

Health Care in Danger Myanmar

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Nargis cyclone May 2008 Irrawaddy
delta region



Nargis Cyclone aftermath – 2.4 million people affected. 200,000 died including health care personnel. Health care facilities destroyed. Disruptions in health care.



Naga region

Northwest Myanmar

Recent measles outbreak

Death toll of 68

Mountainous, no roads, difficult to access,

Difficult to deliver health care

- ❑ Isolated attacks on doctors by disgruntled patients
- ❑ Assault on doctors by petty criminals or drug users
- ❑ Isolated rare events
- ❑ Common nowadays – attacks on doctors, clinics, hospitals on social media – destroys reputation



Health care in danger ICRC

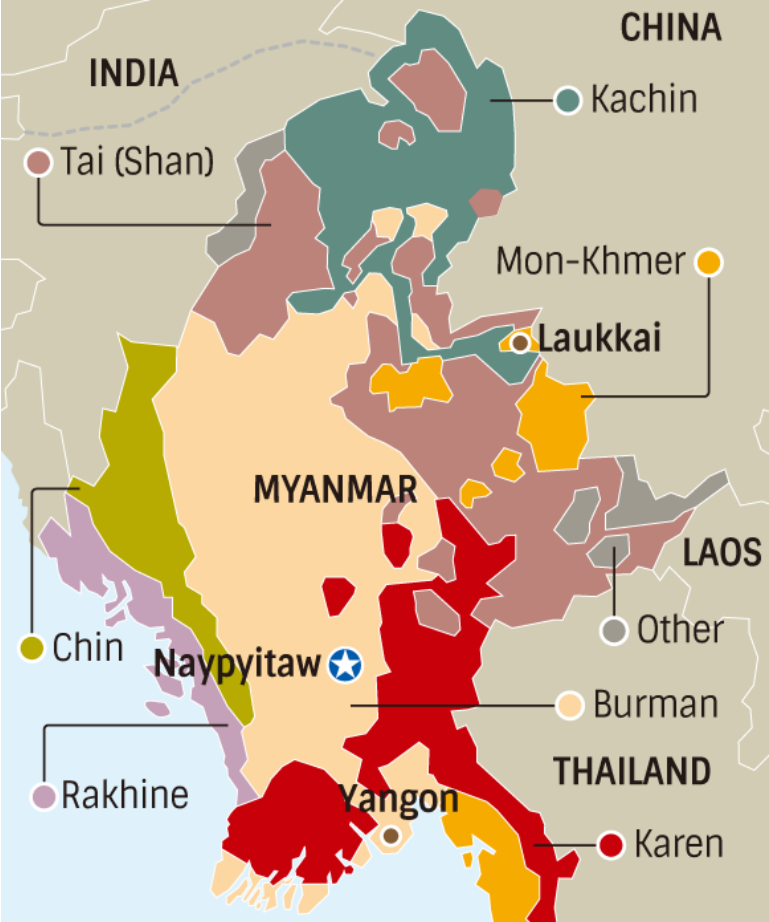
- Deliberate attacks on health care facilities and health care personnel
- Violence against the wounded and sick
- Violence against medical vehicles

One of the most serious humanitarian challenges in the world today

- Spawned by wars and armed conflicts



Myanmar's main ethnic groups



- Myanmar**
- 52 million people
 - 130 ethnic races
 - Eight major races





1948 January 4th Myanmar's independence from British



8-8-88 Nation-wide people's revolution
Demonstrators in front of Yangon General Hospital

- Armed conflicts continued especially in border areas
- Very rare reports of deliberate attacks on health care facilities or health personnel
- Occasional reports of doctors being kidnapped
- Refugees and disruption of health services
- Improvised health care systems locally

