



Rakhine State (© UNICEF Myanmar/2023/Maung Nyan)

## Myanmar Office CYCLONE MOCHA Humanitarian Situation Report No.2

Date: 15 May 2023

### Highlights

- Damage to structures and many roads initially blocked as a result of fallen trees and power lines when Cyclone Mocha made landfall on the Rakhine coast on Sunday, 14 May around midday. Clean-up crews were out on Sunday evening and Monday, with very heavy winds and rain lasting until around 15.30. Heavy rains and winds continued into late evening.
- The storm moved further north-northeast towards Myanmar's Chin State and Sagaing Region, which are at high risk of landslides and localized flooding.
- Information on the full picture and impact on communities is not yet available due to downed telecommunications and intermittent availability of internet, and inaccessibility of some roads due to trees falling and debris.
- UNICEF, in coordination with OCHA and other humanitarian organisations, is still working to assess the situation and needs on the ground.
- The UNICEF funding situation is critical: to date the Myanmar 2023 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for USD 169.6 million is only 11.8 per cent funded.

### Situation in Numbers



**16 million people**

potentially exposed to Cyclone Mocha, including over 1.2 million already internally displaced (UNOSAT/UNITAR, 13 May 2023)



**5.6 million children**

potentially exposed to Cyclone Mocha



**8 States/Regions**

potentially cyclone-affected: Rakhine, Sagaing, Magway, Mandalay, Ayeyarwady, Chin, Bago and Naypyitaw (UNOSAT/UNITAR, 13 May 2023)

### Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Over 16 million people are in the path of Cyclone Mocha, including 1,751,284 people living in areas that will be affected by sustained wind speeds of >120km/h.<sup>1</sup> The humanitarian situation in the anticipated affected areas is already of grave concern, particularly for the 232,100 people displaced across Rakhine and over 1 million internally displaced people (IDPs) in the Northwest.

Cyclone Mocha made landfall in Myanmar on 14 May, with heavy rain, storm surges and strong winds reported in Rakhine, particularly in the state capital Sittwe. Telecommunications with these areas have been cut since the afternoon of 14 May, making it impossible to have a more accurate update on the extent of damage. Flooding was less than predicted but did reach West Sanpiya ward, Sittwe Hotel and the UNICEF office.

There was damage to structures and many roads were initially blocked as a result of fallen trees and power lines. Clean-up crews were out on Sunday evening and Monday, and some roads have now been cleared. However, efforts are likely to take some time, due to the extent of damage.

<sup>1</sup> UNISAT- UNOSAT, Tropical Cyclone MOCHA – 23, Population Exposure Analysis in Bangladesh and Myanmar, 13 May 2023

Sittwe Airport, which was closed last week, seems to have reopened, likely for military flights, as four flights were reportedly observed overhead in one-hour period. No information is available so far regarding if or when domestic flights will resume.

In the Northwestern States, there has been severe damage due to heavy rains and wind and floods are reported in Magway and Sagaing, where heavy rains and limited capacity for shelters are reported for all IDPs. Armed attacks have also been reported in Kani, Khin U and Monywa.

The UNICEF office in Sittwe suffered substantial damage and will likely be out of service for a substantial period. A temporary office space will be identified while assessment of office viability and next steps are undertaken.

Initial estimates by the Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) indicate that 200,000 people will need humanitarian assistance in Rakhine and a further 500,000 people in the Northwest. Humanitarian teams are trying to attempt assessment of camps and wards around Sittwe.

## UNICEF Preparedness and Planned Response

UNICEF has a presence in Sittwe and in Maungdaw in Rakhine State, with 32 staff working to meet the needs of children in the State. For the Northwest, the response is coordinated from Hakka and Yangon.

