

International Rescue Committee Myanmar: Strategy Action Plan



Updated June 2019



IRC2020 GLOBAL STRATEGY OVERVIEW

The International Rescue Committee's (IRC) mission is to help the world's most vulnerable people survive, recover, and gain control of their future. The aim of the IRC's global strategy, IRC2020 (shown at right), is to make measurable improvements in health, safety, education, economic wellbeing, and decision-making power. Therefore, the IRC has made investments to improve program effectiveness, use resources more efficiently, reach more people more quickly, and better respond to clients' needs.



MYANMAR OVERVIEW

The IRC began providing humanitarian relief in Myanmar in response to Cyclone Nargis in 2008. In 2011, Myanmar began the process of political, social, and economic reform which led to greater political freedoms, increased foreign investment, and greater openness to engagement with the international community. Despite these gains, a half century of military regime coupled with poverty, frequent natural disasters, and ongoing conflicts

have created some of the most isolated and vulnerable populations in the world. Healthcare and protection services are extremely under-resourced, ethnic tensions are common, and economic gains in recent years have not benefitted the vast majority of Myanmar people that live in rural farming communities, often systematically prevented from accessing livelihoods. There are currently more than 244,000 people who

are internally displaced, living in camps and camp-like conditions, over 900,000 refugees in Bangladesh and over 100,000 refugees in Thailand who are still in need of support (UNHCR). The IRC's strategy for Myanmar illustrates its commitment to improving the health, safety, and decision-making power of the most vulnerable people in Myanmar.

IRC'S STRATEGIC PROGRAMMING

The IRC in Myanmar implements programs that address health, economic wellbeing, decision-making power, and safety. These programs focus on reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health, communicable disease, protection of women and girls and other vulnerable groups, and supporting improved social cohesion. In vulnerable hard-to-reach areas, the IRC in Myanmar is also ensuring food security, rebuilding livelihoods, and supporting participatory community recovery and development.

Through the end of 2020, the IRC's strategy in Myanmar prioritizes improving power, safety, and health outcomes (see Figure 1 for examples of priority outcomes and approaches). The IRC will continue to target the most vulnerable and hard to reach communities affected by poverty, conflict, and natural disasters.

To address gaps across these outcome areas, the IRC in Myanmar will leverage its expertise and community-level engagement to improve people's ability to influence their health, education, and

livelihoods choices. This work is complemented by protection monitoring and mainstreaming, as well as targeted protection and empowerment programs for women and girls. At the same time, the IRC will improve health outcomes by delivering primary care during emergencies and strengthening the quality of local healthcare services, focusing on maternal, newborn, and child health, and family planning.

The IRC's ability to achieve these outcomes is facilitated by continued investment in staff, strategic partnership and partner capacity building, conflict sensitivity, accountability, protection mainstreaming, cross-border collaboration, and rapid-response capacity.

The IRC's commitment to gender equality strives for equal outcomes for women and girls. To narrow the gender gap, IRC Myanmar will incorporate gender-focused analysis and program design aimed at addressing the unique needs and mitigating access barriers faced by women and men, boys and girls.

Figure 1: Priority Outcomes and Future Programs

	Signature Outcomes in Myanmar	Illustrative Program Approaches
POWER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > People collectively influence decisions that affect their lives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Use community driven approaches to empower beneficiaries with tools and knowledge to support their own development and protection > Integrate civil society strengthening and social cohesion frameworks into health and livelihoods projects
SAFETY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > People are safe in their communities and receive support when they experience harm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Provide services to survivors of gender-based violence and other vulnerable groups > Create frameworks and safe spaces for dialogue among conflicting groups and individuals > Expand protection monitoring, access to justice, and opportunities for child-focused interventions
HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Women and adolescent girls prevent unintended pregnancy > Women and adolescent girls are protected from and treated for complications of pregnancy and childbirth > Women and girls are protected from and treated for the consequences of gender-based violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Provide healthcare through mobile health teams targeting the hardest to reach areas > Equip and build the technical capacity of government and ethnic healthcare services and supporting healthcare functions > Adapt context-appropriate community-based approaches to overcome harmful social norms that contribute to GBV and unintended pregnancy

COMMITMENTS FOR IMPACT

In order to maximize impact and achieve priority outcomes, the IRC in Myanmar is making new investments to improve program effectiveness, be more responsive to clients and communities, and to be prepared to reach more people more quickly. The IRC in Myanmar has made the following commitments to strengthen programming and deliver improvements for the people we serve in Myanmar.

