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Operation Update Report

Bangladesh: Cyclone Amphan



DREF n° MDRBD024	GLIDE n° TC-2020-000137-BGD
Operation update n° 1; issued 23 May 2020	Timeframe covered by this update: 18 to 23 May 2020
Operation start date: 18 May 2020	Operation timeframe: 3 months, ending 31 August 2020
DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 293,810	
N° of people affected: 10 million (approx.) ¹	N° of people to be assisted: 30,000
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: American Red Cross, British Red Cross, The Canadian Red Cross Society, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Qatar Red Crescent, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government of Bangladesh (GoB), UN Resident Coordinator (RC) office, UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs.	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) has requested IFRC to launch an emergency appeal on its behalf. This is based on the scale of needs wrought by the cyclone and consultations with the Partner National Societies based in-country

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

Cyclone Amphan formed on 16 May 2020 over the Indian Ocean and started moving north over the Bay of Bengal, towards north-east India coastal areas and south of Bangladesh. According to Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD)'s special weather bulletin dated 19 May, the 'super cyclone' Amphan was lying over west central Bay and adjoining area and moved north to northeast wards and over same area and was centred at 06:00 of 19 May about 890km southwest of Chattagram port, 840km southwest of Cox's Bazar port, 785km south-southwest of Mongla port. It was forecasted likely to move in a north-easterly direction and may cross Bangladesh coast between Khulna-Chattogram during late night of 19 May to afternoon/evening of 20 May.

On 20 May, the BMD issued "great danger"² signal number 10 for costal districts of Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Jhalokathi, Pirojpur, Borguna, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barisal, Laxmipur, Chandpur and their off-shore islands and chars³. Under the influence of the 'very severe' cyclonic storm Amphan, it was anticipated that Feni, Chattagram and their offshore islands and chars are likely to be inundated by storm surge of 4 to 5 feet height above the normal astronomical tide. The total coastal districts were likely to experience wind speed up to 140 to 160kmph in gusts/squalls with heavy

¹ UN Bangladesh reported this preliminary approximation from 19 districts in inter-cluster meeting.

² Signal number 1 being the lowest (distant cautionary), to signal number 10 being the highest (great danger).

³ Char in Bangladesh refers to island in river, or a piece of land surrounded by water.

to very heavy falls during the passage of storm. All fishing boats and trawlers over North Bay and deep sea have been advised to take shelter immediately and will remain in the shelter till further notice. Following the great danger signal and evacuation order of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB), more than 2.4 million people were moved to 14,636 permanent and temporary shelters in 19 coastal districts before the cyclone hit the country's coast. During this time, the number of shelters has been increased considering the physical distancing norm and guidelines due to COVID-19.

Cyclone Amphan had weakened from a super cyclone to an "extremely severe cyclonic storm" between the 20th and the 21st May 2020, causing strong winds and heavy rain in parts of Odisha, West Bengal in India and Bangladesh coastal areas as it advanced towards the India-Bangladesh coast. On 20 May 2020, it slammed into the coastal districts of West Bengal, India and then it entered Bangladesh at evening with wind speed of 150kmph and drove its destruction among 26 districts across the country. According to different sources, Cyclone Amphan affected more than a million people in nine districts in Khulna and Barishal divisions of Bangladesh on 20 May. UNDP reports that:

- 26 people were killed
- 55,667 houses were completely damaged, and around 162,000 partially damaged
- approximately 149,000 hectares of agriculture lands and fish farms worth about BDT 3.25 billion (CHF 36 million) were damaged
- millions of trees were uprooted
- 150kms of protection embankments were washed away at 84 points in 13 districts
- 200 bridges and culverts, and 100km of roads were damaged
- about 15 million clients lost electricity
- many freshwater ponds inside forests were flooded with seawater
- approximately 18,235 water points and 40,894 latrines were destroyed in most impacted districts
- preliminary estimates of total cost of damages caused by the cyclone is BDT 11 billion (CHF 123 million)
- The coastal region of Cox's Bazar did not suffer the brunt of the cyclone except for some minor wind damages and heavy rains.



