Country Situation on COVID-19

- Myanmar reported the first COVID-19 confirmed case on 23rd March 2020.
- Total specimens tested - 11,822
- Total Person Under Investigation (PUI) - 3,916
- Laboratory Confirmed Cases - 180
- Death among Laboratory Confirmed Cases - 6
- Recovered - 74

https://mohs.gov.mm/Main/content/publication/2019-ncov (11.5.2020)

The Myanmar Catholic Church Response to COVID-19

- As soon as WHO described COVID-19 as a global pandemic on 11 March 2020, the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Myanmar (CBCM) held its first meeting on COVID-19 response on 16th March 2020.
- Then, the Diocesan Bishop produced pastoral guidelines on COVID-19 for each diocese.
- On 30th March 2020, CBCM structured the “Catholic National COVID-19 Response Coordination Team” (CNCCT) by the guidance of Cardinal Charles Bo.
- The team composed with Patron Bishops, CBCM Secretariat Team, Episcopal Commission on Health Pastoral Care (ECHPC), Karuna Mission Social Solidarity - KMSS (Caritas Myanmar), Catholic Religious Conference of Myanmar (CRCM), Office for Social Communication (OSC) and other technical advisors.
- Subsequently, similar the Diocesan COVID-19 response team was set up in each diocese.
**Approach**

- Coordinated Social Pastoral Approach!
  - Priority 1: Excluded / Vulnerable Group - Disabled, Leprosy, Home for the Aged, Orphanage, People living with HIV and Home-base care ...etc.
  - Priority 2: Frontline workers of the Church - Parish Priest, Care takers ...etc.
  - Priority 3: Community and Government Health Department

**How**

- COVID-19 Awareness
  - Public Awareness through Office of Social Communication (OSC) and Radio Veritas Asia (RVA)
  - Poster and pamphlets

- Duty of Care and Preventive Measures/ items
  - Developed and shared Duty of Care for Church’s Frontline Workers
  - Provision of preventive measures/ items to Church’s Frontline Workers and vulnerable groups

- COVID-19 Prevention
  - Water and Sanitation (WASH) especially Hand Washing Improvement and provision of hand washing soap to communities

- Care and Support
  - Offers Church infrastructure/ properties for Quarantine Centers
  - Care taking/ subsistence support for emergency
  - Case referral

**Reached (As of 30th April 2020)**

- Total beneficiaries: 237,668
  - Male: 103,983
  - Female: 120,845

- Disabled persons: 2,780
- 60 years above: 7,772

- 10,209 IDPs at 9 camps in Kachin and Northern Shan State.

**Networking and Coordination**

- Ministry of Health and Sports
- Department of Social Welfare
- Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Vatican
- CIMOs, CSOs and FBOs ...etc.

“Sister, brother, even if you buried hope in your heart, don’t give up! God is greater. Darkness and death don’t have the last word. Courage, with God nothing is lost!”

*Pope Francis*