

## Highlights

- The humanitarian community in Myanmar has launched a [\\$333 million Flash Appeal](#) to assist 1.6 million people affected by Cyclone Mocha, which devastated the country's west on 14 May.
- Immediate funding is crucial to support vulnerable people in the hardest-hit areas, and coordination efforts are underway to expand access for distributions and facilitate the transportation of essential supplies.
- The cyclone has devastated coastal areas, leaving hundreds of thousands of already vulnerable people without a roof over their heads as the monsoon looms.
- The humanitarian community is in a race against time to provide people with safe shelter in all affected communities and prevent the spread of water-borne disease.
- As feared, community members are starting to report that children are experiencing diarrhea due to unclean water sources. Furthermore, child protection services have been disrupted following the cyclone, leaving vulnerable children in even greater need of support.
- There are growing concerns about the dangers posed by explosive ordnance contamination in the affected areas.
- Humanitarian partners with access to affected people have stepped up support to provide critical and lifesaving assistance, including food aid.
- Field observations in various townships in Rakhine, Northwest, and Kachin regions are informing ongoing response efforts where there is access.
- Based on discussions in Nay Pyi Taw, humanitarians have shared a detailed, two-week distribution plan, for approval, outlining support that is ready to be provided to across all affected communities in Rakhine and Chin.



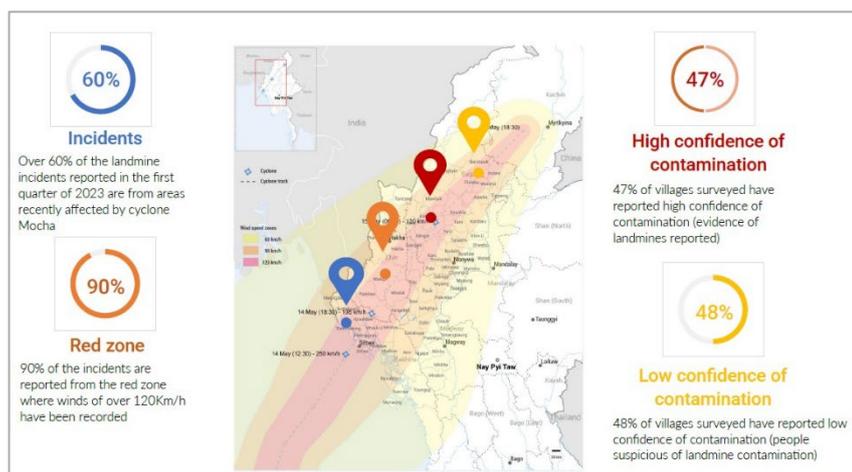
*Men repairing Cyclone-affected house in Kat Chaung village. Rathedaung Township, Rakhine. Credit: OCHA*

## Situation Overview

In the past week, local communities in Rakhine have been cleaning and clearing debris in the affected areas, with volunteers joining forces in Sittwe. Telecommunications are becoming more stable, but it will take time to fully restore services, particularly in the hardest-hit townships of Sittwe and Rathedaung. In the Northwest (Chin, Magway and Sagaing), access challenges, ongoing conflict, and communication problems have hindered the ability of humanitarian partners on the ground to get a full picture of the destruction.

Despite these challenges, humanitarian partners with access to affected people have scaled-up support by providing critical and lifesaving assistance, including food aid. Many Civil Society Organizations, who themselves were also heavily impacted by the cyclone, are also responding to the most critical emergency needs and conducting field observations, to the extent of their access and resources. Based on discussions in Nay Pyi Taw, humanitarians have shared a detailed, two-week distribution plan, for approval, outlining support that is ready to be provided to across all affected communities in Rakhine and Chin. A number of other requests are in process for the transport of relief items into the country.

A rapid analysis of contamination<sup>1</sup> and incident data from Cyclone Mocha's worst-hit areas has found that 60 per cent of the landmine incidents reported in the first quarter of 2023<sup>2</sup> were in areas that have now been affected by the cyclone. Of these, 90 per cent are reported from the highest impact area (red zone), where winds exceeding 120kmph were recorded. Nearly half of the villages that have reported contamination with high confidence (evidence of landmines reported) are located within this red zone. Moreover, nearly half of the villages that have reported contamination with lower confidence (suspicion of landmine contamination) are also in the red zone.