Clockwise: (1) A woman trying to get rid of mud brought inside by cyclone Amphan in Bagerhat district. (2) Water flowed inside after the embankment in Satkhira collapsed. (3) People taking shelter during cyclone Amphan in Bagerhat. (4) Fallen tree damaged the houses in Satkhira. (Photos: BDRCS)

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

BDRCS along with IFRC Country Office (CO) and other Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners closely monitored the situation as it developed and at the same time coordinating closely with the GoB at national and district levels. Following the formation of the cyclone at Bay of Bengal, BDRCS and IFRC have attended the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP)⁴ implemented board meeting at Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) regularly. In addition, BDRCS unit officials and volunteers regularly attended the coordination meeting with GoB and other local agencies at the district level. As of 22 May, BDRCS has taken the following actions:

- Worked together with CPP as per government directives to implement life-saving cyclone readiness activities in line with COVID-19 situation in all vulnerable unions of the 13 coastal districts, including the camp settlements in Cox's Bazar.
- Deployed more than 70,000 volunteers, including 55,556 CPP volunteers, Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteers, community volunteers and camp volunteers in Cox's Bazar camps, who have been trained in first aid, search and rescue and disaster management. They disseminated the early warning messages among community and camp people. Later on, they helped the local authorities to evacuate people to cyclone shelters, provide first aid support, except camp settlements in Cox's Bazar. BDRCS volunteers also provided masks, hand sanitizers and soaps to the people in some 40 cyclone shelters.
- Conducted six forecast monitoring virtual meetings through Zoom to track and analyze the potential risk of Cyclone Amphan. BDRCS triggered the cyclone Early Action Protocol (EAP) on 18 May as the triggering thresholds have exceeded based on forecasts and predicted impact. According to the EAP, BDRCS implemented early actions targeting 20,000 most vulnerable people in Shatkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Potuakhali and Pirojpur districts. Under this EAP, BDRCS together with CPP volunteers supported the evacuation of

⁴ A joint programme of MoDMR, GoB and BDRCS with the creation and establishment of the Policy Committee headed by Honourable Minister of MoDMR and the Implementation Board headed by the Secretary of MoDMR. CPP has been operationalized with its mandate in the field of disaster management in Bangladesh especially in early warning system, search and rescue, evacuation, sheltering, first aid, relief distribution and rehabilitation activities.

people, livestock and moveable assets (through vehicles), and provided food, water and basic first aid service at the cyclone shelters. BDRCS targeted 40 cyclone shelters in 10 unions in the above mentioned five districts.

- Conducted six emergency coordination meetings with in-country Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners between 19 to 22 May. National Disaster Response Team (NDRT), National Disaster WASH Response Team (NDWRT) and Unit Disaster Response Team (UDRT) were on stand-by. Several hundred Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteers engaged with CPP volunteers in disseminating early warning messages, evacuation of the people to the cyclone shelters, distributing dry food and drinking water as well as providing first aid services to people taking shelter.
- NDRT members conducted a rapid assessment to get the damage information and government damage form has also been collected from different affected districts.
- In Cox's Bazar, BDRCS with IFRC and its partners, were leading the coordination in cyclone preparedness along with CPP, Refugee Relief Repatriation Commission (RRRC) Office, Inter-Sectoral Coordination Group (ISCG), site management and other clusters.
- Updated its disaster preparedness stock at Dhaka and Chattogram warehouses to meet the immediate needs of affected people.
- As part of immediate response, allocated 1200 tarpaulins, 750 shelter tools kit, 1200 hygiene kits and 500 jerry cans in three of the most affected districts (Satkhira, Khulna and Jashore).
- Allocated money for repairing 200 tub-wells and for installing 100 communal latrines. Apart from this, BDRCS plans to deploy mobile medical teams in those areas.
- Reached 36,365 people at 192 shelter centres in ten districts namely, Barguna, Patuakhali, Bagerhat, Bhola, Laxmipur, Noakhali, Khulna, Shatkhira, Jhalokathi and Pirojpur through dry food distribution. 694 RCY volunteers supported the process.
- Issued a condolence letter for a CPP volunteer who was died in a boat capsized incident during early warning dissemination of Cyclone Amphan on 20 May 2020.
- Following the request from BDRCS, Imminent Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) of CHF 293,810 has been approved by IFRC. BDRCS has started undertaking necessary actions to implement planned activities.
- Following the rapid damage and need assessment information from the field, a joint team of BDRCS, IFRC and partner National Societies is working on an emergency appeal and its plan of action.



