

EMERGENCY APPEAL

Myanmar, Asia Pacific | Cyclone Mocha

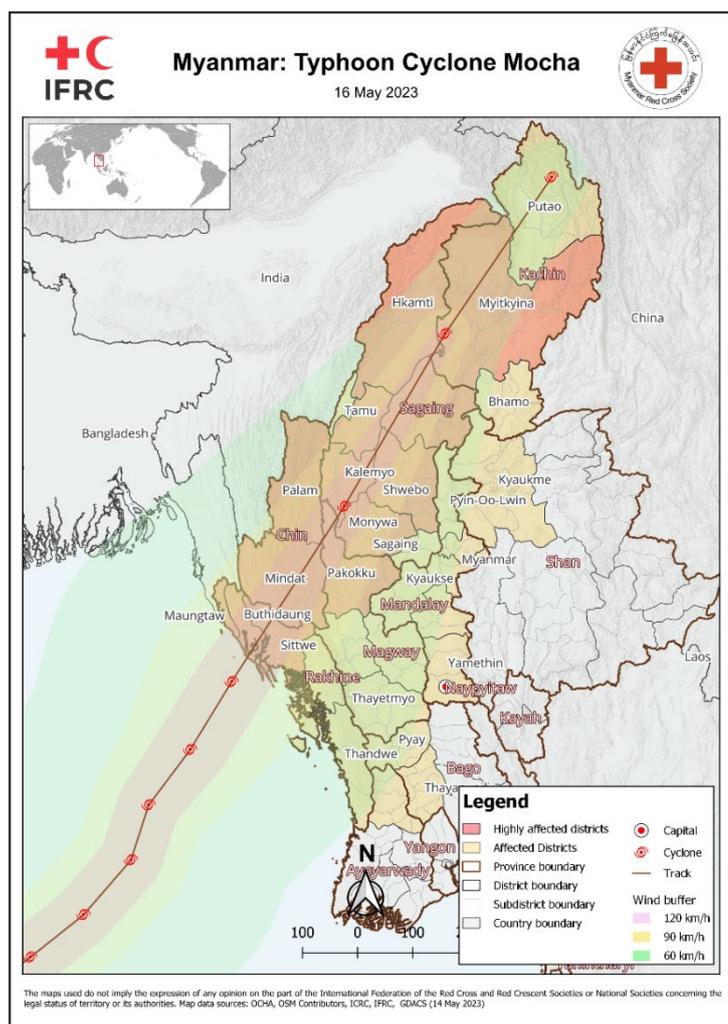


Myanmar Red Cross Society volunteers observing the damage by Cyclone Mocha in Thet Kal Pyin village in Sittwe Township, Rakhine State, on 17 May 2023. Photo: MRCS

Appeal No: MDRMM018	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: CHF 3.5 million Federation-wide Funding requirements: CHF 5 million	
Glide No: TC-2023-000069-MMR	People affected: 2.2 million¹	People to be assisted: Secretariat: 22,500 people (4,500 households) Federation-wide: 37,500 (7,500 households)
DREF allocation: CHF 700,000	Appeal launched: 17/05/2023	Appeal ends: 31/05/2024

¹ [ERCC - Emergency Response Coordination Centre - ECHO Flash Update 16 May 2023](#) accessed 16 May 2023.

SITUATION OVERVIEW



On 14 May 2023 at 12:30 local time, Cyclone Mocha made landfall in Myanmar as an extremely severe cyclonic storm² with winds gusting up to 230-250 km/h. Mocha crossed the interior near Sittwe in Rakhine state, and moved North-Eastwards to Hakha and Paletwa townships in Chin state, with wind speeds of approximately 115 km/h. By the morning of 15 May, Mocha reached Sagaing region as a deep land depression with a wind speed of 78 km/h.

