



Felled electrical pole in Sittwe, Rakhine State. © IOM 2023

SITUATION ANALYSIS

Extremely Severe Cyclone Mocha, which made landfall near Sittwe in Rakhine State on 14 May, has left a trail of destruction in Rakhine and the Northwest of Myanmar, encompassing Chin, Magway and Sagaing. Information on the impact of the cyclone initially emerged slowly, as telecommunications were badly affected. Sittwe township suffered the heaviest damage, followed by Rathedaung. Other areas of Northern and Central Rakhine were also severely affected, while Southern Rakhine experienced less severe but still notable impacts. Information on the impact in Northwest Myanmar – one of the areas of Myanmar most affected by conflict and political turmoil since 2021 – is emerging slowly, but early reports suggest that several areas of Chin, Magway and Sagaing, suffered damage due to flooding, landslides and strong winds, and according to field observations, several villages and informal displacement sites were severely damaged. The cyclone has affected areas that were already in dire humanitarian need, with more than 1.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Rakhine and the Northwest alone. According to OCHA, nearly 5.4 million people are estimated to have been in the path of the cyclone.

IOM VISION

IOM, in coordination with humanitarian partners, seeks to provide life-saving assistance and protection to people affected by Cyclone Mocha in Rakhine, Chin, Sagaing, Magway and Kachin, through targeted interventions, addressing multi-sectoral priority needs. Populations now face compounded risks emanating from the ongoing conflict in the country. Assistance is urgently needed due to the fast-approaching monsoon season. The needs set out in this Flash Appeal are additional to those in IOM's Crisis Response Plan 2023 and are fully aligned with the interagency Flash Appeal, and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2023.






3.4 million

PEOPLE LIVING IN HIGHEST IMPACT ZONE

75,000

PEOPLE TARGETED

IOM APPEAL (USD)

	Health	2.0 M
	Shelter / NFI / CCCM	3.75 M
	Protection	1.5 M
	WASH	1.5 M
	Food Security	2.5 M
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED		11.25 M

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

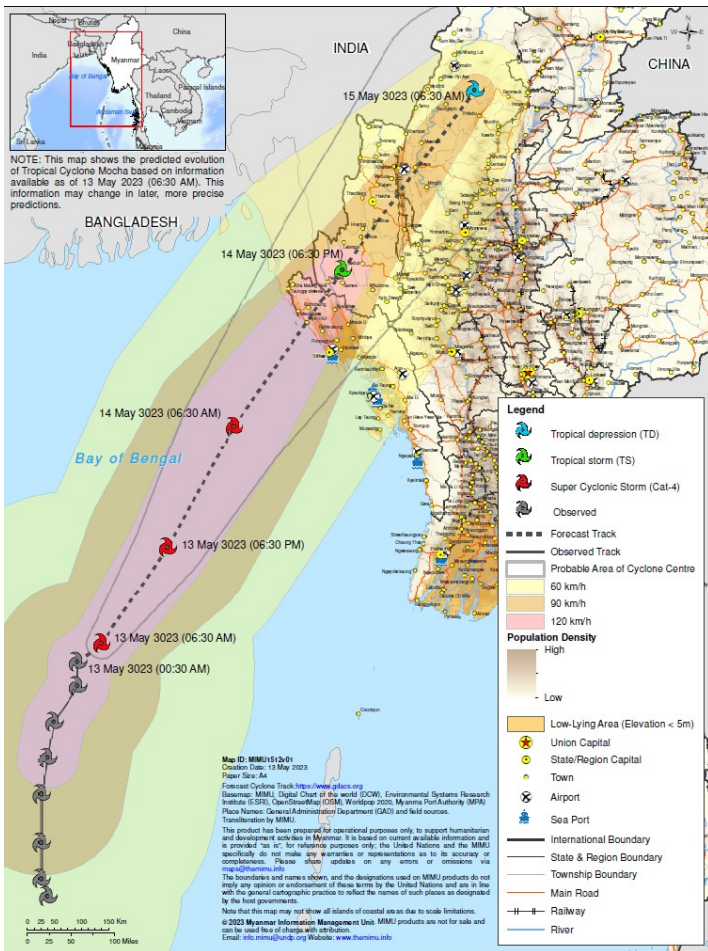
Rakhine: While the full impacts are still being ascertained, populations in Rakhine were already highly vulnerable. Already one of the most disaster-prone areas in Myanmar, the majority of villages in Rakhine are in low-lying parts of the coastline at risk of storm surge, while riverine communities are also highly prone to seasonal flooding exacerbated by deforestation. Hosting approximately 231,600 IDPs prior to the cyclone, the situation is particularly challenging in IDP camps and sites. Needs were already high for both Rohingya and Rakhine IDPs, with congested living conditions, lack of adequate site planning, limited WASH facilities, and health and protection risks. Field observations reveal extensive shelter damage, skyrocketing prices for critical shelter items such as tarpaulins, and rising needs for food and drinking water. Access to health services is also limited. Overstretched since 2021 due to the political and conflict situation, health services exist in some areas through mobile clinics and emergency health referrals; there is less coverage in rural communities and hard-to-reach villages. In addition, cultural barriers remain, limiting access to essential medical care and increasing health risks for women and girls. IOM teams on the ground observed significant damage to health infrastructure. Specific concerns were raised about the outbreak of water-related diseases which requires continued awareness-raising and direct response. Overall, the provision of essential health services remains a critical gap and a



