

Myanmar has been plagued by unresolved armed conflicts and inter-communal violence that have been exacerbated by natural disasters for years. These violent and unpredictable events, as well as other factors such as poverty, food insecurity, statelessness, human trafficking and discrimination have placed at least 1,020,000 people at risk. Myanmar is also a country with the highest risk of natural disaster in South East Asia, annually affected by floods, typhoons and cyclones. Thereby, disaster preparedness throughout the country remains a major challenge. There is an imperative need to strengthen the national capacity to prepare for and respond to natural disasters, however protracted violent conflict in several areas hinders such progress.



Myanmar in numbers

transitioning

from a **40** years Junta rule
to democratic rule

46 infant mortality rate
(per 1,000 live births)

>50%

of IDPs are staying in areas where
humanitarian access is limited

78% of poverty in Myanmar
is at the Rakhine State

119,000

people in need of humanitarian assistance
in Kachin and northern Shan States

1,020,000
people are at risk

1,466,501

stateless persons in Rakhine State

Source: UN Data Country Profile, 2017

MERCY Malaysia in Myanmar

MERCY Malaysia officially registered as an Organization in Myanmar in 2015, establishing a country office and signing two Memorandums of Understanding, namely with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

MERCY Malaysia first entered Myanmar for emergency response to Typhoon Nargis in 2008, conducting emergency response and recovery efforts. Since then the organization has implemented several projects throughout the country addressing various humanitarian issues.

Following the eruption of violence in 2012 in Rakhine, MERCY Malaysia has been providing primary health care services and implementing WASH projects for IDPs and communities affected. MERCY Malaysia operates and conducts:

👉 **6** mobile clinics

3 static clinics

👉 **Health & Hygiene**
education sessions

👉 **Vaccination**
programmes

👉 **Referrals to**
tertiary healthcare centres

These programmes were implemented in collaboration with the State Health Department of Rakhine, the Township Department of Sittwe and the Health Cluster.

Renewed violence in northern Rakhine State in October 2016 has led to the exacerbation of an already protracted humanitarian crisis.

2008 - 2009

Emergency Response Cyclone Nargis

Severe tropical cyclones, namely cyclone Nargis made landfall in Myanmar in May 2008. The cyclone caused havoc, claiming the lives of more than 22,000 people and leaving up to one million homeless.

MERCY Malaysia responded through deploying medical and non-medical teams to provide a range of emergency humanitarian relief services.



- Mobile clinics for affected communities
- Rebuilding of damaged (2) Rural Health Centres, (8) Sub Rural Health Centres, (2) station hospitals and (1) township hospital
- Community preparedness training programmes for disasters
- Organization of training course for voluntary medical officers and general practitioners on emergency relief activities and psychosocial training
- Static clinic providing reproductive health services to pregnant women affected by the cyclone

Location: Ngapudaw and Mawlamigyun

2012

Health and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Project

After the 2008 cyclone, thousands of communities are still rebuilding their lives. Basic social services such as healthcare were reintroduced and communities moved from temporary living situations to durable solutions. In an effort to assist communities recovery MERCY Malaysia implements various health and WASH projects in affected communities.

- Provision of mobile clinics in rural communities, conducting primary healthcare services for 1,865 patients
- Education sessions for communities on common health issues, seasonal illnesses, diseases and good health and hygiene practices
- Construction of 360 latrines for affected communities
- Construction of community clinic
- Distribution of 250 hygiene kits
- Construction of 4 school latrines



Location: Kyauk Tan and Taw Palae

2012 - 2014

Humanitarian Response Violent Conflict Rakhine

Inter-communal tensions between different ethnic groups in Rakhine state turned violent, displacing 140,000 people from their homes into IDP camps. The situation is a protracted one, with more than 95,000 people still living in the same temporary IDP camps today. MERCY Malaysia deployed local teams providing both medical and non-medical humanitarian assistance.

- Distribution 3,000 hygiene kits
- Distribution 3,000 mosquito nets
- Donation USD 20,000 stock medication to Rakhine State Department of Health
- Provision building material for clinic in Say Tah Mar Gyi camp
- Construction of 13 health facilities
- Construction of Rural Health Centre at Thet Kel Pyin
- Provision of clean drinking water via filtering system



Location: Sittwe, Rakhine

2015

Flood Emergency Response and WASH Project

In July 2015, 12 out of 14 state regions in Myanmar were severely affected by floods - a result of Cyclone Komen which made landfall in neighbouring Bangladesh. Almost 900,000 acres of farmland was destroyed, 230,000 people displaced and thousands of homes destroyed. MERCY Malaysia instantly responded by deploying local medical teams to the Ayeyarwaddy Region.