Mocha caused storm surges in excess of two metres, strong winds and very heavy rainfall with heavy inundation reported in low-lying areas of Rakhine, particularly in and around the state capital Sittwe, and in Chin state, Magway, Ayeyarwaddy and Mandalay regions as well as the lower Sagaing region. Houses, sanitation facilities, and public infrastructure were damaged or destroyed by the cyclone, including hospitals, transport infrastructure such as roads and airports, a water dam, and agricultural land while equipment was washed away. Based on available sources, at least 105,000 people³ were exposed to

devastating floods which very likely had a destructive impact on their shelters and livelihoods.

On 15 May, the State Administration Council declared all 17 townships of Rakhine state as disaster affected areas under section 11 of the Natural Disaster Management Law,⁴ which recognises the special role of the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) in disaster management. On 16 May, a similar announcement was made for four townships in Chin state (Tiddim, Matupi, Paletwa and Hakha).

Early local reports indicated several human casualties and hundreds of people injured, while over 137,000 people were evacuated prior to Mocha making landfall, based on reports from MRCS branches. Monasteries, schools, and religious sites were designated as evacuation centres by local authorities in Rakhine, Chin, Magway, and Sagaing. Communication services to Rakhine and main road access to Sittwe were cut and slowly being re-established as of 16 May while Sittwe Airport remains closed as of 15 May. Efforts to identify impact and needs have started but there are challenges in accessing the affected areas, especially Northern Rakhine, Magway, and Northern Sagaing; the safety and security of first responders will continue to be prioritised.

² Myanmar Department of Meteorology and Hydrology: Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm Warning, No. 30, 2023.

³ UNITOS Survey 8 – UN Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) dashboard as of 15 May.

⁴ [National Disaster Management Law of 2013](#).

Since 1 February 2021, the overall country context has become more complex and insecure due to the extent of civic disorder and armed clashes. The economic situation remains fragile and almost half the population in the country is estimated to be living in poverty due to the political crisis and the pre-existing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵ In Rakhine state and the Northwest area (Chin state, Magway and Sagaing regions), there were already an estimated six million people in need of humanitarian assistance and 1.2 million people internally displaced. The impact of the cyclone is expected to exacerbate such pre-existing vulnerabilities, especially for the displaced.

In looking at pre-existing vulnerability data, it is evident that Mocha would have a severe impact. In addition, compared to the previously severe Cyclone Nargis,⁶ Mocha exhibited higher wind speeds. Consequently, Mocha is expected to have severe impacts and cause widespread damage to high-risk structures made of light materials, damaging shelters, latrines and sanitation facilities, water sources, livelihoods, agriculture, and infrastructure.

The MRCS is coordinating with branches and the state Red Cross Committee as well as local authorities and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) for a joint identification of impact and needs and is also deploying senior HQ staff and volunteers to the affected area for this same purpose, and to provide support to the branch on the response.

In advance of Mocha making landfall, the MRCS circulated information to all state and regional branches for preparedness and also mobilised branch staff and volunteers to take early warning action since 11 May. A total of 849 trained volunteers and staff across the country were mobilised for evacuations, search and rescue, identification of impact and needs, relief, and welfare activities.

TARGETING

Overall, an estimated 2.2 million people were exposed to the strong winds and heavy rains brought by Mocha, a more exact number of those directly affected and in need of assistance has yet to be determined.⁷ In Rakhine, over half a million households had pre-existing multidimensional vulnerabilities, of which an estimated 200,000 people are projected to be worst affected by Mocha. In the Ayeyarwaddy region, 58 per cent of the population was already living in vulnerable conditions while more than 650,000 people in seven townships (Bogale, Dedaye, Labutta, Mawlanyinegyun, Ngapudaw, Nyaungdon, and Wakema) are predicted to be the worst affected by Mocha, based on vulnerability and poverty incidence. The estimated number of vulnerable households in Chin state is approximately 60,000.⁸

This Emergency Appeal is targeting relief provisions and early recovery assistance to the hardest-hit population of 7,500 most vulnerable households (37,500 people) particularly in Rakhine, Chin, Magway, Ayeyarwaddy, and Sagaing through Federation-wide support. The IFRC Secretariat will be targeting 4,500 households from the total Federation-wide target, based on exposure to the cyclone, pre-existing vulnerabilities such as displacement, as well as those with a low coping capacity and who have yet to receive sufficient support in the emergency or recovery phases from other sources or organisations. The scope of the interventions may vary due to the geographic area and based on the

⁵ [Myanmar Humanitarian needs Overview 2023, January 2023 by UNOCHA](#).