*Landmine contamination in the path of Cyclone Mocha*

The protection needs of children in Rakhine are increasing as the cyclone has disrupted the delivery of critical child protection services, including case management and psychosocial support. Children already affected by conflict, displacement, and poverty are now even more vulnerable and require urgent support to meet their basic needs and protect them from harm. Support from child protection actors is limited due to accessibility challenges and the absence of reliable communication channels.

Awareness-raising messages about the risk of explosive ordnance and landmines, waterborne diseases, as well as mental health and psychosocial support, continue to be disseminated among affected communities to promote safety and precautionary measures.

## Rakhine

### Sittwe

- In Sittwe, field observations in Ohn Taw Gyi South Rohingya IDP camp, indicate that almost 2,300 households suffered extensive damage to their shelter. Although the market has reopened, prices have skyrocketed for shelter items, such as tarpaulins. IDPs in the area report that each household has received 2.2 kilograms of rice from the local authorities. Mobile health services are not yet available, and some displaced people have sustained injuries. The priority needs in the camp include shelter and healthcare services.
- In Thet Kae Pyin village in Sittwe, approximately 2,700 households lost their homes. Priority needs include food, healthcare services, and shelter. The village clinic is functional, offering basic health services. In the Thet Kae Pyin (TKP) IDP camp, individual households received 4.4 kilograms of rice and one cup of chickpea distributed by local authorities. Mobile health services are currently unavailable in the TKP camp. Community members reported that children are experiencing diarrhea due to unclean water sources. Supplies such as tarpaulins are urgently needed, along with healthcare services, food, and drinking water.
- According to field observations, more than half of all houses in Mrauk-U township and over one-third of all houses in Minbya township are damaged or destroyed. In Sittwe, nearly all houses (an estimated 97 per cent) are damaged.
- People continue to stay in evacuation sites such as monasteries in Sittwe after their houses were damaged or lost in the cyclone. WFP distributed food to some 2,000-3,000 people in evacuation centers in Sittwe last week. Based on field observations in 2 monasteries, some 400 displaced people are expected to remain for another week but this is only a short-term solution. They expressed need for clothes, hygiene kits, and sanitary pads for women. Additionally, there was only a small amount of clean water available, and none for domestic use, such as washing or showering. Furthermore, there was no specific nutrition assistance available for children.

### Rathedaung

- In Rathedaung township, field observations suggest that nearly all households have been affected by the cyclone. Tarpaulins for roofing — an estimated 10,000 rolls — are urgently needed according to local authorities, along with drinking water and food for affected people in rural villages. Ponds were flooded and livestock perished due to the cyclone.
- In Myin Kan Chaung village, there is a water shortage because three ponds have been flooded and need to be drained by pump in order to collect clean rainwater. For now, villagers are using drinking water from the mountains.

<sup>1</sup> Mine Action AoR together with MAG, DRC and UNICEF

<sup>2</sup> Myanmar Landmine/ERW Incidents Information, UNICEF.

- In Nyaung Pin Gyi Rohingya village, where the community reported that the flooding reached as high as five feet, all water ponds and wells were damaged. Community members are collecting water from the Nyaung Pin Gyi Rakhine village and Kat Chaung village, located two kilometers away. The community needs food, drinking water, shelter, mobile clinics, and household items such as kitchen sets. Given the limited food in markets, the community reportedly prefers to receive rice over cash assistance.
- In Kyin Pin village, half of the 300 latrines were damaged and most of the paddy fields were flooded. Shelter, food, latrines, water, and lighting are urgently needed.
- In Kat Chaung village, the embankment, which protected the village from saltwater from the river, was damaged in the cyclone. More than 2,000 acres of paddy fields are estimated to be affected. Food, shelter, pond renovation and cleaning, medicine — which is in short supply — and household kits are priority needs in the village.

Partners with previously or newly approved access have undertaken the following response activities:

