

# Myanmar Catholic Church Response to COVID-19



## Country Situation on COVID-19

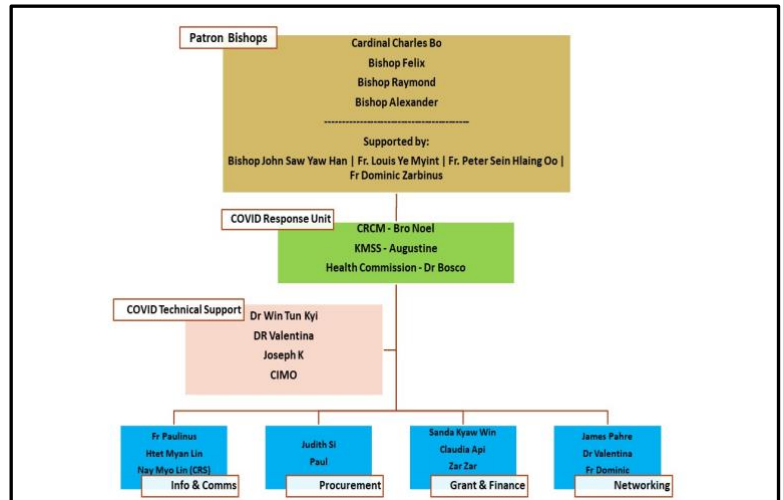
- Myanmar reported the first COVID-19 confirmed case on 23rd March 2020.
- Total specimens tested - 11,822
- Total Person Under Investigation (PUI) - 3,916
- Laboratory Confirmed Cases - 180
- Death among Laboratory Confirmed Cases - 6
- Recovered - 74

<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.



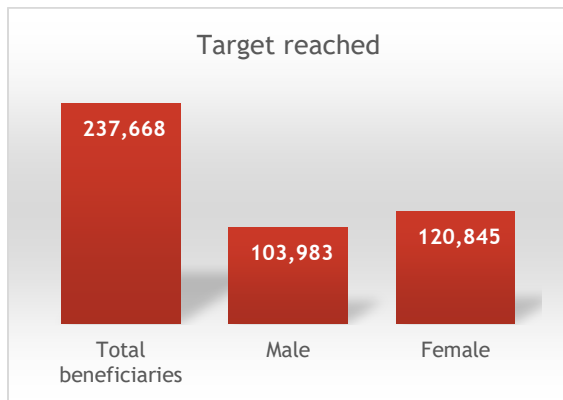
## Approach

- 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 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020)



Disabled persons	2,780	60 years above	7,772
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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*