



Rakhine State ©UNICEF Myanmar/2023/Naing Lin Soe


 for every child
Myanmar Office
CYCLONE MOCHA
Humanitarian Situation
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Highlights

- Rehabilitation and cleaning up debris from schools and learning centres is a high priority to ensure readiness for school re-opening, planned for early June, as it is reported that 1,380 basic education schools across 17 townships of Rakhine have been affected.
- Cyclone Mocha badly damaged Rakhine markets, resulting in significant increases in the price of essential food, non-food items, and services.
- UNICEF and partners reached 31,725 affected population through distribution of family hygiene kits, soaps, buckets, jerry cans, and water purification sachets and water trucking for most affected villages in Rakhine.
- The catastrophic Cyclone Mocha had a devastating impact in Chin State, affecting 1813 households, 18 religious' structures, and 9 educational institutions in Matupi, Hakha, Kanpalet, Palettwa, Mindat, Falam, Thantlang and Tedim.
- In the Northwest, UNICEF is working with implementing partners on the distribution of essential learning package kits (5,440 sets) and short-term home-based learning materials (2,472 sets) to IDP camps affected by the cyclone and armed conflicts.

Situation in Numbers



3.4 million
people in affected areas (OCHA)



1.6 million
people targeted for humanitarian assistance (OCHA)



500,000
new additional caseload (OCHA)

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The humanitarian situation in regions and states affected by Cyclone Mocha continues to be a concern, as a number of affected sectors will have an impact on children's survival, wellbeing and development.

The latest assessments from the Market Analysis Unit (MAU) indicate that Cyclone Mocha badly damaged Rakhine markets, resulting in significant increases in the price of essential food, non-food items, and services. In Sittwe, electrical outages have impacted water supply and water pumps. Prices for water hand- pumps has doubled, rising from 42,000 MMK (USD 14) prior to the cyclone to 83,000 MMK (USD 28) afterward. The price of distilled water has increased by 17 per cent, rising from 600 MMK/20L (0.2 USD/20L) to 700 MMK/20L (0.24 USD/20L). Many households are struggling to access purified bottled water due to the rising cost.

In Mrauk-U's main market, vendors interviewed reported fewer inventory losses than vendors in Sittwe. Prices for hygiene-related items were fairly stable in Mrauk-U, although soap prices were up 25 per cent.

In Ponnagyun, prices of non-food items, both for shelter and hygiene products, increased sharply. Blanket prices were up 17 per cent, while those for plastic tarps were up 60 per cent and prices for mosquito nets have doubled. Jerry cans were not available. Toothpaste prices were up 19 per cent, while soap was up 50 per cent and sanitary pad prices were stable.

Assessments from the Market Analysis Unit indicate that the implementation of large-scale cash transfer programmes should be undertaken with caution due to supply constraints and potential market impacts. Cash assistance can be effective in Sittwe, Mrauk-U and Ponnagyun, where markets are damaged but still functional. Humanitarian cash assistance will likely grow more important in the coming weeks as regional supply chains recover.

In Rakhine, 1,380 basic education schools across 17 townships of Rakhine have been affected. The number of children estimated in the need of education support stands at about 335,000. In addition, teachers and volunteer teachers have had their homes partially or destroyed and most of the affected population are now living in monasteries and with relatives.

It has been challenging to get safe spaces and shade to deliver preventive and curative nutrition services, especially for Sittwe, Pauktaw and Kyauktaw areas. Temporary tents are urgently needed to deliver nutrition services to vulnerable people in shade and safe spaces.

The catastrophic Cyclone Mocha cyclone had a devastating impact in Chin State, affecting 1,813 households, 18 religious structures, and 9 educational institutions in Matupi, Hakha, Kanpalet, Palettwa, Mindat, Falam, Thantlang and Tedim.

UNICEF Response

UNICEF has a presence in Sittwe and Maungdaw in Rakhine State, with 32 staff working to meet the needs of children in the State. An additional team has been deployed to Sittwe/ Rakhine, composed of Programme and Operations colleagues, to support the team and initiate repairs for the UNICEF Sittwe office and warehouse, which were heavily damaged. In the Northwest, the response is coordinated from Hakha and Yangon.

WASH

UNICEF and partners have reached 31,725 affected people through the distribution of family hygiene kits, soaps, buckets, jerry cans, water purification sachets and water trucking for most affected villages in Rakhine. Saline water intrusion, due to the storm surge, is reported in 165 ponds, impacting water availability for 83,469 people across six Rakhine townships. To address the saline intrusion, UNICEF is prioritising to empty/ dewater the ponds before the arrival of the rainy season.

