



# MYANMAR: Cyclone Mocha

## Flash Update #2

As of 13 May 2023

## 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, Mayway, 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.

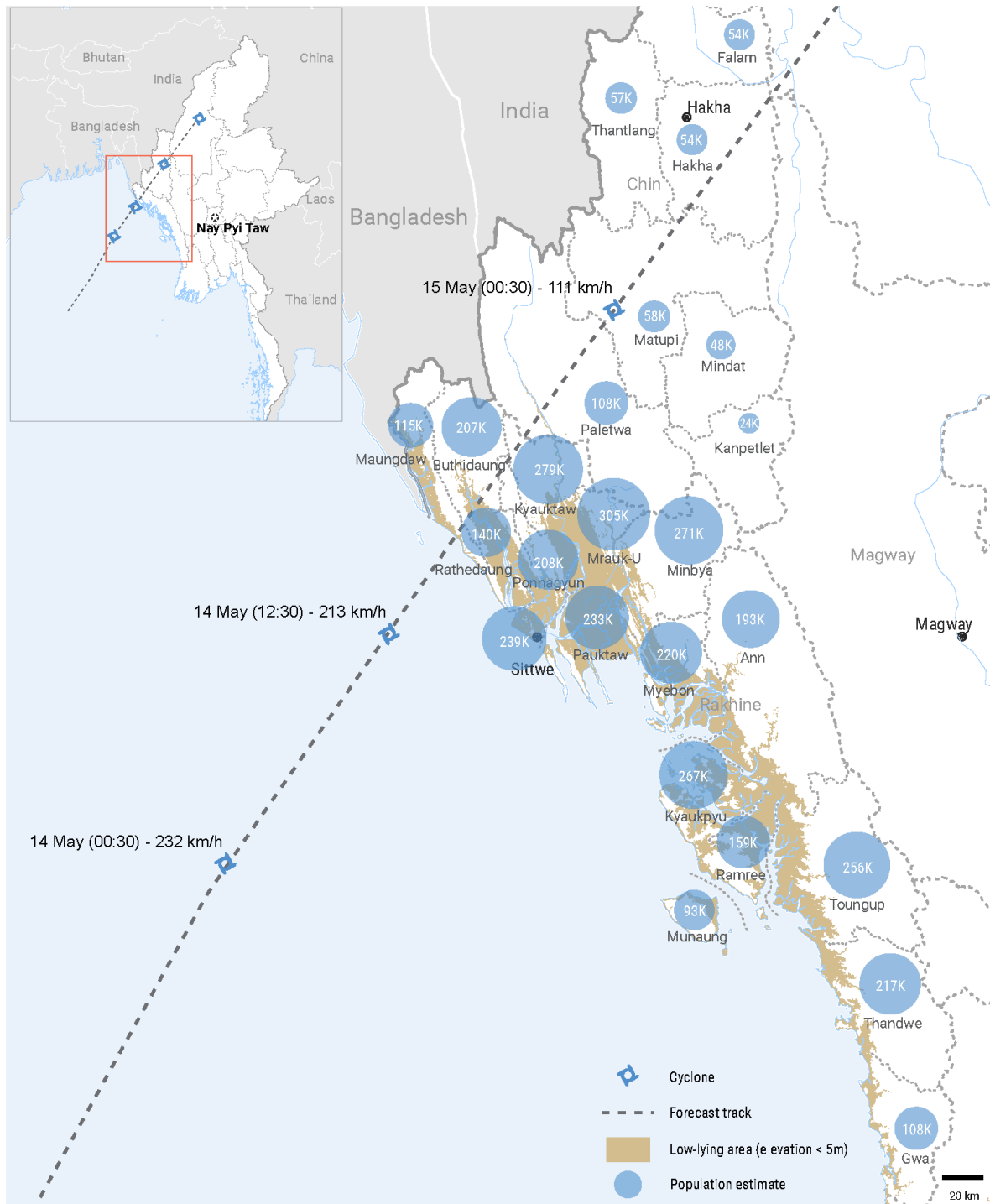
***Information in this update is based on inputs from humanitarian partners and meteorological organizations. The next update on the cyclone will be issued on 15 May.***



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The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.  
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