

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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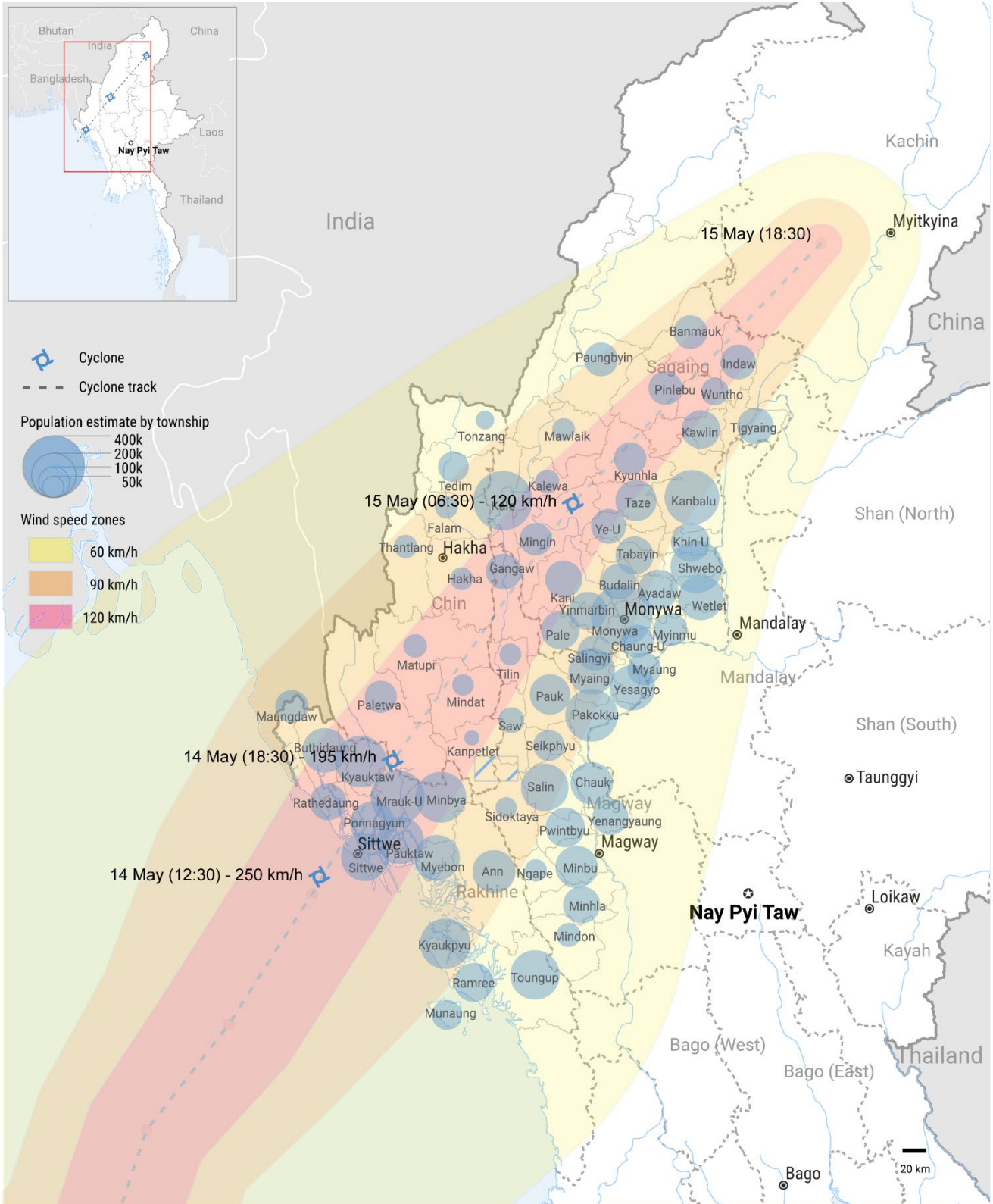
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MYANMAR

Cyclone Mocha

As of 16 May 2023



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