WASH Cluster

Initial reports show that more than 200 water points have been damaged in Sittwe, Buthidaung and in Mrauk-U; while more than 1,100 latrines need a major repair and 1,390 latrines need to be replaced/reconstructed, as shown in below table (data still incomplete). 104,000 people have been identified as in urgent need of hygiene supplies and water treatment items. A total of 50 sites have reported major flooding of drainage systems, requiring clearing and repairs. WASH partners distributed family hygiene kits for more than 120 households and purification tablets for more 265 households in Mrauk-U. More than 37,500 people benefited from the construction of emergency latrines.

Latrine Damage Per Township					
Township	# of sites	Need Total Replacement	Need MAJOR repair	Need MINOR Repair	No Damage Latrine (functioning)
Buthidaung	2				0
Kyauktaw	8				0
Maungdaw	2				0
Minbya	7	6	6		2
Mrauk-U	27	62	166	137	557
Myebon	6	12	1	8	39
Pauktaw	12	128	181	275	242
Ponnagyun	14				0
Rathedaung	9	54	10	11	0
Sittwe	70	1131	749	57	0
Total	157	1393	1113	488	840

Source: [WASH Cluster Power BI on MOCHA Cyclone Damage Assessment and Response Dashboard](#)

Health

UNICEF's partners in Rakhine started running at least 9 mobile health clinics/sessions everyday in eight townships, providing primary health care service, especially to pregnant women and children. UNICEF had dispatched supplies to partners prior to the cyclone and partners are now able to use these to provide essential health services. 125 consultations took place for primary health care services, including ante-natal care, on 22 May 2023. Operational support through contract with UNICEF third party is being provided to maintain the cold chain of vaccines in Sittwe Subdepot. Besides, 6 refrigerators were provided to different health facilities in Rakhine. Finally, medicines, including inter-agency emergency health kits (IEHKs), are in the process of being ordered to replace country office buffer stock.

Nutrition

Preventive and curative nutrition services have resumed in six townships of Rakhine; three townships of Magway and three townships of Chin State. Nutrition counselling and support were provided to 285 caregivers of children under 23 months for protection, promotion and support of optimal infant and young child feeding practices. Multiple micro-nutrient supplements were provided to 292 pregnant and lactating women for the prevention of micro-nutrient deficiencies. In addition, ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) was provided to 73 children with severe acute malnutrition for life-saving treatment, within this reporting period.

Nutrition Cluster

Given the magnitude of the disaster there will be considerable infant and young feeding in emergency (IYCF-E) needs that require immediate attention. The Nutrition Cluster, through the Infant and Young child Feeding/ Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IYCF/IMAM) Technical Working Group, is working urgently on IYCF-E requirements, focusing on infant feeding kits to support management of non-breastfed children, as per IYCF-E standard operating guidance.

In responding to the emerging needs, the Nutrition Cluster supported the dissemination of the IYCF-E standard operating guidance to all partners and provided guidance on implementation of IYCF-E interventions in the aftermath of Cyclone Mocha. The Nutrition Cluster faces gaps and constraints for urgently needed safe spaces to deliver nutrition curative and preventive services, especially for Sittwe and Kyauktaw. Around 30 tents (20 in Sittwe; 10 in Kyauktaw) will be needed to allow partners and communities to deliver nutrition-related services in temporary safe spaces.

Child Protection

In northern Rakhine State, 43 casualties - including 20 children - have been reported in Buthidaung and Rathedaung, with deaths due to Cyclone Mocha. Among the 20 child casualties, 6 were in Buthidaung and 14 in Rathedaung. Three children hospitalized as a result of injuries during the cyclone have received CP kits in Maungdaw General Hospital.

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services have reached 800 children (339 girls, 407 boys) through mobile child-friendly spaces (CFS) in 33 locations of northern Rakhine State and 25 in Buthidaung.

UNICEF and partners continued the delivery of key prevention messages to raise awareness among the affected populations on explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), gender-based violence (GBV), prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and safe migration. 505 children (256 girls and 240 boys) received the key messages. Additionally, 500 soaps and 1,000 face-masks were provided during the awareness sessions.

Child Protection AoR

The CP AoR continues to coordinate the response in Rakhine and the Northwest. Partners are using the guidance issued by the CP AoR on priority response activities. In affected areas, CP AoR partners are conducting rapid reunification through "lost child and caregiver help desks," with trained members conducting family tracing and reunion (FTR), as needed. Temporary and mobile child-friendly spaces are being established for affected children to have a safe space to play, thereby reducing the risk of injuries from playing in debris or water and incidents of drowning, which have already been reported. The CP AoR developed standard child protection messages and partners are disseminating these directly or through community volunteers. Psychosocial support (PSS) continues to be a priority for both children and caregivers, as many have experienced trauma post-cyclone. Despite challenges with procurement, partners are also able to distribute child protection kits to children most in-need.

