

## Highlights

- One week after Cyclone Mocha, a clearer picture is emerging of the depth of destruction as humanitarians work to expand assistance across affected areas.
- Sittwe and Rathedaung are the hardest hit areas in Rakhine. Shelter damage there is significant across all communities.
- Destruction of public infrastructure, as well as disruptions to water systems, continue to limit access to clean drinking water in Rakhine, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases especially among the affected population.
- In Rathedaung township, all rural health centers, hospitals and public schools have been destroyed according to partners.
- Coastal villages along the Ah Ngu Maw-Maungdaw Road in Rathedaung and Maungdaw townships have suffered severe damage, including the loss of livestock. Southern Maungdaw reportedly has also faced damage, including to schools in five villages.
- Based on discussions in Nay Pyi Taw, humanitarians will soon be sharing 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.
- In the meantime, partners who already have access are prioritizing the distribution of food and critical relief items where they can. Efforts are also underway to transport additional supplies to address stockpile shortages, pending necessary approvals for movement within and outside the country.
- Humanitarian partners are disseminating messages in local languages to raise awareness around risks of waterborne disease and landmines among affected communities and promote safety precautions.
- The cyclone has led to an increase in the number of unaccompanied children in Rakhine, highlighting the urgent need for child protection and appropriate support services.



Flooded houses in Salin, Magway. Credit: OCHA

## Situation Overview

While a massive clean-up effort has been underway in Sittwe over the past week, continued field visits by humanitarian partners are shedding light on the magnitude of the crisis faced by people across the impact zone. Many people have been left without safe shelter and have lost all of their belongings, further exacerbating the already dire living conditions endured by many for the past three years due to the pandemic, ongoing conflict, and economic instability.

Humanitarian partners who have access to the population are already providing critical relief items to the extent possible, including through the distribution of food assistance. Efforts are underway to transport additional humanitarian supplies from Yangon to Sittwe to address stockpile shortages and bolster the response. Humanitarians are also exploring various approaches to facilitate the movement of supplies to impacted areas, both from within and outside the country, pending necessary approvals.

Telecommunications problems persist and access to banking services is being disrupted both by cyclone damage and bureaucratic obstacles. Humanitarian partners continue to disseminate safety messages in local languages focusing on the risk of waterborne disease and the movement of landmines in flooded areas. Venomous snakes are also an increasing threat in flood-affected areas, especially in Magway and Sagaing.

## Rakhine

Field observations in various townships across Rakhine are shedding more light on cyclone Mocha's destruction and the situation facing the affected population:

- Observations indicate that the cyclone had the most severe impact on Sittwe and Rathedaung and has also heavily affected another seven townships: Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Maungdaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Pauktaw, and Ponnagyun. Additionally, Kyaukpyu, Ramree, Munaung, Myebon, and Ann townships experienced less severe damages.
- There are reports of increased numbers of unaccompanied children in Rakhine after the cyclone based on preliminary information from partners.
- Field teams report that coastal villages along the Ah Ngu Maw-Maungdaw Road in Rathedaung and Maungdaw townships have suffered severe damage, and many livestock perished as a result of the cyclone.
- According to partners, in Rathedaung township, all the rural health centers, hospitals and schools were destroyed.
- In southern Maungdaw, residents report being heavily impacted by the cyclone. According to field observations, schools in five villages were significantly damaged, with roofs, wells, furniture, and water sources destroyed.
- Partners reported damage to shelters and water sources across Rohingya IDP camps and Rakhine displacement sites in Rakhine. Some IDP camps in Sittwe and Pauktaw townships experienced extensive damage and IDPs require shelter, WASH, and food assistance.
- There is reportedly severe damage to the drinking water supply systems in Sittwe and Kyauktaw townships.



