|  |
| --- |
| **Alert note** |
| *Cyclone MOCHA, Myanmar, 19.5.2023* |

|  |
| --- |
| The **alert note** is intended to alert all ACT Alliance members to an emerging emergency situation. It provides basic information to inform decision making within the Alliance regarding possible response options and it also forms the ‘immediate assessment’ of the situation and needs in the affected areas. An alert note should be completed **as soon as it becomes obvious there is a humanitarian emergency**.  The information in the alert note should be kept **short and concise**. Where you do not have information to address a question identified below simply state that the information is not currently available. You will not be expected to have all the information detailed below in the early stages of an emergency.  The alert note should be completed by the forum and sent to the Regional Humanitarian Programme Officer for review and circulation, with a copy to the Regional Representative. |

**Completed by: Myanmar ACT Forum**

**Date completed: 19.05.2023**

**Forum: MYANMAR**

**Type of emergency: Cyclone**

**Date of emergency (if rapid onset): 14.05.2023**

*Note: Please write your inputs below each section heading. Text in red guides you on the information required under each heading.*

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **The nature of the emergency** |
| **Cyclone** Mocha, described as the strongest in more than a decade, hit the coast of Myanmar and Bangladesh on the morning of Sunday, May 14th. The cyclone, which picked up speed in the Bay of Bengal, blew ashore at speeds of up to 60 metres per second, ripping through trees and power lines and devastating houses (especially in IDP camps). The cyclone, the strongest ever measured in the Bay of Bengal, has caused extensive damage to telephone and internet networks, severely hampering communication in the affected regions. The resultant flooding has forced hundreds of thousands of individuals to evacuate their homes in both Myanmar and Bangladesh. |
| 1. **The impact and scale of the emergency** *(please include your source of information)* |
| Almost 5.4 million people are estimated to have been in the path of the cyclone, enduring winds in excess of 90 kmph across Rakhine and the Northwest. Of these, nearly 3.2 million are most vulnerable to the cyclone impact based on analysis of shelter quality, food insecurity and coping capacity.  Extensive damage was reported in IDP camps in Rakhine. Sittwe and kyauktw camps are badly affected by the cyclone, including schools, religious, public buildings, hospitals, and houses, were heavily damaged. Due to access many areas are still not accessible and information from these areas are yet to come. In chin area 1200 house have been fully destroyed. According to OCHA more than 100,000 (22,700 HH) people in Magway and Sagaing areas are badly affected and houses were washed away.  WFP indicates that 800,000 people in the direct path of the cyclone will need emergency food assistance in Myanmar.  In Rakhine, initial reports indicate major damage to shelters, latrines (structures, flooding in some camps) and contamination of water sources (though hand pumps are functioning). Health services are reported to be non-functioning and the hospital which serves the camps has been badly damaged. Taing Nyo IDP site in Mrauk-U, one of the largest, is reported to be seriously affected.  The Rapid Initial Assessments are currently underway by **Christian Aid (CA)** and its local partners in Rakhine, Sagaing and Magwe regions and closely coordinate with Arakan Humanitarian Coordination Team (AHCT) and UN coordination body and other actors for the response planing in Kyauk Taw, Maungdaw, Rathedaung and Buthidaung townships in Rakhine, Yin Mar Pin township in Sagaing and Kyaukhtu township in Magwe region initially and base on the assessment result, will expand more townships in Magwe and Sagaing. Currently collected population data of affected people from Yin Mar Pin townships in Sagaing are 42,957 (female 22682, male 20275) with 8,983 household and Magwe region Kyaukhtu township21995 (female11666, male 10329) with 5003 household as of 16 May 2023. |
| 1. **Local and national capacity** |
| In the aftermath of Cyclone Mocha, severe damage to homes and public infrastructure has been observed in several areas of Rakhine state, including Sittwe, Ponnagyun, Pauk Taw, and Rathedaung. These locations have experienced extensive devastation, and it is highly likely that vulnerable populations in remote villages surrounding these townships are also facing significant challenges. Immediate action is needed to support the affected people in coping with the ongoing consequences of Cyclone Mocha.  Numerous international and local NGOs are collaborating to conduct rapid needs assessments to identify the needs and gaps of the population affected by the cyclone. OCHA has uploaded updated documents on the needs and gaps, which can be accessed on the MIMU website. Local coordination groups are also actively assessing the current situation in Rakhine. However, due to the extensive damage to infrastructure, there are significant limitations on mobility and access to affected areas.  The State Administration Council (SAC), the de facto authority, has declared 17 townships as severely affected areas and is preparing for a coordinated response. However, commercial flights are not currently allowed to reach Sittwe, and UNOCHA and WFP is organizing to get approval from SAC to reach affected population. This indicates challenges in the willingness of the SAC to openly permit CSOs to operate humanitarian assistance in the affected areas.  Based on discussions with the World Food Programme (WFP), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and other international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) in the INGO Forum Northwest Cluster, as well as local implementing partners, the desired crisis response activities include providing shelter assistance, food assistance, non-food item (NFI) assistance, and cash assistance. Regarding cash assistance, it is necessary to assess the feasibility of the local market. |
