

## Highlights

- Communities and humanitarian organizations in Myanmar are preparing for the likely arrival of Cyclone Mocha which has formed in the Bay of Bengal and is predicted to make landfall this weekend.
- While the track and intensity of the cyclone are still evolving, most forecasts currently have the cyclone crossing the coast between Kyaukphyu in Myanmar's Rakhine State and Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh on Sunday.
- This cyclone impact area in Rakhine is low-lying and highly prone to flooding. Heavy rains and strong winds are later expected to hit inland communities in the Northwest which are also prone to landslides and flooding.
- The Myanmar humanitarian Emergency Response Preparedness Plan has been activated nationwide since the start of the week. Humanitarian organizations, especially in Rakhine, have ramped up their preparedness efforts and have been pre-positioning personnel and supplies wherever possible. Preparedness is also being stepped up in the Northwest.
- OCHA is engaging with all relevant stakeholders to ensure timely and unimpeded access to those in need.
- Across Rakhine and the Northwest, there are already about six million people in need of humanitarian assistance and 1.2 million people displaced, even before the cyclone hits.
- An urgent injection of funds is desperately needed to facilitate a full-scale response to the Cyclone and any subsequent flooding. To date, the [US\\$764M Humanitarian Response Plan](#) is only 10 per cent funded.

## Situation Overview

On 11 May, the Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS) issued a Red Storm Alert for Cyclone Mocha, which has formed in Bay of Bengal and is currently forecast to cross the coast between Kyaukphyu in Myanmar and Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh on 14 May with maximum sustained wind speeds of 150-160 kmph, gusting to 175 kmph. A significant storm surge is expected to accompany the cyclone of 2-2.7m. Evacuation advice has been issued by local authorities in Rakhine for low-lying and coastal areas in Sittwe, Pauktaw, Myebon, Maungdaw and Buthidaung with many people already starting to move ahead of the storm. Associated heavy rains and strong winds are expected to affect Rakhine and areas of high displacement further inland in northwest Myanmar.

This is the first cyclone to threaten Myanmar this Monsoon season and there are grave concerns about the impact especially on the already vulnerable and displaced communities with reduced coping capacity. Of particular worry is the situation facing 232,100 people who are displaced across Rakhine. Many of the IDP camps and sites in Rakhine are located in low-lying coastal areas susceptible to storm surge. The suffering of more than a million displaced people and other communities in the Northwest is also expected to worsen over the coming days as the ex-cyclone moves inland bringing heavy rain. Displaced people in the Northwest are already living in precarious conditions in camps, displacement sites or in forests often without proper shelter. According to the [2023 Myanmar Humanitarian Needs Overview](#), there are already 6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in the most likely affected areas of Rakhine (1.7M) and the Northwest (4.3M – Chin, Magway and Sagaing).

## Coordination

In preparation for Cyclone Mocha, the humanitarian community has been closely monitoring the development of weather conditions and activated the Myanmar Humanitarian Emergency Response Preparedness Plan nationwide. Common Rapid Needs Assessment forms have been developed and rolled-out with associated trainings to support quick and consistent analysis of needs after the landfall. An updated pre-approved list of staff who have been trained on the needs assessments, has been submitted to facilitate timely access in Rakhine. UNOCHA has surged a team to Sittwe to bolster capacity under a whole of Rakhine coordination approach. OCHA continues to engage with all relevant stakeholders to facilitate a timely response over the coming days. Inter-cluster coordination is also being stepped up in the Northwest.

The following preparedness measures have been undertaken by clusters and their partners at the national and sub-national levels:

- Stockpiling and pre-positioning of commodities in existing warehouses and preparations for the distribution of cash assistance to affected people.
- Preparation of a consolidated stock list at the national, Ayeyarwady and Rakhine levels to identify gaps and available resources. A response-wide stock list is under preparation, including the Northwest.
- Dissemination of practical safety messages to affected people across the country, with a focus on people at risk in coastal areas, advising how to protect themselves and their family members. These messages were disseminated in various languages in both written and audio formats, through various communication channels.
- Updating of existing evacuation site lists, contact lists and baseline datasets.

Preparations are also underway on the Bangladeshi side of the border where camps hosting hundreds of thousands of Rohingya people are likely to be affected by strong wind, rain, and flooding, even if the cyclone ultimately makes landfall in Myanmar.

Access in Rakhine and the Northwest remains heavily restricted. Timely and sustained humanitarian access to disaster-affected areas is critical to assess needs, move supplies and distribute immediate assistance. Relaxation of Travel Authorization requirements is critical to support the emergency response to people in need in the affected areas. Restrictions on the importation of lifesaving humanitarian stocks, particularly health and nutrition supplies, have hindered efforts to get assistance to affected areas and engagement continues on the release of these stocks.

Additional funding is critically needed with the HRP less than 10 per cent funded. The Emergency Shelter and NFI Cluster has not received any new funding this year and an urgent injection of funds will be needed to sustain the response across all clusters over the weeks ahead.

***Information in this update is based on inputs from humanitarian partners and meteorological organizations. The next update on the Cyclone will be issued on 13 May.***

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# MYANMAR

## Cyclone Mocha

As of 12 May 2023





# MYANMAR: Cyclone Mocha

## Flash Update #2

As of 13 May 2023

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## Highlights

- Extremely Severe Cyclone Mocha continues to intensify in the Bay of Bengal and will likely cross the coast between Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh and Kyaukpyu township, Myanmar's Rakhine State during the afternoon on 14 May with winds gusting up to 200 kmph.
- Heavy rain and strong winds associated with the cyclone are expected to cause flooding across Rakhine, where many townships and displacement sites are in low-lying areas and highly prone to flooding.
- Many communities are already moving to higher ground to designated evacuation centers or to safer areas staying with relatives.
- Humanitarian organizations are gearing up for a large-scale emergency response at the national level, as well as in Rakhine and the Northwest (Chin, Magway, Sagaing), pending timely and unhindered access. Advocacy on access and supply importation issues is underway.
- Refresher training sessions have been conducted on Rapid Needs Assessments to over 400 humanitarian actors across Rakhine and the Northwest in the past two days to ensure a coordinated response.
- An urgent injection of funds is desperately needed to facilitate a full-scale response to the impacts of the cyclone and any subsequent flooding. To date, the [US\\$764M Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\)](#) is only 10 per cent funded.

## Situation Overview

As of 13 May, cyclone Mocha has moved further north-northeastwards over the Bay of Bengal and intensified to an extremely severe cyclone. It is very likely to move further north-northeastwards and intensify further over the east-central Bay of Bengal. It is forecast to cross the coast between Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh and Kyaukpyu township in Myanmar around noon on 14 May. The cyclone is expected to land with a maximum sustained wind speed of 170-180 kmph, gusting to over 200 kmph. Thereafter it is expected to continue further north-northeastwards towards Chin and Sagaing in Myanmar which are at high risk from landslides. Flood warnings are being issued in many areas across all townships in Rakhine with storm surge as high as 3 meters.

After the local authorities issued evacuation advice for low-lying and coastal areas in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, Myebon, Pauktaw, and Sittwe townships in Rakhine, more than 100,000 people, including some displaced people, moved to designated evacuation shelters by 13 May. Many others have moved to stay with relatives on higher ground. In the Northwest, as of 13 May several buildings, including monasteries, schools, and religious sites were designated as evacuation centers by local authorities in light of the expected impact of cyclone Mocha in Chin, Magway and Sagaing.

"For the past two days, we have seen many families leaving the low-lying areas of Sittwe town in tuk-tuks and small trucks moving to safer places. They are seeking safety inland in other townships or in the designated evacuation sites in Sittwe town. During our visit to one of the monasteries in town today, we met with families who already moved to the monastery. They moved with limited belongings and dry food for a few nights," shared one of the OCHA field team members in Sittwe.

OCHA is following up with the local authorities to ensure all communities are relocated before the cyclone makes landfall. Flights to Rakhine were already cancelled and Sittwe airport is now closed.



