



Rakhine State ©UNICEF Myanmar/2023/Naing Lin Soe

## Myanmar Office CYCLONE MOCHA Humanitarian Situation Report No.5

Date: 19 May 2023

### Situation in Numbers



**3.2 million people**

within the areas impacted by the cyclone are most vulnerable and likely to have humanitarian needs (OCHA)



This includes an estimated:

1.12 million children 0-17 years

### Highlights

- Advocacy for humanitarian access to affected populations continues and this remains a critical constraint in assessing the extent of humanitarian needs and in providing lifesaving assistance to the most vulnerable populations.
- Incoming reports indicate that across all affected areas, access to safe drinking water is a critical priority due to the damage caused to water supply infrastructure. In Rakhine, at least 32 nutrition infrastructure and nutrition-related spaces are severely damaged. In the Northwest, around 30 schools are reported to be damaged,
- Life-saving nutrition supplies, including Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), has been provided to 77 children with severe acute malnutrition.
- 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 Overview & Humanitarian Needs

There is no significant change in the access situation as no Travel Authorisation approvals have been granted in Rakhine State and in the Northwest of the country affected by Cyclone Mocha.

In Rakhine, deaths have been reported, including of children and pregnant women. IDP communities in northern Rakhine state have been relocated to schools as temporary shelters. There is an urgent need for latrines due to the increased number of people relocated. Access to safe drinking water is an urgent priority, along with roofing for shelters, health services and WASH facilities. Mobile medical assistance has been initiated in some central Rakhine State townships, but harder-to-reach villages have yet to receive support. As many as 32 nutrition infrastructure and nutrition-related spaces (including breast-feeding spaces, antenatal support services and treatment centres) are severely damaged. The airport reopened to commercial flights today. The Yangon – Sittwe road has been re-opened to trucks today and passenger buses from Yangon have also resumed.

Many reports indicate damage to WASH infrastructure. The latrine superstructures in Rakhine camps have been substantially damaged and, in several locations, flooding is reported to have rendered the facilities dysfunctional. Similarly, heavy damage to water supply infrastructure has been reported, and the storm surge flooded water supply ponds, making the water saline.

In the Northwest, shelter and water supply are the first priority needs, followed by food security. Electricity has been recovered in most of the urban areas of Sagaing and Chin. Telecommunication remains a major challenge for collecting information. It was reported that 30 schools have been damaged in Chin State.

A total of 21 townships (17 townships in Rakhine State and four townships in Chin State) have been declared as disaster (cyclone) affected areas by the authorities.

## UNICEF Preparedness and 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, with 9 staff. An Operations Team mission comprising of Supply, Administration and ICT staff has deployed to Sittwe to support the team and initiate repairs for the UNICEF Sittwe office and warehouse, which were heavily damaged.

### 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).
- A deployment plan for in-country surge support to affected locations has been prepared, covering cluster coordination, programmes and operations.

### RESPONSE

#### WASH

In the Pauktaw IDP camps (hosting over 24,000 people), the stored water is rapidly depleting and there is an urgent need to resume the water supply operation. The water supply boats are being restored and has resumed in Kyein Nyi Pyin and Anauk Ywe camps of Pauktaw Township to meet the daily drinking water needs of those IDPs.

Additional quantities of essential WASH supplies, such as water purification chemicals, water storage containers and hygiene kits, are being transported to Rakhine State. Additional WASH technical staff are being deployed to support the response and early recovery of WASH services in the State. Additional national officer in Rakhine to strengthen the cyclone Mocha emergency WASH response.

In coordination with the WASH cluster, UNICEF and partners will distribute bleaching powder, 1,000 Jerry cans, 100 tarpaulins and ropes, 28,800 water purification sachets, 1,000 hygiene kits & buckets to over 5,000 cyclone affected population in 25 villages of Pauk-Taw, Ponna-Kyun and Sittwe

In Chin, Sagaing and Magway, WASH and Child Protection teams are updating partnership agreements to include providing lifesaving WASH supplies to the affected population.

#### Health

UNICEF continues to coordinate with other UN agencies such as WHO, UNOPS, UNFPA and IOM for a harmonized approach to the response. The latest information identified serious damage to some health facilities and hospitals in host communities. Mobile health clinics have begun operation in Sittwe and surrounding areas. Reports indicate a number of cases of acute watery diarrhoea and one case of tetanus.

#### Nutrition

In addition to monitoring and counselling for promotion of maternal, infant and young child feeding, nutrition screening and treatment of children with acute malnutrition has resumed in Chin and Northern Rakhine. Lifesaving nutrition supplies, including Ready-to Use-Therapeutic Food (RUTF) for two weeks, have been provided to 77 children with severe acute malnutrition.