IOM Mobile clinic staff assisting an IDP in Sittwe, Rakhine State. © IOM 2023

key priority. The impacts of the cyclone on livelihoods will almost certainly be extremely severe. Without access to alternative labour markets, the majority of the working population are villagers on low wages in agricultural jobs, seasonal jobs and casual labour with limited security. With many IDP households already struggling to meet basic needs, spending the majority of income on food and health, regardless of status (non-IDP, returned or relocated), key livelihood and coping mechanisms that were available have been disrupted by the ongoing impacts of the cyclone, exacerbating already severe needs.

Northwest and Kachin: The Northwest – Chin, Magway and Sagaing – as well as Kachin in Northeast Myanmar, have also been severely impacted. An area of low pressure with heavy rainfall between Kalay in Sagaing, and Myitkyina in Kachin, formed in the aftermath of the cyclone's landfall. The cyclone passed through Chin, damaging and/or destroying infrastructure and households; continuous heavy rain caused floods in Magway and Sagaing; and in Kachin, several shelters and displacement sites were damaged. The security situation in Kachin precluding wide humanitarian access including for assessments, anecdotal evidence confirms that particularly crops were affected by flooding. Populations in Northwest and Kachin also already had high vulnerabilities prior to the cyclone. The Northwest in particular has been the area most affected by the political and conflict situation since 2021, with limited humanitarian services and increasing numbers of newly displaced across Chin, Sagaing and Magway – 1,017,200 IDPs between 2021 and just prior to the cyclone. Displaced populations in Kachin have been in situations of protracted displacement, with several crowded IDP sites near the border with China having limited access to basic services. With many households already facing repeated, short-term displacement and heightened critical needs as a result of ongoing conflict and the lasting impacts of the pandemic, the impacts of the cyclone will almost certainly exacerbate pre-existing vulnerabilities across all affected areas.



© United Nations, Myanmar Information Management Unit. Tropical Cyclone Mocha path as predicted on 13 May 2023. Disclaimer: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

OBJECTIVES OF THE MULTI-SECTOR RESPONSE

IOM Myanmar's Cyclone Mocha Flash Appeal builds on the Myanmar HRP 2023, IOM's Crisis Response Plan 2023, and is aligned to the objectives articulated in the Inter-Agency Myanmar Cyclone Mocha Flash Appeal. IOM's humanitarian assistance will target IDPs, including protracted IDPs, those newly displaced by the cyclone, as well as those re-displaced, in all settings (i.e. camps, camp-like settings, informal sites in host communities and other out-of-camp displacement sites). In addition, assistance will be provided to returnees, resettled and integrated IDPs, as well as other crisis-affected people with humanitarian needs, such as host communities, people in affected areas with limited access to basic services, as well as people with severe protection needs, including those with greater vulnerability to exposure to protection risks. This will include migrants who have experienced labour exploitation and abuse, victims of trafficking, as well as those who have been forced to return home (i.e. deportees), especially to cyclone and conflict-affected locations without prior planning. IOM will deliver critical assistance directly, as well as through existing and new partnerships with a range of stakeholders, including CSOs, CBOs, and in the case of health services, with local health organizations and health departments, with partnerships also including training/technical assistance to strengthen capacities for localized emergency response.