- WFP has completed cyclone response emergency distributions to 36 villages in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships for 11,176 people as of 21 May, as well as regular relief distributions to 3 villages in Buthidaung township for 5,044 people. Emergency distributions are also ongoing.
- A partner distributed food in Ohm Taw Chay Camp, Khaung Doke Khar 1 Camp, Khaung Doke Khar 2 Camp, and Say Tha Mar Gyi Camp and is planning to conduct food distributions in six camps in Sittwe.
- According to nutrition partners, 7 out of 14 malnutrition centers in Sittwe, Pauktaw, Buthidaung, and Maungdaw are resuming their routine nutrition services. Partners are planning to repair the remaining centers that were damaged or destroyed. On 22 May, 55 people, including 45 children under 5 and 10 mothers, accessed malnutrition treatment services. Follow-ups on malnourished cases, nutrition education, and one-to-one breastfeeding counselling are also ongoing through staff and volunteers.
- In Rathedaung, an organization has resumed healthcare services in Rakhine and Rohingya villages, as well as in Rathedaung town.
- A total of 50 recreational kits were provided to cyclone-affected villages in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships.
- Three child protection kits were provided to child survivors of the cyclone from Inn Din Village in Maungdaw.
- Some 50 temporary Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) were set up in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships, including for internally displaced children from Buthidaung. A total of 520 children (250 boys and 270 girls) who were affected by Cyclone Mocha received psychosocial support through these 50 CFS.
- Approximately 83 child protection cases were visited by partners to identify emergency needs. Key messages around explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), safe migration, temporary care arrangements, and gender-based violence (GBV) were shared with 500 communities, including children, women, village elders, and village religious leaders.
- Essential child protection activities and services are being provided to children in Sittwe township by Child Protection partners.

### The Northwest

- According to field observations by local partners in Magway region, the cyclone resulted in the destruction of 83 houses in Salin township, affecting more than 15,570 people. These people are in urgent need of shelter, drinking water, and water for domestic use. While the local authorities have provided a small amount of food, there remains a significant need for additional food and nutrition assistance.
- Humanitarian partners have initiated assistance in various townships in Magway region. The support includes:
  - In Salin township, across 12 villages: Cash grants and assistance are being provided to 660 households. Additionally, tarpaulins and ropes are being distributed to 200 households. Furthermore, cash support for food assistance is being distributed to 281 households, repair/renovation of 103 wells is being conducted, and seeds are being distributed for cultivating 1,000 acres of land.
  - In Myaing township, across five villages: Cash for food is being provided to 220 households, repairs and renovation of 78 wells are being undertaken, and seeds are being distributed for cultivating 204 acres of land.



*Crop fields damaged by heavy rain and wind during Cyclone Mocha. Pauk Township, Magway. Credit: Partners*

- In Pakokku township, across 19 villages: Cash for food is being provided to 542 households, repairs and renovation of 122 wells are being conducted, and seeds are being distributed for cultivating 560 acres of land.
- In Seikphyu township, spanning 10 villages: Cash for food is being provided to 238 households, and seeds are being distributed for cultivating 236 acres of land.

## Kachin

- Local partners report that Cyclone Mocha caused damage to more than 250 structures in 5 IDP camps in Waingmaw township. These structures include 146 houses and shelters, 82 latrines, three schools, and one medical clinic. As a result, approximately 4,300 IDPs have been affected. Among all the locations in Kachin State, Waingmaw township experienced the most extensive damage due to the heavy rainfall and strong winds brought by Cyclone Mocha on May 15.
- Due to existing access constraints, the full extent of the cyclone's impact beyond the damaged structures is unknown.
- In Mansi township, Mai Kone, Wa Htang, Hkyet Ma, and Aung Nan villages were severely affected by the aftermath of the Cyclone Mocha on 17 May. According to preliminary field observations by humanitarian partners on 20 May, some houses were destroyed, and several others were heavily damaged by the aftermath of the cyclone across these 4 villages, affecting about 61 households (270 people). These people need shelter, food, NFIs, including hygiene and dignity kits, to support them to rebuild their lives.

## Coordination

On May 23, the humanitarian community in Myanmar launched a Flash Appeal, seeking \$333 million to provide assistance to 1.6 million people affected by the cyclone in Rakhine, Chin, Sagaing, Magway and Kachin. The appeal combines \$211 million in prioritized activities from the 2023 Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan, which are being redirected to support the cyclone response in affected areas, with an additional \$122 million for new activities and support for those newly impacted by the disaster.



  
**\$333**

Immediate funding is crucial to support vulnerable people in the hardest-hit zones across Rakhine, Chin, Magway, Sagaing, and Kachin. Equally important is ensuring predictable and unhindered access, enabling the swift delivery of critical and lifesaving supplies to affected communities.

**Flash Appeal:** <https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/myanmar-cyclone-mocha-flash-appeal-may-2023>

**Press Release:** <https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/333m-humanitarian-appeal-support-communities-hit-cyclone-mocha-myanmar>

**Remarks, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator:** <https://myanmar.un.org/en/232817-remarks-resident-and-humanitarian-coordinator-ai-myanmar-mr-ramanathan-balakrishnan-myanmar>

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

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