

KEY FIGURES



Bangladesh



2.3M

people impacted
by Cyclone Mocha



930k

Rohingya refugees
impacted



Myanmar



3.2M

considered as the
most vulnerable



5.4M

people impacted
by Cyclone Mocha



Shelters at an IDP site in Rakhine State Central which have been destroyed by Cyclone Mocha ©UNHCR/Travis Wesley Lyon

On 14 May, Cyclone Mocha made landfall near Sittwe, Myanmar Rakhine State's capital, bringing heavy rainfall, strong winds, and causing landslides in some areas. The cyclone had a devastating impact on homes and infrastructures, affecting millions of people. In Bangladesh, while initial reports indicate the worst of the cyclone spared Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char, many families from the refugee and surrounding host communities were affected and thousands of homes and facilities destroyed.

In Myanmar, UNHCR is supporting response and coordination efforts as part of the United Nations Humanitarian Country Team. Myanmar is now facing an emergency within a crisis, with initial reports indicating extensive damages and acutely high needs. An estimated **5.4 million** people were in the path of over 90km per hour winds, damaging houses and infrastructure. **3.2 million** are estimated to be need of humanitarian assistance. Rakhine State bore the brunt of the cyclone. The devastation compounds the hardships of some 1.8 million IDPs, including 1.5 million newly displaced by the volatile situation across the country, since 1 February 2021 (<https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/myanmar>). Access restrictions are also making it difficult for humanitarian actors to reach those in need.

In Bangladesh, some **2.3 million** people have been affected by the cyclone. UNHCR is supporting the government-led response and is working closely with the humanitarian community via the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), displaced and host communities, as well as community leaders and volunteers. In Cox's Bazaar – home to the world's largest refugee camp – efforts are underway to assess damage and provide emergency assistance to those in need. The situation in Bhasan Char is less critical with no casualties or damage to shelters or facilities reported after authorities evacuated some 30,000 refugees to 53 dedicated cyclone shelters as a precautionary measure. Most reportedly returned to their homes after the cyclone passed.

However, the capacity to respond and prepare for the upcoming monsoon season in Myanmar and Bangladesh is heavily strained and more support is urgently needed to bolster the humanitarian response to affected communities.

IMPACT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Myanmar

- Although some networks resumed services, telecommunications continue to remain challenging in some locations, making it difficult to fully assess the impact of the cyclone. UNHCR's field teams continue their efforts to assess the needs in Rakhine and Chin States, and the Magway and Sagaing regions. Initial reports indicate extensive damage on the ground, particularly in Rakhine, with Sittwe being the hardest hit. In all IDP camps, shelters have been severely damaged, requiring immediate emergency shelter support. Infrastructure and community centres have not been spared.
- In the North-West, severe flooding has reportedly affected more than 100,000 people in villages in the Magway and Sagaing Regions. Explosive ordnance risks are high in conflict-affected rural areas where landmines may have shifted during flooding, and where people have been on the move to safer areas.
- In addition to shelter, and based on available information, the most pressing needs include food healthcare, and safe drinking water. UNHCR had pre-positioned shelter materials and core relief items including blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, and mosquito nets in its warehouses in Rakhine State. However, current in-country stocks of core relief items are unlikely to meet the needs of the projected number of people requiring the most urgent assistance.
- Together with other humanitarian partners, UNHCR continues to advocate for unimpeded humanitarian access to assist communities requiring urgent assistance. UNHCR stands ready to deliver, as it undertakes stock-taking and mapping of existing supply and transport routes for relief items to be delivered to affected areas.

Bangladesh

- Inter-agency joint needs assessments have been ongoing, and the preliminary findings indicate that at least 8,000 households have been damaged, affecting some 36,900 individuals. 256 households were displaced (1,125 individuals) and moved to different camps. Host communities have not been displaced. All of Cox's Bazar 33 camps are affected, with a total of 150 blocks affected (out of a total of 177 blocks).
- Preliminary rapid damage assessments in Cox's Bazar carried out after the cyclone's aftermath indicate widespread partial or full damage to some 4,374 shelters, over 200 WASH facilities and various infrastructures such as registration sites and multi-purpose centres in UNHCR-managed camps.
- UNHCR and partners are prioritizing the households with severely damaged shelters, as well as labour support for extremely vulnerable households. To date, over **1,934 households** were reached with shelter support. Protection services such as GBV, child protection, psychological first aid, legal services, awareness sessions continue to be provided to communities despite disruptions to some community-based centres. Psychological first aid was provided to 512 individuals, including children and persons with disabilities. 11 health facilities have been moderately affected by the cyclone and five have been repaired.
- With the roads to the camps (Ukhiya and Teknaf) now accessible, more comprehensive needs assessments are underway to determine and scale up the required support. The most urgent needs reported are shelters, food, water, security and health.
- Trained refugee volunteers are continuing to assist across the different sectoral response efforts.

COORDINATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

In Myanmar, UNHCR is part of the UN Humanitarian Country Team and leads the Protection and Shelter/NFI/CCCM clusters. In Bangladesh, UNHCR co-leads the Inter-Sector Coordination Group. Inter-agency response plans in both countries remain severely underfunded. Currently, the requirements of the 2023 Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis is USD 875.9 million (only 16.8 per cent funded) while the requirements for the 2023 Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan is USD 764 million (only funded at 10 per cent).

In Myanmar, UNHCR requires a total of USD 68.7 million (34 per cent funded) and in Bangladesh USD 275 million (30 per cent funded). The Office is currently evaluating potential additional requirements to respond to this new emergency.



Myanmar, Rakhine. Shelters at Kyauktaw City Hall IDP site in Rakhine State (Central) which have been destroyed during cyclone Mocha
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