

WFP Myanmar and Bangladesh Situation Report, Cyclone Mocha

15 May 2023



Preparations in Cox's Bazar for Cyclone Mocha © WFP / Photolibary

In Numbers

8.7 million people live in the path of Cyclone Mocha.¹ The cyclone has struck near Sittwe, one of the least developed parts of Myanmar. In neighbouring Bangladesh, nearly 1 million people living in the world's largest refugee camp also felt the storm's impact.

Highlights

WFP is stepping up to respond in Bangladesh and Myanmar; WFP provided 28,000 Bangladeshis in Teknaf cash before the cyclone struck, and 3,400 Rohingya refugees with fortified biscuits. It is resuming regular assistance to Bangladesh.

In Myanmar, WFP is mobilizing emergency food and nutrition assistance to 800,000 people affected by the cyclone, many of them already displaced by conflict.

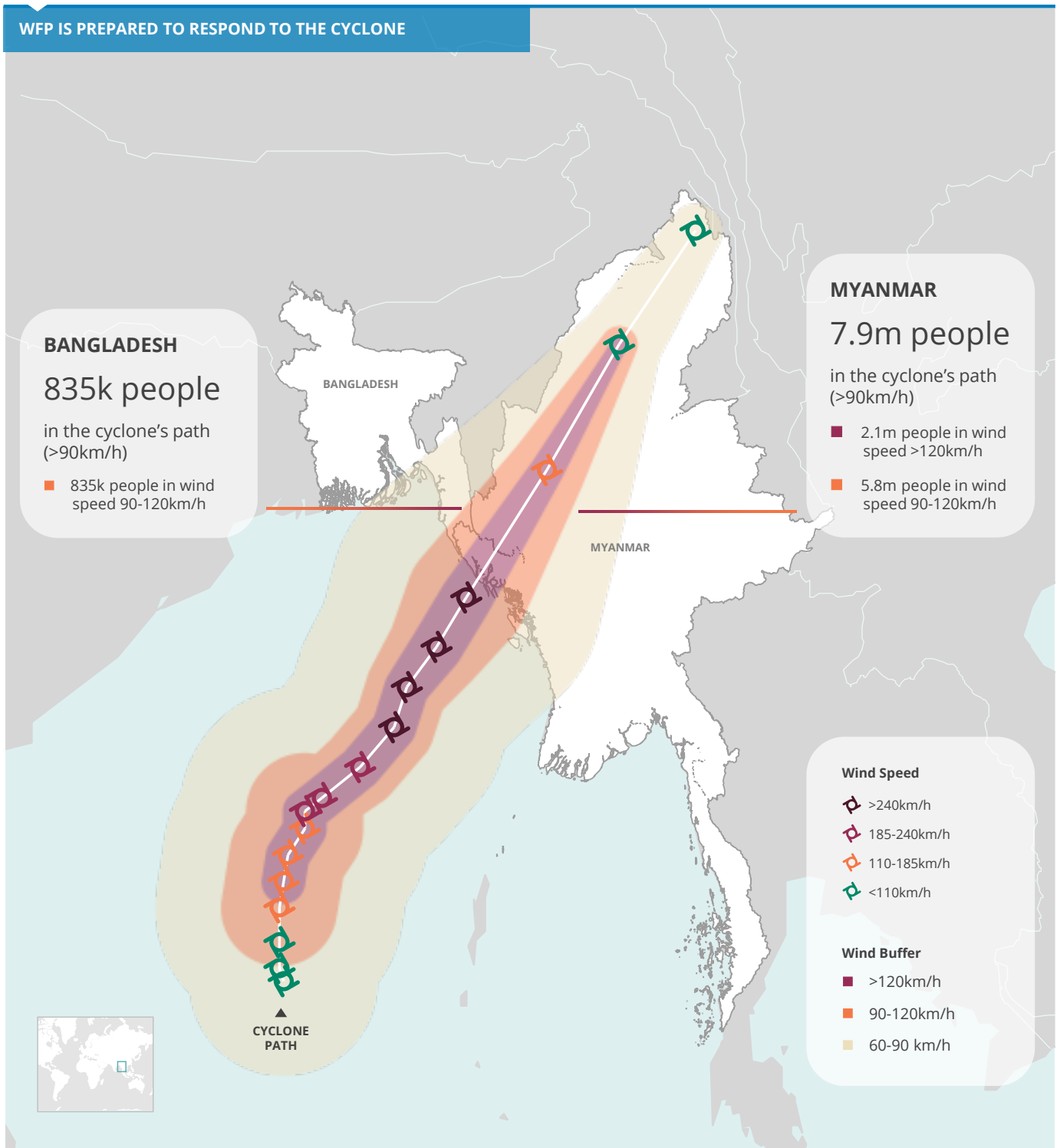
Situation Update

- **Cyclone Mocha is the strongest weather event to strike the area in years.** This extremely severe cyclone made landfall on 14 May and wreaked havoc on millions of the most vulnerable people, particularly in Myanmar.
- **Heavy rains and winds triggered floods and landslides,** further endangering millions of people, particularly in Rakhine (Myanmar), Chittagong and Cox's Bazar (Bangladesh). Ongoing assessments will determine the extent of damage.
- **Initial estimates placed 8.7 million people within the cyclone's direct path** at wind speeds of 90-250km/h. This includes 7.9 million people in Myanmar and 800,000 people in Bangladesh.²
- **Telecommunications and power lines in affected areas were severely disrupted.** WFP's compound in Sittwe (Myanmar), consisting of office and warehouses, has been damaged.
- **This calamity is striking amid severe funding shortages.** In Bangladesh, WFP already had to reduce its life-saving food vouchers for Rohingya refugees in March from US\$12 to US\$ 10 per person per month, and needs US \$61 million until the end of 2023.⁴ In Myanmar, US\$ 60 million is urgently needed for uninterrupted lifesaving assistance to 2.1 million IDPs and vulnerable persons in 2023.
- **The cyclone is the latest crisis, exacerbating existing hardships.** In Myanmar, for example, over 1.8 million people are already internally displaced, including 1.5 million people newly displaced since 1 February 2021.⁵