*Rohingya people from Taung Paw moving to an evacuation site ahead of cyclone Mocha. Myebon township, Rakhine. ©OCHA 2023*

## Coordination

Preparedness efforts at the national and sub-national levels have been gearing up for a large-scale emergency response. In Rakhine, humanitarian partners have been pre-positioning commodities in existing warehouses and preparing for the distribution of cash assistance and relief items to affected people after the cyclone passes. Surge personnel were deployed to Rakhine from Yangon during the week to support planning and response. Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) forms have been rolled out with associated training sessions to support quick and consistent needs analysis after landfall. On 12-13 May, three additional RNA training sessions were conducted for more than 400 humanitarian workers operating in Rakhine and several other states and regions, including in the Northwest. An updated pre-approved list of staff who have been trained on the needs assessment tool was resubmitted on 12 May to facilitate timely access in Rakhine.

In the Northwest, preparedness efforts are also ongoing. These include updating baseline datasets and contact lists for needs assessments, planning and response purposes. Simultaneously, safety messages are being disseminated to affected people in these areas, advising them how to protect themselves and their family members.

At the national level, engagement with key stakeholders has been intensified to ensure timely and unimpeded access to those in need. This includes a call for relaxation of restrictions on travel authorizations and the release of health and nutrition commodities with pending customs clearance.

Preparations continue also in Bangladesh and there is a close coordination between the humanitarian communities in both countries.

Funding is critically needed to sustain the response across all clusters for cyclone Mocha. The 2023 HRP is less than ten per cent funded and an injection of resources is urgently needed to mount an operation at-scale. OCHA is exploring various avenues for urgent resource mobilization.

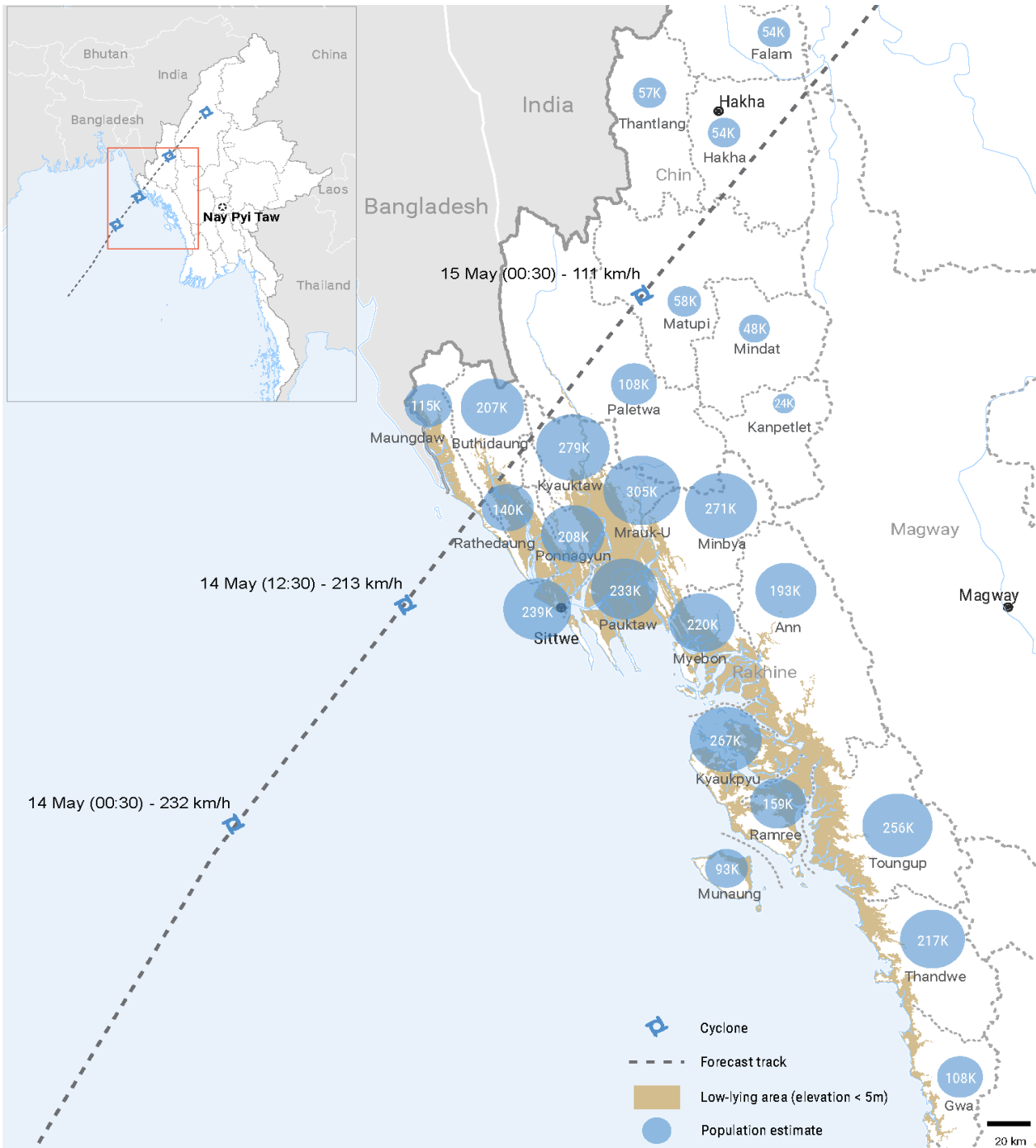
***Information in this update is based on inputs from humanitarian partners and meteorological organizations. The next update on the cyclone will be issued on 15 May.***



# MYANMAR

## Cyclone Mocha

As of 13 May 2023



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### Highlights

- Extremely Severe Cyclone Mocha crossed the coast between Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh and Kyaukpyu township in Myanmar at lunchtime on 14 May (local time) packing winds estimated at around 250 kmph, making it one of the strongest cyclones on record in the country.
- Heavy rains, storm surge and strong winds have been recorded across the affected areas throughout the day with flooding in low-lying areas of Rakhine, particularly in and around the state capital, Sittwe.
- Thousands of people spent the day sheltering in evacuation centres and in relatives' houses inland from the coast, where they will remain tonight until the winds subside.
- The ongoing wild weather in Rakhine and telecommunications interruptions mean it has not yet been possible to assess the full magnitude of the disaster, but early reports suggest the damage is extensive and needs among already vulnerable communities, particularly displaced people, will be high.
- The UN and its humanitarian partners have spent the week preparing for the cyclone's arrival and have been pre-positioning stocks and personnel ready to assess and respond to needs as soon as it is safe to do so. With the cyclone now losing intensity and moving inland, humanitarian teams plan to begin this work tomorrow.
- An urgent injection of funds is desperately needed to facilitate a full-scale response to the impacts of the cyclone and subsequent flooding. To date, the [US\\$764M Humanitarian Response Plan](#) is only 10 per cent funded.

### Situation Overview

Extremely Severe Cyclone Mocha made landfall at 1230hrs on 14 May, crossing the coast between Kyaukpyu township (close to Sittwe) in Myanmar and Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh with stronger than expected winds.<sup>1</sup> The cyclone approached the coast with maximum sustained wind speeds of roughly 250 kmph, according to the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC). Storm surge estimated at 3-3.5 meters has inundated low lying areas in Rakhine and the adjoining southeast Bangladesh coast this afternoon, with significant water entering Sittwe around 1400hrs, flooding many parts of the town.

Extremely strong winds have knocked down power lines, uprooted trees, and damaged and destroyed houses. Communications with the affected areas are currently limited after extensive damage to telecommunications towers during the cyclone. Partners are reporting slow or non-existent internet, with zero connectivity in some areas which is hampering the collection of information on impacts tonight. Early reports indicate significant damage to houses and other infrastructure in Sittwe and Gwa townships, including roofs being torn off homes. Local media reported people unable to leave their homes in Sittwe due to the storm surge and rising water. Evacuations of displacement camps and residential areas in low-lying took place prior to the cyclone's arrival but it is not clear if everyone in the path of the cyclone was able to reach these sites and at least some of these evacuation centres were damaged by the strong winds at the peak of the cyclone.

