HIGHLIGHTS

- Almost one month after Cyclone Mocha, travel authorizations to international and local aid organizations working on emergency response in Rakhine State have been suspended for the month of June.
- As a result, there may be a significant risk of delay in reaching out to the affected communities with lifesaving, essential health services, medical supplies and medicines due to this imposed restriction of movement to humanitarian operations.
- After facing strong criticism from the international community and UN, there are now reports that the decision was reconsidered allowing again access of NGOs to Rakhine State. Either of these decisions are still unverified as they have not been communicated through official channels.
- The monsoon season has arrived in Myanmar, further worsening the living situation and hygiene and sanitation access of people whose houses were damaged by Cyclone Mocha, increasing risks for waterborne and other communicable diseases.
- In the aftermath of Cyclone Mocha, almost all townships in central and northern Rakhine State, have been without electricity for more than 20 days due to fallen power poles, cut power cables and damaged substations.
- Thousands of internally displaced people (IDPs) are facing livelihood hardships as they have yet to receive relief items in the wake of the destruction by Cyclone Mocha (estimated 231,600 for Rakhine and 116,700 for Kachin).
- Cases of mosquito-borne dengue fever have become more common due to an increase in stagnant water and waste and the lack of proper drainage and sanitation around houses and drains in townships in post-cyclone Rakhine State.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

(UNOFFICIAL – yet to be verified)

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

Deaths 148
Injuries 131
Damaged health facilities 476
Affected Population 1.23M
(Affected Townships 21
(17 Rakhine, 4 Chin State)

Damage buildings in Sittwe Township after one month of Cyclone Mocha hit Rakhine State
Photo: Than Naing/ WHO Myanmar/2023
WHO Response

Planning & Partner Coordination

Contingency health sector plan is being prepared for recovery phase and medium/long – term planning to ensure the inclusion of all necessary health issues and partners, while having synergy and complementarity with other sectors. Technical discussions are ongoing with the health authorities on preparation for the monsoon season and resumption of health services.

Coordination meeting at Sittwe Township Rakhine State is held bi – weekly to discuss the operational status/needs and gaps from the health partners. EWARS Refresher training is provided to Rakhine health partners to improve disease outbreak detection in this emergency setting.

Surveillance and Information Management

In Chin State, Magway Region and Sagaing Region with ongoing intensified conflict, information of surveillance on communicable disease outbreaks is still limited. During 14 May – 11 June 2023, total 17,799 medical consultations were provided to cyclone affected community including IDPs in 11 townships of Rakhine State as per available data. Most of the consultations were minor injuries and general illness. While the trend of AWD is found to be decreasing over last 3 weeks, influenza like illness cases are still increasing over this period.

161 out of 17,799 cases (0.9%) reported as acute watery diarrhea in nineteen locations. Among them, 75% of cases (120 cases) were <5 children and the remaining 25% were adults. 143 out of 17,799 cases (0.8%) as influenza like illness cases in seven locations. 73% of total cases (105 cases) were reported under <5 children.

Essential Health Services

Discussion is ongoing for strengthening of immunization activities in the cyclone affected communities. Based on the information from the ground, despite the availability of commodities, HIV service delivery is disrupted due to the damaged health facilities not only in Rakhine State but also in 4 townships of Chin State. Interventions on mental health and sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are being discussed to support together with the local partners.
Operational Support and Logistics

Emergency OSL supplies are being arranged through multiple channels with yet pending approvals since the last Sitrep #5 reporting period.

Risk Communications

Print-outs of Acute Watery Diarrhea (Myanmar language) will be distributed to the Cyclone affected areas through health cluster partners in due course when the transportation allows. Awareness raising materials on Influenza like illness are shared through social media platforms and infographics for water–borne disease – cholera and vector – borne disease (dengue) are being translated into Myanmar language considering the health risks of monsoon season.

Surge Capacity

WHO Myanmar continues to support the 5 clinical Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) in 5 townships of Rakhine State, as well as support of 125 local staffs for public health interventions. Technical discussions are ongoing for further support to additional RRTs (clinical and Public Health) preparation for possible outbreaks is in progress including prepositioning of Cholera RDT, water purification tablets, lab kits. The country office is also planning to send the respective teams from Yangon to the affected regions on rotation to provide technical expertise and map service availability.

Links to WHO Myanmar Resources

Previous Sitreps #1, #2, #3, #4, #5

Website https://www.who.int/myanmar

Social Media Facebook Twitter Instagram Viber Community