



## **DRC Myanmar** | Poverty and Hunger Alleviation through Support, Empowerment, and Increased Networking (PHASE IN II) **via the European Union**

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### PROJECT SNAPSHOT | **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Rakhine State**

In Myanmar, DRC contributes to the national Covid-19 response through a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme. It is designed in line with Covid-19 national strategy, identifying three key priority interventions to prevent the spreading of the virus - namely hygiene promotion, hygiene kits distribution, and installation/rehabilitation of handwashing stations. The project is responding to needs and priorities identified in DRC's Rapid Needs Assessment (July 2020).

#### **Covid-19 and public health**

In Rakhine, the potential public health threat linked to the Covid-19 pandemic is high, due to the lack of specialised health facilities, high number of crowded sites for internally displaced and internet shutdown aggravating the lack of official and reliable information.

Following the increasing number of Covid-19 cases, the Government of Myanmar started enforcing restrictions and regulations to reduce the spreading of the virus in Myanmar. This has affected not least sites for internally displaced in central and northern Rakhine State isolated and without means or information to properly act in the current crisis.

#### **Isolated in Rakhine**

Mrauk-U is one of the isolated areas severely affected by Covid-19 and where continuous fighting between the Tatmadaw and the Arakan Army has sparked further displacement and deterioration. Since the emergence of Covid-19 and the national Stay-At-Home order, DRC's field teams have been able to access 10 IDP camps in Mrauk-U to assess needs for handwashing stations. The first 10 handwashing stations, serving each 16 households, are now installed in Mrauk-U (2 in Myo Thit, 1 in Let Kauk Zee, and 7 in Mya Tazaung).

A local partner works with DRC to access other hard to reach areas where entire communities are waiting for emergency aid and support. DRC is standing by and prepared to scale up emergency interventions in Myanmar as soon restrictions are lifted, and it is possible to regain access in Rakhine State.

*PHASE IN II is funded by the European Union and implemented by DRC in Myanmar between 2017 and 2021 in Maungdaw, Mrauk-U, Kyauktaw, Sittwe, and Pauktaw townships of Rakhine State through seven main project components:*

*Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) ● **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** ● Cash for Work (CfW) ● Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) ● Community-driven Development (CDD) ● Business start-up Support ● Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)*

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