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<sup>1</sup> Cyclone Mocha was recorded as having winds of 250kmph when it was 40 km from Sittwe at 12:30PM local time. Source: JTWC Satellite Imagery.



*Destroyed house in Gwa township.  
Source: Twitter*



*Destroyed telecommunications tower in Sittwe township. Source: Twitter*



*Storm Surge in Sittwe township. Source: Twitter*

There is no confirmation yet of damage levels in the northern townships of Maungdaw and Buthidaung where more than half of the shelters are either temporary or semi-permanent, placing households at very high risk in case they were not able to reach evacuation centres. No confirmed reports have yet been received of significant damage in Ayeyarwady.

The weather system is weakening as it continues to move towards the country's Northwest. It will weaken into a depression by 15 May over Sagaing before moving towards Kachin. Heavy rainfall and winds are expected over the coming days as it moves across the country through areas that are highly prone to flooding and/or landslides.



*Evacuation shelter in Ah Loe Taw Pyae Monastery in Sittwe, Rakhine Source: OCHA*



## Coordination

The humanitarian community has been preparing for a scaled-up response to needs as soon as the cyclone has passed. The Humanitarian Emergency Response Preparedness Plan was activated a week ago and stocks and personnel have been pre-positioned to areas most likely to be affected over the past few days.

National and sub-national inter-cluster coordination meetings are taking place on 15 May to activate the response. OCHA and its humanitarian partners aim to begin rapid needs assessments (RNAs) in the field as early as 15 May to confirm the initial impact of the cyclone and the immediate humanitarian needs there. Access requests for assessments have been pre-submitted and hundreds of trained partners are standing by, ready to deploy across the affected areas.

Funding is critically needed to sustain the response across all clusters for cyclone Mocha. The 2023 HRP is less than 10 per cent funded and a significant injection of resources is urgently required to support a disaster response operation of this scale. Health, shelter, relief items and water, sanitation and hygiene support are likely to be most in demand after a disaster of this nature and humanitarians are working to quickly mobilize funds for these sectors as an immediate priority.

Read the UN's press release on Cyclone Mocha preparations and funding needs [here](#).

***Information in this update is based on inputs from humanitarian partners and meteorological organizations. The next update on the cyclone will be issued on 15 May.***

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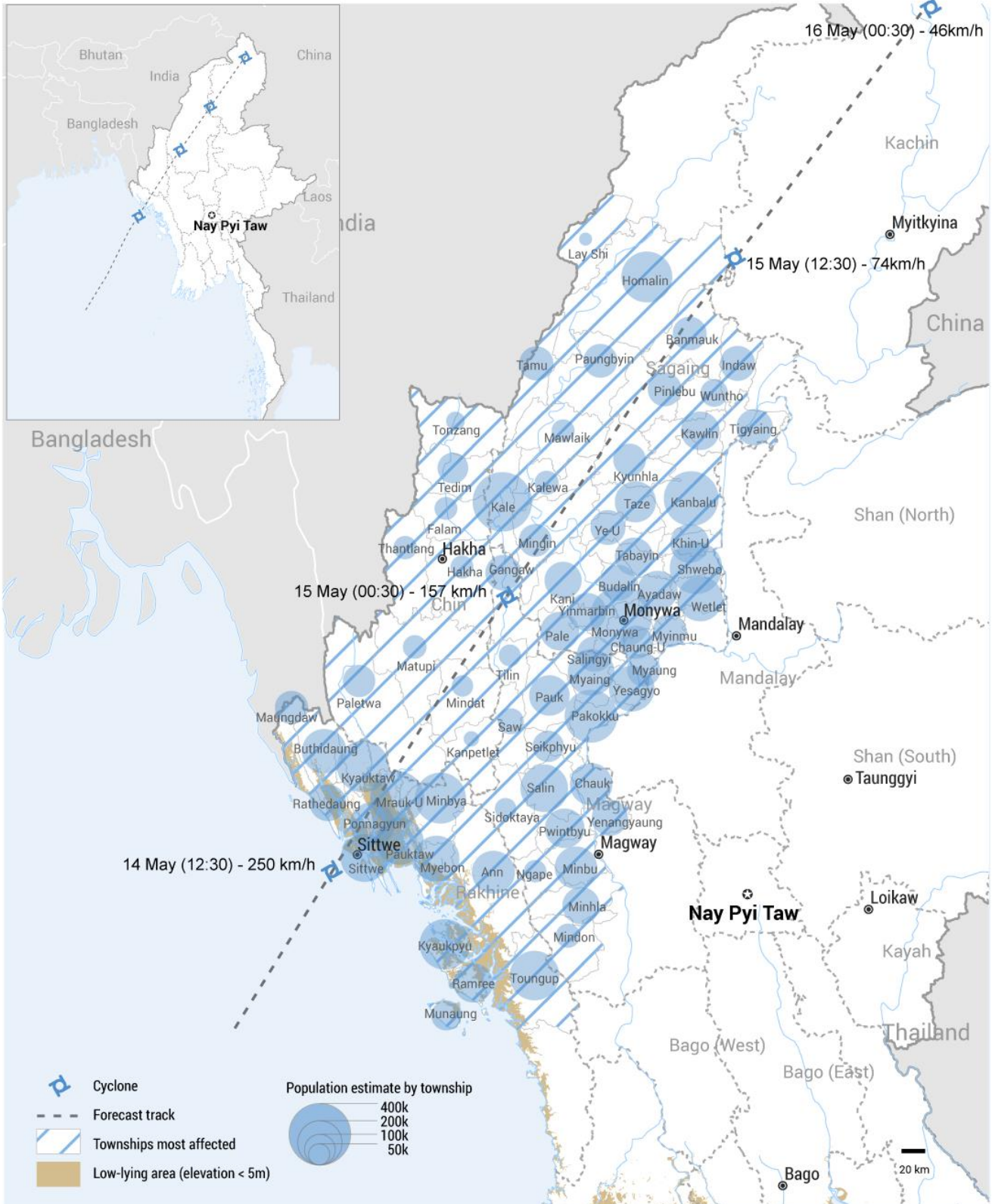
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# MYANMAR

## Cyclone Mocha

As of 14 May 2023





### Highlights

- Communities have spent the day cleaning up and counting the cost of Extremely Severe Cyclone Mocha that smashed Myanmar's western states and regions on Sunday and continues to bring heavy rain in some areas as a depression.
- Mocha was one of the strongest cyclones ever to hit the country and has left a trail of devastation, particularly in the state capital, Sittwe.
- Few houses have escaped damage in Sittwe and there is widespread destruction of flimsy bamboo longhouses in displacement camps.
- Health, relief items, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene needs are already being reported. Explosive ordnance risks are high in conflict-affected rural areas where landmines may have been shifted during flooding and where people have been on the move to safer areas.
- Communications with partners on the ground was partially restored during the day but still remains limited after extensive damage to telecommunications towers. Water and power services have been badly interrupted all day with generators now the primary source of electricity for most people due to downed lines.
- Humanitarian partners are working to start rapid needs assessments (RNAs) in the field on 16 May to confirm the magnitude of impact from the cyclone and the immediate assistance that is required. A priority will be assessing the damage in the following locations: Sittwe, Pauktaw, Rathedaung, Maungdaw, Ponnagyun, Kyauktaw.
- Early reports have also started coming in of widespread flooding and needs in the Northwest – an area that is also heavily conflict-affected.
- An urgent injection of funds is desperately needed to facilitate a full-scale response to the impact of the cyclone and subsequent flooding. To date, the [US\\$764M Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\)](#) is only 10 per cent funded.



