



WFP Myanmar and Bangladesh Situation Report, Cyclone Mocha

19 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 increase.¹

Almost 500,000 Bangladeshis are estimated to have been affected by the Cyclone; more precision is expected via UN assessments now underway.

Situation Update

- **Cyclone Mocha's landfall (14 May) near Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine State, has caused further distress to the already dire situation in northwest Myanmar.** The cyclone was one of the strongest to ever strike Myanmar, while also inflicting damage in Bangladesh, where nearly 1 million people live in the world's largest refugee camp.
- **WFP estimates that at least 800,000 people are in urgent need of food assistance in Rakhine State, of whom 360,000 are existing beneficiaries and 440,000 are new beneficiaries affected by the cyclone.**²
- **In Myanmar, the de facto authorities have announced a new structure to manage the cyclone response at the field level.** In each affected township, a senior officer will be assigned to oversee response and recovery efforts.

WFP Response

Myanmar

- **WFP has begun to distribute cash, rice, and nutrition supplies to over 190,000 people in central Rakhine State today (19 May),** starting with internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in Sittwe. A concurrent rapid needs assessment is ongoing and will be immediately followed by distributions.
- **In northern Rakhine State, WFP will begin emergency distributions of High Energy Biscuits and rice to 6,000 cyclone-affected people in Bauthidaung and Maungdaw townships.**

Highlights

In Myanmar, WFP has started distributing food, cash, and nutrition supplies to **190,000 cyclone-affected people** in central Rakhine State today.

High Energy Biscuits and rice will be provided to **6,000 affected individuals** in the worst-hit villages in northern Rakhine State as part of the emergency response.

In Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, WFP reached **6,200 Rohingya refugees with emergency hot meals and fortified biscuits.**

- **The first batch of High Energy Biscuits, about 150 mt, is now en route to Sittwe, with an estimated arrival of 22 May.** Subsequent batches will be dispatched in the next 1-2 days. WFP plans to transport 2,000 mt of rice and 400 mt of HEBs from Yangon to Sittwe via waterway and road.
- **Four mobile storage units (MSUs) are ready to be transported to Sittwe to support the storage of relief items for the emergency response.** This is part of a plan to install 16 MSUs in seven locations across Rakhine State.
- **WFP is preparing to procure an additional 6,600 mt of rice and 410 mt of pulses in Myanmar.**

Bangladesh

- **As part of the emergency response, WFP has supported 6,221 Rohingya refugees who are unable to return to their shelters in Cox's Bazar with over 79,000 fortified biscuits and more than 11,300 hot meals since 13 May.**

Resourcing

This calamity is striking amid severe funding shortages.

- **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.**
- **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\$56 million until the end of 2023.**³



© WFP / Saikat Mojumder

Enabling families to prepare for the worst

"I heard there was going to be a cyclone, but I didn't have money at the time [to prepare]. It was very helpful to receive this money. I was able to buy some food for the children just before the cyclone hit."

Samjida is among the millions of people affected by Cyclone Mocha, the strongest cyclone to have hit northwest Myanmar and neighbouring Bangladesh in years. Her family of six received, together with some 28,000 people in Teknaf, [anticipatory cash](#) from WFP prior to the cyclone. Aside from food, she said she will be able to use the remainder to repair the damage caused by the typhoon to her house.

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.

Key Contacts:

Deputy Regional Director: Anthea Webb (anthea.webb@wfp.org)
Bangladesh Country Director: Domenico Scalpelli (domenico.scalpelli@wfp.org)
Myanmar Country Director: Stephen Anderson (stephen.anderson@wfp.org)

WFP Myanmar and Bangladesh
Situation Report, Cyclone Mocha
19 May 2023

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