- Provision of primary healthcare services to 5,929 patients through mobile clinics
- Distribution of 907 household items, 1,000 medicated mosquito nets, 1,000 water purification tablets and 250 hygiene kits to affected households
- Health and hygiene education sessions of 133 women and children



Location: Sagaing

2015

Cataract Surgical Mission

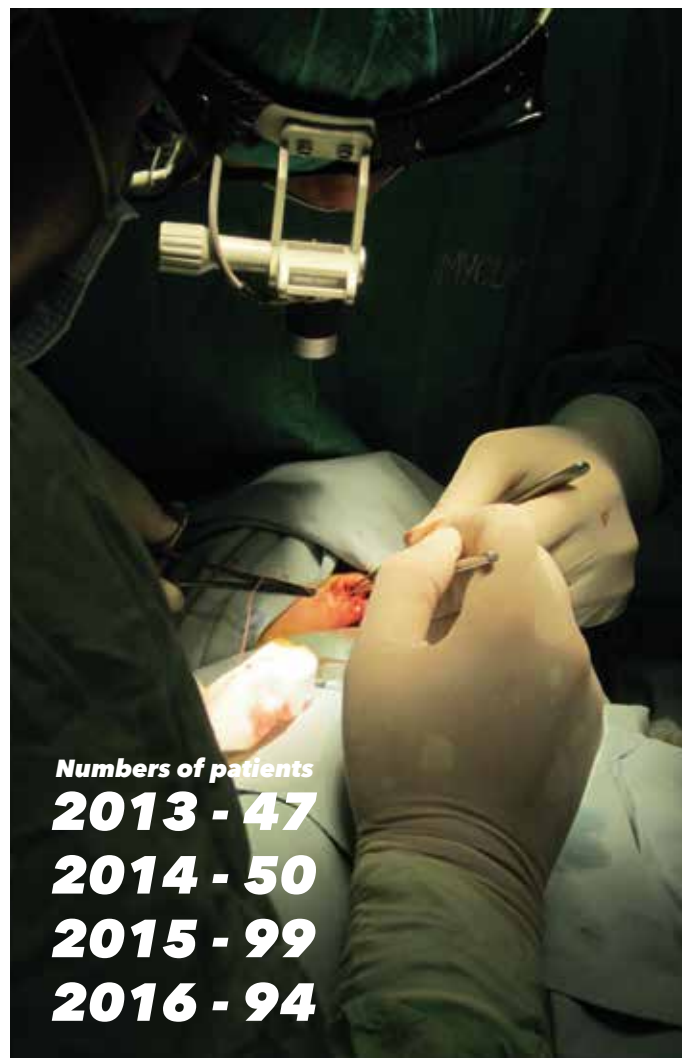
One of the major causes of blindness in Myanmar is cataracts, causing 53% of all blindness. Annually, approximately 80,000 to 100,000 cataract surgeries are performed to reverse this curable blindness. Majority of cases occur in adults aged between 21 to 50, impairing individuals from continuing with the source of livelihoods.

MERCY Malaysia deployed a team of specialized surgeons to Sitagu Ayudana Hospital in Sagaing to perform cataract surgeries on 46 patients. The team also increased the knowledge of caregivers and medical staff on infection control and post-operative care through education sessions.

2013 - 2016

Cleft Lip and Palate Project (CLIPP)

Myanmar has one of the highest incidences of cleft lip and palate in the world as there is a prevalence of cleft defects in 1 per 800 to 1,000 viable births, twice that of a developed country. The main factor contributing to this is poverty, as 26% of the population lives below the global poverty rate. MERCY Malaysia deploys, annually, a team of specialized surgeons to Sitagu Ayudana Hospital to perform specialized surgeries on children with cleft lip and palate deformity. The medical team performed surgeries, managed post-operative care and conducted education sessions with local medical staff and caregivers.



Location: Mandalay

2015 - current

Humanitarian response to Rakhine IDP Crisis

- Renovation of Rural Health Centre at Thet Kel Pyin
- Operation of 9 primary healthcare static and mobile clinics in camps and villages across Rakhine
- Health and hygiene education sessions
- Provision of medical supplies and transportation assistance to State Health Department to provide medical services in Northern Rakhine
- Operation of Thet Kel Pyin sub-rural health centre
- Medical staff training on Protection, Gender Based Violence, and Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS), Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Resilient Health Infrastructure



Primary health care operations
2015 - 77,514
2016 - 62,304
2017 - 18,900*

*targeted numbers

Location: Rakhine

2016 - current

Construction of Sub Rural Health Centre

Construction of sub-rural health clinic to increase the provision of health services to rural communities affected by floods. Total number of beneficiaries are 9000 person

Location: Sagaing

Future projects

Emergency Relief for the displaced communities affected by the conflict situation in Northern Rakhine

Outputs and activities

- Provision of primary healthcare services via mobile and static clinics
- Distribution of hygiene kits
- Distribution of shelter materials
- Distribution of non-food items

Target beneficiaries

- 400,000 IDPs

Goals

- Reduce the rate of mortality and morbidity amongst IDPS in Northern Rakhine
- Increase access to basic services and needs of IDPs in Northern Rakhine
- Improve hygiene practices amongst IDP communities to reduce rate risk of spread of infectious diseases
- Provide temporary shelter for IDP families

Target locations

- Sagaing
- Rakhine
- Kachin
- Mandal
- Ayeyarwady
- Chin

Projects

- Cleft lip and palate project (CLIPP)
- Construction of rural health centres
- Construction of latrines
- Psychosocial support post-emergency
- Emergency medical relief
- Primary healthcare post-emergency
- Building resilient community (BRC)





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