*Flooded street after Cyclone Mocha. Sittwe, Rakhine. Credit: OCHA*



*Uprooted tree on the street after Cyclone Mocha. Sittwe, Rakhine. OCHA*



## Situation Overview

The Extremely Severe Cyclone Mocha crossed the coast between Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh and Kyaukpyu township, near Rakhine's capital of Sittwe in Myanmar at lunchtime on 14 May. Winds were estimated as high as 250 kmph. Communications with teams on the ground are still limited but early reports suggest the damage is significant, particularly in Rakhine, and that needs across all communities will be high. Extremely strong winds brought down power lines, uprooted trees, and damaged and destroyed houses. Storm surge knocked out bridges and inundated homes. In Sittwe, most housing is thought to have been damaged in some way and many flimsy long houses in IDP camps have been destroyed.



Two children walk through damaged Thae Chaung Camp. Sittwe, Rakhine. OCHA

In addition to immediate NFI, shelter, and WASH needs, the affected population will require prompt emergency healthcare, including lifesaving and trauma care and continuous primary healthcare services (maternal and child healthcare and non-communicable diseases care). Psychosocial First Aid for affected people after the disaster is also critical. The potential for communicable disease outbreaks in affected areas is high, requiring close monitoring. Moreover, landmines and other explosive remnants of war pose risks to communities moving to safer areas or returning home. The ongoing flooding and landslides can dislodge or carry the devices to locations previously deemed safe.

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## Rakhine

- On 15 May, the Rakhine State de facto authorities under Section 11 of the National Disaster Management Act declared all 17 townships in Rakhine to have been affected by the cyclone.
- Affected communities have spent the day cleaning up the debris strewn across the area, especially in Sittwe which took a direct hit from the cyclone on Sunday.
- Houses across Sittwe and other towns in Rakhine have lost roofs, walls and sheeting. Displacement camps and sites are particularly badly damaged.
- Based on field staff observations in Sittwe, shelter and WASH assistance are priority needs across all communities. One partner reported significant damage to latrines and shelter in IDP sites in Kyauktaw and Ponnagyun townships.

There are unconfirmed reports of people missing in some IDP camps in Sittwe township, including Basara, Dar Pai, and Thae Chaung IDP camp, which flooded heavily due to proximity to the coast. Three bridges near Dar Pai, Thae Chaung, and Thet Kae Pyin IDP camps have collapsed. Fishing boats were also smashed together during the cyclone.

- Some of the IDPs are still staying in cyclone shelters near the camps, with some reports of injuries and needs for medical treatment. Those staying in temporary shelters, such as schools, require assistance.

- Movement is challenging and debris clearance is ongoing. Heavy traffic was reported during the day due to large numbers of people returning to their Sittwe homes from inland areas, combined with debris on the roads. Local fire brigades and charity groups/volunteers were seen clearing streets in Maungdaw, Mrauk-U, and Sittwe townships.



A bridge to Thae Chaung IDP camp that was destroyed by Cyclone Mocha. Sittwe, Rakhine. Credit: OCHA



- Many people remain in evacuation shelters, although there are reports that families have started to return to their homes to assess the damage, including some 6,000 people in Mrauk-U who had been evacuated on 14 May. The Thein Nyo displacement site hosting around 2,860 IDPs in Mrauk-U was reportedly destroyed, along with 80 houses in the host community, according to local media reports. This is to be confirmed.
- The Mytel phone network is reportedly working intermittently in Kyauktaw township, and reports from there indicate significant damage. Local media reported near total damage to some 260 houses in Oke Kyut village in Kyauktaw township. Also in Kyauktaw, 2 school buildings providing free education to more than 600 students were reportedly destroyed by the cyclone. This damage is to be confirmed.
- In Minbya township, around 40 houses in Tha Yet Oke village were destroyed, according to local media.
- Township authorities have reportedly been deployed to assess initial damage in villages in Rakhine.
- Limited information has been received from the northern townships of Buthidaung and Maungdaw due to telecoms being down, where more than half of the shelters are either temporary or semi-permanent, placing households at very high risk in case they were not able to reach evacuation centres. A major clean-up operation was underway in Maungdaw during the day according to partners, as the community attempted to clear fallen trees that were blocking roads. There are no reports of flooding the Maungdaw downtown area but the situation in the countryside is not yet known.
- In Ponnagyun, the OCHA field team observed that most houses were collapsed and damaged in Kun Taung, Pa Day Thar, Sin Inn Gyi, and Ywar Thar Yar, including heavy damage to roofs. So far, there have been no reports of death or injuries there by local communities.



*Damaged shelters in Dar Pai IDP camp. Sittwe, Rakhine. OCHA*

### **Magway, Chin and Sagaing**

- Continuous heavy rain has caused the Ayeyarwady River to overflow and flood townships in Magway. There are concerns that flood warning messages may not have reached all townships.
- Local authorities reportedly evacuated people from low-lying areas around Pauk and Pakokku townships and are providing them with food and shelter at designated evacuation sites in monasteries and other public infrastructure. Some 1,200 households in Pakokku were reportedly affected by the cyclone, and people need food, shelter reconstruction and agricultural support. In Pauk township, 1,400 households have been affected. Urgent needs include food, clothing, and tarpaulins, according to local partners.
- In Saw township, local partners reported that houses and other infrastructure were damaged or destroyed by the cyclone, including a dam, and that agricultural land and equipment was washed/blown away. Animals are gone. About 600 households are affected. Tarpaulins and food are the most urgent needs being reported by partners, followed by livelihoods and agriculture activities and infrastructure repair.
- The situation in Myaing township is reportedly similar to Saw, according to a partner, and about 80 households need food.
- One partner reported four villages near Myit Chay township were damaged by flooding, and that households need assistance, particularly NFIs. A local partner based in the area is preparing to conduct a rapid needs assessment.
- According to local media, some 100 people, including elderly people, from 20 villages around Kyun Yin village in Salin township are reportedly unable to evacuate to higher ground due to their remote location along ravines near the Salin River. The Red Cross is assisting community members from the 20 villages affected by flooding in Salin township.



- An IDP camp hosting some 3,000 people in Pauk was destroyed by the storm, according to local media. Food and snake bite anti-venom were reported as urgent needs.
- In Pakokku in Magway, a partner is providing food assistance to 600 people from Sin Pauk Hla village who were affected by the cyclone and plans to begin an assessment there shortly.
- In Magway and Sagaing, there are reports of communities being displaced by conflict as the cyclone approached. According to partners on the ground, more than 23,000 people from Kani, Khin-U, and Monywa townships of Sagaing were displaced by conflict on 14 May, leaving them extremely vulnerable in the aftermath of the cyclone. Food assistance, shelter, and WASH are reportedly urgently needed. Conflict is also affecting the ability to conduct needs assessments of cyclone-affected communities in Magway.
- Humanitarian organizations and local authorities in Chin are struggling to get details of damage due to interruptions to telecoms networks but ahead of the storm they reported that the areas that are most vulnerable to flooding and landslides due to the heavy rain are Kanpetlet, Mindat, Matupi, Paletwa, Thantlang, and Hakha townships. Evacuations were carried out prior to the cyclone in Matupi, Mindat and Hakha townships. Possible structural damage to schools, homes and fields has been reported by partners in Chin. Shelter support is understood to be a top priority. Discussions are underway about possible scale-up of humanitarian support to affected people. The road between Kale (Sagaing) and Hakha (Chin) is understood to be accessible. One organization reported that cash-based support has already been provided through community-based church groups.

## Coordination

Humanitarian partners have spent the day trying to confirm all staff are safe and get offices back up and running. UN buildings, including warehouses, have also suffered damage. OCHA continues to gather information and convened coordination meetings at the sub-national and national level today to kick-start the response to all communities. OCHA and its humanitarian partners are working to prepare for rapid needs assessments (RNAs) which it is hoped can begin on 16 May to confirm the impact of the cyclone and people's needs. Access requests for assessments have been pre-submitted and hundreds of trained partners are standing by, ready to deploy across the affected areas once given access. While travel authorizations (TAs) are still needed and advocacy continues for flexibility around the related requirements, as well as urgent customs clearances for supplies.



*Damaged shelters in Thae Chaung camp. Sittwe, Rakhine. Credit: OCHA*

As of 15 May, the airport in Sittwe remains closed and commercial flights have been cancelled tomorrow morning. Several banks are expected to re-open tomorrow in Sittwe.