⁶ Cyclone Nargis in 2008 was the worst natural hazard in the history of Myanmar, causing devastating damage to the environment in the Ayeyarwady and Yangon regions.

⁷ As in footnote 1.

⁸ The data presented here was retrieved from the projections estimated by the [Myanmar Information Management Unit \(MIMU\)](#) through its Emergency Preparedness Dashboard (unless indicated otherwise).

impact and damages as well as the commitment and support from other humanitarian actors, including UN agencies, INGOs, the private sector, organisations and individuals, as well as access to the areas.

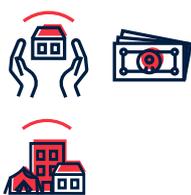
The MRCS always ensures that its response and programmes are aligned with its own as well as the IFRC's commitment to gender and diversity, focusing on and targeting women/child-headed households, pregnant or lactating women; persons with a disability or chronic illness; families with persons with a disability; the elderly; families with children under five years of age; families that have not received any/or sufficient assistance from other organisations; as well as those belonging to socially vulnerable families who lack the relevant resources to cope with basic humanitarian needs on their own. In addition, the MRCS ensures community engagement and accountability, including feedback mechanisms which are integrated into its operation to ensure community participation and direct access to information. The operation will also comply with child safeguarding.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

Through this Federation-wide Emergency Appeal, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and member National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent aim to support the MRCS in the response to the extremely severe effects of Cyclone Mocha.

The strategy of the operation is to support the immediate humanitarian needs of 37,500 people (7,500 households) affected by Cyclone Mocha, especially in Rakhine and Chin states, and the Ayeryawaddy, Magway, and Sagaing regions for 12 months. The targeted individuals will be supported through an integrated approach, aiming to meet shelter, basic needs, as well as health and WASH needs in the immediate emergency response phase. In addition, for the short to medium-term recovery, the operation will incorporate activities across multiple sectors, including livelihoods, migration, and disaster risk reduction and preparedness, together with a cross-cutting focus on community engagement and accountability as well as protection, gender and inclusion.

The strategy is focused on the following sectors:



Integrated assistance

(Emergency Shelter, Livelihoods, and Multi-purpose Cash)

This Emergency Appeal foresees the provision of emergency shelter and unconditional cash assistance during the relief phase, while conditional cash assistance is planned for the early recovery to stabilise livelihoods means for the most vulnerable through to sustainable livelihoods assistance. A “building-back better” approach will be followed, supporting the establishment of safer shelters.



Health & Care including Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

(Mental Health and Psychosocial Support/Community Health)

The EA foresees the relief phase including the provision of hygiene and dignity kits, jerrycans, and water treatment plants to provide safe drinking water, and latrines for sanitation, and will consider sustainable approaches through solarised water pumps. This will be coupled with community-based hygiene interventions, awareness-raising on the risk of dengue and distribution of mosquito nets for vector-borne disease prevention. The EA will also support first aid services, primary health care provision (including at health care centres and through mobile clinics) and basic health education to community, refresher training for Red Cross volunteers on epidemic control and water-borne diseases. Psychosocial support will be available for the affected population, as well as support and referrals to mental health services where needed.

Protection and Prevention

(Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability, Migration, Environmental Sustainability, and Recovery)



Humanitarian service delivery will consider the diversity of the affected population, ensuring there is a strong focus on the protection and inclusion of women, children, adolescents, and vulnerable displaced people, with a focus on restoring family links. The MRCS has integrated CEA and PGI in its programmes and operations to make sure that interventions and implementations are aligned with IFRC minimum standard commitments to PGI in emergencies. The MRCS will employ CEA as an approach so that affected communities participate in the cycle of planning, programming, and adaptation of sectoral activities, receive trusted information and share their perceptions and satisfaction levels at all stages of the cyclone response and recovery. PGI and CEA are incorporated into the identification of needs and follow the IFRC's zero tolerance of any form of violence against children. In addition, medium-term solutions will include environmental sustainability (developing nature-based solutions) and recovery approaches (aiming for durable processes), fostering autonomy, empowerment, and capacity transfer to affected communities.

