## CHRONOLOGY 1992-2014

The main purpose of this chronology is to help the reader by reconstructing MSF's actions and public statements in regional and international news reports of the period. It is intended as a tool for this specific document, and not as an academic reference.

Please note: we are using 'Burma' and 'Burmese' until 1989 when the official names changed. From 1989 on, we are using 'Myanmar' and 'Myanmarese

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
1962		General Ne Win's military coup in <u>Burma</u> . Rohingya stripped of their rights.		
1978		Operation Nagamin (Dragon King). 200,000 Rohingya flee to <u>Bangladesh</u> .	MAY MSF France (F) exploratory mission in Bangladeshi refugee camps.	
1979		Rohingya refugees repatriated to Burma.		
1988		<b>Military coup</b> in <u>Burma</u> . SLORC takes power.		
1989		Burma renamed Myanmar by SLORC.		
1991		APRIL - DECEMBER 1991 New Rohingya exodus from northern Rakhine State (NRS) in Myanmar to Bangladesh.	MSF Holland (H) single expatriate in Yangon to negotiate with authorities to open programmes in Myanmar.	
			DECEMBER 1991 MSF F exploratory mission in Bangladeshi refugee camps.	
1992			JANUARY 1992 MSF F refugee assistance programme in Dechua Palong in <u>Bangladesh</u> .	
			FEBRUARY 1992 MSF F nutritional survey in Dechua Palong II camp in <u>Bangladesh</u> . High prevalence of child malnutrition.	14 FEBRUARY 1992 MSF F press release: "Médecins Sans Frontières to send a supply plane to the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh."

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
1992			MARCH 1992 MSF H opens a programme in Balu Kali refugee camp in Bangladesh.	25 FEBRUARY 1992 MSF F press release: "MSF to strengthen its programme and open a 2 <sup>nd</sup> nutrition centre."
		<ul> <li>28 APRIL 1992</li> <li>Governments of <u>Bangladesh</u> and <u>Myanmar</u> agreement to refugee repatriation.</li> <li><u>Myanmar</u> refuses to allow UNHCR to supervise repatriation.</li> </ul>		
	MID-MAY 1992 UNHCR will not participate in monitoring the repatriation from Bangladesh to Myanmar. The start of repatriation operations is postponed.		MAY 1992 MSF H volunteers in Balu Kali refugee camps in <u>Bangladesh</u> witness violence against refugees. Confidential report to UNHCR.	
		LATE MAY 1992 Bangladeshi government accuses UNHCR and MSF of impeding repatriation process. They threaten not to register MSF H and MSF F projects.		
			18 AUGUST 1992 MSF F nurse witnesses Bangladeshi police firing at refugees.	
		SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1992 Several dozen refugees forcibly repatriated from Bangladesh to Myanmar.		

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
1992		Government of Bangladesh requests a six-month extension of humanitarian aid.  NOVEMBER 1992 Repatriation from Bangladesh to Myanmar, resumption of low-scale and local operations. One-third of returnees forced back.  4 DECEMBER 1992 4 Rohingya are killed by Bangladeshi soldiers.		NOVEMBER 1992 MSF F alerts European countries about forced repatriations of Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh to Myanmar.
				7 DECEMBER 1992 MSF International press release: "Bangladeshi soldiers kill Rohingya refugees demonstrating against forced repatriation to Burma."
	23 DECEMBER 1992 UNHCR press release calls Bangladeshi Prime Minister "to take all necessary measures, to ensure that refugees from Myanmar are not coerced into returning against their will to their country of origin."  24 DECEMBER 1992 US Department of State (DoS) asks			
	Bangladeshi government to restrain from coercion and to let UNHCR conduct operations unhindered.			
1993			<b>DURING 1993 MSF H</b> authorised to open <b>programmes</b> in two <b>Yangon</b> townships in <u>Myanmar</u> .	

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
1993	MAY 1993 UNHCR signs Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bangladesh. 5 NOVEMBER 1993 UNHCR signs MoU with Myanmar.			11 JANUARY 1993 MSF F letter: to main institutional donors and key state stakeholders to express their concerns.  26 JANUARY 1993 MSF F public report: "Rohingya: Refugees repatriated by force to Burma."
1994	JULY-AUGUST 1994 UNHCR states that situation in Myanmar is "conducive for return" and replaces pre-repatriation individual interviews with collective information sessions.	JANUARY 1994 Repatriation begins but quickly stalled due to lack of clearances from the government of Myanmar.	EARLY 1994 MSF H opens malaria treatment project in Sittwe, Rakhine state in Myanmar.	
			AUGUST 1994 MSF F and MSF H programme managers visit Rakhine state in Myanmar. MSF F concludes that voluntary nature of repatriation not respected.	
		<b>SEPTEMBER 1994</b> Situation regarding forced repatriation deteriorates rapidly in refugee camps in <u>Bangladesh</u> .		20 SEPTEMBER 1994 MSF F proposes a joint advocacy plan on Rohingya to MSF H but receives no answer.

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
1994				22 SEPTEMBER 1994 MSF F communicates a dossier on forced repatriation from Bangladesh to Myanmar to key stakeholders.
1995	SEPTEMBER 1995 UNHCR note on internal protection: repatriation of Rohingya from Bangladesh		3 FEBRUARY 1995 MSF H survey in a camp in Bangladesh: only 16% of refugees aware they can refuse to be repatriated.  EARLY MARCH 1995 MSF F and MSF H to do a common survey in order to prove that repatriation is not as voluntary as presented.  MARCH 1995 MSF F sets up an office in Yangon, Myanmar.	19 APRIL 1995 MSF F and MSF H programme managers present their survey results to UNHCR.  1 MAY 1995 Release of MSF report: "MSF's concern on the repatriation of Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh to Burma."  AUGUST 1995 MSF F strategy regarding Rohingya repatriation process shifted to a soft diplomacy approach.

