

Myanmar Red Cross Society

Working towards
School Safety



Since its establishment in 1937, the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) works to promote a more healthy and safe environment for the people of the country, giving priority to the most vulnerable communities and individuals. The MRCS delivers services through a well-established network of 330 township branches with more than 44,000 active volunteers, and through the establishment of 184 Red Cross Youth committees with 1,320 active youth members.



In implementing school safety initiatives, the MRCS benefits from its strong partnerships with both the Relief and Resettlement Department (responsible for Disaster Management) and the Ministry of Education. MRCS is able to coordinate committees not only at the national level, but also through day-to-day cooperation at township level.

Through various activities, the MRCS contributes to the three pillars of the Comprehensive School Safety Framework. Activities in schools are embedded into more general programmes implemented after emergencies or as development initiatives and covering various sectors such as disaster risk reduction, health, water and sanitation, livelihoods and youth empowerment.



Outreach



School

84

Number of schools reached



Children

Secondary: 2,520 total



Red Cross Youth Committee

184

Youth Committees were established



Water machine interventions

Water purifying machines for students



Handwashing facilities

Hand washing demonstration with school children



School safety plan

Explanation of school evacuation route to primary students.



Simulation exercise

Simulation exercise in a secondary school.



Simulation exercise

Simulation exercise in a secondary school



Dissemination of awareness raising materials

Promoting school safety by distributing awareness raising materials about Disaster Risk Reduction to primary and secondary school students



School competitions

Myanmar Red Cross volunteers demonstrate first aid skills in a competition

1
Safe Learning Facilities
School retrofitting
Water and sanitation interventions
Health and safety promotion

2
School Disaster Management
School safety plan
Simulation exercises
Training on Search and Rescue / Evacuation

3
Risk Reduction and Resilience Education
Dissemination of awareness raising materials
Organization of campaigns and competitions

“When I participated in this 4-day facilitator training, I learnt so many new things. Together with my team, I was prepared for my first actual practice in the school. I am impressed with the youth in school safety toolkits and its programme.”

Myat Thiri Soe, Youth Facilitator



“When I was invited to participate in the school safety training, I didn’t really know what kind of training it would be. But after participating in all the activities, I found that it was very useful for our children. All the parents had to observe and participate in developing an ‘Action Plan’ for school safety. At first, some parents refused to participate because they thought they could not contribute to school safety, but the Red Cross Youth were really patient. They explained to us how important our role [as a parent] is.”

Parent from Hlaing Thar Yar township



Challenges

- 🔍 In some areas, it is difficult to get permission from the school management to allow teachers to participate in the activities due to their school calendar and curriculum.
- 🔍 Some parents were unsure of their level of responsibility and accountability when they participated in developing a School Safety Action Plan because all members of the ‘Parents and Teachers Association’ do not have a chance to engage in the school activity.



Way forward

- ➔ More advocacy and awareness raising are essential to overcome the challenges.
- ➔ Maintain the youth as the school safety facilitators and support one youth-led activity in the future.
- ➔ To strengthen parents’ and teachers’ engagement to the community resilience projects.

Contact Details



Mr. Khin Maung Hla
 Secretary General
 Myanmar Red Cross Society
 Razathingaha Road, Dekhinathiri
 Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
 No. 42, Strand Road, Yangon, Myanmar
 Email: khinmaunghla@redcross.org.mm
 www.redcross.org.mm

Marwan Jilani
 Head of Country Cluster Support Team
 IFRC Bangkok
 marwan.jilani@ifrc.org
 www.ifrc.org