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## Myanmar Office

### CYCLONE MOCHA

Humanitarian Situation  
Report No.8

Date: 27-29 May 2023

## Highlights

- Cases of child neglect are reported, as caregivers are preoccupied with survival and suffering from psychosocial distress, increasing child protection risks, including physical risks of playing in debris or water unsupervised, as well as exposure of children to trafficking, violence or exploitation.
- 1,113 primary health care consultations have been provided in Rakhine through mobile health clinics from May 22 to date.
- UNICEF and partners continued to provide mental health and psychosocial support, including psychosocial first aid, to 1,432 people (653 girls, 623 boys, 88 women, 68 men) through safe spaces and mobile child-friendly spaces in both Rakhine and Northwest.

## Situation in Numbers



**3.4 million**

people in affected areas (OCHA)



**1.6 million**

people targeted for humanitarian assistance (OCHA)



**500,000**

new additional caseload (OCHA)

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The humanitarian situation in regions and states affected by Cyclone Mocha continues to be a concern, as challenges in a number of affected sectors will have an impact on children's survival, wellbeing and development.

Telecommunication remains the major constraint for collecting and sharing information in both Rakhine and the Northwest. Electricity resumed with limited hours (4-8 hours) in almost all areas of the Northwest while Rakhine State remains with no electricity. Humanitarian access to the affected population continues to be a challenge due to bureaucratic impediments, ongoing conflict and restrictions on movement and supply transportation. Affected people, including children and women, are at risk of explosive ordnance, mainly in conflict-affected areas. UNICEF's Rakhine field office is replenishing stocks to scale up or continue assistance to affected children and populations. Transport takes longer than usual and there are delays in the arrival of supplies due to administrative process and several checkpoints.

According to WASH Cluster partners, about 700 households in Chin State, 4,800 households in Magway, and 2,800 households in Sagaing Region have been affected. These numbers may increase, as partners are still collecting information in some areas. To date, approximately 41,500 people have been identified as having suffered impacts from the cyclone, with WASH assistance - especially safe drinking water, emergency latrines, and hygiene supplies - the priority needs.

WASH Cluster partners reported that 208 ponds/ wells were flooded by salty water, affecting 101,378 people from 9,152 households in seven townships of Rakhine State affected by the cyclone. 193 open wells' roofing sheets and wooden structures were damaged by storm winds in 46 villages in six townships (Sittwe, Ponnagyun, Mrauk U, Minbya, Maungdaw, and Man Aung). Two LifeStraw buildings were damaged in two villages in Minbya Township. Over 2,800 latrines were damaged in protracted camps and displacement sites in eight townships.

Among 14 static nutrition treatment out-patient therapeutic programme and supplementary feeding program (OTP/SFP) centres in Rakhine, four centres were totally destroyed by the cyclone and need new buildings/ reconstruction, while an additional 10 centres need minor repairs.

Partners reported that children are roaming around without clothes, often unsupervised, increasing child protection risks, including physical risks of playing in debris or water unsupervised, as well as exposure to trafficking, violence or exploitation. There is a need for support to caregivers, who require mental health and psychosocial support, as distress is impacting their capacity to care for their children. Cases of child neglect are reported, as caregivers are preoccupied with survival and suffering from psychosocial distress. Children and caregivers with disabilities need additional support. Adolescent girls are exposed to risks of sexual abuse, as they report travelling long distances to fetch household water.

## UNICEF Response

UNICEF has a presence in Sittwe and Maungdaw in Rakhine State, with 32 staff working to meet the needs of children in the State. An additional team has been deployed to Sittwe, composed of Programme and Operations colleagues, to support the team and initiate repairs for the UNICEF Sittwe office and warehouse, which were heavily damaged. In the Northwest, the response is coordinated from Hakha and Yangon.

### WASH

UNICEF and partners have reached 31,725 affected people through the distribution of family hygiene kits, soaps, buckets, jerry cans, water purification sachets and water trucking for most affected villages in Rakhine. To address the saline intrusion in ponds, UNICEF is prioritising emptying 165 ponds across six Rakhine townships before the arrival of the rainy season.

UNICEF partners started distributing water purification chemicals and hygiene kits for 12,440 affected population in Buthidaung and Rathedaung.

### WASH Cluster

In Rakhine State, partners distributed 14,565 full hygiene kits, 13,375 refill hygiene kits, and 1,796 water filters in displacement sites in three townships. Partners supported water trucking to eight displacement sites in Kyauktaw and 17 displacement sites in Sittwe. Distribution of drinking water bottles, water purification tablets and oral rehydration salts are ongoing in Rakhine State.