*Villagers carrying water for multi-purpose use in Rathedaung, Rakhine. Credit: OCHA*

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

- Relief items were distributed to 662 households in Kyauktaw township. NFI and shelter assistance distributions are ongoing for 1,525 households in Sittwe, Myebon, and Mrauk-U townships. A rapid shelter response is being planned for 1,950 households in Sittwe, 602 households in Ponnagyun, 3,000 households in Kyauktaw, and 1,161 households in Mrauk-U townships.
- From 19 to 20 May, food assistance was distributed to more than 1,757 households (4,592 people) in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships.
- A partner with valid authorization provided health, nutrition and psychological first aid services to affected people in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships.
- Two mobile teams have provided medical consultations in two villages in Sittwe.
- Partners provided cash for food assistance to households in Yoe Ta Yoke camp and Shin Taw and Kyae Taw villages in Ponnagyun township on 15 May.
- Mobile clinics are maintaining regular operations in Mrauk-U and select areas of Maungdaw and Buthidaung, where facilities remain intact.
- In Pauktaw township, water boating is expected to resume soon, following the completion of network and pipeline rehabilitation.

## Northwest

- Despite ongoing active fighting and access obstacles, humanitarian partners continue to gather information to better understand the magnitude of the destruction and respond to emerging needs where possible.
- In Sagaing, according to partners, some 71 houses and 1 school in Kale town were destroyed and 44 shelters in 4 informal displacement sites in Kale township were severely damaged. As a result, 260 households (700 people), including some 50 IDPs are currently in need of urgent shelter materials. Some of the affected families are temporarily sheltering in nearby villages in Tamu township.
- Partners also reported that some 150 children in Kale township in Sagaing and in Tedim township in Chin were affected by the cyclone and are in need of assistance.

- In Chin, several houses in Tedim townships were destroyed due to landslides.
- Local partners report destruction of educational materials and health facilities, and a rise in waterborne disease, particularly diarrhea, across 150 villages in 10 townships in Magway and Sagaing.
- Children in these regions face an elevated risk of snake bite due to an influx of venomous snakes into flood-affected homes, with Magway and Sagaing registering a high number of snakes and snake bite incidents.
- Childhood trauma is widespread in Magway, stemming from the catastrophic cyclone and its aftermath. Mental health and psychosocial support are urgently needed, notably in Sinphyukyun town in Salin township.
- In the wake of landslides and floods in Monywa township in Sagaing, landmines and improvised explosive devices are posing a significant risk to the local population.
- Work to safeguard children, including by providing mental health support, has resumed in some villages in Chin and Sagaing. In Kani township in Sagaing, partners reunited two children who had lost contact with their families.
- Immediate needs of the affected population include food, shelter, clothing, essential household items, water, sanitation, hygiene, and healthcare services.

In terms of response:

- International and local partners provided emergency shelter kits in informal displacement sites and COVID-19 raising-awareness messages in Kale township in Sagaing. Medicines were also provided to affected people.
- Local partners are planning to provide psychosocial support, water and sanitation assistance, and cash for food to affected people. They are planning to also provide nutrition and healthcare services through mobile clinics.



*A house's roof ripped by Cyclone Mocha in Hakha township, Chin. Credit: Partner*

## Coordination

While critical, life-saving aid is reaching some areas, particularly in Rakhine, the focus of humanitarian partners remains on quickly extending assistance through distribution of supplies to more people affected by the cyclone. Based on discussions in Nay Pyi Taw, humanitarians will soon be sharing 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.

Simultaneously, coordination meetings at various levels are being held to address immediate issues and needs. These meetings play a pivotal role in analyzing field observations from affected areas and informing response planning.

Efforts are also underway to mobilize necessary resources to provide aid to the communities most heavily impacted, particularly in Rakhine, Chin, Sagaing, Magway, and Kachin. The focus is to secure the necessary funding, logistics, and support systems to address both immediate and long-term needs, with a keen emphasis on improving access to these resources in the face of ongoing challenges. A Flash Appeal for funding is being prepared and will be launched in the coming days.

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

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