

**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Distribution**

**MERCY MALAYSIA PROVIDES MEDICAL AID TO THE FLOOD AFFECTED  
COMMUNITIES IN MYANMAR**

**KUALA LUMPUR, AUGUST 18, 2015** – Four western regions of Myanmar have been declared a state of emergency due to heavy floods, caused by monsoon rains and worsened by Cyclone Komen on August 1. As of August 13, the Natural Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) reports that over 1,350,000 people have been severely affected by floods and landslides in July and August. This includes a cumulative number of over 297,000 households that have been or remain temporarily displaced during this period. At least 110 people are confirmed to have died due to floods and landslides since June. Population figures continue to change as people in some areas where flood waters are receding start to return to their homes, and people in other areas are newly affected by floods.

The need for emergency assistance and recovery support remains great. According to the Ministry of Health, 285 health facilities have been damaged in 38 townships in Chin, Sagaing, Rakhine, Magway, Shan, Ayeyarwady and Bago. While clean-up efforts are ongoing, contaminated water ponds and wells, including in Rakhine where seawater contaminated many water sources, urgently need to be cleaned to ensure they can refill quickly during the monsoon season to avoid drought next year.

On August 8, MERCY Malaysia mobilised conducted mobile clinics at Mrauk U, Rakhine, whilst working closely with the State Health Department and other humanitarian agencies. Our Rapid Assessment Team has entered the state of Sagaing with additional emergency aid. Sagaing Region has an estimated poverty rate of 15%, it is situated in the north-west of Myanmar. There are 38 townships and 1,981 Wards and Village-Tracts with a population of approximately 3,855,991.



*“According to the UN OCHA, major parts of the state of Sagaing has seen severe devastation with over 400,000 people affected, although we are still in the planning phase, if we are successful, and receive sufficient funding, we expect to be in Sagaing within the week,”* said a MERCY Malaysia representative.

MERCY Malaysia’s emergency response phase is expected to last 4 weeks. In alignment with MERCY Malaysia’s Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM) approach to natural disasters, it is essential that our operations carry on to the Recovery and Rehabilitation phase, followed by the Prevention and Mitigation, and Preparedness phase. This holistic approach ensures that we meet the needs of the affected communities and identify the underlying factors of disaster risks that can be reduced in the event of another natural disaster.

Based on the assessments, we estimate that MERCY Malaysia’s entire response to the targeted affected areas would require a funding of RM 1 million in the next 12 months. Here MERCY Malaysia appeals to the public to contribute to our Myanmar Flood Relief Fund by donating through our website at [www.mercy.org.my](http://www.mercy.org.my) or to our bank account at,

CIMB: MYANMAR FLOOD RELIEF FUND

ACC NO: 800-2519-428

Ends.

**For more information, please contact:**

Jillian Louis, Communications Officer, MERCY Malaysia

E: [jillian@mercy.org.my](mailto:jillian@mercy.org.my) T:+603-21422007 (Ext:244) F:+603-2142 1992 M:+6019-228 3634

Nur Shereen Dzulkiflee, Head of Communications & Strategic Engagement

E: [shereen@mercy.org.my](mailto:shereen@mercy.org.my) T: T: 6-03-2142 2007 F: 6-03-2142 1992 M: 6-019-379 2875

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**About MERCY Malaysia**

MERCY Malaysia is a non-profit organisation focusing on providing medical relief, sustainable health-related development and risk reduction activities for vulnerable communities in both crisis and non-crisis situations.

MERCY Malaysia recognises the value of working with partners and volunteers as well as providing opportunities for individuals to serve with professionalism. We uphold the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief and hold ourselves accountable to our donors and beneficiaries. As a non-profit organisation, MERCY Malaysia relies solely on funding and donations from organisations and generous individuals to continue our services to provide humanitarian assistance to our beneficiaries. For more information, please visit [www.mercy.org.my](http://www.mercy.org.my)

**How is MERCY Malaysia funded?**

To ensure independence and impartiality, MERCY Malaysia relies on donations from the general public for financial support. A portion of our income is obtained from institutional donors, individual government grants and other international organizations, which are given on project basis. MERCY Malaysia spends 80% of its income in carrying out its relief operations and support.

**Important Note to Media: Usage of Wordmark MERCY Malaysia**

In order to avoid confusion with other organisation(s) that uses “Mercy” as the organisation’s name or part of the organisation’s name, please take note that in addressing the name of our organisation, the wordmark for MERCY Malaysia is with capitalised “MERCY”, followed by the word “Malaysia”. When describing the organisation, the term “MERCY Malaysia” must always be used in full, and should not be partially referred to as “MERCY”, or “Mercy”. Thank you for your cooperation.