Funding is critically needed to sustain the response across all clusters for cyclone Mocha. The 2023 HRP is less than 10 per cent funded and a significant injection of resources is urgently required to support a disaster response operation of this scale. Health, NFIs, shelter, and water, sanitation and hygiene support are emerging as immediate priorities and humanitarians are working to quickly mobilize funds for these sectors.

**Information in this update is based on inputs from humanitarian partners and local sources. The next update on the cyclone response will be issued on 16 May.**

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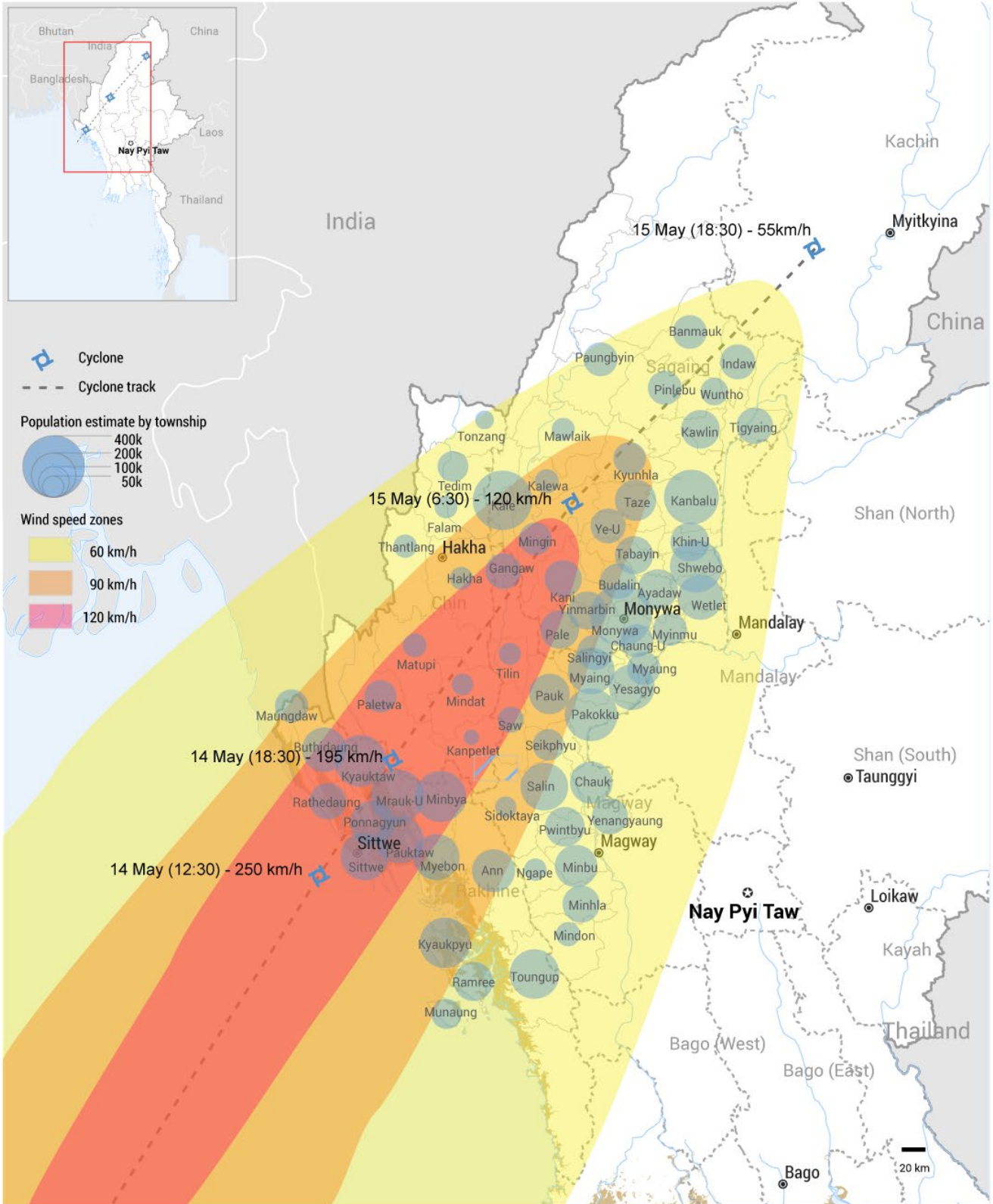
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# MYANMAR

## Cyclone Mocha

As of 15 May 2023



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### Highlights

- Communities continue to clean up and are assessing the damage inflicted by Cyclone Mocha. Almost 5.4 million people are estimated to have been in the path of the cyclone across Rakhine and the Northwest. Of these, early estimates indicate that nearly 3.2 million are considered to be most vulnerable and are considered likely to have humanitarian needs.
- Public infrastructure, including hospitals, banks and religious buildings was badly damaged across the impact zone.
- Health, relief items, shelter, clean water, sanitation and hygiene needs are being reported across the board.
- In-kind food assistance, rather than cash, is being requested by the affected people as prices for key commodities have gone up exponentially.
- Explosive ordnance risks are high in conflict-affected rural areas where landmines may have shifted during flooding and as people have been on the move to safer areas.
- Humanitarian partners continue with their field observations in various locations in Sittwe and other townships.
- Rapid needs assessments (RNAs) and some preliminary distributions will start once approval is granted in six priority townships in Rakhine, which are considered most affected.
- More than 1,200 houses are reported to be completely or partially destroyed in townships across Chin.
- Severe flooding has affected more than 100,000 people in villages in Magway and Sagaing. Floodwaters have damaged infrastructure and agricultural fields and washed away animals and personal belongings.
- An urgent injection of funds is desperately needed to facilitate a full-scale response to the impact of the cyclone and subsequent flooding. The pre-existing [US\\$764M Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\)](#) is only 10 per cent funded which does not yet include the cost of responding to cyclone Mocha.

### Situation Overview

Significant information gaps still exist. Broken communications lines continue to hinder connections with affected communities, and partners report that some villages are still completely cut off from the internet. By the end of 16 May, telephone lines have partially been restored which will facilitate communication with affected communities and between humanitarian personnel. In many townships in Rakhine, as well as in Paletwa township in southern Chin, a number of organizations continue to face challenges in establishing contact with their staff and partners.

Almost 5.4 million people are estimated to have been in the path of the cyclone, enduring winds in excess of 90 kmph across Rakhine and the Northwest. Of these, nearly 3.2 million are considered to be most vulnerable to the cyclone impact based on analysis of shelter quality, food insecurity and coping capacity. This group is highly likely to have humanitarian needs in the wake of the cyclone.

There are local reports of possible deaths and of people being missing, including IDPs. The UN and its partners are working to start rapid needs assessments as soon as access is granted to better understand the impact of the disaster. Negotiations for access are ongoing.



*Families assess the damage at Ohn Taw Gyi North IDP camp. Sittwe, Rakhine. Credit: OCHA*

Reports continue to come in of immediate needs for relief items, shelter, in-kind food, health and WASH support. Concern about waterborne disease outbreaks is high, and close monitoring will be critical. Explosive ordnance risk education and hygiene awareness will also be required, along with psychological support.

*Survivors have been sharing harrowing tales of their experiences at the height of the cyclone and their concerns about the rebuilding challenges ahead.*

*"I moved to the evacuation site with my family, seeking safety. After the storm subsided, I went back alone to check on our house. It was completely destroyed. Those who stayed in the camp told me that it was horrible and that their houses were destroyed; they were stranded, unsure where to seek refuge amid these difficult conditions. The camp itself was submerged in water. Several people sustained injuries and are in need of medical care. The people need clean water and food. We also need support to rebuild our houses so we can come back,"* shared one of the IDP in Dar Paing Rohingya camp.

*"I am a mother of a 5-year-old boy and am expecting the second anytime soon. My husband is a daily wager. Our house was totally collapsed in the storm, and we cannot afford building a new house. This is an additional hurdle for us, as we could hardly make ends meet,"* shared a woman who is sheltering in Zeyar Theidi Pagoda Monastery.