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
1995	to <b>Myanmar</b> can occur <b>even</b> if <b>condi</b> tions not optimum.			OCTOBER 1995 MSF H and MSF F question UNHCR Executive Committee on UNHCR repatriation policy.
1996	JANUARY 1996 UNHCR officials in <u>Bangladesh</u> advise UNHCR Geneva headquarters to cease active repatriation promotion.	LATE 1996  Most Rohingya refugees now repatriated to Myanmar, but many continue to fleeto Bangladesh to escape violence in Rakhine.	FEBRUARY 1996 MSF F closes office in Myanmar.  LATE 1996 MSF teams in Bangladesh witness numerous refugee arrivals. Refugees no longer receive access to official camps.	JANUARY 1996 MSF H to support UNHCR Bangladesh office position.
1997			JANUARY 1997 MSF F last camp in <u>Bangladesh</u> closed.	NOVEMBER 1997 MSF H dossier: "Better off in Burma? The plight of the Burmese Rohingya" is circulated to key stakeholders only.
1998			<ul> <li>THROUGH THE YEAR:</li> <li>MSF H programmes allowed in north Rakhine State (NRS) where Rohingya refugees are resettled.</li> <li>MSF H HIV/Aids awareness programmes in Yangon, Kachin and Rakhine states.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>THROUGH THE YEAR:</li> <li>MSFH researches Myanmar treatment protocols malaria.</li> <li>MSFH HOM interviews on malaria and HIV/AIDS epidemic.</li> <li>Setting up of 'Club Med,' a data collection system shared with human rights</li> </ul>

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
				organisations and media to protect MSF's anonymity.  • MSF H advocacy for Rohingya limited to 'silent advocacy.'
2000			MSF CH (Switzerland) begins programmes in Tanintharyi and Kayah state in Myanmar.	
2001			<ul> <li>THROUGH THE YEAR:</li> <li>MSF H begins malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/STI activities in Shan state.</li> <li>MSF F opens malaria programmes in Mon and Kayah states in Myanmar.</li> </ul>	THROUGH THE YEAR:  New MSF H Management Team (MT) changes advocacy strategy regarding Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and increasingly challenges UNHCR to meet its mandate.
2002	LATE 2002 UNHCR plan for 'self-reliance' for the Rohingya in <u>Bangladesh</u> , including the handover of MSF H activities to MoH.	LATE 2002  Bangladesh starts to aggressively promote refugee repatriation to Myanmar.	LATE 2002 MSF H starts to provide ARV treatments (ART) to HIV/AIDS patients in <u>Myanmar</u> .	APRIL 2002 MSF H press conference and report: "10 years in Bangladesh for the Rohingya refugees - past, present and future."  LATE 2002-EARLY 2003 Bilateral and 'behind closed doors' advocacy to extend medical activities and to warn against consequences of the UNHCR's efforts to disengage from Rakhine.
2003			MID-APRIL 2003 MSF H informed they must handover activities in Nyapara camp in Bangladesh to MoH before 1 July 2003.  14 AUGUST 2003 MSF H ceases activities in Nyapara Camp in Bangladesh.	

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2003				17 SEPTEMBER 2003  MSF H press release: "Thousands of refugees harassed to return to Myanmar."
2004		LATE 2004 Hardening of Myanmar regime. Increased restrictions and daily harassment against Rohingya and additional constraints for NGOs in Rakhine.	EARLY 2004 Change in MSF H Operational Centre Amsterdam (OCA) operational Directors: • Question growth of programmes in Myanmar. • Geographical freeze decision partly ignored by the field.	EARLY 2004 Change in MSF H/OCA operational directors:     Question Myanmar HoM's all-out silent advocacy approach.     MSF OCA Humanitarian Affairs Department (HAD) commissioned to explore possibilities of doing more public advocacy about Rohingya.  MARCH 2004     MSF H confidential evaluation: "Closure of the Bangladesh Teknaf Rohingya programme – An evaluation of MSF Holland's tumultuous departure and advocacy activities."     MSF OCA HAD internal report: it is "still morally justified for MSF to work in Burma in the same way as done during the past ten years."
2005			NOVEMBER 2005 MSF F to close its malaria programmes in Mon and Kayah states in Myanmar.	

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2006			26 MARCH 2006 MSF F departure from <u>Myanmar</u> (Mon and Kayah states).	30 MARCH 2006 MSF F press release: 'Prevented from working, the French section of MSF leaves Myanmar.'
			MAY-SEPTEMBER 2006 MSF H opens programmes in Bangladesh for local population and unregistered Rohingya refugees.	
			LATE 2006 MSF CH/ Operational Centre Geneva (OCG) reviews relevance of presence in Myanmar and decides to stay.	SECOND HALF 2006  Reorganisation of MSF OCA operational department. Myanmar and Bangladesh in the same portfolio.  MSF OCA new advocacy strategy on Rohingya from Bangladesh.
2007		7 MARCH 2007 Thousands of Rohingya refugees ordered by <u>Bangladeshi</u> authorities to leave Tal makeshift camps.		
				12 MARCH 2007 MSF OCA press release: "Myanmar refu- gees in Bangladesh: stuck with nowhere to go."
				MAY 2007 MSF OCA briefing paper: "Tal makeshift camp: no one should have to live like this: the Rohingya people from Myanmar seeking refuge in Bangladesh" posted on MSF website.

