

UNHCR REGIONAL BUREAU ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

FLASH UPDATE #2 CYCLONE MOCHA

29 May 2023



UNHCR and its partners continue to respond to the devastating impact of Cyclone Mocha, which affected millions of people in Myanmar and Bangladesh, destroying homes and infrastructures. UNHCR declared an internal **Level-2 emergency** on 29 May for Myanmar and Bangladesh to mobilize further internal capacity to respond to this new emergency.

In Myanmar, UNHCR is supporting response and coordination efforts as part of the United Nations Humanitarian Country Team. Latest reports indicate that an estimated **7.9 million** people were in the path of over 90km per hour winds, damaging houses and infrastructure. **3.4 million** are estimated to be need of humanitarian assistance. Rakhine State bore the brunt of the cyclone.

In Bangladesh, some **2.3 million** people were residing in areas affected by the cyclone. UNHCR is supporting the government-led response and is working closely with the humanitarian community via the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), displaced and host communities, as well as community leaders and volunteers.

Inter-agency Flash appeals were issued for both Myanmar and Bangladesh on 23 May, building on the existing Humanitarian Response Plan for Myanmar and the Joint Response Plan for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.



IMPACT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Myanmar

- Field observations in Rakhine State and the North-West inform ongoing response efforts. Coastal villages and IDP camps in Sittwe Township are most severely affected, while communities in rural villages in other townships notably Pauktaw, Ponnagyun, Kyauktaw, Mrauk-U, Minbya, and Rathedaung also experienced significant impact. While telecommunications and electricity services are stabilizing, a full restoration of services will require time, particularly in the hardest-hit townships of Sittwe and Rathedaung. In parallel, severe flooding affected more than 120,000 people in villages in the North-West, with agriculture and fishery sectors badly hit, causing a severe loss of assets crucial for livelihoods and posing a longer-term threat to food security.
- In addition to shelter, and based on available information, the most pressing needs for all affected communities include food, water, sanitation, core relief items, and healthcare.
- New rub halls have been installed at UNHCR's warehouse in Sittwe, to replace those that were partially destroyed by heavy rains and wind. Core relief items that sustained damage are being repackaged.
- Efforts are underway to transport additional emergency shelter supplies from Yangon to Rakhine State to support families in need. However, current in-country stocks of core relief items are unlikely to meet the needs of the projected number of people requiring the most urgent assistance.
- The UNHCR-led Protection Cluster in Rakhine State continues to advance Communications with Communities messaging around provision of emergency aid and is developing additional prioritized messaging for affected communities.
- UNHCR has begun circulating tailored safety messages about landmine risks through social media. Landmines and other explosive remnants of war pose serious safety risks in impacted areas, as flooding and landslides can dislodge and carry devices to locations previously deemed safe.
- The humanitarian community continues to provide humanitarian assistance to families affected by the cyclone, including food and relief items, where they can. Together with other humanitarian partners, UNHCR continues to advocate for unimpeded humanitarian access to assist communities requiring urgent assistance.

Bangladesh

- Rapid damage assessments in Cox's Bazar continue being carried out and the latest findings indicate widespread partial or full damage to some 4,628 shelters, over 200 WASH facilities and various infrastructures such as registration sites and multi-purpose centres in UNHCR-managed camps. The most urgent needs reported by refugee communities continue to be shelter, food, water, non-food items, security and health.
- UNHCR and partners are prioritizing the households with severely damaged shelters, as well as labour support for extremely vulnerable households. To date, over 4,505 households (97% of eligible and prioritized households) received shelter support. Protection services such as GBV, child protection, psychological first aid, legal services, awareness sessions continue to be provided to communities despite disruptions to some community-based centers. 70% of damaged WASH infrastructures were repaired across all camps.



COORDINATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

In Myanmar, UNHCR is part of the UN Humanitarian Country Team and leads the Protection and Shelter/NFI/CCCM clusters. In Bangladesh, UNHCR co-leads the Inter-Sector Coordination Group.

An inter-agency <u>Flash Appeal</u> for Myanmar was launched, which builds on the existing Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), targeting 1.6 million people affected by Cyclone Mocha across Rakhine, Chin, Kachin States, and Magway and Sagaing Regions. The Flash Appeal requirements are USD 333 million consisting of USD 211 million that have been reprioritized within the initial Myanmar HRP (for the regions highly impacted by the cyclone) and an additional USD 122 million.

For Bangladesh, the inter-agency Joint Response Plan (JRP) has been updated to reflect the new needs. An additional USD 42.2 million is being sought in the Bangladesh <u>Flash Appeal</u> for Cyclone Mocha, of which USD 36.5 million will be added to the JRP, which will now amount to USD 912.5 million (the remaining USD 5.6 million is for interventions supporting Bangladeshi communities beyond the scope of the JRP). UNHCR's requirements in the JRP will now amount to 216.9 million.

The inter-agency response plans for both countries remain severely underfunded. In Myanmar, UNHCR requires a total of **USD 68.7 million** (35 per cent funded) and in Bangladesh, **USD 275 million** (32 per cent funded). Some 34 million are urgently needed to respond to the cyclone Mocha emergency.

Myanmar. Efforts are underway to transport additional emergency shelter supplies to support families in need in Rakhine State, Myanmar.

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