

WFP Myanmar and Bangladesh Situation Report, Cyclone Mocha

16 May 2023

In Numbers

At least **800,000** people in the direct path of the cyclone will need emergency food assistance in Myanmar, according to initial estimates that could still increase¹

960,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh remain at risk and continue to receive WFP assistance.

250km/h winds were inflicted by Cyclone Mocha.

Highlights

In Myanmar, WFP is mobilizing emergency food and cash assistance for at least 800,000 people affected by the cyclone. Figures could still increase following assessments.²

In Bangladesh, WFP provided 28,000 Bangladeshis in Teknaf with cash before the cyclone struck, and 6,000 Rohingya refugees with fortified biscuits and hot meals immediately after. WFP is working to resuming its regular assistance.

Situation Update

- **Cyclone Mocha made landfall on 14 May near Sittwe and is one of the strongest cyclones to ever strike Myanmar.** The cyclone also inflicted damage in Bangladesh, where nearly 1 million people live in the world's largest refugee camp.
- **Widespread destruction of infrastructure has been reported in Central Rakhine (Myanmar),** with households losing substantial food stocks and livelihoods. Flash floods have been reported in Myanmar's dry zone.
- **Transport and accommodation remain a challenge in Myanmar.** Sittwe Airport is still closed, meaning that a two-day journey by road from Yangon is the only available route. Finding accommodation in Sittwe is also a major challenge as most hotels are either full or do not have water.
- **Communications in Sittwe were partially restored on 15 May but remain limited.** WFP's compound in Sittwe, consisting of an office and warehouses, has been damaged.
- **The cyclone disrupted critical assistance for some of the most vulnerable people.** In Cox's Bazar, it has affected 1,135 of WFP's nutrition beneficiaries, including 35 community nutrition volunteers. The cyclone also damaged 16 integrated nutrition facilities, according to preliminary assessments.
- **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 2023.³ In Myanmar, US\$60 million is urgently needed to ensure uninterrupted life-saving assistance to 2.1 million internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups in 2023, including 800,000 cyclone-affected people.

WFP Response

- **In Myanmar, WFP is mobilizing to provide at least 800,000 affected people with emergency food and cash for three months;** these figures are early estimates and could still increase following assessments. This includes 360,000 internally displaced persons and other vulnerable persons already being assisted by WFP, as well as 440,000 new beneficiaries in areas devastated by the cyclone with limited income sources. WFP has begun distributing life-saving food assistance, starting with rations for 600 people in cyclone shelters in Pakkoku, to be followed by rations for 6,000 people in cyclone shelters in Sittwe.
- **WFP is securing additional warehouse space in Yangon,** to increase the storage capacity from 20,000 mt to 45,000 mt. WFP is also urgently deploying mobile storage units to Sittwe.
- **In Bangladesh, WFP is working to resume regular food assistance to 960,000 Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char.** WFP already reached 28,000 people in Teknaf with anticipatory cash assistance prior to the cyclone. On 15 May, WFP

reached 6,000 Rohingya refugees with fortified biscuits or hot meals. WFP also coordinated with refugee volunteers for drainage clearance.

- WFP is on the ground and conducting rapid needs assessments in Bangladesh and Myanmar, with OCHA and other humanitarian actors, to quantify the extent of the damage and support required. The findings will be ready in the coming days.



Responding swiftly to the crisis

WFP provided fortified biscuits to thousands of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh within the first 24 hours of Cyclone Mocha's landfall.

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Supporting people in shelters

WFP has already stepped up to provide rations to 600 people in cyclone shelters in Pakkoku, Myanmar. WFP's food assistance for another 6,000 people in cyclone shelters in Sittwe is also underway.

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1. WFP is conducting assessments to determine the total number of people affected. These figures could still change in the coming days as data becomes clearer.

2. Ibid.

3. Ration cuts refer to the transfer value for general food assistance programme.

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