Enabling approaches

The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:



Coordination and Partnerships

The IFRC will coordinate its membership for an effective Federation-wide response, looking to leverage existing technical profiles within the membership present in-country. The MRCS, IFRC, and ICRC are closely coordinating to support the humanitarian assistance efforts for immediate and medium-term needs.



Shelter Cluster Coordination

The IFRC will look to complement the existing Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster currently led by UNHCR, therefore, this EA will seek to allocate resources according to the IFRC's convener role in Shelter Cluster Coordination for this response.



IFRC Secretariat Services

The IFRC will support the National Society in terms of strategic coordination and communications, humanitarian diplomacy, resource mobilisation, financial management, logistics and procurement, as well as technical expertise in the thematic sectors of the operation.



National Society Strengthening

This EA will support the MRCS in further strengthening its institutional capacity, especially at the branch level, to also further increase its readiness and preparedness for the upcoming monsoon season, including through the repositioning of additional emergency items.

The planned response reflects the current situation and is based on the information available at the time of this Emergency Appeal launch. Details of the operation will be updated through the Operational Strategy to be released in the upcoming days, which will also provide further details on the Federation-wide approach which includes response activities of all contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the Federation-wide funding requirement.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN-COUNTRY



Myanmar Red Cross Society

Core areas of operation



Number of staff:	600+
Number of core volunteers:	9,285
Number of members:	44,000
Number of branches	330

The formal role and responsibilities of the MRCS are defined within the national legal framework where the MRCS has an auxiliary role to the public authorities in humanitarian activities; it is the largest humanitarian organisation in the country with a local presence nationwide through its extensive network of trained and experienced volunteers.

IFRC Membership coordination

The IFRC is working in close coordination with the MRCS and member National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The IFRC Country Delegation in Myanmar is supporting the MRCS strategically and technically in programme and operation coordination and engaging to leverage the strength of the IFRC network as well as in humanitarian diplomacy.

The IFRC membership represented in Myanmar includes the Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, and Swedish Red Cross. Close remote coordination is also established with partners based outside the country, in particular, with the American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, British Red Cross, and Italian Red Cross, while several other member National Societies, such as the Netherlands Red Cross, Thai Red Cross, and Singapore Red Cross continue to support the MRCS.

The IFRC convened its membership at the country level on the days that the cyclone made landfall, and subsequent to this at the global level, to ensure there was strong coordination and information-sharing on the scale of needs and collective support to the MRCS response. To have a Federation-wide Emergency Appeal approach to support the MRCS, many National Society partners have indicated their willingness to fundraise, contribute to and support the MRCS operation. The Operational Strategy on the Federation-wide approach includes the response activities of all contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the Federation-wide funding requirement. The MRCS used its

Nationwide, the MRCS has 1,827 trained Emergency Response Team (ERT) volunteers ready for response and deployment and 44,000 members across the country, of which 9,285 are core Red Cross Volunteers (RCV) active in the community and township levels. In addition, the MRCS Disaster Management Department coordinates and supports the preparedness and response capacity of 23 warehouses across the country.

The MRCS has expertise, long-standing engagement, and good operational and programmatic capacity in the thematic areas and the states/regions targeted in this appeal. Examples of previous engagements in the affected areas are immediate response and relief distribution, cash assistance, provision of health care through mobile health clinics, and support to primary health care as well as multi-year community resilience and livelihoods programmes that have been implemented by the MRCS since 2012. The IFRC has had a sub-delegation office in Rakhine since 2017, hosted by the MRCS.

Emergency Management Fund to kickstart its early actions and response and this is being supported by the Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, and Swedish Red Cross.