### In Rakhine:

- Extensive damage was reported in IDP camps in Rakhine. In Sittwe IDP camps, there is no phone contact with camp volunteers yet due to very limited phone connection, but damages are expected to be high. There have been reports of casualties and injuries. In Kyauktaw IDP camps, some camp volunteers reported that nearly all the bamboo IDP shelters and tarpaulins were destroyed, and many latrines and bathing stations were damaged. So far, there were no casualties reported there.
- Based on field observations in the Sittwe camps, most of the shelters are heavily damaged. Main needs are shelter materials, food, clean water because of likely contamination, latrines and health services. OCHA is coordinating with the Health Cluster to deploy mobile health teams as soon as possible. In terms of food, people requested in-kind food assistance instead of cash. Many INGO and UN facilities are damaged in the camps.
- According to health partners, several hospitals were damaged. These include Sittwe hospital, that currently has only one building functioning, and Thet Kae Pyin Hospital in Sittwe township; another three hospitals in Kyauktaw, Minbya, and Rathedaung townships, as well as the Station Hospital in Tein Nyo village in Mrauk-U township. Temporary clinics or shelters for temporary clinics are being considered.
- Monasteries have sheltered thousands of people during the cyclone. Some have returned to their homes in the aftermath, while some have been unable to return due to the heavy damage to their houses. People have urgently requested food, shelter, clean water and sanitation support, as well as cash assistance. The monasteries themselves were partially damaged by the cyclone and will need repairs.
- In Rathedaung, local people have reported today that almost all infrastructure, including schools, religious, public buildings, hospitals, and houses, was heavily damaged.
- Some ongoing activities by partners in Rakhine have now been redirected to respond to those affected by the cyclone, including the distribution of essential items, including NFIs, child protection kits and dignity kits, in close collaboration with local partners.
- Banks in Sittwe were also damaged and while some might be repaired in the near future, other banks may be closed for a month. There are limits on cash withdrawals.



*Thet Kae Pyin Station Hospital is out of action following damage from Cyclone Mocha. Sittwe. Rakhine. Credit: OCHA*



*Thet Kae Pyin High School was used as shelter for 200-300 people. Sittwe, Rakhine. Credit: OCHA*



## Chin

- Partners are still collecting information on the ground and networks remain shut down in most of the affected townships. More than 1,200 houses were completely or partially destroyed in townships across the State.
  - In Hakha/Myothit township, 11 houses were damaged, with roofing torn off.
  - In Kanpelet township, 20 shelters, including IDP tents, were destroyed.
  - In Matupi township, 500 houses and other infrastructure was damaged or destroyed. Approximately 200 houses in Phaneng, 60 houses in Hunglei, 115 houses in Tingsi, 52 houses in Thawang and 23 houses in Ruava village were damaged or destroyed.
  - In downtown Hlaing Lin Pi, 100 houses were destroyed.
  - In Paletwa township, 100 houses in Samee downtown and in villages were damaged.
  - In Mindat township, 20 houses were damaged.

## Magway and Sagaing

- According to local partners on the ground, 52,200 people (11,600 households) from 5 villages in Sagaing and 49,950 people (11,100 households) from 8 villages in Magway were affected by flooding. In Magway, 50 houses were washed away by floodwaters.
- Across Magway and Sagaing, electricity poles are down, with networks cut off in some townships. Bridges are damaged. Most of the crops and agricultural fields were destroyed by flooding due to continuous rain. Personal belongings, animals, and agriculture materials were also washed away.
- Affected communities are facing urgent food shortages and require shelter assistance. WASH support is an urgent need, as communities also lost well tubes and water ponds. Agricultural inputs and seeds were highlighted as additional needs.
- On top of flooding, some villages in Magway and Sagaing are facing displacement due to the ongoing conflict.
- In Magway, partners continue to report that communities remain displaced from the cyclone in Pakkoku (approximately 495 people). The majority of them have not been able to return home and are reportedly in need of NFIs, drinking water, and hygiene kits. The Food Security Cluster has reportedly provided food assistance.

## Coordination

Some organizations have been able to re-establish contact with their teams in affected areas. INGOs and the UN reported some degree of damage to their assets and facilities including warehouses in Sittwe. No staff casualties were reported by the responding organizations thus far.

Sub-national inter-cluster coordination meetings continue to take place. OCHA and its humanitarian partners are working to start rapid needs assessments in the field as soon as possible but are still negotiating approval. More than 400 colleagues had assessment training in the days prior to the cyclone. The priority will be assessing the damage in Kyauktaw, Maungdaw, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun, Rathedaung and Sittwe townships. Partners are also gearing up to conduct rapid market assessments to understand market functionality prior to implementing cash-based assistance. In Magway and Sagaing, local partners and CSOs are closely coordinating, together with other partners, for a response in the coming days.

The local authorities have reportedly started to deploy their staff since 15 May to assess the ground situation and collect information. They will reportedly initiate township-level coordination meetings, calling upon all organizations to contribute ground-level information and request emergency response support.



*A man shows the water level during the storm surge in Ohn Taw Chay, Sittwe, Rakhine. Source: OCHA*



As of 16 May the Sittwe airport is still closed for civilian use. Fuel has already become scarce and will be a major concern if flights or regular road transport from Yangon do not resume soon.

Unhindered access is urgently needed to reach people in need in the affected areas. This will require flexibility on requirements for TA approval, including for assessments, distribution, relaxation of banking restrictions and urgent customs clearances. Telecommunications connectivity is also critical for partners to be fully functional.

Funding is also critically needed to sustain the response across all clusters for Cyclone Mocha. The 2023 HRP is less than 10 per cent funded and a significant injection of resources is urgently required to support a disaster response operation of this scale, in addition to meeting existing needs. Health, NFIs, shelter, and water, sanitation and hygiene support will be needed, and humanitarians are working to quickly mobilize funds for these sectors as an immediate priority.

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Read the remarks delivered by Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator a.i. from Yangon at a media briefing for correspondents [here](#).