| 1. **Key needs and gaps** |
| Reports continue to come in of immediate needs for relief items, shelter, in-kind food, health and WASH support. Concern about waterborne disease outbreaks is high, and close monitoring will be critical. Explosive ordnance risk education and hygiene awareness will also be required, along with psychological support. OCHA led Rapid needs assessments (RNAs) will start once approval is granted in six priority townships in Rakhine, which are considered most affected. Significant information gaps still exist. Broken communications lines continue to hinder connections with affected communities, and partners report that some villages are still completely cut off from the internet. By the end of 16 May, telephone lines have partially been restored which will facilitate communication with affected communities and between humanitarian personnel. In many townships in Rakhine, as well as in Paletwa township in southern Chin, a number of organizations continue to face challenges in establishing contact with their staff and partners. (OCHA) |
| Please indicate whether you are considering:   |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | Indicate your intention with an **X** below | | Rapid Response Fund *(intended for small and medium scale emergencies)* | X | | Appeal *(intended for large scale emergencies)* | X |   If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert. |
| Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below. Please refer to your EPRP and Contingency Plan.   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | ACT Member | Geographical focus | Sectors of expertise | Support required | Estimated Budget range | | Finn Church Aid | Ponnagyun Township, Sittwe township, Pawk Taw Township, and Matupi township | Cash, NFI, Food items, Shelter and Education |  | 500,000 | | Lutheran World Federation | Sittwe, Pauk Taw, Ponnagyun Townships in Rakhine State | CCCM, NFI, Shelter, WASH, Education (schools parents, teachers, students and materials), Cash Programming | Shelter, Food, Hygeine Kits, NFIs, Cash for Infrastructure repair, EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES - Rebuild IDP schools and provide learning kits to children | 8 Million Euro (we are also looking for other sources beyond ACT) | | Christian Aid | Kyauk Taw, Mawngdaw, Buthidaung Rathedaung townships in Rakhine  Kyauk Htu township in Magwe region, and Yin Mar Pin in Sagaing region | Food, CASH programing, Shelter and NFI, WASH (hygiene kit, water supply-pond renovation), Livelihood recovery |  | 1 million Euro | |
| 1. **Potential responses** *(please refer to your EPRP)* |
| **Finn Church Aid (FCA)** is actively preparing to provide support to the victims of the cyclone in Ponnagyun Township, Sittwe Township, Pawk Taw Township, and Matupi Township. Given the potential disruption of the market during the initial phase of the crisis, there is a need for non-food item (NFI) assistance and other in-kind support, Multipurpose cash grants, , provision of shelter assistance, Primary health care services . Throughout the project, FCA remains dedicated to safeguarding the well-being and rights of the crisis-affected population, . The estimated budget size allocated for these efforts is 500,000 EUR.  The **Lutheran World Federation** (**LWF**) has completed an initial assessment (available as a separate document) for Sittwe, Ponnagyun, and Pauktaw townships in Rakhine State. A total of 16,843 HHs and 81,860 individuals will directly benefit from LWF cyclone Mocha emergency response activities coving Shelter, Food, Hygeine Kits, NFIs, Cash for Infrastructure repair, and Education in Emergency - Rebuild IDP schools and provide learning kits to children. The LWF response requires 8,490,745 Euro.  Christian Aid has strong presence in the Rakhine, Sagaing and Magwe, through local partners who are well experienced in humanitarian response. In the first phase of response, Christian Aid will focus on distribution of food, non-food and household items, rehabilitation of shelter, cash and voucher assistance and water sanitation and hygiene activities which include distribution of hygiene items, hygiene awareness campaigns, rehabilitation of water points as well as construction of new water points, and repairing of damages sanitation facilities. In the recovery phase of the response CA will support affected households in livelihood recovery interventions. CA will follow Survivor and Community Led Response (SCLR) approach which is an excellent tool for strengthening localisation in emergency response. CA with the funding support from ECHO has initiated a response in Rakhine state.. At this stage CA ‘s overall funding requirement is estimated as 1 million GBP. |