to build temporary shelters.

"We've identified that communities here are not only in need of food but also other essential for their daily basis as they can't return home for the time being," explained Ko Thura Aung, an ICRC staff in Rakhine.

The humanitarian needs in these communities remain high and it is crucial to reach those in need with basic essentials like food and other supplies in a timely manner.

SUPPORT TO IMPROVE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM IN URBAN AREAS



Mya Kan Thar intake was completely constructed.

A new intake tower was successfully constructed with three different inlet pipes seen as part of ICRC's commitment to Township Development Committee of Maungdaw (TDC), aiming to improve the water supply system and provide water in better quality to all communities in Maungdaw urban areas.

The project started in 2019 and was initially scheduled for completion in 2022, but due to rising water levels in the reservoir in the rainy season, it was partially completed in June 2022 and site cleanup work, such as cofferdam demolition and pipeline testing, remained pending. The project resumed in the 2023 dry season.

"I'd like to appreciate ICRC for their collaboration and support in both technically and financially for Urban Water project, including this Mya Kan Thar Intake construction. With strong technical support and the effective collaboration between ICRC and TDC, the project was completed very smoothly. I hope to maintain this great collaboration in the future as we all can see that water supply system in Maungdaw was upgraded and running efficiently", said U Aung Lwin Htay, an executive engineer of Maungdaw TDC.

Cover Photo: An ICRC staff is discussing about healthcare services with communities in Paletwa, Chin State.

International Committee of the Red Cross (Sittwe)

1/4, Myin Pyaing Kwin Road, West Sanpya Quarter, Sittwe, Rakhine State.
Tel: 043 20 22843, 22944, 22945

International Committee of the Red Cross (Mrauk-U)

Shwe Guu Taung Street, Nyaung Pin Zay Quarter, Mrauk-U, Rakhine State.
Tel: 09 456 192 922

International Committee of the Red Cross (Maungdaw)

No.1259, Aung Myay Bawdi Street, Ka Nyin Tan (Myoma) Quarter, Maungdaw, Rakhine State.
Tel: 09 458 035 286

International Committee of the Red Cross (Buthidaung)

Danya Waddi Road, Ward-5, Buthidaung, Rakhine State.
Tel: 09 458 035 286

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