WASH Cluster organized a training for WASH knowledge sharing for staff from civil society organizations and local and national non-governmental organizations about chlorination, along with a demonstration on how to use purification tablets on 27 May 2023. UNICEF provided 1,000 hygiene kits, 1,000 plastic buckets (20L), 2,000 plastic buckets (10 L), 2,000 collapsible water-containers, 150 tarpaulin sheets, 150 ropes, 5 drums of calcium hypochlorite, 2,000 soap bars, 100 boxes of water floc and disinfectant, 2 water tanks, and 50 garbage bins (40L) to local organizations for distribution in affected villages in Sittwe and Ponnagyun townships.

In the Northwest, the renovation of water sources and emergency latrines is urgently needed, as most water sources have been contaminated and latrine pits were affected by the flood.

### Health

UNICEF's partners in Rakhine continue to provide primary health care services in eight townships with at least nine mobile health clinics/sessions daily to vulnerable people, including pregnant women and children. 1,113 consultations have been provided for primary health care services from May 22 to date. These consultations include ante-natal care services to 44 pregnant women, treatment of 26 cases of acute watery diarrhoea, of which two patients presented with severe dehydration, and 44 cases of acute respiratory tract infection. Referral support was provided to 12 pregnant women and one severely ill child in four days. Two staff from Yangon are being deployed to assist the Sittwe Field Team in the response. Operational support is being provided through a contractor to maintain the vaccine cold chain in the Sittwe subdepot. Essential medicines and equipment, together with WASH items, are being transported to facilitate the functionality of hospitals and health facilities in four affected townships of Rakhine.

### Nutrition

Three out of seven treatment centers in Sittwe, Rakhine have resumed services. It is expected that two more centers will start functioning in the coming days in temporary spaces. During the reporting period, UNICEF partners reached a

total 721 children aged 6- to 59-months-old with active screening and 16 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) have been identified and admitted. 233 pregnant and lactating women (were reached with multiple micronutrient tablet supplementation and 420 were supported with infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling services.

There has been SAM treatment service gap in Ponnagyun Township and UNICEF is coordinating with partners to address the need. Based on guidelines on infant and young child feeding in emergencies, UNICEF refilled and provided infant formula for non-breastfed under 6-month children whose supplies were lost or damaged during the cyclone in Kyaw Taw Township. Essential supplies for the treatment of SAM, including ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) were provided to partners and about 25 children with SAM are expected to benefit.

UNICEF is coordinating with partners for the promotion of IYCF practices with pregnant and lactating women in cyclone-affected communities by providing counselling services while supporting the provision of nutritious food baskets to an estimated 1,889 pregnant and lactating women in 34 villages in Pauktaw that are heavily affected by Cyclone Mocha.

During the reporting period, partners provided IYCF counselling to 15 caregivers of children under 2 years and provided RUTF for one child under the age of five year with SAM, and ready-to-use supplementary food for 14 children with moderate acute malnutrition in Northwest region.

### Nutrition Cluster

In Rakhine, a one-off blanket distribution of ready-to-use supplementary food is planned, targeting 4,100 children (6-59 months) with 15 sachets per child for one month in displacement sites in seven townships. As Baw Da Pha Rohigya camps and Hla Ma Chay rural centres were the hardest hit, they need total renovation. Due to the absence of support infrastructure, around 153 cases of malnutrition (121 under-five and 32 caregivers) have been referred to the nearest integrated nutrition centres in Ohn Taw Gyi and Thae Kae Pyin for regular follow-up and consultations.

A total of 1,593 individuals (934 children under-5, and 659 caregivers) received nutrition assistance, including treatment, prevention, and follow-up services through staff and partners.

In the Northwest, all nutrition partners are currently engaged in their regular activities, such as **infant and young child complementary feeding**, community awareness **raising**, **community mobilization**, **outpatient therapeutic feeding targeted supplementary feeding** and **blanket supplementary feeding** in their targeted areas in Sagaing Region, Magway Region and Chin State.

Preventive responses have been initiated in the Northwest, through blanket supplementary feeding to about 666 people (children under 2 years, and pregnant and lactating mothers) through partners' efforts.

### Child Protection

In Sagaing, Magway, Mandalay and Chin, UNICEF and partners continued to provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), including psychosocial first aid, to 213 children (142 girls, 71 boys) through safe spaces and mobile child-friendly spaces. Additional child safeguarding awareness raising sessions were provided for 359 caregivers who were taking care of cyclone-affected children to help them cope with the trauma and anxiety experienced by their wards. Two child victims of landmines were reported in Matupi Township. One of the children died and the other was seriously maimed.

