HIGHLIGHTS

- On 14 May, an extremely severe Cyclone Mocha crossed the coast between Cox’s Bazar in Bangladesh and Rakhine State in Myanmar with the wind estimated as high as 250kmph.
- Chin state, as well as Magway and Sagaing regions further inland and the Ayeyarwaddy Delta Region further south were also affected.
- While the number of deaths, injuries and affected population are currently being assessed, initial reports indicate the most number of casualties in Rakhine State as of 17th May 2023.
- All 17 townships in Rakhine - have been officially declared as natural disaster affected areas and are reportedly densely populated, prone to floods, with poorly built houses.
- Four townships in Chin State - Tiddim, Paletwa, Matupi and Haka - were additionally declared as natural disaster-affected regions as of 17th May 2023.
- Ministry of Health has announced general health warnings for cyclone – affected areas to be cautious of the health – related problems that can occur after the Cyclone.
- The General Hospital in Sittwe was heavily damaged and remains open only for emergency services for very ill patients. It is currently using a generator for electricity and pumping of ground water. All staff quarters have been destroyed.
- Seven communication towers were destroyed by the Cyclone and mobile/internet services were down in the areas affected – particularly in Rakhine State. Currently two remain functional, but with irregular network connections.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

(UNOFFICAL – yet to be confirmed)

NOTE: The data in this Sitrep is from local partners and local sources.

Deaths 48
Injuries
(fact to be compiled)
Damaged health facilities 59
Affected Population 494,329
Damaged Homes 44,928
Damaged schools 439

Photo: A bridge to Thae Chaung IDP camp that was destroyed by Cyclone Mocha. Sittwe, Rakhine. Credit: UNOCHA Myanmar/2023
WHO Response

- Incident Management Team was formed in WCO Myanmar in effect to facilitate preparedness, response and recovery actions to be taken.

- Rapid Needs Assessment which was planned to determine the scale and severity of the destruction, size of the affected population, identification of humanitarian needs/priorities of different affected groups is being rolled out using alternate methodologies, while awaiting clearance.

- Contingency plan of preparedness/response on Cyclone Mocha was prepared in coordination with the Inter – Cluster Coordination Group. A strategic health response plan is being prepared.

- Mobilized 500 inter-agency emergency health kits (basic kits – 1000 people for 3 months), 100,000 water purification tablets to Rakhine province.

- Currently, the list of supplies and equipment requested by health cluster partners are being prioritized to explore possibilities.

- The urgent needs for the value of USD 350,000 essential medical supplies - inter-agency emergency health kits (IEHKs), trauma kits, cholera kits (investigation & community kits), and cholera RDT are being arranged for immediate delivery as part of the emergency response.

- Range of activities to provide the health services are being planned.