

**UPDATE 1:
THURSDAY 18 MAY 2023**

CYCLONE CRISIS MYANMAR

On Sunday 14 May, Rakhine State in western Myanmar bore the brunt of Cyclone Myanmar.

Villagers saw a huge wave 10 metres high wash huts and whole villages out to sea.

460 people are reported killed, and fears are held for many more.

Through ALWS, and our partner, you already work in Rakhine State, caring for families living in Displaced Persons Camps.

A critical part of your ALWS work is providing education to children.

On-site volunteers and community leaders report cyclone damage including:

- Family shelters, made of bamboo and tarpaulin, destroyed
- Latrines and bathing stations damaged
- People missing and injured

Communications have been challenging, but ALWS has received this update from the Head of our Partner's team in Myanmar.

(For security reasons, I cannot mention our Partner's name.)

Dear All,

All full-time staff are safe and accounted for, as are our camp and community-based incentive workers and volunteers.

The communications remain a challenge as power is still out and cell phone are running out of batteries in the more remote camps, etc.

We have succeeded in getting the generator at the office running so phones can be charged by staff.

We are working on Travel Authorizations for staff to access camps.

They returned to Sittwe yesterday and will be undertaking rapid needs assessments in coordination with OCHA and the UN Clusters starting today, access permitting, as some areas are still flooded.

Camp and communities in high-risk areas were also relocated to safer evacuation centres.

We lost communications for a day, but phone, internet and flights are all operational again as of yesterday evening. Electricity is still out.

We want to assure you that despite the challenges we have good working relations with the authorities and can informally access those in need through our camp and community- based staff.

Thank you again for your goodwill and to respond to all those in need after Cyclone Mocha and beyond.

There has been damage to our partner's office in Sittwe, as you can see below:



Photos: ALWS Partner Myanmar

On your behalf, ALWS has committed an immediate \$100,000 for the emergency response.

Critical needs are likely to include:

- temporary shelter
- water and sanitation
- emergency food supplies
- clothing

DONATE NOW

The families you are helping already had very little.

Some have been living in Displaced Persons Camps for 10 years. The current political crisis increases the challenge.

That's why our Partner's network of community-based workers is so important.

They are trusted by both the authorities and the communities, and this is vital to getting your ALWS help through to where you are most needed.

The Australian Government continues to support your ALWS work in Myanmar.



ALWayS for those forgotten