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2007		AUGUST-OCTOBER 2007 Series of economic and political protests in Myanmar (saffron revolution).	LATE 2007 MSF OCA in Myanmar:  • Launches systematic collection of data and testimonies on discrimination and stigmatisation of people living with HIV/AIDS.  • Reorganises Rakhine data base to focus on abuse/violence related to access to health.	7 OCTOBER 2007 MSF OCA Myanmar HoM gives a defensive interview to CNN about MSF's possible role in taking care of wounded protestors.  LATE 2007 MSF briefing paper: "The ART of living in Myanmar" is widely circulated to main stakeholders. Myanmar:  MSF CH/OCG to develop two-fold advocacy strategy: passive communication activities to focus on website publications and active communication activities to gather this information in report.  MSF International Humanitarian Affairs and Representation Team (HART) to support MSF OCA to reach keystakeholders to scale up ART provision and to briefthem about Rohingya situation.
2008		JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2008  Myanmar regime tightens control over International Non- Governmental Organisations (INGOS), reinforcing constraints.  2 MAY 2008 Cyclone Nargis hits Myanmar.		9 MAY 2008 MSF International press release: "Cyclone in <u>Myanmar</u> (Burma): MSF teams intensify emergency response, as first relief plane lands in Yangon."

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2008		MID 2000	MID 2002	16 MAY 2008 MSF International press release: 'MSF teams delivering aid to the Delta call for immediate and unobstructed escalation of relief operations.'
		MID 2008 Government of <u>Bangladesh</u> allocates a piece of land in Leda Bazar for the unregistered Rohingya.	MID 2008 MSF OCA <u>Myanmar</u> HoM to step down in May 2009 after 14 years of service.	
				SEPTEMBER 2008  New MSF OCA advocacy strategies for Myanmar to advocate for HIV/AIDS patients and for Rohingya.
				JUNE-NOVEMBER 2008 All MSF operational centres publicly describe seriousness of Nargis situation and call for increased aid to be authorised by regime and deployed in Myanmar.
				OCTOBER 2008  • MSF OCA submits op-ed to Humanitarian Practice Network (HPN), an ODI publication.  • Debate between MSF OCA and Myanmar field teams about MSF's public positioning and risking programmes in Rakhine.  • Op-ed postponed until 2009.  • MSF OCA teams start to collect data on Rohingya reproductive health in Rakhine.

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2008				25 NOVEMBER 2008 MSF OCA and OCG press release and report: "A preventable fate: the failure of ART scale-up in Myanmar."  22 DECEMBER 2008
				MSF USA "Top ten most underreported humanitarian crisis" mentions Nargis and HIV/AIDS crisis in Myanmar but not Rohingya.
2009				<ul> <li>FEBRUARY 2009</li> <li>Op-ed intended to be published in HPN published on MSF International and MSF H websites: "A life of fear with no refuge: the Rohingya's struggle for survival and dignity."</li> <li>MSF OCA national staff in Rakhine state in favour of MSF speaking out.</li> </ul>
				MAY 2009 OCA'S Myanmar HoM gives last controversial interview to New York Times before stepping down.
		JUNE 2009 <u>Bangladeshi</u> government violence to force Rohingya refugees to leave Kutupalong makeshift camps.		<b>18 JUNE 2009</b> MSF OCA press release: "Long-suffering Rohingya face unacceptable abuse – forced displacement, intimidation and abuse in Kutupalong makeshift camp, <u>Bangladesh</u> ."
			JULY 2009 MSF OCA interim HoM summoned to Myanmarese MoH and MSF blamed for the report, "A preventable fate: the failure of ART scale-up in Myanmar."	MID-JULY 2009 MSF briefing paper: "Nowhere to go: A never-ending cycle of displacement and suffering for the Rohingya in <u>Bangladesh</u> " is posted on MSF website.

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2009				AUGUST 2009 Creation of operational liaison officer (OPLO)/humanitarian affairs officer position in charge of advocacy for Rohingya dossier in Bangkok.  27 AUGUST 2009 MSF OCA discussion on Rohingya advo- cacy strategy: no negative impact from February 2009 website post.
2010				17 FEBRUARY 2010 MSF OCA managers for Myanmar and Bangladesh decision: advocacy strategy objective of "having Rohingya crisis on the agenda" if/when situation changes in Myanmar.  18 FEBRUARY 2010
				MSF OCA press conference in Bangkok and press release: "Stateless Rohingya victims of violent crackdown in Bangladesh."  MSF OCA report release: 'Violent crackdown fuels humanitarian crisis for unrecognised Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh."
			FROM FEBRUARY 2010 Increased bureaucracy, monitoring, and investigation of MSF OCA opera- tions in Kutupalong in Bangladesh.	AFTER FEBRUARY 2010 MSF OCA continues international bilateral advocacy activities while maintaining a low profile in <u>Bangladesh</u> .
				APRIL 2010 Operational liaison officer (OPLO) to develop MSF network of stakeholders and experts on Rohingya issue in southeast <u>Asia</u> .

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2010				JUNE 2010 MSF OCA Myanmar coordination team issues an advocacy and communication strategy for Myanmar: • External advocacy to remain mostly 'silent.' • Speaking out still considered an option to raise awareness on Rohingya situation. • Direct and aggressive confrontation with government rejected.
2011		THROUGHOUT THE YEAR Tensions between Muslim and Buddhist populations in Rakhine, Myanmar.		JANUARY 2011 MSF OCA Review of advocacy and communication strategy for Myanmar.  APRIL 2011 MSF OCA Re-discussion of advocacy and communication strategy for Myanmar.  JULY 2011 MSF OCA launches an evaluation of operational risks in Bangladesh. Speaking out from Bangladesh presents no less risk than Myanmar.  OCTOBER 2011 MSF OCA briefing paper: "Fatal policy: How the Rohingya suffer the consequences of statelessness" is circulated to regional governments, donors and UN agencies.