During the reporting period, partners have noted ongoing child protection risks, including separation from caregivers; injuries; safety risks for girls, including sexual harassment; and trafficking. Mental health and psychosocial support have been highlighted as a need by CP AoR partners in both Rakhine and the Northwest.

Mine Action AoR

Explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) delivery continues in Cyclone Mocha-affected areas. Partners are delivering tailored safety messages through direct presentations to communities, distribution of new posters and materials, social media campaigns and through local radio channels. Safety training for aid workers involved in the cyclone response has been organized in the Northwest and will continue to be delivered on a regular basis and extended to Rakhine.

Education

UNICEF has been coordinating with the education cluster in Rakhine to conduct ongoing assessment. In the meantime, work with our implementing partners to develop budgets on the basis of existing humanitarian plan documents. In the Northwest, UNICEF is working with implementing partners on the distribution of essential learning package kits (5,440 sets) and short-term home-based learning materials (2,472 sets) to IDP camps in a township affected by the cyclone and armed conflict, with additional essential learning package kits (9,000 sets) and short-term home-based learning materials (9,000 sets) ready to be transported to Mandalay for members of the Education Cluster in the region to distribute to children affected by the cyclone and armed conflict. UNICEF is also discussing with members of the Education Cluster the distribution of pre-positioned roofing sheets.

Education Cluster

A priority is the rehabilitation and clearing of debris from schools and learning centers, in readiness for school re-opening, expected in early June. The Education Cluster requested additional information from partners on the number of schools being used as evacuation centers, the extent of school damage, and if any partners were preparing for school cleaning and rehabilitation before reopening.

Cyclone Mocha had a devastating impact in Chin State, affecting 1,813 households, 18 religious' structures, and 9 educational institutions in Matupi, Hakha, Kanpalet, Palettwa, Mindat, Falam, Thantlang and Tedim. The Rakhine Cluster team observed that 1,380 basic education schools across 17 townships of Rakhine have been affected. In May, the Education Cluster was close to completing its work to finalize standards for key education in emergency (EiE) activities such as scholastic materials, educators' incentives, EiE infrastructure and dignity and hygiene materials.

Social Behaviour Change (SBC), Accountability to Affected Population (AAP)

A quick guide on AAP has been developed to assess the information needs and preferred types of communication channels of the affected communities for UNICEF-led clusters, programme and partners. Based on requests from the field offices for SBC materials with lifesaving messages, local Rakhine-based printing of posters and booklets, among other items, has been put in place to meet the urgent needs for materials in the communities. Audio messages on breastfeeding, maternal and child health, diarrhoea, safe drinking water, hand washing, use of latrine and immunization have been developed in Burmese language, in collaboration with programme sections, and translation into local languages initiated. SBC is supporting the production of five newly developed Infant and Young Child Feeding materials, in collaboration with the Nutrition Unit.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

OCHA is coordinating the overall humanitarian response with all clusters, with coordination mechanisms established at the national level as well as in Rakhine and the Northwest. Advocacy for operational access to affected communities is being undertaken through the Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) at national and sub-national levels. Under the leadership of OCHA in Rakhine, ICCG meetings are being held twice a week to review incoming information on needs and to determine the capacity of humanitarian organisations to deliver.

UNICEF will continue to provide leadership for the Child Protection AoR, Education Cluster (co-led with Save the Children), Mine Action AoR, Nutrition Cluster and WASH Cluster. Cluster coordination meetings have been held for all clusters/AoRs. UNICEF is also participating in the Myanmar Cash Working Group. There are significant concerns about the lack of humanitarian funding and a number of supply gaps.

Funding overview

UNICEF Myanmar has so far received only 11.8 per cent of funds needed against its 2023 HAC appeal, representing \$19.83 million as of end-April. This was received due to the generous support of the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United States Fund for UNICEF, the Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission (ECHO), the Government of Japan, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Government of Norway, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the World Health Organization (WHO), Gavi the Vaccine Alliance and through UNICEF's Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding. UNICEF has mobilised US\$ 1,800,000 in internal resources.

The humanitarian community in Myanmar released a multi-sectoral Flash Appeal on 23 May to support 1.6 million affected by Cyclone Mocha and its aftermath across five areas of Myanmar: Rakhine, Chin, Sagaing, Magway and Kachin. UNICEF will also be reviewing and updating its 2023 HAC appeal to incorporate the additional funding needed to respond to Cyclone Mocha.

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