

HIGHLIGHTS

	<p>Extremely Severe Cyclone Mocha hit Myanmar's Rakhine State with force on 14 May 2023, making impact close to its capital, Sittwe. This was one of the strongest cyclones ever recorded in Myanmar, with windspeeds of up to 250 kmph.</p>
	<p>IOM launched its Cyclone Mocha Flash Appeal on 26 May 2023, requesting USD 11.25 million to target 75,000 people with life-saving humanitarian assistance. IOM's Flash Appeal is fully aligned with the Inter-Agency Flash Appeal.</p>
	<p>IOM Mobile Clinics have so far seen 1,094 patients in Rakhine State, while negotiations for broader access are ongoing.</p>

SITUATION OVERVIEW





It has been almost three weeks since Extremely Severe Cyclone Mocha made landfall near Sittwe, Rakhine State, on 14 May 2023, bringing winds of up to 250 kmph. It was one of the strongest cyclones ever to hit the country. As the monsoon season approaches, humanitarian actors are working to rapidly respond to humanitarian needs. Safe shelter remains a key priority, along with health assistance, clean water, safe and functional sanitation facilities, non-food items (NFI) and food assistance.

Aid organizations have been working to deliver assistance where possible, as well as to bring stocks of needed items to Rakhine from Yangon, as markets in the affected areas are struggling to meet demand and prices of key commodities have skyrocketed. However, the many political and bureaucratic challenges in Myanmar are limiting the movement of relief items into and around the country, while wider access to transport humanitarian supplies and movement of responders is urgently needed.

There continues to be obstacles to the roll out of comprehensive inter-agency needs assessment, due to bureaucratic impediments, limited access in specific areas due to the ongoing conflict and logistical barriers. With telecommunications and electricity not yet fully restored, information remains limited. However, some sectoral information has started to emerge from partners who were already on the ground, highlighting shelter, NFI, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and food as the key priority sectors for the response.



IOM mobile clinic activities in an IDP camp in Sittwe, Rakhine State. © IOM 2023

	<p>Shelter/NFI: Initial estimates that up to 90 per cent of houses in Rakhine have been unroofed are particularly worrying as wetter and warmer conditions are predicted for affected regions for the next week. Markets are heavily disrupted while large scale shelter and NFI assistance has not been able to reach affected areas yet due to the abovementioned constraints.</p>
	<p>Health: Most health facilities in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, Pauktaw, and Sittwe townships in Rakhine, where IOM is implementing health programs, were damaged and most remain non-functional. Teams report that traumatic injury cases remain common but lesser in number compared to the first week. Other common morbidities diagnosed include acute viral infection (AVI), upper respiratory tract infection (URTI), diarrhoea, and non-communicable diseases such as hypertension and diabetes mellitus.</p>
	<p>WASH: Cluster partners in Rakhine have reported that over 200 water sources were flooded by seawater, affecting over 100,000 people in seven townships. According to WASH Cluster partners active in the Northwest, around 700 households in Chin, 4,800 households in Magway, and 2,800 households in Sagaing have been affected. These figures are strictly indicative and are expected to continue to rise, particularly considering the mentioned obstacles to comprehensive assessments.</p>
	<p>Food: In Rakhine, initial field observations make clear that seawater has devastated agricultural land and that livestock and food stocks have been destroyed at large scale, affecting both immediate food needs and longer-term food security.</p>

IOM RESPONSE

IOM has launched a [Cyclone Mocha Flash Appeal](#), requesting **USD 11.25 million to reach 75,000 people with assistance in several key areas: health, protection, shelter/NFI/CCCM, WASH and food security**. Complementing its [Crisis Response Plan for 2023](#), the IOM Flash Appeal calls for USD 2 million to provide health assistance to 60,000 people through provision of integrated health services through mobile clinics, emergency referrals for secondary care, strengthening capacity for health surveillance and disease prevention. A further USD 3.75 million is required to reach 75,000 people with emergency shelter kits, shelter repair tool kits and NFIs such as blankets, solar lamps, mosquito nets and clothing kits; USD 1.5 million is needed to reach 30,000 people with protection assistance including awareness raising activities on prevention of trafficking in persons (TIP), explosive ordinance risk education (EORE), and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) activities; USD 1.5 million is needed to reach 45,000 people with rehabilitated WASH infrastructure and emergency WASH supplies; and USD 2.5 million to reach 50,000 people with in-kind food assistance and multi-purpose cash assistance.

Shelter/NFI

- IOM has been looking at different ways to bring in aid to affected areas in consideration of various operational obstacles in aid delivery. IOM Myanmar and IOM Bangladesh, with the facilitation of UN OCHA, have coordinated on the dispatch of emergency relief items, which are expected to arrive in Sittwe in the coming days. Additionally, large scale procurement of shelter and NFI items and the shipment of these from Yangon to Sittwe, is underway.
- IOM and donors are coordinating on the shipment of in-kind shelter and NFI items to be distributed in affected areas.

Health

- IOM is coordinating with Township Health Departments (THDs) in Rakhine for broader access to cyclone-affected areas and to allow mobile teams to provide health assistance to affected populations. Additional IOM surge staff to augment the mobile teams arrived in Sittwe on 25 May.
- During this reporting period, a total of 649 patients received direct health services from IOM mobile teams in eight locations in Sittwe. Mobile clinic activities were initiated in Pauktaw from 28 May, reaching a total of 234 patients. Since 18 May 2023, a total of 1,094 patients have been seen by IOM Mobile Clinics.
- IOM Mobile Clinic teams also distributed chlorination tables in both Sittwe and Pauktaw.
- In Maungdaw and Buthidaung, IOM focused on health awareness and community engagement. IOM conducted health education sessions, such as demonstration of chlorination, distribution of chlorine tablets, while partners including from the THDs, conducted mobile clinic activities.