

# Cyclone Mekunu intensifies as it advances on Oman

May 25 2018

---



An image grab taken from an AFPTV video shows people walking through flood water as they evacuate a flooded area during a cyclone in the Yemeni island of Socotra

Oman said Friday that Cyclone Mekunu, which has wreaked havoc in the Yemeni island of Socotra, has intensified into category 2 as it approaches the southern part of the sultanate.

"Latest observations show that tropical [cyclone](#) Mekunu has intensified to category 2," with high wind speeds, Oman's Directorate General of Meteorology said on Twitter.

The Gulf state's early warning centre said that the eye of the cyclone was just 180 kilometres (112 miles) away from Salalah, the main city in Dhofar province.

It expected that Mekunu will make landfall in the early hours of the afternoon.

Several cities in Dhofar were lashed by heavy rain in the early hours of Friday as the centre of the cyclone approached the coast, it added in a statement carried by the official Oman [news agency](#).

Oman on Thursday placed police and army on alert and closed schools until Monday in preparation for the cyclone.

State-run television in Oman said authorities evacuated hundreds of residents from a small island off the southern city of Salalah, capital of Dhofar province.

Oman's civil aviation authority has announced that Salalah airport would be closed for 24 hours from midnight (2000 GMT Thursday).

At least 17 people were missing after Mekunu hit Yemen's Socotra island on Thursday, causing severe flooding and damage.

The government declared Socotra a "disaster [province](#)".

The Yemeni high relief agency met with international humanitarian organisations in Aden late Thursday to discuss the situation on the island, the Saba news agency reported.

It was decided to set up 11 relief centres in Socotra to provide shelter for people who were forced to evacuate their homes.

The meeting also discussed taking the necessary measures to provide aid to people in three provinces in southeast Yemen expected to be hit by the cyclone.

© 2018 AFP

Citation: Cyclone Mekunu intensifies as it advances on Oman (2018, May 25) retrieved 25 June 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2018-05-cyclone-mekunu-advances-oman.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.