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination

Movement partners have been coordinating on preparedness and potential response actions to Cyclone Mocha since 8 May and were invited to an Emergency Operation Centre meeting on 10 May 2023 and a Movement Coordination Meeting focused on preparedness on 12 May. The MRCS has been convening regular coordination and operational meetings to share information and align support within Movement partners. The IFRC, ICRC and MRCS continue to coordinate closely at the strategic and operational level, including through communications and security technical working groups. The MRCS, IFRC, and ICRC also held two tripartite strategic level meetings prior to the cyclone making landfall on 14 May and again on 16 May, to align and coordinate on complementary support for the MRCS.

In terms of complementary targeting, the ICRC will continue to provide support in its existing operational areas and focus on communities affected by conflict. All Movement components will continue to work in full coordination and in complementarity with each other to ensure an effective and efficient response to the cyclone. MRCS and ICRC teams have been working in close coordination to complement their respective resources for the provision of immediate assistance in response to Cyclone Mocha.

External coordination

At the country level, the MRCS, IFRC, and ICRC are observers to, and participate in, meetings of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), chaired by OCHA, which are held during both disasters and non-emergency periods. The MRCS and IFRC are also observers at the UN Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF) Advisory Board, and involved in relevant UN agency coordination, information sharing, planning, and analysis at all levels, while the IFRC supports coordination efforts by the MRCS through representation in other relevant clusters as required. The MRCS is a co-chair of the National Emergency Response Plan Technical Working Group co-led by OCHA, and the Cash and Voucher Assistance working group co-led by WFP and Mercy Corps.

The IFRC is coordinating with OCHA and UNHCR as the lead of the Shelter/CCCM/NFI cluster, as well as IOM. It is agreed that the IFRC will seek to support and be complementary to existing shelter cluster mechanisms and resources. The IFRC is supporting the MRCS in coordinating and advocating with stakeholders to ensure the swift entry of goods, people, and funds for a potentially life-saving humanitarian response, also in coordination with the ICRC.

As an auxiliary to the state for humanitarian services, the MRCS is also coordinating with the Disaster Management Committees established at the national and local levels. The MRCS works in line with the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Fundamental Principles, in order to ensure a principled, neutral, impartial, and independent response. The MRCS, with the support of the IFRC and ICRC, continues to engage in coordinated humanitarian diplomacy to ensure humanitarian access to attend to vulnerable people in need.

After 31 May 2024, response activities to this disaster will continue under the [IFRC Network Myanmar Country Plan](#) for 2024. The IFRC Network Country Plans show an integrated view of ongoing emergency responses and longer-term programming tailored to the needs in the country, as well as a Federation-wide view of the

country's action. This aims to streamline activities under one plan, while still ensuring that the needs of those affected by the disaster are met in an accountable and transparent way. Information will be shared in due time, should there be a need for an extension of the crisis-specific response beyond the above-mentioned timeframe.

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

At Myanmar Red Cross Society:

- Prof. Dr. Htin Zaw Soe, Secretary General; phone: +95 9 973 101 474, email: htinzawsoe@redcross.org.mm
- Dr. Nyo Nyo Wint, Deputy Secretary General for Programmes and Operations, email: nyonyowint@redcross.org.mm
- Daw Moe Thida Win, Deputy Director of Disaster Management Department, email: moethidawin@redcross.org.mm

At the IFRC:

- **IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office:** Nusrat Hassan, Operations Coordinator, email: Opscoord.SouthEastAsia@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Country Delegation:** Nadia Khoury, Head of Delegation, email: nadia.khoury@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Geneva:** Christina Duschl, Senior Officer Operations Coordination, email: christina.duschl@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilisation and Pledges support:

- **IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office:** Mohammad Khairul Zaim Zawawi, Regional Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Senior Officer, email: Zaim.ZAWAWI@ifrc.org

For In-Kind Donations and Mobilisation table support:

- **Logistics Manager:** Olle Kaidro, Regional Logistics Coordinator, email: olle.kaidro@ifrc.org

Reference



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