BDRCS volunteers guiding people to the cyclone shelter in Bagerhat district on 19 May 2020.

(Photo: BDRCS)

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

IFRC CO in Bangladesh is keeping close coordination with BDRCS, in-country Movement partners and the Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) in Kuala Lumpur. IFRC CO team is also keeping close coordination with the Humanitarian Country Cluster Team (HCCT), other in-country clusters and sectors both at Dhaka and Cox's Bazar levels.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

According to anticipatory impact analysis of Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG) dated 18 May, around 14.2 million people are exposed to the cyclone, of which there are 7.2 million women, 0.2 million people with physical impairments, 1.4 million children, 0.78 million elderly people, and 0.42 million pregnant women. Estimates report that around 2.4 metre surge height and around 2.5 million kutcha and jhupri⁵ houses will be exposed to this cyclone, and 0.6 million kutcha and jhupri houses in Sathkira, Khulna, Bagerhat and Pirojpur, will potentially be damaged. The impact scenarios meet the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) minimum response thresholds according to the HCTT contingency plan 2020 for climate related disasters, and risk level is marked as "high".

According to UNOSAT's⁶ population exposure analysis dated 18 May, 18 per cent of total population (29 million people) are living within 120kmph wind speed zone, 27 per cent of total population (44 million people) are living inside 90kmph wind speed zone, and 48 per cent of total population (78 million people) are living inside 60kmph wind speed zone.

⁵ Kutcha houses are built of mud without permanent foundation; roof and facade are generally made of corrugated iron sheets. Jhupri are houses with floors made of mud, roof made of thatch/leaves and walls made of bamboo. They have weak structural frame.

⁶ UNITAR's Operational Satellite Applications Programme - an operational, technology-intensive programme of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).



With the activation of EAP and imminent DREF, BDRCS immediately mobilized dry food and drinking water for people in cyclone shelters. (Photo: BDRCS)

Based on the forecast and impact analysis done as part of EAP implementation, BDRCS activated its EAP for Cyclone Amphan. The EAP trigger was met on 18 May using the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) and Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD)'s Numerical Weather Product. The trigger was met once there was a forecast of a cyclone making landfall in Bangladesh with wind speeds greater than 125kmph. This forecast was combined with an exposure and vulnerability map to estimate the percentage of houses that could be at risk of destruction in each union. All unions with greater than 25 per cent of houses at risk were placed on a "priority" list and ranked according to a vulnerability index. The EAP is being implemented in as many unions as possible, starting with the most vulnerable on the priority list and proceeding down in order of vulnerability. Most areas in Shatkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Potuakhali and Pirojpur districts are expected to experience asset damage of more than 25 per cent. The imminent DREF will also be covering the gap of the EAP.

