

Flash Update on Cyclone Mocha Preparedness of 13 May 2023

Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Situation update

Cyclone Mocha is expected to make landfall on 14 May 2023 around the Bangladesh - Myanmar border. Danger Signal 10 has been declared by the Government of Bangladesh in Cox's Bazar and neighbouring coastal districts. Three flags – the highest warning signal – have been hoisted in the camps of Cox's Bazar and neighbouring areas.

As of 31 March 2023, approximately 930,000 Rohingya refugees are residing in the thirty-three camps formally designated by the Government of Bangladesh in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas of the Cox's Bazar District.¹

The Government of Bangladesh is leading the preparedness and response efforts. The humanitarian community, through the inter-sector coordination system, is working closely with the Bangladeshi authorities to prepare for and respond to Cyclone Mocha in the camps and neighbouring Bangladeshi communities:

- The Government has convened several preparedness meetings in the past days and Disaster Management Committees have been activated inside and outside the camps.
- Sector preparedness actions over the last days include reviewing and prepositioning contingency stocks for emergency items, and outlining plans for 72, 48 and 24 hrs. pre- and post- landfall.
- Service facilities have been assessed for vulnerability to ensure mitigation and minimize disruption of services following landfall.
- Led by the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner, the relocation of refugee families in landslide prone areas is currently ongoing. Structures of a more solid nature inside the camps have been made available as temporary shelters.

Foreseen challenges and needs

Access

- Heavy machinery is on standby for post-landfall debris and road clearance. Humanitarian staff have been deployed to the Ukhiya Army Coordination Cell to ensure coordination with the Bangladeshi military and augment the efforts of the humanitarian community and other authorities in accessing the communities in need.
- 3,000 refugee volunteers have been trained and equipped as first responders in the camps and have received refresher training over the last days.
- Critical humanitarian staff will remain in the camps during the cyclone to provide medical and other support. Emergency teams will be deployed after the storm to provide immediate assistance and for rapid assessment of the situation.

¹ Source: Joint Government of Bangladesh – UNHCR [Population Data](#) as of 31 March 2023. This figure does not include Rohingya refugees residing on Bhasan Char where preparedness efforts for the cyclone are also under way.

Staff security

- The Area Security Coordinator has issued a cyclone advisory to guide offices and staff ahead of and during the storm.
- The 'Work from Home' modality will be in place for the humanitarian community during the storm, with the exception of emergency staff on the ground.

Funding gaps

- Given the current funding levels of the [2023 Appeal](#) for the Rohingya Refugee Response in Bangladesh, the humanitarian community will not be able to effectively respond to the needs following the cyclone.
- Funding cuts in the past months have already resulted in a reduction of general food assistance and the stoppage of some services.

Sectoral preparedness

Shelter and CCCM

- Contingency stocks for shelter materials (tarpaulin, rope, floor mats) have been prepositioned covering 30% catchment area population in Ukhiya and 100% in Teknaf.
- Shelter maintenance and upgrades including distribution of tie down kits have been ongoing in 2022 and 2023.
- Community messaging for cyclone readiness and response is ongoing through the established Sector focal points and Disaster Management Unit and Safety Unit Volunteers networks.

Food Security

- Stocks for emergency food distribution have been prepositioned, including 24.5 mt of fortified biscuits (6-day breakfast ration), 230 mt of in-kind food rations, as well as preparation for the provision of 50,000 hot meals a day for families who may be displaced and evacuated due to the cyclone.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

- Stocks for emergency WASH assistance have been prepositioned, including water purification tablets for 200,000 households to prevent waterborne disease, hygiene items such as soap for over 85,000 households, 52,000 jerry-cans, as well as 97,000 sets of Menstrual Hygiene Management Kits.

Health

- All non-critical patients in camps health facilities have been discharged, while critical cases (50-100 patients) have been prioritized for referral to health facilities outside the camps.
- About 19 health facilities at risk of damage or flooding have completed their patient evacuation and relocation of vital medical commodities to safer locations.
- 33 mobile medical teams are on standby, and 40 ambulances have been prepositioned in different locations to cover all the camps.

Protection

- The Protection Emergency Response Unit (PERU) Teams have been activated and efforts to support and relocate people at higher risk and people with disabilities are ongoing.
- All necessary protection supplies and equipment for women, girls, boys, men and people with

disabilities have been reviewed and prepositioned, including 16,463 sets of Dignity Kits.

Emergency Telecommunications

- Emergency equipment has been prepositioned to minimize disruption, and mitigation measures have been put in place, including securing solar panels, data backups, and disconnection from power networks.

Nutrition

- Contingency plans are in place to safeguard key documentation for nutrition facilities.

Education

- Partners have been working closely with camp authorities in the identification of learning centres to be used as emergency shelters.

Livelihoods and Skills Development

- Partners have been supporting overall efforts with dissemination of messages.

Contacts

For Sector-specific queries, please contact the relevant Sector Coordinator.

For any other queries, please contact the Inter Sector Coordination Group at iscg@iscgxcb.org and Rewa El-Oubari, Policy Officer at rewa@iscgxcb.org.