To further support the psychosocial wellbeing of cyclone-affected children in Rakhine, UNICEF and partners delivered 300 child protection kits to child survivors of Cyclone Mocha in Sittwe and Ponnagyun Townships. 1,219 individuals (511 girls, 552 boys, 88 women, 68 men) participated in MHPSS sessions, while 12 children (5 girls and 7 boys) received temporary care arrangements within their community. Key child protection messages were delivered to 563 individuals (77 girls, 80 boys, 229 women, 177 men).

MHPSS messages targeting caregivers and young people were shared on 20 May through a post on a UNICEF-supported advocacy and awareness raising MHPSS Facebook page. The post targeted areas impacted by the cyclone, including Chin, Sagaing, Rakhine, and Magway. The messages included information on normal reactions of distress and the importance of connecting to others to build a positive coping mechanism after a crisis and reached 75,053 youth and caregivers. The post was reshared by viewers 119 times and generated 6,843 reactions and positive comments.

### Child Protection AoR

CP AoR partners provided MHPSS and psychological first aid in both Rakhine and the Northwest, including on caring for children during adverse situations, using social media platforms. The AoR partners reached both children and caregivers. Help desks have been established in the Northwest for children and caregivers to respond to their immediate

needs, while raising awareness on key child protection messages. Child Protection kits were distributed in the Northwest and Rakhine, but there remains a significant gap due to challenges of transportation from Yangon. Many have been dispatched and will be available for distribution this week.

### **Mine Action AoR**

Explosive ordnance risk education delivery continues in areas affected by Cyclone Mocha. Partners are delivering tailored safety messages through direct presentations to communities, distribution of new posters and other material, social media campaigns, as well as through local radio channels. Safety training for aid-workers involved in the cyclone response has been organised in the Northwest and will continue to be delivered on a regular basis. Similar arrangements are being made for Rakhine.

### **Education**

UNICEF has been coordinating with the Education Cluster in Rakhine to conduct ongoing assessments. In the Northwest, UNICEF is continuing to work with implementing partners on the distribution of essential learning kits (5,440 sets) and short-term home-based learning materials (2,472 sets) in IDP camps in a township affected by the cyclone and armed conflict. UNICEF is also coordinating with members of the Education Cluster for the distribution of pre-positioned roofing sheets.

### **Education Cluster**

In Rakhine, mobilization and planning is ongoing for partners to commence some Opening Learning Orientation sessions, while temporary learning spaces destroyed by the cyclone get re-established. 4,000 opening learning kits will be distributed to children. The same is being planned in the Northwest.

In Kachin State, a joint initiative is under way for cluster partners to collaborate on renovation works for schools and learning centers in two IDP camps in Waingmaw Township. The aim is to support the restoration of education infrastructure in time for the new school year re-opening.

### **Social Behaviour Change (SBC), Accountability to Affected Population (AAP)**

A quick guide on AAP to assess the information needs and preferred types of communication channels of the affected communities has been finalised and shared with UNICEF-led clusters, programme and partners. SBC and Nutrition team have developed five new Infant and Young Child Feeding materials, and production of these has started.

## **Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination**

OCHA is coordinating the overall humanitarian response with all clusters, with coordination mechanisms established at the national level and in Rakhine and the Northwest. Advocacy for operational access to affected communities is being undertaken through the Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) at national and sub-national levels. Under the leadership of OCHA in Rakhine, ICCG meetings are being held twice a week to review incoming information on needs and to coordinate the delivery of response.

UNICEF will continue to provide leadership for the Child Protection AoR, Education Cluster (co-led with Save the Children), Mine Action AoR, Nutrition Cluster and WASH Cluster. Cluster coordination meetings have been held for all clusters/AoRs. UNICEF is also participating in the Myanmar Cash Working Group. There are significant concerns about the lack of humanitarian funding and a number of supply gaps.

## **Funding overview**

UNICEF Myanmar has so far received only 13 per cent of funds needed against its 2023 HAC appeal, representing \$22.4 million as of 27 May. This was received due to the generous support of the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United States Fund for UNICEF, the Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission (ECHO), the Government of Japan, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Government of Norway, the Government of Australia, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the World Health Organization (WHO), Gavi the Vaccine Alliance and through UNICEF's Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding.

The humanitarian community in Myanmar released a multi-sectoral Flash Appeal on 23 May to support 1.6 million affected by Cyclone Mocha and its aftermath across five areas of Myanmar: Rakhine, Chin, Sagaing, Magway and

Kachin. UNICEF is reviewing and updating its 2023 HAC appeal to incorporate the additional funding needed to respond to Cyclone Mocha.

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