For the people in evacuation centres, the needs are in terms of dry food and drinking water. Additionally, some of the cyclone shelters don't have solar powered light facilities which is essential as prior to cyclone landfall and after, there will be disruption in electricity supply. For now, as vulnerable populations are taking refuge in the cyclone shelters and after the landfall, depending on the impact, anticipated needs are for emergency shelter, food, drinking water, first aid and emergency sanitation support.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Overall Operational objective

The overall objective of this DREF operation is to assist 30,000 people affected by Cyclone Amphan through the provision of emergency health and hygiene practice, sanitation, drinking water, emergency food and emergency shelter materials. The plan of action of this DREF will address only the immediate needs of some of the most vulnerable Cyclone Amphan affected people and does not include any early or mid-term recovery activities at this stage. Should this DREF be scaled up to an Emergency Appeal, need based recovery and other response activities will be included.

Proposed strategy

The strategy to address this cyclone situation was decided through step-by-step consultations with different actors and levels. BDRCS and CPP are closely involved with the ministry to coordinate and take part in the situation monitoring and to decide the danger signal levels. That helps the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in Bangladesh to decide on the early action protocols and the decision for this DREF. A scheduled task force meeting for COVID-19 was shifted for two days, from 18 May to 20 May, to allow BDRCS to closely observe the cyclone and to decide how they will merge the ongoing awareness activities for COVID-19 with this cyclone. There was a wider Movement coordination meeting on morning of 19 May which helped to define the operational strategy for this DREF and also highlighted some adjustment in the current COVID-19 response on the ground.

As highlighted earlier, the triggered EAP will cover only 20,000 people with focus on early actions. As the forecast shows impact in bigger geographical area – around 14.2 million people are exposed to the cyclone, this DREF will help to support further 30,000 people with early actions and post-disaster emergency response.

The operation strategy revolves around these following key activities to reach more people with early actions and to meet the emergency needs after cyclone made landfall:

- Support mobilization of BDRCS and CPP volunteers for disseminating early warnings and evacuation in line with COVID-19 protocols.
- Meeting the emergency needs through providing dry food rations to the people who will be taking shelter at the cyclone shelters.
- Mobilizing tarpaulins, tents and shelter toolkits from contingency stock to meet the emergency shelter and household item needs.
- Replenishment of the non-food items (NFIs) distributed during pre- and post-disaster responses. This DREF will also cover the cost incurred for the early actions taken before Cyclone Amphan hit the areas. BDRCS has responded swiftly based on the forecast of the eminent danger and has started evacuating people to the safe shelters and provided basic survival items like mask, sanitizing facilities, food, water, etc.
- Conduct rapid assessment to gather more information about the damage and need of the targeted communities. Based on the assessment findings, BDRCS will decide on launching of emergency appeal.

Summary of ongoing and planned key activities that will be covered through this DREF (HH: household)

Sector	Activity	Target
DRR	Dissemination of early warning through mobilizing BDRCS and CPP volunteers	14 cyclone-prone districts
	Support government initiative to evacuate people safely through mobilizing BDRCS and CPP volunteers	
Food Security and Livelihood	Provide emergency food assistance	30,000 people (6,000 HHs)
WASH	Distribution of hygiene parcels	7,500 people (1,500 HHs)
	Ensure safe drinking water through repairing 200 damage waterpoints	10,000 people
	Provide jerry cans/buckets to carry and store drinking water	7,500 people (1,500 HHs)
	Construct 100 units of emergency latrine facilities for communal use	5,000 people
Health	Mass awareness on COVID-19	30,000 people
	Provide first aid and psychosocial support	500 people
	Provide emergency health service through BDRCS health centres	1,000 people
	Provide personal protective equipment (PPE) for volunteers and staffs	400 people
Shelter	Distribution of tarpaulins and shelter toolkits along with orientation	7,500 people (1,500 HHs)

All the above activities are ongoing, and the details will be available in next forty eight hours

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Shelter

People targeted: 7,500

Male: 3,750

Female: 3,750

Needs analysis and population to be assisted:

1,500 households will be assisted through the provision of tarpaulins and standard shelter toolkits along with technical orientation. According to the Bangladesh shelter cluster standards, each targeted household will receive one tarpaulin and one box of shelter toolkits. Targeting will be undertaken based on assessments regarding household damage and vulnerability.