**Information in this update is based on inputs from humanitarian partners and local sources.**



*People sheltering in a monastery in Sittwe town. Sittwe, Rakhine. Source: OCHA*

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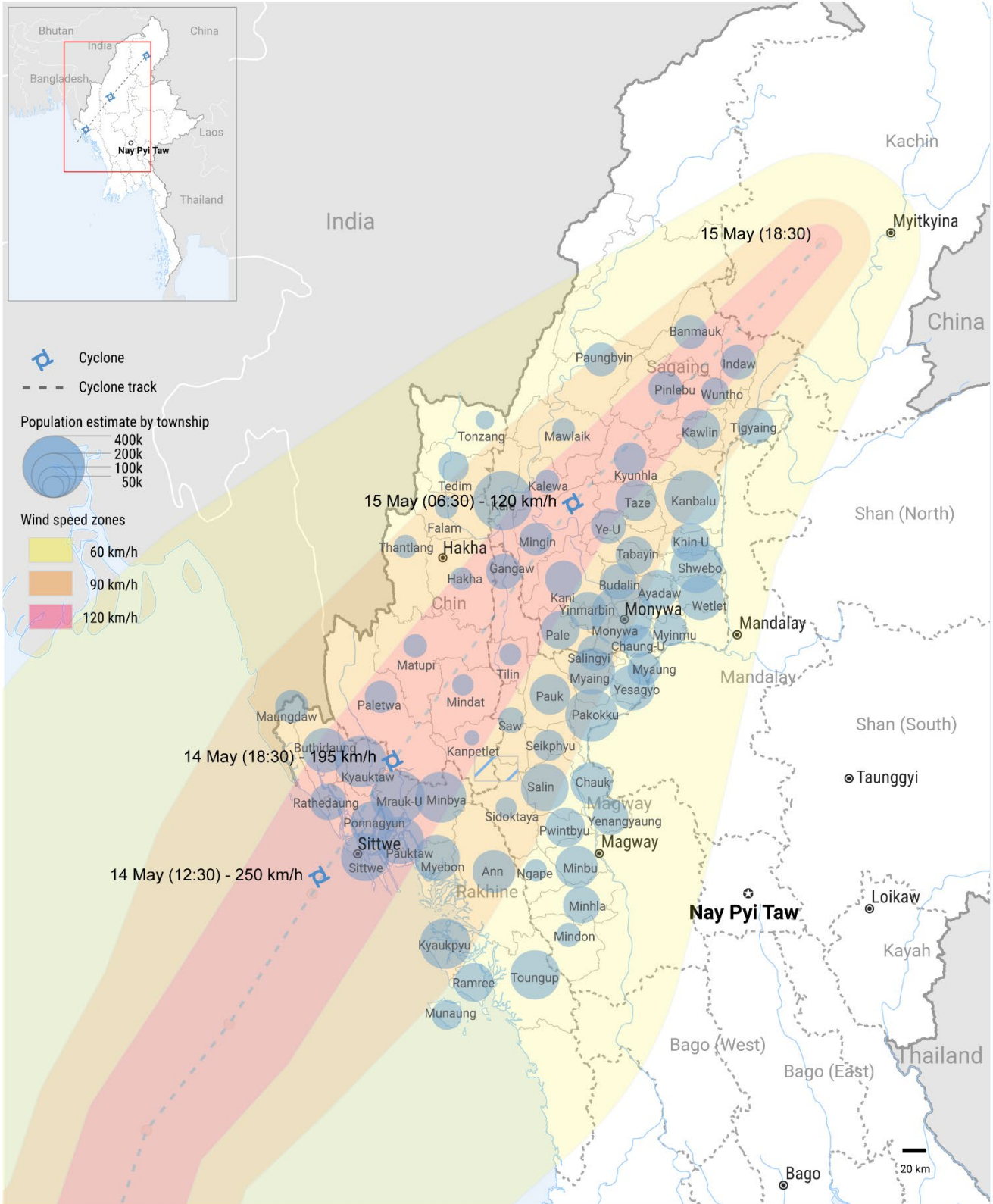
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# MYANMAR

## Cyclone Mocha

As of 16 May 2023



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.  
 Creation date: 16 May 2023 Sources: GDACS, JTWC, 2023 HRP. Feedback: ochamyanmar@un.org www.unocha.org www.reliefweb.int



### Highlights

- The gradual restoration of communications is allowing humanitarian teams to gather a clearer picture of the impact of on millions of people who were in the path of Cyclone Mocha that hit Myanmar with brutal force on Sunday afternoon.
- Widescale destruction of homes and public infrastructure throughout Rakhine state is being seen, including in the capital Sittwe and in Rathedaung where there are scenes of widespread devastation.
- Partners continued observations in various locations in Sittwe and other townships and are ready to start coordinated field missions to gauge the full scope of the humanitarian situation, as soon as access is granted.
- Urgent needs include shelter, clean water, food assistance and healthcare services. There are rising concerns in flooded areas about the spread of waterborne disease and the movement of landmines.
- The lack of electricity in certain areas, as well as physical and bureaucratic access constraints, continue to be a challenge. Several bridges providing access to displacement camps in Sittwe have been washed away and are hampering movement.
- The road between Yangon and Sittwe has now reopened, potentially providing a transport route for much-needed supplies, if approved. It is also hoped the Sittwe airport will re-open on Thursday.
- The impact of the cyclone was also felt heavily in the country's northwest where houses were blown or washed away. Strong winds and rains have also damaged camps for displaced people in Kachin State.
- Efforts are under way to mobilize resources for the response, but an urgent injection of funds is needed with the \$764M Humanitarian Response Plan just 10 per cent funded.



*Destruction in Ah Htet Myat Lay IDP camp after cyclone Mocha. Ponnagyun, Rakhine.  
Credit: OCHA*

### Situation Overview

Cyclone Mocha has devastated the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in Rakhine and northwest Myanmar (Chin, Sagaing and Magway), two of the poorest parts of the country. Displacement sites in Kachin also suffered damage in the



*A jetty damaged by cyclone Mocha in Sin Tet Maw village. Pauktaw, Rakhine. Credit: OCHA*

aftermath of the cyclone as the weather system moved inland. Several reports highlight destruction of public infrastructure, including hospitals, health clinics, schools, and religious buildings in all these areas, particularly caused by heavy rains and strong winds. However, the true impact of the cyclone will only be fully understood once comprehensive field missions are conducted and authorizations for these are still pending approval.

The immediate priorities identified by partners include shelter, clean water, in-kind food assistance in some areas and healthcare services. There is also a significant concern about shortages of drinking water and the risk of waterborne disease. Additionally, efforts will be required to provide explosive ordnance risk education and hygiene awareness, along with psychological support.

Although more partners have established contact with their staff, the telecommunications services in the affected areas remain unstable. While only intermittent telephone connectivity is available in Sittwe town, the Ooredoo services in the camps are functioning relatively well, albeit with limited top-up facilities. Electricity is still unavailable in most townships in Rakhine.

### Rakhine

- In Rathedaung township, most villages have reportedly sustained severe damage. In some villages, people are still sheltering in evacuation centers. The Station Hospital in In Ku Taung village was destroyed. In Mo Zé island, about 40 per cent of the houses were reportedly destroyed and 90 per cent of the houses were damaged, according to the local authorities. Casualties have also been reported here.
- In six displacement sites in Ponnagyun township, all the shelters were reportedly destroyed. Some casualties were also reported. In Ponnagyun town, less damage was reported, and the market had reopened as of 15 May.
- In Pauktaw, about 2,000 Rohingya IDPs from Sin Tet Maw Rohingya IDP camp were evacuated to a nearby Rakhine village before the cyclone and have returned to the camp. In total, 85 out of 100 shelters, as well as some latrines, were damaged. In Sin Tet Maw Village, most of the houses were damaged. Major needs are shelter, in-kind food assistance and drinking water.
- In Sittwe, the bridges allowing access into the Sittwe IDP camps need urgent repairs. These were heavily damaged by the cyclone. Two out of the three access routes are barely functional (as per the map below) and will hinder the IDPs ability to receive assistance in a timely manner and at scale.

### The Northwest

- In Chin, an estimated 710 houses were destroyed: 153 houses in Hakha township, 74 houses in Falam township, 93 in Thanglang township, and 305 in Matupi township.
- In Magway, according to the local authorities in Pakokku township, some 1,000 people were heavily affected by floods, as of 17 May. The local authorities reported that they provided emergency relief items to these people. They requested food assistance. The local authorities are still verifying the list of all affected people, but there are many inaccessible locations at this stage. According to partners, 182 houses in Gangaw township were damaged.
- In Sagaing, trucks are needed to transport evacuated people to Kale town and for tarpaulins for roofing shelter for 15,000 people.

### Kachin

- Destruction of shelters and damage were reported in the aftermath of the cyclone in Waingmaw and Tanai townships, according to partners and camp leaders.
- In Shanjai IDP camp, which is hosting about 1,000 IDPs in Waingmaw township, 8 houses were destroyed and the roofs of 74 other buildings were reportedly blown off due to a heavy downpour and strong winds on 15 May. Similarly, Maga Yang/Sha It Yang IDP camp, Hka Shau IDP camp and Pajau/Janmai camps in Waingmaw township witnessed damage to a total of 85 houses, 20 latrines and a school.
- In Tanai township, at least 42 shelters in the Roman Catholic Church IDP camp were affected by heavy rains and strong winds.
- The IDPs urgently need support to rebuild their shelters.
- Humanitarian access to these camps remains challenging as they are located outside SAC-control. Humanitarian actors are providing support to affected people wherever access is permitted.

### Coordination

The humanitarian community is ramping up resource mobilization efforts to deliver urgently needed assistance across the worst affected communities, especially across Rakhine, Chin, Sagaing, Magway and Kachin. The 2023 HRP is severely underfunded (less than 10 per cent of requirements). Many partners were struggling to sustain critical services prior to the cyclone because of acute funding shortages.