### PREPAREDNESS

In anticipation of the projected impact, UNICEF has been implementing several preparedness actions:

- UNICEF has been coordinating closely with implementing partners to activate contingency clauses within existing partnership arrangements. These agreements cover response actions in WASH, CP, Education, Health and Nutrition.
- UNICEF has pre-positioned critical supplies in Rakhine State for WASH (including 5,000 hygiene kits, 32,000 soaps, water filters, water tanks, latrines and handwashing stations), Child Protection (2,000 kits), and Education (Essential Learning Package kits).
- UNICEF has pre-positioned critical supplies in the Northwest to cover 100,000 people for WASH and other services such as Child Protection, Health and Nutrition.
- Additional essential items are on their way to the UNICEF warehouses, including: 2,000 Child Protection kits, 8,220 ELP Kits, 1,900 roofing sheets (for Sittwe); and 3,000 ELP Kits and 500 roofing sheets (for Maungdaw).
- The Health and Nutrition team will join other humanitarian agencies in a Rapid Assessment, to complete the needs analysis process, in addition to identifying existing contingency stock for health and nutrition, as well as gaps.
- UNICEF continue to work with the health cluster coordination in finalizing a response strategy document which will be critical for resource mobilization.
- A deployment plan for in-country surge support to affected locations has been prepared, covering cluster coordination, programmes and operations.

### RESPONSE

#### Child Protection

UNICEF has conducted widespread Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) messaging on 'caring for children during adverse situations' using social media platforms, delivered critical explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) messages on the risks of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) that could migrate as a result of the cyclone; and provided information for children and families on how to prevent separation. A series of capacity building activities took place for 12 partner agencies in the Northwest on how to operate mobile child-friendly spaces, and a short refresher course was conducted for community volunteers who are trained on psychological first aid as part of the response teams at the local levels.

#### WASH

UNICEF WASH has already prepositioned lifesaving supplies in Rakhine and with implementing partners. This includes water purification chemicals, hygiene kits and bleaching powder. For the IDP camps, particularly in Pauktaw, Rakhine, where daily water supply is arranged through boating, quantity required for four days was already stocked. UNICEF has already prepared a contingency plan to procure critical WASH supplies and the existing partnership amendments have been initiated to mobilise the response. Additional human resources are on standby for deployment.

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

UNICEF has disseminated preparedness "Do's and Don'ts" messages for communities covering before, during and after a cyclone in visual and audio formats through social media platforms in Burmese and local languages and shared the materials with Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) partners. To disseminate lifesaving messages

around health, sanitation, hygiene and protection after an emergency to the affected communities, key messages are being prepared and will be translated into local languages for wider dissemination by partners.

## SUPPLY AND LOGISTICS

In addition to the prepositioned supplies already delivered to Ministry of Health (MoH) and Department of Rural Development, Supply & Logistics section continued to follow up and negotiate with the MoH on the long outstanding Tax Exemption Certificates (TEC) for health and nutrition supplies. The office has received TEC approval from MoH for 13 shipments which have been submitted to Foreign Economic Relations Department (FERD) for final approval. However, the modality for distribution of these supplies is not yet clear and agreed by the parties. MoH has so far only requested UNICEF to indicate the quantities for IEHK kits which will be delivered to them out of the 175 kits been released. There are two more shipments under consideration which will bring the total of TEC approval to 15.

An Operations team comprising of Supply, Administration, and ICT staff will be deployed to Sittwe on 16 May to support arrangements for the temporary office and renovations of the office building and the warehouse which were both heavily damaged.

## 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 Northwest. The Myanmar Humanitarian Emergency Response Preparedness Plan was activated nationwide since 8<sup>th</sup> May. A rapid capacity building on conducting Rapid Need Assessments has been undertaken in the high-risk areas, along with pre-positioning of contingency stocks. Advocacy for operational access to affected communities is being undertaken through the Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) at national and sub-national levels. An ICCG Meeting was held on 15 May to coordinate next steps in conducting Rapid Needs Assessments and in developing the joint Flash Appeal.

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

### UNICEF External Communications:

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