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2012		THROUGHOUT 2012 AND 2013:  Thailand and Bangladesh deny Rohingya refugees entry, pushing them back to Myanmar.		THROUGH THE YEAR: MSF OCA intensive bilateral advocacy on Rohingya in southeast Asia.  JANUARY 2012  • MSF UK series of briefings of British foreign secretary on Rohingya situation.  • MSF OCA bilateral advocacy campaign on consequences of November 2011 cancellation of 11th Global Fund cycle.  22 FEBRUARY 2012 MSF OCA and MSF Access Campaign report and press release: "Lives in the balance: the need for ART and tuberculosis treatments in Myanmar."
	LATE APRIL 2012  • EU suspends sanctions on Myanmar for one year.  • UN Secretary General calls for further lifting of sanctions.  • USA rules out lifting key sanctions.  11 MAY 2012 Global Fund to free US\$ 1.7 billion, two-thirds attributed to needy countries.	EARLY APRIL 2012  Myanmar opposition party NLD wins legislative elections. Intervention conditions for INGOS significantly improved.		

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2012	MID-MAY 2012 Several high-level visits in <u>Bangladesh</u> , including US secretary of state. Increase of international interest in Rohingya refugee plight increases.			
			22 MAY 2012  Bangladesh: MSF OCA receives letter from Kutupalong camp administrative authorities demanding suspension of activities of several INGOS, including MSF.	22 MAY 2012 MSF OCA Bangladesh team to work on communication strategy for Kutupalong camp in Bangladesh.
		28 MAY 2012 A Buddhist woman raped and murdered, allegedly by group of Muslim men in Rakhine state in Myanmar.	LATE MAY 2012  Bangladesh: Suspension of activities in Kutupalong lifted for MSF.	
		8 JUNE 2012 Interethnic violence erupts in Maungdaw and spread to Sittwe in Myanmar, 75,000 displaced people from both communities.	8 JUNE 2012 MSF OCA mobile clinics to treat victims of violence in displaced camps in Bangladesh.	
		10 JUNE 2012 President of Myanmar, Thein Sein addresses the nation in effort to calm situation down.		
	11 JUNE 2012  Myanmar: UN evacuates non-essential staff from Rakhine state.	11 JUNE 2012  Myanmar: Curfew and state of emergency declared in Rakhine state.	11 JUNE 2012  Myanmar: MSF OCA suspends activities in Rakhine state.	12 JUNE 2012 MSF OCA reactive statement: consequences of forced suspension and disruption of life-saving primary healthcare services in Rakhine State in Myanmar.

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2012		MID-JUNE 2012 Rohingya settled in Malaysia demonstrate in Kuala Lumpur to demand end to violence against their community in Rakhine, Myanmar.		
				<ul> <li>18 JUNE 2012</li> <li>MSF OCA press statement: "Victims of recent <u>Myanmar</u> clashes must have access to healthcare."</li> <li>Advocacy efforts towards Bangkokbased organisations working in Rakhine.</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>19 JUNE 2012</li> <li>2 men sentenced to death for 28 May crime.</li> <li>Myanmar asks for assistance to manage displaced camps in six Rakhine towns.</li> <li>Bangladesh continues to repel refugees.</li> </ul>		
		20 JUNE 2012 Inter-ethnic and religious violence resume north of Sittwe in Myanmar.	<ul> <li>20 JUNE 2012</li> <li>Bangladeshi authorities demand proof of MSF OCA operational legality and of expatriate work visas.</li> <li>Myanmar:</li> <li>Increasing administrative constraints prohibit MSF OCA from augmenting expatriate team size.</li> <li>MSF OCA considers "composing teams along religious and ethnic lines and deploying them in corresponding ethnic areas."</li> </ul>	

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2012		<b>12 JULY 2012</b> President of <u>Myanmar</u> to <b>UN</b> : "only solution would be to expel the Rohingya to other countries or to resettle them in	LATE JUNE 2012 Twelve relief workers arrested and jailed by Rakhine authorities in Myanmar. Six of them from MSF OCA.  6 JULY 2012 Buddhist MSF staff in Myanmar released from jail without any charge.	29 JUNE 2012 MSF OCA reactive communication on detention of staff.
		camps overseen by UNHCR."		16 JULY 2012 MSF International HART UN representative meeting with representative of Rohingya diaspora association, BRANA.  17 JULY 2012 MSF International HART UN representative meeting with UN Special Adviser to Secretary General on Myanmar.  20 JULY 2012 MSF OCA operational coordinators for Bangladesh and Myanmar to closeddoor meeting on Rohingya crisis in London with other organisations and British government representatives.

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2012	AUGUST 2012 Human Rights Watch (HRW) report: "The government could have stopped this: sectarian violence and ensuing abuses in Burma's Arakan state."	AUGUST 2012 Government of Myanmar considers placing displaced Rohingya in detention camps.	MSF OCA staff sentenced to 10 years in prison.  24 JULY 2012 MSF OCA receives a letter ordering cessation of "unregistered" activities in Kutupalong camps in Bangladesh.  3 AUGUST 2012 Bangladeshi government notifies MSF OCA to close programme in Kutupalong within 3 days.  MID-AUGUST 2012 Three MSF OCA detained staff members released in Myanmar.	AUGUST 2012 MSF OCA: Decision to be more proactive and give interviews on situation in Kutupalong, Bangladesh. MSF OCA'S OSCAR tasked to analyse main dilemmas posed by Rohingya situation. Agreement on need to improve communications with Rakhine Buddhist community in Myanmar.  17 AUGUST 2012 MSF OCA issues reactive line on concerns over lack of access to healthcare for many people in Rakhine, Myanmar.

