



## Press Release/ Media Statement/ Announcement

August 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021

### ‘Immediate assistance needed to the people of Myanmar – Foreign Chambers supporting COVID19 relief efforts with 500.000 USD funding raised

Immediate assistance is needed to help Myanmar respond to COVID-19’s third wave, which is devastating lives and livelihoods across the country. Of the population of 54 million, only 2 percent is vaccinated, with limited availability of vaccine supply arriving in the country and high positivity rates.

The international private sector in Myanmar is well-placed to help respond amid this crisis, bringing in their international expertise and knowledge about Myanmar. The involvement of the private sector can streamline the relief efforts to bring essential supplies to those who need it most in the shortest period of time.

Foreign chambers operating in Myanmar have joined forces to provide much-needed immediate assistance. We commit to doing business responsibly in Myanmar, to support the people and the growth of Myanmar. EuroCham Myanmar, French Myanmar Chamber of Commerce, British Chamber of Commerce Myanmar, German Myanmar Business Chamber, Italian Myanmar Business Association, American Chamber of Commerce, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Myanmar Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce and Industry will raise funds among their members and will assist in the mobilization of relief efforts on the ground, working closely together with the European Delegation in Myanmar and DG ECHO.

The European Delegation in Myanmar [announced](#) on August 17<sup>th</sup> that an additional €3 million would be allocated to assist the most vulnerable. As part of the efforts of #Team Europe, our aim is that private sector donations contribute to the unleashing of the development funds and we are pleased to see the EU reacting promptly to shore up financial support. The private sector contributions can help to scale up the support for the people efficiently.

#### **Foreign chambers have raised 500,000 USD so far for emergency COVID19 relief efforts.**

A total of 500,000 USD has been raised over the past two weeks. With the funds pledged, emergency support is being realised immediately. The first set of equipment has already been delivered to our partners on the ground and more is on the way. With the funds received, the Chambers purchased and delivered oxygen

concentrators, oxygen cylinders, protection materials and medical supplies to local implementation partners (NGOs).

While the first objective has been reached in less than 2 weeks, more support is needed. The foreign chambers are taking a streamlined approach to fund-raising and disbursement. Some companies may be able to respond quickly, even with a small contribution; others may need more time to do so. In the coming weeks the chambers will review on an ongoing basis how to allocate the funding in the best way possible.

500,000 USD is not our end goal, we invite companies to contact their respective chamber in Myanmar to pledge support, supporting the people of Myanmar in this dire situation, particularly in remote areas of the country.

Selection of implementation partners, as well as their need and capacity assessment, is performed by the EU/ UNOPS-established Nexus Response Mechanism (NRM). NRM, through the CAR Facility, a third-party monitoring organization, will be able to provide monitoring support at the impact level to ensure that all the equipment and supplies reach the right recipients.

## Contact

For additional information regarding the initiative, please contact us:

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