Cluster meetings have started taking place in addition to the sub-national inter-cluster coordination meetings in the affected areas to address specific concerns that were reported in previous updates. Planned field missions in six priority townships of Kyauktaw, Maungdaw, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun, Rathedaung and Sittwe in Rakhine, are still pending approval. In Magway and Sagaing, local partners and CSOs are closely coordinating efforts to respond to needs over the coming days.

As of 17 May, the Sittwe airport remains closed for civilian use, although there are reports that it will re-open for commercial travel on 18 May. If flights and regular road transport do not resume soon, fuel will become a major concern. Thandwe airport in southern Rakhine is partly damaged. The road between Yangon and Sittwe has now reopened providing a possible access route for much-needed supplies, depending on approvals.

Unhindered and timely access is urgently needed to reach people in need in the affected areas. This will require flexibility around the requirements for securing Travel Authorization for both assessments and distributions, the relaxation of banking restrictions and urgent customs clearances for vital supplies. Telecommunications connectivity is also critical for partners to be fully functional and for the communities to rebuild their lives.

**Information in this update is based on inputs from humanitarian partners and local sources.**



## MYANMAR

### Access to IDP Camps in Sittwē

As of 17 May 2023



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.  
 Creation date: 17 May 2023 Sources: OCHA, CCCM. Feedback: [ochamyanmar@un.org](mailto:ochamyanmar@un.org) [www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org) [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)

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## Highlights

- A massive clean-up effort is continuing in the aftermath of Cyclone Mocha that hit western Myanmar with brutal force on Sunday.
- Millions of people live in the cyclone's path, mostly in wooden shelters that were not built to ensure winds in excess of 200 kilometres per hour.
- Coastal areas of Rakhine State bore the brunt of the cyclone, however partners now estimate almost 150,000 people in the country's Northwest were also heavily affected, as well as a smaller number in Kachin. A total of 21 townships in Rakhine and Chin states have been declared affected by the cyclone, according to local authorities.
- Electricity and telecommunication services remain interrupted in numerous townships in Rakhine and the Northwest.
- Fuel is urgently needed for essential public services, particularly for health and water treatment. Clean water supplies are also getting low. Other pressing needs include shelter, food, and medicine, medical supplies and healthcare services.
- There are ongoing negotiations for humanitarian access to people in need with all relevant stakeholders, while partners continue their field observations across Rakhine and prepare to begin coordinated field missions once granted approval.
- Humanitarian actors have provided some initial support to affected communities across various townships in Rakhine where they had pre-existing approvals and operations. These efforts are directed towards both the affected Rakhine and Rohingya populations. Mobile health clinics have also begun operations.
- As of 18 May, Sittwe Airport has re-opened, allowing commercial flights to arrive in Rakhine.
- Resource mobilization efforts are underway, as more funding is crucial to address the huge needs emerging from the cyclone. The pre-existing [US\\$764M Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\)](#) is only 10 per cent funded which does not yet include the cost of responding to cyclone Mocha.



*Sittwe residents collect water for domestic use from an artesian well. Sittwe, Rakhine State after Cyclone Mocha. Credit: UNICEF/Naing Lin Soe/2023*

## Situation Overview



*A shelter damaged by Cyclone Mocha that is being repaired in Nget Chaung 2 IDP camp. Pauktaw, Rakhine. Credit: OCHA*

Millions of people live in the path of the cyclone and a massive effort is now underway to clear debris and provide shelter to those whose homes have been damaged or destroyed. Coastal Rakhine took the heaviest hit from the cyclone with severe impacts across the northwest and some damage in Kachin also reported. As of 16 May, authorities declared 21 townships across Rakhine (17) and Chin (4) to be impacted by the cyclone. Many areas in Rakhine are still deprived of electricity and reliable telecommunication services, more than four days after the cyclone hit.

Partners have conducted field observations in multiple areas, including Sittwe and other townships to get a better sense of the impact in different locations. Once access is granted, the humanitarian actors are prepared to undertake coordinated field missions to gain a more comprehensive view of

the situation. Humanitarian organizations have also been able to provide some preliminary support to communities affected by the cyclone where they had prior operations and approved access.

In Sittwe, the first signs of recovery are visible with the reopening of markets, shops, and restaurants. Urgent repairs to bridges connecting IDP camps in Sittwe are needed for the movement of the population and humanitarian access. Options for these repairs are being explored.

Various sources continue to document casualties and people who are missing, including some IDPs. It is crucial to ensure people who died in the cyclone are laid to rest with dignity. Partners highlight an urgent need for fuel to ensure the running of key public services, notably health and water treatment. Clean water supplies are a concern. Other critical needs include shelter, food aid, medical supplies, and healthcare services. In flooded areas, concerns persist about the spread of waterborne disease and the movement of landmines.

### Rakhine

- According to the Health Cluster, mobile clinics have begun operating in some of the affected townships, and rapid response teams have been deployed to Thet Kae Pyin, Thae Chaung, and Dar Paing IDP camps.
- Most health facilities were affected, resulting in a shortage of medicines, medical supplies and health staff. Many laboratories and operating theatres in Sittwe township are non-functional. Urgent fuel supply is needed.
- Healthcare for expectant mothers has suffered across all townships due to damaged hospitals and clinics, highlighting an urgent need for sexual and reproductive health services.
- An estimated 80 per cent of the public schools in Ponnagyun township were damaged.
- Seven nutrition centers located in Sittwe and inside IDP camps have been damaged.
- The destruction of shelters and latrines, combined with a lack of electricity, heightens the risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), especially in IDP camps.
- Most GBV centers within the IDP camps in Sittwe have also been impacted. Temporary solutions are being explored to maintain case management services and referrals.
- Pre-existing activities by humanitarian partners are being refocused to assist those impacted by the cyclone, including the distribution of drinking water, relief items, and child protection and hygiene kits in collaboration with local partners. Water trucking efforts by humanitarian partners will begin once approved.

### Northwest

- Partners report that in Chin, approximately 1,800 houses, 19 churches, 30 schools, and 5 hospitals were either completely or partially destroyed across Falam, Hakha, Kanpetlet, Matupi, Mindat, Paletwa, Tedim, Thantlang, and Tonzang townships due to the cyclone. Consequently, approximately 500 people were displaced and 50,000 people were otherwise affected.
- In Sagaing, the impact of strong winds has reportedly affected approximately 85,000 people across Kale, Khin-U, Pale, Wetlet, and Yinmarbin townships, according to partners. The already challenging situation has been exacerbated by ongoing conflict and the presence of troops in the region, making it even more difficult for affected people to find safe shelter.
- In Magway, approximately 11,000 households from 8 townships were affected; local partners have provided food, tarpaulins, and clothes to some 1,000 households so far.
- In Mandalay, more than 200 people have been affected as their houses were swept away by strong winds and flooding.
- There are urgent needs for food, shelter materials, clothing, WASH items, and medicines reported among the affected population in the Northwest. However, the response from partners is constrained by limited access, roadblocks, and ongoing conflict.

## Coordination

Cluster coordination meetings are ongoing at national and sub-national levels to address concerns, urgent needs, and facilitate coordinated inter-cluster planning responses.

The humanitarian community continues to mobilize resources through various channels to ensure the timely delivery of urgently needed assistance to the most affected communities, particularly in Rakhine, Chin, Sagaing, Magway, and Kachin. However, it is crucial to note that the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) remains severely underfunded, with less than 10 per cent of the required funding received.

Unimpeded humanitarian access to affected populations in the impacted areas is critical. Flexibility is needed in the requirements for obtaining Travel Authorization for assessments and distribution. Easing of banking restrictions and

expediting of customs clearances for vital supplies are also essential. Establishing reliable telecommunications connectivity is crucial to enable the full functionality of humanitarian partners and provide essential support for communities as they strive to rebuild their lives.

***Information in this update is based on inputs from humanitarian partners and meteorological organizations. The next update on the Cyclone will be issued on 19 May.***

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