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2012				ASEPTEMBER 2012  MSF OCA, OCG and MSF International advocacy teams meeting to create an intersectional, regional advocacy strategy on Myanmar and Bangladesh. Bilateral meetings to be held with key stakeholders.  LATE SEPTEMBER 2012  MSF OCA medium-term strategic framework for advocacy activities in Rakhine, Myanmar:  'Acceptance' of MSF by Rakhine community too ambitious.  Recommendation to strengthen networking and communication towards Rakhine.  Provide Rakhine useful and valued services.  In case all efforts fail, MSF OCA should be prepared to speak out publicly.
			18 OCTOBER 2012 Official reopening of MSF OCA clinic in Buddhist area in <u>Myanmar</u> derailed by Rakhine extremist protesters.	
		23 OCTOBER 2012 Violence flares in several Rakhine towns, in <u>Myanmar</u> .		
				1 NOVEMBER 2012 MSF OCA Myanmar HoM letter on detained MSF staff to Myanmar UN humanitarian coordinator.

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2012	<ul> <li>9 NOVEMBER 2012</li> <li>10 embassies call on Myanmar to allow free and safe access for humanitarian aid to west of country.</li> <li>UNHCHR calls on Myanmar to grant citizenship to Rohingya.</li> <li>13 NOVEMBER 2012</li> <li>UNHCR calls on the southeast Asia governments to keep their borders open.</li> </ul>	15 NOVEMBER 2012 Aung San Suu Kyi describes violence in western Myanmar as an "immense international tragedy" but calls for end to "illegal immigration" on border with		5 NOVEMBER 2012 MSF OCA press release: "MSF prevented from reaching the majority of communities affected by the violence."
	17 NOVEMBER 2012 OIC calls for UNSC to "save" Myanmar's Rohingya Muslim minority from "genocide".  18 NOVEMBER 2012 HRW claims that in October 2012, local Myanmarese security forces killed Muslim villagers.  19 NOVEMBER 2012 USA President Barrack Obama visits Myanmar and pleads for continued political reforms.	Bangladesh.  17 NOVEMBER 2012 President of Myanmar states that Myanmar should put an end to violence in west.  18 NOVEMBER 2012 ASEAN refuses to speak about "genocide" regarding Rohingya in Myanmar.		

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2012	5 DECEMBER 2012 Head of OCHA, Valerie Amos calls on Myanmar's leaders to support UN and humanitarian organisations' efforts in the region.		<ul> <li>DECEMBER 2012</li> <li>Myanmar:</li> <li>MSF OCA emergency team sent for a longer-term to Rakhine.</li> <li>MSF OCA restarts part of TB and malaria activities in Rakhine.</li> <li>MSF OCG declines MSF OCA's proposal to intervene in Rakhine, to support the needs.</li> </ul>	DECEMBER 2012 MSF International President, Dr Unni Karunakara letter on detained MSF staff to President of Myanmar.
			9 DECEMBER 2012 TO 14 JANUARY 2013 MSF OCA exploratory mission among Rohingya refugees in <u>Thailand</u> and <u>Malaysia</u> . Recommendation to begin operations in Malaysia.	
				<ul> <li>20 DECEMBER 2012</li> <li>MSF OCA 'Rakhine Day' in Amsterdam:</li> <li>Agrees that there was space and value in stepping up MSF public positioning on Rakhine.</li> <li>Agrees to produce a "Fatal Policy 2" report.</li> </ul>
2013				THROUGH THE YEAR 2013 MSF International HART and MSF OCA maintain advocacy momentum for release of detained staff.

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2013	International		MSF Operations	
				"Humanitarian emergency in <b>Raknine</b> State, <b>Myanmar</b> – greater protection needed for vulnerable communities and threatened staff."
				LATE MARCH 2013 Analysis and recommendations after head of MSF OCA OSCAR's visit in Rakhine State. • Certain elements of Myanmar's segregation policies toward Rohingya can be defined as "ethnic cleansing".

International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
			<ul> <li>MSF OCA programmes in Rohingya 'concentration' camps of eastern Rakhine are vital for this vulnerable population and should not be questioned.</li> <li>MSF should question possible 'complicity with segregation' policies by working with "ethnically exclusive" clinics.</li> <li>Main argument for MSF to speak out should be an ethical one.</li> <li>MSF should move away from longterm'silent/behind the scenes' advocacy and raise "red flags" as core message.</li> <li>Report on segregation actions, witnessed by MSF's teams should be produced by the humanitarian affairs officer in Rakhine and released.</li> </ul>
	LATE MARCH 2013 Clashes between Buddhists and Muslims in Meiktila in centre of Myanmar.		officer in Rakfillie and released.
			APRIL 2013 Communications manager recruited by MSF OCA and MSF OCG for website and social media strategy set up.
		MID-APRIL 2013 MSF OCA exploratory team in <u>Malaysia</u> raises alarm again about Rohingya 'boat people.'	
	17 APRIL 2013 Aung San Suu Kyi publicly denies she is neglecting ethnic minorities in Myanmar.		

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2013	22 APRIL 2013 HRW report accuses government of Myanmar of engaging in a campaign of "ethnic cleansing" against the Rohingya.			
		23 APRIL 2013 Release final report from the Inquiry Commission on the sectarian violence in Rakhine state.		
		LATE APRIL 2013 Violence against Muslims flares up 100 kilometres north of Yangon, <u>Myanmar</u> .		
	1 MAY 2013 UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights (UNSRHR) in Myanmar states that recommendations of presidential Rakhine Investigation Commission report still restrict movements of Muslim populations in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps and in Muslim residential areas.			
		<b>3 MAY 2013</b> Rohingya IDP verification and registration process stopped after triggering violence in camps.		
				28 MAY 2013 MSF OCA press release: "Myanmar: Restrictions Severely Impacting Access to Healthcare in Rakhine State" complemented with bilateral advocacy.

