

WFP Myanmar and Bangladesh Situation Report, Cyclone Mocha

22 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.

Highlights

In Myanmar, WFP has reached 36,000 people across Rakhine State through emergency food and cash distributions, including 5,000 people who received their regular monthly assistance.

In Bangladesh, since the onset of Cyclone Mocha, WFP has reached more than 6,200 refugees with hot meals and fortified biscuits in Cox's Bazar since 13 May, and more than 5,500 refugees with fortified biscuits in Bhasan Char on 14 May.

Situation Update

- A week since Cyclone Mocha – the strongest ever cyclone to strike Myanmar – made landfall, the scope of its destruction has become clearer. According to [OCHA](#), Sittwe and Rathedaung townships are hardest hit in Rakhine State. The cyclone significantly damaged shelters in all communities in these areas. In Rathedaung, all rural health centres, hospitals, and public schools have been destroyed.
- 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
- The destruction of public infrastructure and disruption to water systems limit access to clean drinking water. Cases of diarrhoea outbreaks, especially among children, have been reported.
- The field-level logistics sector coordination mechanism has been established in Sittwe, with WFP as chair and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) as co-chair.

WFP Response

Myanmar

- As of 21 May, WFP has reached nearly **20,000** cyclone-affected people in Sittwe, central Rakhine with emergency distributions of food and cash, including High Energy Biscuits (HEBs).
- In northern Rakhine, WFP has so far reached **16,000** people with rice and HEBs across 36 villages, including 5,000 people following the resumption of regular food assistance distribution.
- WFP has dispatched **423 mt of rice and 16 mt of HEBs** from its warehouses in Sittwe to the townships of Rathedaung, Ponnagyun, and Pauktaw in Rakhine State. More deliveries are expected and distribution of these commodities will start soon.
- About **140 mt more HEBs are expected to arrive in WFP's warehouse in Sittwe tomorrow (23 May)**, with subsequent arrivals in the following days. Mobile storage units, mobile offices, and generators have been dispatched from Yangon, and are estimated to arrive in Sittwe within the week.
- WFP and partners are supporting the initial rapid monitoring of conditions in cyclone-affected areas in Sittwe, Kyauktaw, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun, and Rathedaung. This rapid monitoring will provide more information on the food and support needs of cyclone-affected communities.

Bangladesh

- As part of the emergency response, WFP 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 11,531 hot meals since 13 May. An additional 5,589 refugees in Bhasan Char were supported with 16,767 fortified biscuits on 14 May.
- **WFP has resumed normal operations** in Bhasan Char, and regular e-voucher operations in Cox's Bazar.
- **More than 28,000 Bangladeshis** received cash ahead of the cyclone's landfall, allowing them to better prepare for its impact.

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



A family from Sittwe enjoys lunch with food assistance provided by WFP on 18 May. © WFP / Su Myat Yadanar

WFP provides emergency relief in the immediate aftermath of Cyclone Mocha

The township of Sittwe in Rakhine State (Myanmar) bore a significant brunt of Cyclone Mocha's impact. Its residents were already vulnerable to hunger and WFP has been supporting hundreds of thousands of people in the area even before the cyclone hit.

In the wake of its destruction, Cyclone Mocha has left thousands of people without safe shelter, aggravating the already dire living conditions endured by many due to the ongoing conflict, economic instability, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the onset of the cyclone, WFP has launched an emergency response, starting in Sittwe. WFP has been providing food and cash to thousands of vulnerable people in Rakhine since 17 May.

1. WFP is still determining the total number of people affected. These figures could change as data becomes clearer.

2. Ibid.

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

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