OVERVIEW
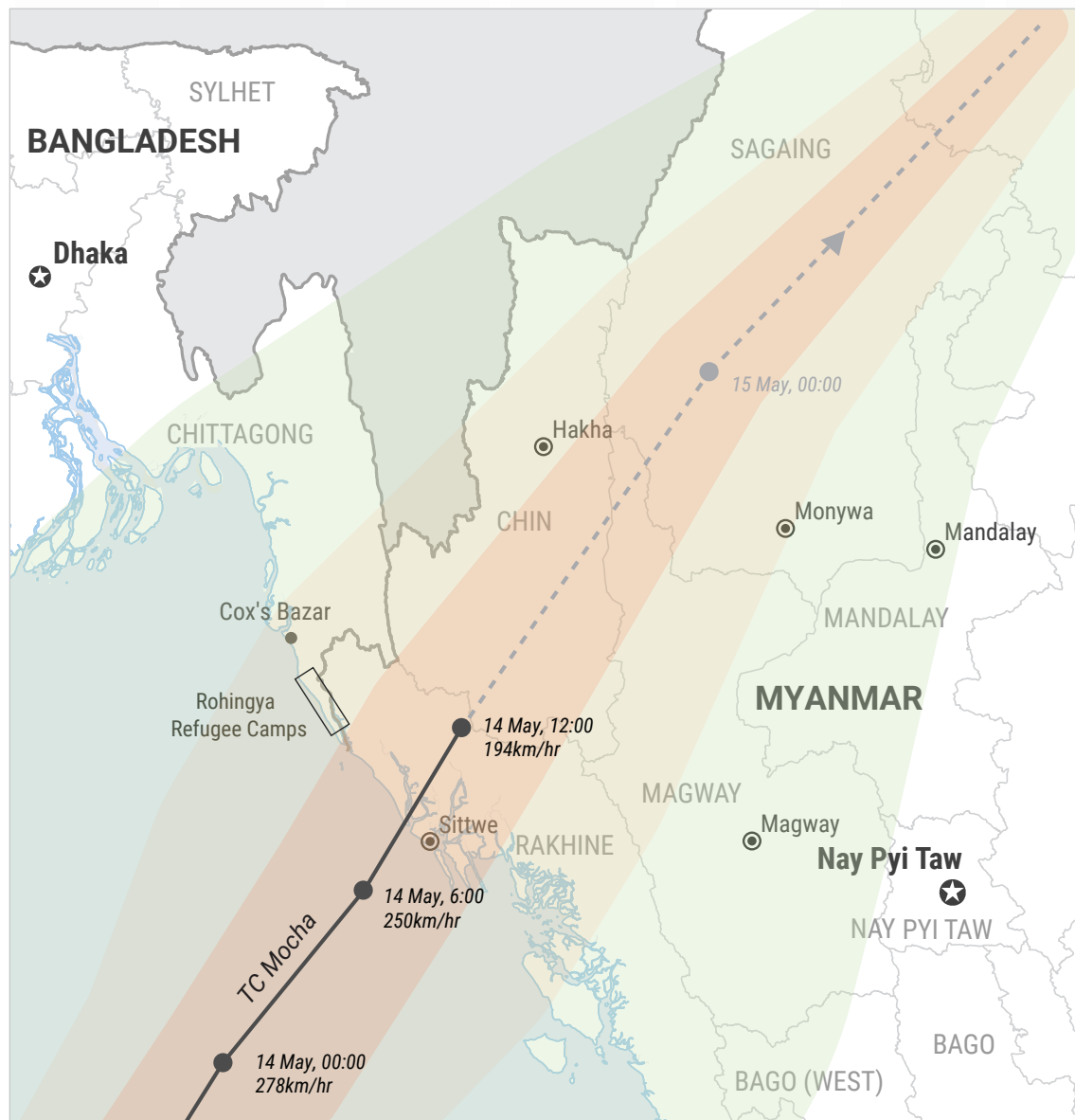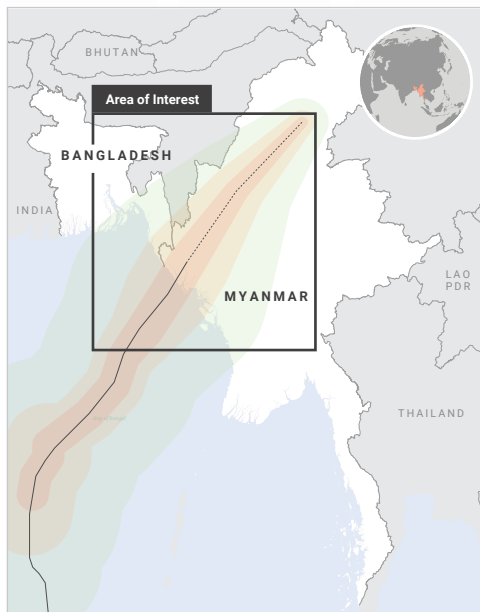
The eye of Cyclone Mocha made landfall in Rakhine State on 14 May 2023, bringing heavy rains, flooding, and strong winds across coastal and low-lying areas in Myanmar and Bangladesh.

The cyclone has affected an area where there are already deep humanitarian needs, impacting hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people whose coping capacity has been severely eroded by successive crises on both sides of the border.

The UN and its humanitarian partners prepared ahead of the cyclone's arrival and pre-positioning stocks and personnel ready to assess and respond to needs. Access to people in need and additional funds will be urgently required to facilitate a full-scale response to the impacts of the cyclone on both sides of the border, while sustaining under-funded life-saving programmes responding to the ongoing humanitarian crises in both Myanmar and Bangladesh.

MYANMAR

In Myanmar, heavy rains, 3-3.5m storm surge and strong winds were recorded with heavy inundation reported in low-lying areas of Rakhine, particularly in and around the state capital, Sittwe.

Poor weather conditions and telecommunications interruptions remain a challenge in assessing the full scale of needs, but early reports suggest that damage is extensive and needs among already vulnerable communities, particularly displaced people, will be high.

BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh, tens of thousands of families have been affected and key facilities have been damaged, especially in the Rohingya Refugee camps in Teknaf and neighbouring Bangladeshi communities.

Over 750,000 people were evacuated to safety, including to 565 cyclone shelters in Cox's Bazar and 11 cyclone shelters in Patuakhali District.

There are 2.3 million people living in the impact areas. Of which, 1.3 million are Bangladeshi nationals and 960 thousand are Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazaar and Bashan Char.