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2013		6 JUNE 2013  Aung San Suu Kyi announces she will run for the Myanmar presidency.  She acknowledges that government must ensure that those who committed crimes be punished.	JUNE 2013 One of MSF OCA's detained staff's sentence is commuted to six years.  END OF JUNE 2013	JUNE-JULY 2013 MSF OCA Communication team to reconsider abandoned plan for opening Facebook page.
			MSF OCA team authorised to enter Aung Mingalar Rohingya ghetto in Sittwe, Myanmar. Team granted weekly access to ghetto.  JULY 2013  Upon MSF OCA request MSF OCG to open project in Rakhine, Myanmar.	
	10 JULY 2013 UNSG Ban Ki-moon to Myanmar government: • Warns of "dangerous polarisation" between Buddhists and Muslims. • States they should take steps to answer Rohingya's demands for citizenship.			<ul> <li>10 JULY 2013</li> <li>MSF OCA operational platform:</li> <li>Discuss proposal to open programmes for Rohingya refugees in Malaysia.</li> <li>Position of MSF OCA regarding speaking out qualified as "awkward" and contradictory.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>16 JULY 2013</li> <li>Myanmar border security forces abolished.</li> <li>UNSRHR in Myanmar called for investigation on abuses committed over years.</li> </ul>			

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2013	20 SEPTEMBER 2013  Dalai Lama calls on Myanmarese  Buddhist monks to respect Buddhist principles and stop bloodshed against Muslims.		SEPTEMBER 2013  MSF OCG opens a primary health care programme in the rural township of Kyauktaw in northern Rakhine, Myanmar.	22 AUGUST 2013  MSF OCA press release to announce it is organising an MDR-TB drug symposium in Yangon together with Myanmar Ministry of Health and the UNWHO.
			OCTOBER 2013 'Concept note' on MSF OCA intervention in Malaysia rejected.	30 SEPTEMBER 2013  The former HAO in Rakhine drafts an advocacy strategy for planned release of publication "From bad to worse: humanitarian crisis and segregation in Rakhine state."  OCTOBER 2013  • MSF OCA Myanmar coordination team and MSF International HART series of meetings with key international stakeholders.  • Decision to reinforce bilateral advocacy message with observations on political and human rights dimensions of the crisis, impact on humanitarian situation, and on MSF's operations.

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2013		2 NOVEMBER 2042	NOVEMBER 2013  • One of MSF OCA detained staff is sentenced to five years in prison.  • MSF OCG teams in Rakhine are forced to evacuate Kyauk Taw and to re-settle in Mrauk U due to community pressure.	3 OCTOBER 2013  Myanmar daily, The Irrawaddy publishes an article on the denial of access for Muslims in Rakhine hospitals, based on MSF OCA information and quoting MSF OCA deputy HoM.  11 OCTOBER 2013  MSF Stockholm  Evaluation Unit writes: "Retrospective lessons learned report" on the MSF OCA emergency intervention in period from pre-June 2012 through August 2013.
		2 NOVEMBER 2013 Rakhine media and social media accused MSF OCA of "bias" in favour of Muslim patients.	2 NOVEMBER 2013 Following clashes between Muslim IDPs and Rakhine Buddhists, the MSF OCA team transferred injured Muslim IDPs to the hospital.	
				<ul> <li>EARLY NOVEMBER 2013</li> <li>MSF OCA coordination team conduct a series of targeted print and radio interviews at the national level to reiterate the principles of humanitarian aid.</li> <li>MSF OCA Myanmar team asks MSF international movement to refrain from public, proactive speaking out on the situation.</li> </ul>

у
ent: alls on EU to nmission on ist Rohingya. rn of risks of st vulnerable agencies are for fear of segregation.
a r

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2013	• UK embassy in Myanmar press release expressing concern over situation in Rakhine and urging local authorities to ensure that humanitarian agencies have free & unhindered access.  30 DECEMBER 2013 Joint public statement from EU and	23 DECEMBER 2013 Local Rakhine radicals pressure Sittwe hotel owners to stop accommodating INGOs.		LATE DECEMBER 2013 MSF OCA's "From bad to worse: humanitarian crisis and segregation in Rakhine state" report postponed to 2014. No longer planned for public dissemination.
	embassies of <b>Switzerland</b> , <b>Turkey</b> , and <b>USA</b> calling for <b>immediate and unimpeded humanitarian access</b> to <b>Taung Paw</b> IDP camp in <b>Myebon</b> slum.		31 DECEMBER 2013  Myanmar: one of two MSF OCA staff detained since June 2012 released after presidential amnesty.	
2014				3 JANUARY 2014 MSF OCA and MSF OCG press conference:  • Underscores harassment of aid workers.  • Explains that MSF teams are providing medical care to people in need no matter their origin.

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2014		9 JANUARY 2014 Myanmar Attack on Rohingya community members in Du Chee Yar Tanvillage, southern Maungdaw Township, Rakhine state.  13 JANUARY 2014 Myanmar: police officer killed in Du Chee Yar Tan by Rohingya Muslims. Attacks on Rohingya community in retaliation.  15 JANUARY 2014 Myanmar takes over ASEAN presidency.	14 JANUARY 2014  Myanmar: Members of MSF OCA local clinic near Du Chee Yar Tan explain they treated people traumatised by violent events. Local clashes continue and MSF clinic team treats more seriously wounded. MSF local staff threatened.	14 JANUARY 2014 MSF OCA decides against proactive data dissemination but is questioned by media as the only organisation operating in the area. To protect national staff, MSF accounts presented as coming from expatriate nurse.  16 JANUARY 2014  • Associated Press and The Irrawaddy break MSF and Du Chee Yar Tanstory.  • MSF OCA's first reactive communication: on 13 January MSF staff treated two wounded people suffering from injuries inflicted as a result of violence; very few patients came to MSF clinic.  • MSF OCA Myanmar CMT requests reactive communication to be broadcast from Amsterdam, to protect field
				team.