HEALTH

IOM, in coordination with the National and Sub-National Health Clusters, the Risk Communication and Community Engagement Working Group, and other relevant stakeholders, will provide direct healthcare services to cyclone affected and displaced populations, through mobile clinics and support to static facilities, including in ethnic and hard-to-reach areas. This will include:

Funding required

\$2,000,000

Target no. of individuals

60,000

- Provision of essential integrated health services, including primary healthcare, sexual, reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health services, trauma care, and provision of essential medicines and supplies.
- Support to emergency referrals to secondary care, with a focus on maternal and child health and major life-threatening emergencies, as well as for survivors of gender-based violence.
- Strengthening capacity to prevent, detect and respond to disease outbreaks through establishment of health surveillance for early outbreak detection and response at the community level.
- Expansion of TB, HIV and malaria programmes, utilizing regular delivery channels such as health facilities, mobile clinics and community-based approaches, and adapted service delivery models for critical situations; as well as scaling up of rapid case findings to identify cases missed and diagnosis and treatment.
- Continuation of ongoing epidemic prevention, diagnosis, treatment and vaccination support, working towards strengthening of public health measures, as well as reinforced dissemination of key health messages through risk communication and community engagement.

SHELTER/NON-FOOD ITEMS/CCCM

IOM, in close coordination with the Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster, Cash Working Group (CWG) and other relevant working groups, will provide life-saving emergency shelter and non-food item (NFI) assistance to support cyclone-affected households and communities, through both in-kind and cash-based approaches. Interventions will include:

Funding required

\$3,750,000

Target no. of individuals

75,000

- Distributing a wide range of emergency shelter kits, including rapid response tarp kits and shelter tool kits, to displaced and non-displaced cyclone affected populations.
- Supporting the repair of shelters and rehabilitation of shelter units for cyclone affected families, based on needs assessments.
- Distributing NFIs tailored on needs of affected populations and market assessments, such as blankets, solar lamps, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, clothing sets, etc. to conflict and disaster-affected communities, with consideration of the varied realities of affected populations.

As for planned indicative activities in collective sites that support camp coordination and camp management (CCCM), IOM intends to support repair and rehabilitation of community shelters, collective and evacuation centres and other community buildings damaged by the cyclone.

IOM, in coordination with relevant clusters and working groups, will support enhanced access to survivor-centred protection services at individual and community levels, including through provision of MHPSS services, in line with IOM's Manual on Community-Based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), and mainstreaming of trafficking response/prevention and mine action into broader response activities. This will include:

Funding required

\$1,500,000

Target no. of individuals

30,000

- Awareness-raising activities on prevention of trafficking in persons (TIP), in close coordination with and complementing activities under the health components of this appeal.
- Strengthening and mainstreaming trafficking prevention and response capacities amongst humanitarian responders, including into referral mechanisms and case management systems, to respond to the increased risk of trafficking in the aftermath of the cyclone.
- Mainstreaming explosive risk ordinance awareness raising into cyclone response activities, through the provision of training and the distribution of key messages.
- Capacity strengthening of local partners in provision of individual and community-based MHPSS services, including training in psychosocial first aid (PFA), and strengthening of referral pathways to specialized mental health services.
- Establishment of psychosocial mobile teams for provision of individual and group lay counselling, referrals and support.
- Adaptation and distribution of MHPSS information, to promote enhanced coping and stress management, psychosocial well-being and improved mental health.

Protection will also be mainstreamed across sectors and activities proposed by this appeal, to ensure that IOM and partners provide assistance and support while upholding protection principles and promote meaningful access, accountability and safety in their programmes.

