

WFP Myanmar and Bangladesh Situation Report, Cyclone Mocha

24 May 2023



WFP reaches cyclone-affected households in Rakhine State with food. © WFP / Su Myat Yadanar

In Numbers

3.4 million people are living in Cyclone Mocha's highest impact zone (Myanmar),¹ of which 1.6 million are targeted for the cyclone response

780,000 people in Bangladesh, including refugees in all 33 Rohingya refugee camps, plus Bangladeshi communities were affected²

Highlights

Two flash appeals were launched on 23 May, seeking to support 1.6 million people in Myanmar, and 780,000 people in Bangladesh.

In Myanmar, WFP has reached 87,000 people in central and northern Rakhine State through emergency cyclone response and regular relief distributions.

Situation Update

- **Cyclone Mocha hit an already vulnerable area**, with substantial numbers of displaced and crisis-affected people reliant on humanitarian assistance. In Myanmar, **3.4 million people** were living in the highest impact zone.³ In Bangladesh, the cyclone severely affected **780,000 people**, including 536,000 Rohingya refugees and 243,000 Bangladeshis.
- **Cyclone Mocha flash appeals were launched for Myanmar and Bangladesh yesterday, 23 May.**
 - In Myanmar, a US\$333 million **flash appeal** was launched, seeking to support 1.6 million people across five areas (Rakhine, Chin, Sagaing, Magway, and Kachin).
 - In Bangladesh, the Rohingya Refugee Response and the Humanitarian Country Task Team issued a **flash appeal** amounting to US\$42.1 million to respond to Cyclone Mocha and enhance preparedness for the monsoon season a few weeks away.
 - In northern Rakhine State, WFP has so far reached 22,400 cyclone-affected people and 10,900 people through regular relief distributions. Both cyclone response and regular relief distributions are ongoing.
- **WFP's available rice stocks (500 mt) in Sittwe – one of the hardest hit areas – will be distributed today and tomorrow.** WFP is working to temporarily divert or loan other stocks to central Rakhine State and is assessing the feasibility of distributing cash to some beneficiaries.
- **Fifteen trucks carrying 142 mt of HEBs arrived on 23 May in Sittwe from Yangon, and another ten trucks carrying 200 mt of rice are en route.** WFP has requested travel authorization to move a further 2,000 mt of rice by road from Yangon to Sittwe as soon as possible.

WFP Response

Myanmar

- **WFP continues to scale up its response and has so far reached 87,000 people** in central and northern Rakhine through a combination of cyclone response and regular relief distributions:
 - In central Rakhine State, WFP has reached 17,000 cyclone-affected people, as well as 36,700 regular beneficiaries, many of whom were also affected by the cyclone.
- **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.

Bangladesh

Resourcing

This calamity is striking amid severe funding shortages.

- In Myanmar, WFP urgently needs US\$60 million 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, the cyclone has exacerbated refugees' precarious situation in the camps. WFP has already

been forced to reduce its life-saving e-vouchers for refugees from US\$12 to US\$10 per person per month last March due to funding constraints; in June, the rations will be cut even further from US\$10 to US\$8 per month.⁴ WFP urgently requires US\$56 million to restore the full ration until the end of 2023. In addition, it is seeking US\$4.1 million through the flash appeal to assist Bangladeshis who have lost their livelihoods and to replenish and prepare for future storms in the camps and local communities.



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Rebuilding and restoring together

In the aftermath of Cyclone Mocha, volunteers and participants of WFP's cash-for-work activity in Bangladesh have come together to support cyclone-affected communities with emergency drain cleaning and debris clearing in the camps, alongside regular maintenance activities under the site maintenance and engineering project.

1. Total number of people living in >120km/h wind speed zones.

2. Rohingya Refugee Response and the Humanitarian Country Task Team, Cyclone Mocha Flash Appeal Bangladesh May to December 2023

3. Above, n 1

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

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