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2014	<ul> <li>17 JANUARY 2014</li> <li>US embassy in Yangon and UNSRHR in Myanmar express concerns about the clashes and ask for an investigation.</li> <li>Representatives of UN OCHA and UNHCR visit Du Chee Yar Tan area but are not allowed to freely talk with population.</li> </ul>			<ul> <li>17 JANUARY 2014</li> <li>MSF OCA broadcasts reactive communication from both Amsterdam and Yangon.</li> <li>In the following days, MSF communication team in Myanmar continues briefing journalists with reactive communication, but without giving any interviews.</li> </ul>
			22 JANUARY 2014 MSF OCA's Rakhine team has treated 22 victims of Du Chee Yar Tan clashes. Police harasses and intimidates MSF local staff.	
	23 JANUARY 2014 UN High Commissioner for Human Rights calls on <u>Myanmar</u> government to investigate "credible information" gathered by UN regarding 48 Rohingya Muslims killed in early January violence.			23 JANUARY 2014 MSF OCA headquarters decides to issue a second reactive line on 24 January: MSF teams treated at least 22 patients believed to be victims of the Du Chee Yar Tan violence.
	24 JANUARY 2014 OCHA Coordinator expresses her "deep concerns" over the massacre of many civilians and a policeman in Du Chee Yar Tan, Myanmar.	<ul> <li>24 JANUARY 2014</li> <li>Fortify Rights, states they spoke with sources who confirmed the massacre.</li> <li>Myanmar president's spokesperson rejects Fortify Rights' claims acknowledging only policeman's death.</li> <li>Myanmar Ministry of Foreign Affairs accused international media and agencies of misinformation, exaggeration, and distortion of situation.</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>24 JANUARY 2014</li> <li>MSF International HART, and MSF OCA operational team establish a bilateral advocacy emergency plan in order to:</li> <li>Exchange reliable information with diplomatic stakeholders.</li> <li>Ask stakeholders to maintain diplomatic pressure on the Myanmar government and lobby for immediate humanitarian access.</li> </ul>

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2014		27 JANUARY 2014  Myanmargovernment press conference:  Rejects call for an international investigation into the Du Chee Yar Tan events.  Declares that "alleged massacres of Bengalis are fabricated news."		<ul> <li>LATE JANUARY 2014</li> <li>Myanmar government demands that MSF OCA deny its account of Du Chee Yar Tan events or provide a list of patients treated.</li> <li>State media publishes accusations against MSF.</li> <li>27 JANUARY 2014</li> <li>MSF OCA decides to provide aggregate data as response to request from Myanmar government as opposed to individual data.</li> </ul>
				THROUGHOUT FEBRUARY 2014 MSF OCA Myanmar communication team continue efforts to counter anti-MSF propaganda in mainstream media.  7 FEBRUARY 2014 An updated "proposal for a diffusion strategy" of the postponed report "From bad to worse: humanitarian crisis and segregation in Rakhine," is circulated to MSF OCG and MSF OCA Myanmar and Bangladesh programme managers.
			<ul> <li>17 FEBRUARY 2014</li> <li>MSF OCA team informed by Deputy MoH of Myanmar of wish to progress with signing MoU.</li> <li>MSF OCA team asked to draft MoU clause certifying that MSF OCA would exercise caution in relations with communities.</li> </ul>	

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2014		25 FEBRUARY 2014 Fortify Rights report denouncing abuses against Rohingya in Myanmar uses MSF's data taken from 2011 briefing paper "Fatal Policy."	<ul> <li>No secondary healthcare activities can be included in the MoU.</li> <li>Myanmar MoHwish to discuss number of expatriates in field.</li> </ul>	
			26 FEBRUARY 2014  MSF Rakhine management team summoned to meeting by Rakhine government officials: MSF activities in Rakhine no longer approved for lack of MoU.  MSF OCA asked to hand over all activities to Myanmar MoH.  27 FEBRUARY 2014  MSF OCA Myanmar CMT received letter from Ministry of Home Affairs (MoA): MSF OCA's registration is cancelled and all activities in Myanmar must cease.	26 FEBRUARY 2014  MSF International HART to urgently call key contacts to deliver "strong messages" to Myanmar government about gravity of situation.
			28 FEBRUARY 2014 All MSF OCA programmes in Myanmar closed. • Limited MSF OCA activities in Rakhine, • MoH officer tells MSF OCA that suspension order is for programmes in Rakhine only. • MoH authorises reopening of HIV/ AIDs programmes and other activities in Yangon, Kachin, and Shan states.	28 FEBRUARY 2014 MSF OCA press release: "MSF Concerned about the fate of thousands of patients in Myanmar after being ordered to cease activities."

• MSF OCA is warned that MoH decision	
has to be confirmed by MoA.  MSF OCA discussions in Amsterdam HQ about relevance of signing MoU without including Rakhine programmes  MSF OCA managementteam "bottom line" decision: "MSF OCA would try and protect its presence in other Myanmar projects, even if it was no longer possible to be present in Rakhine state."  1 MARCH 2014  MSF OCA pressi activities in My remain for Rakh  MSF'S EXCOM strong reaction of all MSF section of all MSF section was made and the machine state."	release: "MSF to resume yanmar but concerns hine." I, votes in favour of n, but not a departure ons from Myanmar.  deputy HoM and MSF ald director, start nego-anmar authorities and to obtain authorisation rammes in Rakhine.

