

MYANMAR: Cyclone Roanu Response

Flash Update No. 1: 21 May 2016



According to the Government Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH), Cyclone Roanu is moving north-eastward. It started to make landfall at about 3pm today near Cox's Bazar Town and Chittagong Town in southern Bangladesh.

Myanmar is now on "red alert" for storm risk in the colour-coded warning system as the cyclone is expected to pass Chin State, northern part of Rakhine State and Sagaing Region as a depression according to DMH. Maungdaw and Sittwe are identified as the townships likely facing the most damaging effects of cyclone, followed by Kyaukphyu. While the wind speeds are not particularly high (50-60mph in the northern part of Rakhine and Chin), large amounts of rainfall are expected to trigger landslides in various parts, particularly in Chin State where some landslides are already being reported earlier today. Heavy showers are expected in Chin and Rakhine states as well as Ayeyarwady, Magway and Sagaing regions with widespread rain all over the country from 21 May to 23 May.

Preparedness efforts are focused on four states and regions: Chin, Rakhine, Magway and Sagaing while reviewing pre-positioning relief items. Relevant government departments and the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) are all on standby for search and rescue activities. MRCS has mobilised over 100 Emergency Response Team Members and volunteers and also disseminating early warning alerts to the communities in Chin, Rakhine, Magway and Sagaing. On 20 May, the government's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in Nay Pyi Taw was activated. UN agencies and MRCS have deployed staff to Nay Pyi Taw to support government preparedness and response activities.

Humanitarian organizations have been identifying available relief stocks and resources in-country to support government efforts where required. In Rakhine, humanitarian partners have put together assessment teams involving over 75 staff, ready to deploy if needed. At the same time, humanitarian partners are in close contact with the Rakhine State government to identify the areas most affected and requiring immediate support.

For more information please contact:

Pierre Péron | Public Information and Advocacy Officer, Myanmar

Tel: +95 979 700 7815, 9250 198 997 | E-mail: peronp@un.org | Twitter: [@pierre_peron](https://twitter.com/pierre_peron)

www.unocha.org

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