Many attempts for truce with armed ethnic groups – short lived

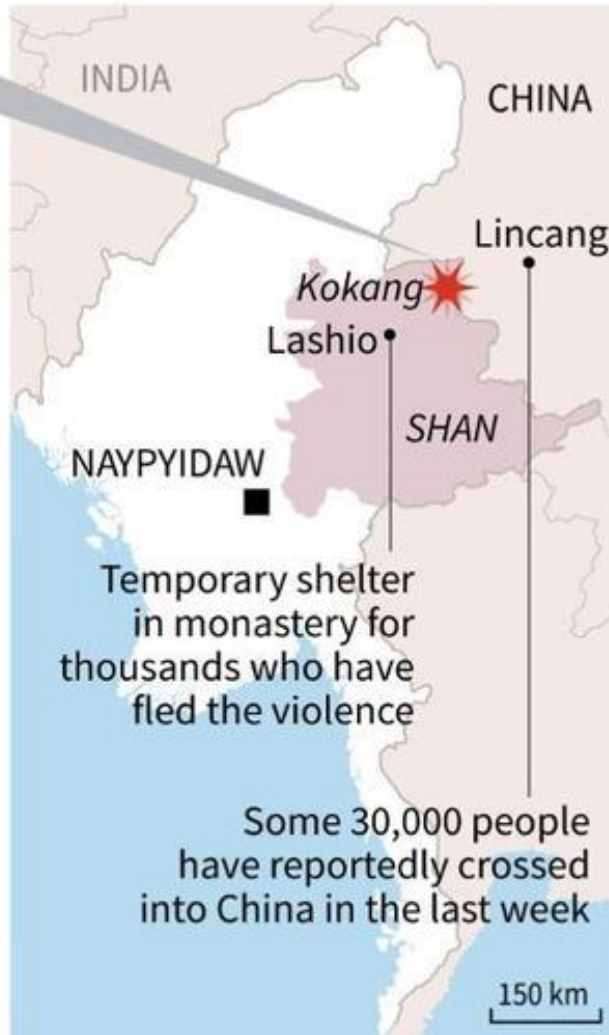
2015

Myanmar clashes

State of emergency was declared Tuesday in conflict-torn border region

Clashes between ethnic rebels and soldiers since February 9

- ▶ Rebels attempted to capture the Kokang town of Laukkai
- ▶ Nearly 50 soldiers killed
- ▶ Civilians under fire
- ▶ Military launched counter-offensive, including air strikes





Two shot in first ever attack on Red Cross in Myanmar

The Straits Times Feb 17 2015

Volunteers of Myanmar Red Cross organisation carry wounded volunteer Moe Kyaw, 45, as the war victims fleeing from Laukkai sit on the truck after vehicles of rescue convoy were attacked by Kokang rebels near self-administered Kokang capital Laukkai, northern Shan State, Myanmar, on Feb 17, 2015.

How has Health Care in Danger been addressed in Myanmar

- ❑ ICRC in Myanmar workshops to raise awareness and to prompt action – NGO's, INGO's, government, ethnic groups
- ❑ Red Cross emblem law
- ❑ Myanmar Red Cross – education programmes to emphasize its neutrality and that it is not government

Myanmar Medical Association

- ❑ Maintains strict neutrality, non-political, independent status
- ❑ Information, education for medical personnel, advocacy
- ❑ To report
- ❑ Not to use red cross emblems in clinics
- ❑ Operates clinics and mobile medical services and provide humanitarian assistance in areas close to conflict zones

Health as a bridge to peace



Healthcare workers have undeniably and increasingly served as frontline responders in mitigating the fallout of conflicts. (Source: ICRC)

Health as Bridge for Peace (HBP)

The role of physicians and other health workers in the preservation and promotion of peace is the most significant factor for the attainment of health for all" World Health Assembly, Resolution 34.38, 1981

DIALOGUE BETWEEN UNION PEACE-MAKING WORK COMMITTEE AND ETHNIC ARMED ORGANIZATIONS



New government peace process

31st August 2016



**Union Peace Conference-
21st Century Panglong**



Peace is the only answer



“
All we
are saying
is give
peace
a chance.”

John Lennon



No violence against health care

Peace for all

Health for all