



## WFP Myanmar and Bangladesh Situation Report, Cyclone Mocha

18 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.<sup>1</sup>

### Highlights

WFP distributed rations to at least 2,000 people in cyclone shelters in Sittwe (Rakhine State) on 17 May, with plans to reach 6,000 in the coming days.

More than 11,000 hot meals were provided for lunch and dinner to Rohingya refugees who are still unable to return to their shelters in Bangladesh since 13 May.

### 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.
- In Myanmar, 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.<sup>2</sup>
- In Myanmar, commercial flights have resumed to/from Sittwe airport on 18 May and WFP surge staff have started to arrive by both road and flights in the past day.
- In Bangladesh, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office reported 429,400 Bangladeshi nationals have been affected by Cyclone Mocha in Cox's Bazar, Chattogram, Noakhali, and Feni.<sup>3</sup> In its aftermath, 120 landslides and areas of soil erosion impacted refugee shelters in the camps. Damage to learning centres has impacted 15,000 refugee girls and boys. Repair work on damaged learning centres has begun.
- Some 337 houses of Bangladeshis participating in WFP's livelihood programme were damaged; at least 134 structures used for meetings and training sessions and vegetable plots were also damaged, according to initial field data.
- Several kilometres of roads and slopes are damaged in Cox's Bazar. The Site Management and Engineering Project estimated 275 metres of access roads and 4,800 metres of slope protection need to be repaired, and 11 culverts and canals to be cleared of debris. WFP's logistics hub near the camps also requires repairs.

### WFP Response

#### Myanmar



- WFP has begun rapid food distributions in Sittwe (Rakhine State), reaching at least 2,000 people on 17 May, with thousands more to be assisted in the coming days.
- WFP is mobilizing to reach 800,000 cyclone-affected people with emergency food and cash for three months. This includes 360,000 internally displaced persons and other vulnerable persons already being assisted by WFP, and 440,000 new beneficiaries in areas devastated by the cyclone with limited income sources. These figures are preliminary estimates and could still increase as more information emerges.
- WFP continues to advocate for access to distribute food in Buthidaung south, the most affected area in northern Rakhine state.

## Bangladesh

- WFP has resumed normal operations in Bhasan Char, and regular e-voucher operations in Cox's Bazar. Meanwhile, WFP is also providing hot meals as part of the emergency response to Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar who are still unable to return to their shelters since 13 May. WFP has served a total of 11,257 hot meals to date.
- WFP has also resumed distributions of biscuits to Rohingya children under the school feeding programme in the camps and in the surrounding community.
- Joint assessments of food security needs in the camps and surrounding Bangladeshi communities began on 16 May, coordinated by WFP, FAO, Food Security Sector and the Food Security Cluster. Results are anticipated by early next week.

- Between 13 and 16 May, 332 emergency cash-for-work participants engaged in cleaning drains and debris in the camps, alongside regular maintenance activities under the disaster risk reduction programme.

## Resourcing

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.<sup>4</sup>
- 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.



## Delivering timely assistance with anticipatory cash

*“Getting that money before the cyclone helped a lot.”*

Minara and her family are some of the 28,000 people in Teknaf who received [anticipatory cash](#) from WFP prior to the cyclone. She was able to buy food, water, and medicine for the children using that money.

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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. United Nations Bangladesh: Cyclone Mocha Humanitarian Response [Situation Report](#), 16 May 2023

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

### Key Contacts:

Deputy Regional Director: Anthea Webb ([anthea.webb@wfp.org](mailto:anthea.webb@wfp.org))

Bangladesh Country Director: Domenico Scalpelli

([domenico.scalpelli@wfp.org](mailto:domenico.scalpelli@wfp.org))

Myanmar Country Director: Stephen Anderson

([stephen.anderson@wfp.org](mailto:stephen.anderson@wfp.org))

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