IOM, in coordination with the WASH Cluster, will support improved equitable access to regular and sufficient safe water for drinking and domestic use, increased availability of appropriate and accessible sanitation facilities and improved hygiene practices. This will include:

Funding required

\$1,500,000

Target no. of individuals

45,000

- Supporting the rehabilitation of key WASH infrastructures (such as latrines, water points), including at IDP sites, as well as increasing the availability of handwashing stations in conflict and cyclone-affected areas.
- Conducting solid waste cleaning campaigns through cash-for-work modalities.
- Distributing critical WASH supplies (hygiene kits, water kits, and water purification tablets), accompanied by hygiene promotion activities, including IEC materials and community outreach to conflict and cyclone-affected communities.

In close coordination with the Food Security Cluster (FSC) — to which multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) in Myanmar is reported — and the Cash Working Group (CWG), IOM will assist IDPs and vulnerable communities affected by the cyclone with targeted and tailored food, emergency livelihoods support and/or cash assistance based on identified needs. This will include:

Funding required

\$2,500,000

Target no. of individuals

50,000

- Provision of in-kind food assistance in locations where this is an identified need, taking into account market access, availability and accessibility of food.
- Provision of multi-purpose cash assistance as part of a mixed modality approach, in particular in areas where suitable market access, functionality and affordability of key items has been identified through needs assessments.

IOM CAPACITY

IOM has been operational in Myanmar since 2005 and has presence across all areas of Myanmar, with over 240 staff, a country office in Yangon, a liaison office in Nay Pyi Taw, sub-offices in Rakhine, Sagaing, Kachin, Kayin, Mon, and nine Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs), including in Sittwe. Operational capacities and presence are further supported through long-established collaboration with a broad range of partners around the country, including over 20 civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), faith-based organizations, community-based organizations (CBOs), private sector and ethnic health and welfare organizations.

While considering safety, security and duty of care to field teams and partners, IOM is particularly well-positioned to support areas of emerging need across Rakhine and the Northwest, given the challenges for new actors to establish partnerships, presence and operations in these locations. IOM has been active in Rakhine since 2010 in health, emergency response (shelter, NFI and CCCM), DRR, social cohesion and resilience, counter-trafficking

and the promotion of safe migration. In the Northwest, IOM has been operational and providing either direct assistance or assistance through partners in Sagaing, Magway and Chin, since 2017. While there continue to be multiple operational impediments and access challenges, IOM has been adapting and identifying flexible ways to respond to those in most need, even in areas difficult to access.

All IOM interventions mainstream protection, accountability to affected populations (AAP), prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and conflict sensitivity, capacity building and technical support to local CSOs/CBOs and community-led initiatives, to increase sustainability and ensure a high degree of local ownership and influence in the design, planning and implementation of programming. As outlined in the IOM Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF), IOM has a strong proven capacity to operate in complex situations, responding to the needs of crisis-affected populations with comprehensive, holistic and inclusive responses.



Person walking past debris in Sittwe in the aftermath of Cyclone Mocha, Rakhine State. © IOM 2023

COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

IOM is an active member of the Humanitarian Country Team and related humanitarian coordination mechanisms at the national level, as well as at state and regional levels. IOM engages with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group to coordinate inter-sectoral humanitarian response and recovery activities, and participates in numerous humanitarian clusters and working groups at national and sub-national levels. This includes food security and MPCA, shelter/NFIs/CCCM, WASH, health, and protection clusters, as well as relevant working groups, including the child protection working group.

Further, IOM coordinates cash assistance closely with the CWG, to ensure that approaches are harmonized whenever feasible. IOM also coordinates activities through the UN Country Team (UNCT) and is an active contributor to the Myanmar Health Response Contingency Framework and the Socioeconomic Resilience Response Plan (SERRP), advocating for the mainstreaming of migration and mobility considerations across response activities. Lastly, IOM co-chairs the Human Trafficking Working Group with the United Nations Children's Funds (UNICEF), facilitating information-sharing and coordination of responses to human trafficking across the country.

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