#### Child Protection

The UNICEF Child Protection team is continuing to share targeted Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) messages related to the cyclone impact. Child protection concerns are likely to increase due to overcrowding, loss of resources, anxiety and stress of caregivers, resulting in negative coping mechanisms.

Need for data/information is dire. Data/information is either unavailable or cannot be independently verified because several locations are inaccessible due to road conditions, internet connectivity and electricity cuts, in addition to other safety and security concerns.

### **Child Protection AoR**

The CP AoR has been working towards a coordinated response in affected areas in Rakhine and the Northwest. AoR partners have been using the draft guidance for action in the week following the cyclone's landfall. In particular, partners have been providing basic psychosocial first aid (PFA) and psychosocial support (PSS) to children and caregivers affected by the cyclone in the Northwest and Rakhine. Reunification of separated children has been reported (with figures still unconfirmed), partners have been providing child protection case management focal points where children are identified to be at risk. Child Protection messages developed and shared by the AoR have been disseminated on-site as well as through community volunteers.

AoR partners continue to report urgent life-saving child protection concerns, including dangers and injuries (including snakebites, drowning, and injuries from debris). Psychosocial distress of children is being reported and the need to scale up MHPSS and case management is evident. Emergency meetings have been convened by the AoR in the Northwest and child protection coordination with the Protection cluster is ongoing in Rakhine. Child Protection AoR members are collecting information, though monitoring still remains a challenge due to access, particularly in the Northwest.

At national level, the CP AoR is working with the Protection Cluster to reach more people with child protection cyclone response messages. Funding remains a challenge and the CP AoR is working to estimate the number of people in need, the target population and the cost for priority activities in the coming months.

### **Mine Action AoR**

Mine Action AoR meetings were held in the Northwest and national levels. New messages and materials are being distributed to communities throughout the affected areas by partner teams. There are still challenges with connection and access. Prior to the cyclone, the Northwest reported the highest number of mine-related incidents in the first quarter of this year. This is a particular concern, as the region has been heavily affected by Cyclone Mocha and also has the least deployed capacity, due to funding shortfalls. Many partners rely on Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF) funding, which will end in June or July. Urgent funding is required to support essential Mine Action activities in the Northwest.

### **Education**

UNICEF is identifying funds to reprogramme for immediate response needs. This includes infrastructure assessments, provision of essential learning materials, engagement with stakeholders in the response, data/information management support, MHPSS services for teachers and children and the provision of supplies for temporary school repairs (including tin sheets, tarpaulins, and other roofing materials).

### **Education Cluster**

In Rakhine, an Education subcluster coordination meeting was held today. Updates on the situation in camps and temporary learning centres (TLCs) is being collected.

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

UNICEF has disseminated the partner mapping tool through the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) technical working group to collect information from various partners working on Cyclone Mocha response. Communication materials on key lifesaving messages around maternal and child health care, health care seeking, prevention of communicable diseases, awareness of snake bite and mine risks, MHPSS and nutrition are being prepared for communities, volunteers, emergency response workers and partners. To facilitate easy understanding of the key lifesaving messages by local communities, audio clips of the messages will also be developed in Burmese, Rakhine and Rohingya languages. SBC and AAP-related rapid assessment questionnaires are being developed and will be shared with UNOCHA to incorporate into a rapid needs assessment, which will be conducted as an inter-agency exercise.

### **Supply and Logistics**

The office continues to follow up with the Foreign Economic Relations Department (FERD) for final approval of the 13 health and nutrition supplies shipments that have recently received Tax Exemption Certificates (TEC) clearance from the Ministry of Health (MoH). Advocacy for the remaining outstanding TEC approvals is ongoing.

## **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, daily coordination meetings have been organised since 15 May to review incoming information on needs and delivery modalities. At the national level, OCHA is coordinating with clusters to prepare an inter-agency Flash Appeal.

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. There are significant concerns about the lack of humanitarian funding and a number of supply gaps.

## Funding overview

The actual funding situation for Myanmar is 11.8 per cent of its 2023 HAC appeal, representing \$19.83 million, as of end-April. This was received through 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), the Gavi Vaccine Alliance and through UNICEF's Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding.

The Government of Japan has approved the reprogramming of their US\$ 9 million grant to support the cyclone response. In addition, UNICEF has mobilised US\$ 800,000 in internal resources to support immediate response to meet the priority needs of girls, women, and people with disabilities. No new funds have been pledged for the cyclone response.

### UNICEF External Communications:

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