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2014		6 MARCH 2014 Myanmar government health official to The Myanmar Times: "Closure of MSF operations in Rakhine state is not permanent and would likely be rescinded in October or November."		7 MARCH 2014 MSF CH Board meeting:  • MSF OCA general director update of situation in Myanmar and explanation of OCA management team decision.  • MSF CH board of directors asks for time to reflect on positioning.  8 MARCH 2014  • MSF OCA management team memo to all MSF OCA operational managers and HoMs to confirm and explain their decision.  • Continuing intense debates within MSF Holland and OCA executive and association.  16 TO 23 MARCH 2014 MSF International President Dr Joanne Liu visit of several sites in Rakhine as part of a high-level delegation.  24 MARCH 2014 MSF OCA press release:  "MSF acknowledging encouraging dialogue in Rakhine but clinics remained closed."

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2014		26 AND 27 MARCH 2014  Myanmar: Just before census, Buddhist mobs attacks UN and INGO offices in Sittwe.	26 AND 27 MARCH 2014  Myanmar: Many organisations forced to suspend activities and partially evacuate staff including MSF OCA.	
	30 MARCH 2014 UN Secretary General calls on Myanmar government to ensure safety of humanitarian workers and protection of all civilians in Rakhine.			
		END OF APRIL 2014  Myanmar: Rakhine state Emergency Coordination Committee (ECC) insists that MSF is expelled from Rakhine and should leave. MOH initiates MSF OCA's re-registra- tion process with recommendation letter.		
				MAY 2014 World Health Assembly: MSF International president Dr Joanne Liu meeting with <u>Myanmar's</u> Minister of Health.
			<b>22 MAY 2014</b> MSF OCA operational platform decides not to submit any MoU that does not include Rakhine.	
				24 MAY 2014 MSF Holland general assembly: • Tasks MSF Holland board and representatives of OCA Council to clarify MT decision.

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2014		JUNE-JULY 2014 INGO Watch Group created in March 2014 begins spreading false allegations and threats on social media in Rakhine, Myanmar.	JUNE 2014  • MSF OCG finally declines Rakhine authorities' proposal to work in Rakhine without expatriates.  • MSF OCA third exploratory mission in Thailand and Malaysia  JUNE AND JULY 2014  MSF OCA manages to work with MoH teams in Rakhine villages and some displaced camps under police escort.  27 JUNE 2014  MSF OCA receives signed registration document from MoH for programmes in Myanmar.	<ul> <li>Asks to ensure that MSF's interventions in Myanmar are in line with MSF's core identity, fundamental principles.</li> <li>Asks to make every effort to resume meaningful programmes in Rakhine using all means at disposal.</li> <li>MSF OCA should, if necessary, speak out publicly on denial of access and on the plight of the Rohingya, even if it means expulsion from the country.</li> <li>Executive to report back to members of general assembly within three months.</li> <li>JUNE 2014         MSF International president sends a letter to the Myanmar government expressing dissatisfaction with the continued ban on MSF activities in Rakhine.     </li> <li>EARLY JULY 2014         MSF OCA director of operations and Myanmar operations manager meet high-level stakeholders in the USA.     </li> </ul>
		24 JULY 2014 Spokesperson for Myanmar president's office press conference calls all INGOS to "join hands with (them), especially MSF." Myanmar to guarantee safety of MSF's staff in Rakhine.		24 JULY 2014 MSF OCA reactive communication: MSF hopes to continue constructive discussions with Myanmar MoH.

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2014			MID-AUGUST 2014 MSF OCA operational platform decision to open programme in Malaysia.  8 SEPTEMBER 2014 MSF OCA and Myanmar Ministry of Health sign MoU for MSF OCA medical activities in Myanmar, including Rakhine.	25 JULY 2014  MSF OCA statement: "MSF welcomes offer to resume operations in Rakhine, Myanmar but remains cautious."  EARLY AUGUST 2014 Ahead of US secretary of state's visit to Myanmar, MSF OCA mobilises leading US and international media on Rakhine situation  MID-AUGUST 2014 Strategic advocacy in favour of unregistered refugees to be integrated in MSF Malaysia intervention.  9 SEPTEMBER 2014  MSF OCA publicly declares they are "committed to fully develop this agreement and stands ready in cooperation with the [Myanmar] MoH to resume operations in Rakhine at any time."  MID-DECEMBER 2014  MSF OCA begins to question if they should continue to compromise to ensure a presence in Rakhine.
2015			IN 2015 Release of last detained MSF OCA staff member.	

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2015			JANUARY 2015 MSF OCA resumes activities in Rakhine, Myanmar.	20 JANUARY 2015 MSF OCA press release: "MSF restarts basic medical activities in parts of Myanmar's Rakhine state."  30 MAY 2015 MSF Holland general assembly: • Considers that 2014 Myanmar motion is not acted upon by MSF Holland board of directors. • New motion calling for "an independent and comprehensive review of MSF's strategy vis-a-vis the Rohingya in Myanmar over the last 5 years." • Open debate on findings to be organised.  SEPTEMBER 2015 OCA 'café' in Amsterdam: MSF advocacy regarding Rohingya discussed by all MSF OCA heads of mission.
2017		AUGUST 2017 Unprecedented wave of violence in Myanmar: • Thousands of Rohingya massacred in Rakhine. • Exodus of more than 700,000 Rohingya to Bangladesh.		

	International	Myanmar, Bangladesh and South East Asia	MSF Operations	MSF Public Statements and Advocacy
2017				14 DECEMBER 2017 MSF International press release: "MSF survey estimates that at least 6,700 Rohingya were killed during the attacks in Myanmar."
2019	NOVEMBER 2019 Three separate international legal proceedings are filed against Myanmar for crimes against the Rohingya: In UN International Court of Justice (ICJ). In Argentina under "universal jurisdiction." By International Criminal Court (ICC).			