



12 June 2023

In Numbers

3.4 million people are living in Cyclone Mocha's highest impact zone¹

1.6 million people targeted for the UN cyclone response

At least **800,000** cyclone-affected people are prioritized for WFP's food and nutrition support for an initial three-month period

Highlights

WFP has reached 394,400 people across Rakhine State within the first month of its cyclone response with emergency food assistance.

WFP's ongoing market monitoring in central Rakhine showed a decrease in the prices of some food commodities, particularly rice, following WFP's in-kind food distributions.

WFP will face a critical interruption in all its life-saving activities, starting from August 2023, without a fresh injection of critical funding. WFP urgently needs US\$60 million to ensure uninterrupted emergency food and nutrition assistance.

Situation Update

- **The impact of Cyclone Mocha exacerbated an already precarious food security situation**, particularly in townships and displacement sites in Rakhine State, where households experienced a substantial loss of food stocks and livelihoods, with their shelters destroyed. Local relief and recovery efforts are ongoing across several cyclone-affected areas.
- WFP's initial rapid situation monitoring in five cyclone-affected townships showed that agricultural land, fishponds, and drinking water supplies have been impacted by saltwater intrusion. Extensive crop damage, including rice seed stocks for the planting season starting in June, adds **significant pressure on the medium-to-longer-term food security** of households who are already grappling with disrupted livelihood activities.
- Preliminary results of **WFP's ongoing market monitoring in central Rakhine showed a decrease in the prices of some food commodities, particularly rice, following WFP's in-kind food distributions**. WFP will continue to monitor the market situation, which will inform the gradual resumption and potential expansion of its cash-based transfer (CBT) activities in Rakhine.

WFP Response

- Within the first three weeks of its cyclone response, **WFP has reached some 394,400 people across Rakhine State and Magway Region** with more than 5,400 metric tonnes of mixed food commodities. This comprised:
 - 187,900 new beneficiaries who were affected by the cyclone; and
 - 206,500 cyclone-affected people, most of whom were internally displaced and already part of WFP's regular relief operations before the cyclone.
- WFP's response is complementary to other locally-led relief and recovery efforts. However, as of 08 June, all UN humanitarian activities in Rakhine State have been temporarily suspended by the *de facto* authorities.
- WFP is in close coordination with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and humanitarian partners to advocate for continued approval of essential life-saving activities and access to assist people in need across Rakhine State.

Resourcing

- In line with the UN Flash Appeal released on 23 May 2023, WFP urgently needs **US\$60 million** to ensure uninterrupted emergency food and nutrition assistance to 2.1 million highly food-insecure people across Myanmar until the end of 2023. This includes **US\$23.5 million** to support 440,000 newly targeted people affected by the cyclone for an initial three months.
- WFP is currently supporting the cyclone response using existing resources budgeted for its regular programmes which are rapidly dwindling. While WFP is highly appreciative of pledges received over the last two weeks, if additional resources are not materialized soon, WFP will face a **critical interruption in all its life-saving activities, starting from August 2023.**

Rebuilding Education: WFP's response to cyclone-affected schools in Rakhine State

Myanmar's academic year for basic education has now begun. Schools have reopened where possible following admissions since the last week of May.

Monitoring visits conducted by WFP teams found that in townships most affected by the cyclone, students are facing immense challenges as they return to schools. Many of their houses have been destroyed or severely damaged and yet the repair work is either yet to begin or still in progress.

The impact of the cyclone has not spared the school buildings, with a majority of schools in cyclone-affected areas sustaining severe damages. While those located in urban areas have fared relatively better against the strong

winds, smaller schools in rural areas have been heavily affected. Although repair efforts are underway, lack of water and sanitation facilities, particularly toilets, pose concerns for students.

In response, WFP is preparing to resume and adapt its school feeding programme across Rakhine State, scheduled to commence in July. WFP is planning to provide on-site food support to some 100,000 primary students in Rakhine throughout the school year.

The availability of nutritious school snacks or cooked meals at school will serve as a critical source of nutrition for young students, particularly in the face of heightened food insecurity due to the impact of the cyclone.



Photo: WFP staff member inspects the situation of schools in Rakhine State in preparation for resuming the school feeding programme
© WFP/ Aung Khaing Moe

Contact Us:
WFP Country Director:
Stephen Anderson (stephen.anderson@wfp.org)

Operational Information Management Officer:
Beryl Lo (beryl.lo@wfp.org)

WFP Myanmar Situation Report, Cyclone Mocha
12 June 2023

<https://www.wfp.org/countries/myanmar>