



## Do No Harm Dos and Don'ts for the Covid-19 Crisis

RAFT has developed the following guidelines for all implementing agencies, donors, policy makers and community groups who will be addressing the crisis in Myanmar, to ensure their interventions and responses are sensitive to the context, minimize unintentionally-caused harm or tension and strengthen opportunities for peace and collaboration wherever possible.

### Do...

1. Do consider the possible harm that could result from conducting an activity or intervention that requires bringing people together or going into the communities.
2. Do be sensitive to, and build on the pre-existing sources of trust, hope and collaboration within communities and between stakeholders, especially where this is related to health.
3. Do be flexible with partners, or request the flexibility necessary to deal with complex crises in a sensitive and effective way.
4. Do be sensitive to the complexity of Myanmar's governance arrangements and linguistic diversity
5. Do encourage context-appropriate, sustainable solutions to control transmission that are actually viable in local communities.
6. Do consult with communities to ensure that all decisions, actions, and communication are based on a genuine sense of empathy and understanding of those who are suffering, excluded and most vulnerable as a result of the situation.
7. Do amplify women's voices and leadership during times of crisis.



8. Do recognise, encourage and support opportunities for peace and collaboration that emerge as a result of the crisis.

### **Don't...**

1. Don't exacerbate pre-existing sources of tension and suspicion through your intervention to support the Covid-19 response.
2. Don't undermine pre-existing support structures such as self-help groups, community leaders, women's groups, faith-based organisations or other community-level networks.
3. Don't unintentionally exclude, stigmatize or legitimize negative stereotypes through the modalities, media and messages that you use.
4. Don't allow the crisis to distract us from other serious problems or unfair situations in the country.
5. Don't forget to keep a sense of perspective, and remain critical about temporary restrictions on civic rights and freedoms.
6. Don't reduce the support to social problems, burdens, violence and abuse, and health services that specifically support women, girls, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQI.

### **About RAFT**

Our Mission is to enhance learning and capacity among national and international actors to ensure that their work does not unintentionally increase division and tension but instead effectively promotes inclusion, peace and positive change.

For further information about RAFT's work and the services we provide, please contact [kimbullan@raftmyanmar.org](mailto:kimbullan@raftmyanmar.org) for any Rakhine-specific inquiries, and [apadilla@raftmyanmar.org](mailto:apadilla@raftmyanmar.org) for inquiries related to other parts of the country. Please get in touch with us should you have any questions about ensuring your Covid-19 response is conflict sensitive.