

# International Rescue Committee Myanmar: Strategy Action Plan



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## 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

In 2011, Myanmar began the process of political, social, and economic reform which led to greater political freedoms, increased foreign investment, and decreased government-backed oppression. Despite these gains, a half century of military regime couples with poverty, frequent natural disasters, and ongoing conflicts have created some of the most isolated and vulnerable populations in the world.

Healthcare services are extremely under-resourced, ethnic and religious tensions are common, and the recent economic gains have not benefitted the vast majority of Myanmar people that live in rural farming communities. This instability has resulted in 375,000 internally displaced people and 150,000 refugees in neighboring Thailand in need of resettlement support (UNHCR).

In 2008, in response to Cyclone

Nargis, the IRC began providing humanitarian relief in Myanmar. Since that time, the IRC in Myanmar has become a valued partner to the Government of Myanmar and the communities we serve.

Going forward, the IRC's new strategy for Myanmar illustrates its commitment to improving the health, safety, and power of the most vulnerable people in Myanmar.

## IRC'S STRATEGIC PROGRAMMING

The IRC in Myanmar is currently implementing programs that address health, economic wellbeing, decision-making power, and safety. These programs focus on reproductive health, communicable disease, protection of women, and improving self-determination for disenfranchised groups. For conflict affected communities, the IRC in Myanmar is also ensuring food security, rebuilding livelihoods, and promoting solidarity.

From now until the end of 2020, the IRC's strategy in Myanmar will prioritize improving outcomes in decision-making power, safety, and health (see Figure 1). The IRC in Myanmar will continue to target the most vulnerable and hard to reach communities affected by poverty, conflict, and disaster.

Safety and power are the greatest needs among the large conflict affected populations in Myanmar. To address these existing gaps, the IRC in Myanmar will leverage its expertise in institution building and

social cohesion to improve people's ability to influence their health, education, and livelihoods choices. This work will be complemented by protection monitoring for women, girls, IDPs, and returnee refugees. The IRC in Myanmar 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.

The IRC in Myanmar's ability to achieve these outcomes is facilitated by new investments in staff, innovative partnerships, partner capacity building, mobile technology, cross-border collaboration, and rapid-response capacity.

The IRC in Myanmar's commitment to gender equality intends to work towards equal outcomes for women and girls. To narrow the gender gap, the IRC in Myanmar will incorporate gender-focused programming into all programs.

Figure 1: Priority Outcomes and Future Programs

	Priority Outcomes in Myanmar	Future Programs
POWER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; People influence decisions that affect them collectively</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Collaborate with local government along the Myanmar-Thai border to increase access, information, and support options</li> <li>&gt; Integrate peacebuilding and social cohesion frameworks into health and livelihoods projects</li> </ul>
SAFETY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; People are safe in their communities and receive support when they experience harm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Provide psychosocial support and referral services to survivors of gender based violence</li> <li>&gt; Create frameworks and safe spaces for dialogue among conflicting groups and individuals</li> </ul>
HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Women and adolescent girls prevent unintended pregnancy</li> <li>&gt; Women and adolescent girls are protected from and treated for complications of pregnancy and childbirth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Provide healthcare through mobile health teams targeting the hardest to reach areas</li> <li>&gt; Equip and build the technical capacity of Myanmar government's healthcare services and supporting healthcare functions</li> </ul>



## COMMITMENTS FOR IMPACT

In order to maximize impact and achieve priority outcomes, the IRC in Myanmar is making new investments to improve program effectiveness, use resources more efficiently, be more responsive to clients and communities, and 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

- > Expand M&E capacity of all staff and invest in new M&E management positions
- > Generate unique evidence for priority outcomes and apply to program design



### Best Use of Resources

- > Improve staff retention through quarterly review of compensation and benefits package



### Responsiveness

- > Develop and implement an Accountability and Client Responsiveness Framework that can analyze, process, and respond to client feedback
- > Ensure that IRC programs complement or support Government of Myanmar strategies



### Scale & Reach

- > Increase partnerships with national and international civil society
- > Build capacity of local civil society to improve program effectiveness in hard-to-reach locations



### Speed & Timeliness

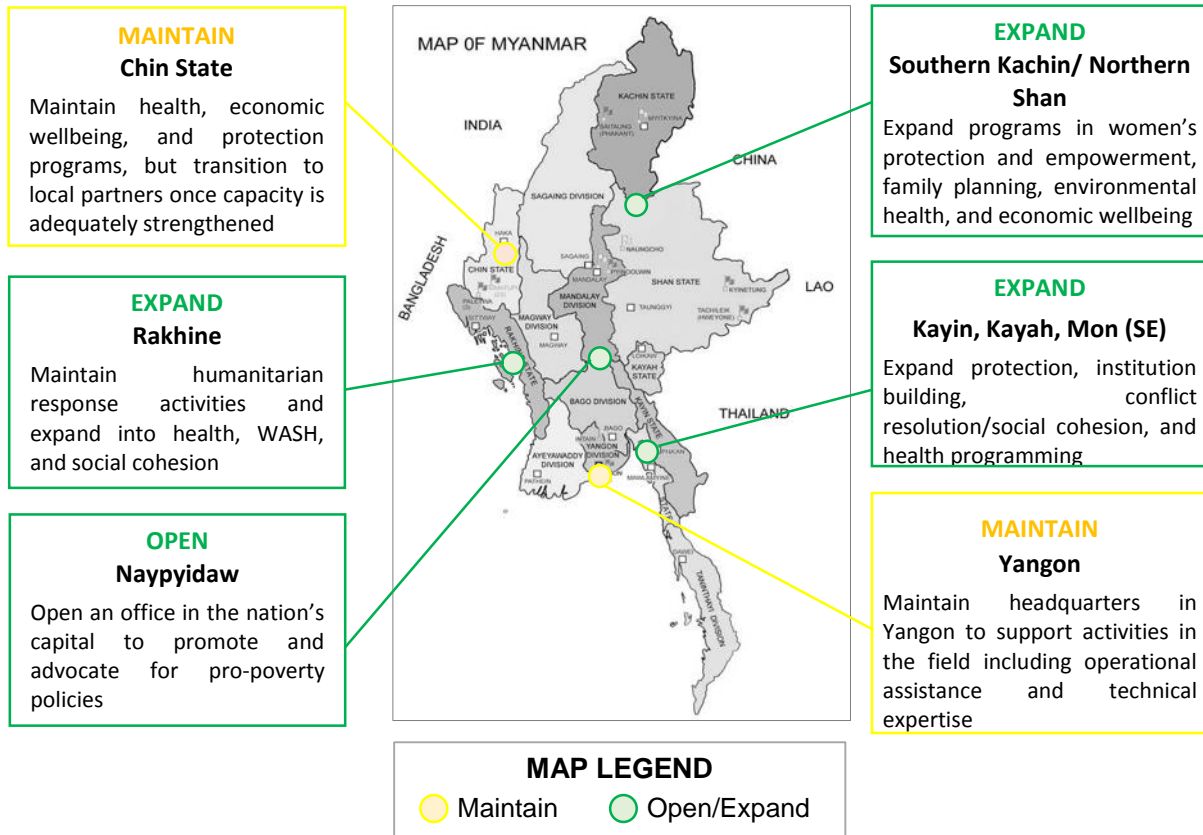
- > Establish a robust emergency response mechanism including on-call emergency response staff, prepositioned materials, recurring response simulations, and greater donor flexibility



## IRC'S STRATEGIC PRESENCE

The IRC will continue to serve the most marginalized, conflict 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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