Figure 2: Commitments to Ensure Impact



Effectiveness

- > Strengthen and institutionalize contextual and risk analysis in all program planning and field operations processes
- > Ensure gender analysis is integrated throughout the program lifecycle
- > Strengthen capacity for strong information gathering and synthesis to ensure strong evidence base for targeted programming



Responsiveness

- > Refine and implement accountability and client responsiveness approaches and tools for collecting, analyzing, and responding to client feedback
- > Strengthen planning and processes for timely and meaningful collaboration with program stakeholders



Scale and Reach

- > Further develop and diversify strategic partnerships with an emphasis on national civil society
- > Build civil society organizations' capacity to design and deliver effective programming in hard-to-reach locations



Speed & Timeliness

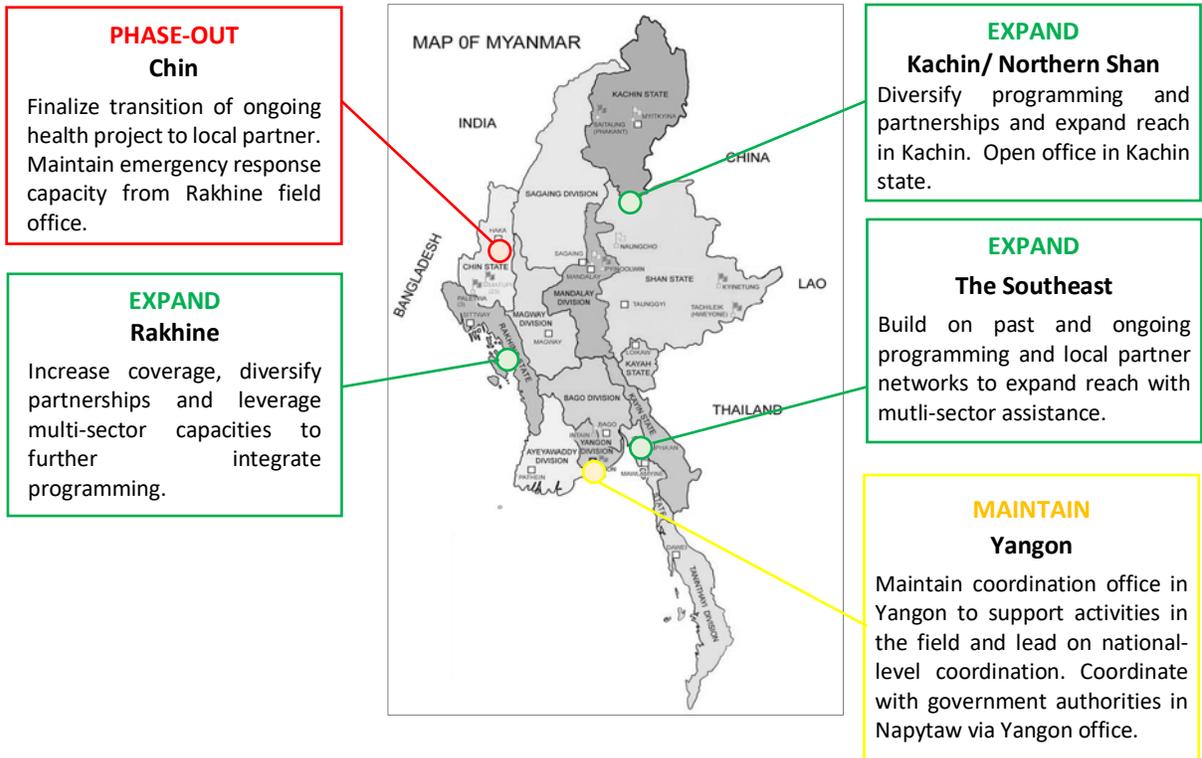
- > Maintain robust emergency response capacity, including on-call emergency response staff, prepositioned materials, and emergency preparedness and scenario planning



IRC'S STRATEGIC PRESENCE

The IRC will continue to serve the most marginalized, crisis affected, and hard to reach populations in Myanmar. From now until the end of 2020, the IRC will maintain, open, or expand programmatic locations based on an analysis of where the greatest need is and where the IRC can add the most value.

Figure 3: The IRC's Geographical Transitions in Myanmar





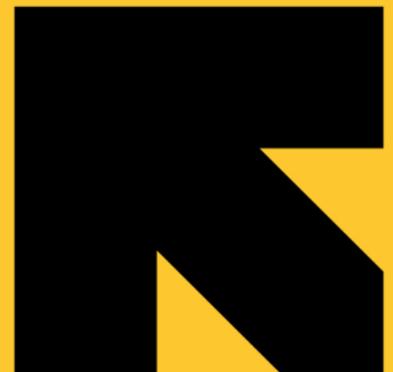
The IRC in Myanmar



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