



Projected path of Tropical Cyclone Megh

### Key messages

- Tropical Cyclone Megh made landfall in Socotra Island on 8 November, killing six people and causing significant damage to houses, fisheries, livestock and critical infrastructure.
- The storm is currently making its way to mainland Yemen, east of Aden, and could potentially expose 630,000 people to flash flooding.
- A convoy of 11 trucks carrying 35 metric tons of non-food items has departed Aden for Al Mukalla to support the relief effort. Additional trucks are scheduled to depart Sana'a in the coming days and food, safe water, tents and other relief supplies have been distributed in the affected areas.

### Situation Overview

Tropical Cyclone Megh passed over Socotra on 8 November at 12.00hrs local time. Local authorities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are currently assessing the scale of the damage and humanitarian needs. Initial reports suggest six people have been killed and 60 injured, with the storm causing significant damage. Many houses have been destroyed, there has been damage to fisheries, livestock and critical infrastructure, including the power station, and the island's hospital, which currently houses displaced families affected by Cyclone Chapala, has been flooded. There is concern for people in remote areas of Qalansiyah district where there have been reports of damage to whole villages, including in some of the smaller islands to the west of Socotra. The number of displaced in Socotra is likely to increase, as families living in coastal areas sought refuge inland from the storm. Some of the aid supplies that have arrived in Socotra over the last six days have reportedly been damaged by the Megh.

Cyclone Megh is currently a Category 2 Severe Cyclonic Storm, with wind speeds of approximately 150km/h, gusting to 180km/h. It is forecast to reduce in strength in the next 12 to 24 hours to a Category 1 Cyclone and is expected to make landfall on the Yemen mainland to the east of Aden at approximately 09:00hrs local time on Tuesday, 10 November. Based on estimates of the population exposed to floods over the last 25 years, in conjunction with the predicted path of Cyclone Megh, an estimated 630,000 people could be exposed to flash flooding.

The leading edge of the storm is likely to bring high winds, precipitation and a possible storm surge during the night of 9 November, which may affect relief convoy movements from Aden to Al Mukalla. Rough seas are currently forecast for the Gulf of Aden for the next 48 hours and may have an impact on humanitarian shipments from Djibouti to Aden. Worryingly, there are reports that a third storm is developing in the Arabian Sea that could also impact Yemen after Cyclone Megh.

On mainland Yemen, there have been additional reports of people injured by Cyclone Chapala, 60 in Al Mukalla and four in Al Maharah. There are also reports of significant humanitarian needs in the district of Mayfaa in Shabwah. Villages in Mayfaa saw heavy flooding, and 351 households are currently displaced in 11 collective centers, located in schools and other public buildings.

## Humanitarian Response

On Socotra, where an estimated 2,000 families were already displaced by Cyclone Chapala, Gulf States have already flown in at least 17 planes with humanitarian assistance. Local NGOs have begun to distribute assistance, including food, tents, blankets and mattresses. The United Arab Emirates is providing medical supplies to the Khalifa Bin Zayed Hospital on Socotra through the Khalifa Foundation. In the coming days, humanitarian partners will be carrying out assessments of the outstanding humanitarian needs and requirements for additional assistance.

A convoy of 11 trucks, containing 35 MT of NFIs from IOM and UNHCR, departed Aden for Al Mukalla during the evening of 8 November.

Despite reports of damage on the Aden-Al Mukalla road, including to several bridges, the trucks are expected to reach Al Mukalla today. The NFI assistance will support 1,600 displaced families (about 11,200 people) in Mukalla and Shabwah. In Sana'a, an inter-agency convoy of nine trucks of NFIs and medical supplies, which had been scheduled to leave yesterday, has been delayed, pending security clearances. Additional trucks will depart Sana'a in the coming days.



Truck being loaded in Aden for the cyclone response.

Credit: UNICEF

IOM's implementing partners continue to provide daily water trucking to 10,133 people in the Mayfaa district of Shabwah (76,000 liters of water per day) and to 441 people in Zinjibar district of Abyan (8,000 liters per day), and there are planned distributions of hygiene kits in the coming days. Thirty metric tons of High Energy Biscuits from WFP are being distributed over the next three days, targeting 25,000 people in Shabwah and Hadramaut. WFP reports that a general food distribution targeting 30,000 people in the affected areas will begin in the coming days.

On 8 November, in Mayfa'a Higer in Hadramaut, UNHCR's local partner distributed 99 NFI kits, 585 mattresses and blankets, 99 kitchen sets and 198 plastic buckets and sleeping mats to 99 displaced families living in schools and open areas.

A national immunization campaign for children under five years of age is underway with support from UN agencies, targeting 318,178 children, including 109,926 children in Shabwah, 12,159 in Socotra, and in Hadramaut governorate, 107,095 in Al Mukalla, and 88,998 in Sayun. Immunizations in Al Maharah have been postponed until 15 November due to the poor weather conditions.

*The next Flash Update will be issued on Tuesday, 10 November, 2015.*

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