WFP Response

- **WFP has already mobilized to provide emergency food and nutrition assistance.** In Bangladesh, WFP reached over 28,000 people in Teknaf with anticipatory cash assistance prior to the forecasted cyclone. WFP has also provided nearly 2,000 people in camps in Cox's Bazar and 1,400 people at cyclone shelters in Bhasan Char with fortified biscuits, and is coordinating with 1,200 refugee volunteers to support debris clearance through the joint site maintenance and engineering project.
- **WFP is delivering relief in both countries.** In Myanmar, WFP is mobilizing to provide 800,000 affected people with food and cash. Meanwhile, in Bangladesh WFP is resuming assistance to affected Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar. In both countries, WFP already provides food assistance to hundreds of thousands of people each month.
- **WFP is on the ground and conducting rapid needs assessments, in coordination with OCHA and other humanitarian actors,** to quantify the extent of the damage and support required.
- **WFP is working to mitigate transport and telecommunications disruptions.** Prior to the cyclone making landfall, WFP put systems in place in Bangladesh and Myanmar to serve the broader humanitarian community to store and transport humanitarian aid, and to facilitate connectivity.

WFP IS PREPARED TO RESPOND TO THE CYCLONE



Data is as of 14 May, 08:13 GMT from Automated Disaster Analysis and Mapping (ADAM). The designations employed and the presentation of material in the map(s) do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever of WFP concerning the legal or constitutional status of any country, territory or sea area, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers.

1. This refers to the number of people living in areas where the wind speed is above 90km/h, according to the Automated Disaster Analysis and Mapping (ADAM), 14 May, 08:13 GMT.
2. Ibid.
3. OCHA Myanmar: Cyclone Mocha - Flash Update #2, 13 May
4. Ration cuts refer to the transfer value for general food assistance programme.
5. UNHCR Myanmar Emergency Update, 1 May 2023

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