Planned and ongoing activities include the following:

- Selection and distribution of tarpaulins and shelter toolkits to 1,500 households
- Replenishment of tarpaulins and shelter toolkits
- Post distribution monitoring
- Orientation on proper fixing of tarpaulins and use of shelter toolkits

Progress update:

Prior to the cyclone landfall, BDRCS and CPP volunteers supported local authorities to evacuate people, livestock and moveable assets to cyclone shelters where BDRCS further provided services. BDRCS targeted assistance to 40 cyclone shelters in 10 unions in five districts. BDRCS has also allocated 1200 tarpaulins and 750 shelter toolkits in three of the most affected districts (Satkhira, Khulna and Jashore).



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 30,000

Male: 15,000

Female: 15,000

Needs analysis and population to be assisted:

6,000 households (30,000 people) will be assisted with dry food and cooked food assistance who are taking shelters in the community shelters or become displaced due to cyclone.

Planned and ongoing activities include the following:

- Distribute emergency food assistance

Progress update:

With the help of 694 RCY volunteers, BDRCS distributed dry food to 36,365 people at 192 shelter centres in ten districts (Barguna, Patuakhali, Bagerhat, Bhola, Laxmipur, Noakhali, Khulna, Shatkira, Jhalokathi and Pirojpur).

**Water, sanitation and hygiene**

People targeted: 15,000

Male: 7,500

Female: 7,500

Planned and ongoing activities include the following:

- Provide safe drinking water to 10,000 cyclone affected people through repair 200 tube-wells to ensure safe drinking water
- Provide jerry cans/buckets to 1,500 households
- Provide hygiene parcels to 1,500 households
- Install 100 communal emergency latrines for the affected people
- Awareness on hygiene practice including handwashing and menstrual hygiene management (MHM)

Progress update:

BDRCS has allocated 1200 hygiene kits and 500 jerry cans in three of the most affected districts (Satkira, Khulna and Jashore), and funding for repairing 200 tub-wells and installing 100 communal latrines.

**Protection, Gender and Inclusion**

People targeted: 80 000

Male: 37 600

Female: 42 400

Needs analysis and population to be assisted:

The operation will ensure the promotion and participation of men and women of different age groups through orientation and consultation. While the household need assessment will be conducted, Sex, Age, Disability Disaggregated Data (SADDD) will be collected, and analysed and will be informing the emergency response. A continuous dialogue among the different stakeholders will be continued to ensure programmes mainstream DAPS (Dignity, Access, Participation and Safety) approach relevant to the needs and priorities of humanitarian imperatives on the ground.

Planned and ongoing activities include the following:

- Organize orientation for staff and volunteers on the PGI minimum standard
- Collection and analysis of sex-age and disability-disaggregated data
- Development and dissemination of IEC materials on PGI
- Disseminate lifesaving and awareness and important messages through different media
- Use Minimum Standards as a guide to support sectoral teams to include child protection and measures to mitigate the risk of SGBV
- Establish a system to ensure IFRC and NS staff and volunteers have signed the Code of Conduct and have received a briefing in this regard



Disaster Risk Reduction

People targeted: 2,000,000 (pre-disaster)

Male: 1,000,000

Female: 1,000,000

Needs analysis and population to be assisted:

People in coastal districts.

Planned and ongoing activities include the following:

- Mobilization of CPP and BDRCS volunteers for early warning dissemination and evacuation.
- Coordination with CPP and other stakeholders
- Monitor and analyse the forecast to trigger the early actions
- Dissemination of early warning
- Support people to evacuate safely following guidance for COVID-19 or similar pandemic.
- Provide transportation facilities to evacuate people and livestock

Progress update:

BDRCS triggered the cyclone Early Action Protocol (EAP) on 18 May. In accordance to the EAP, BDRCS implemented early actions targeting 20,000 most vulnerable people in Shatkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Potuakhali and Pirojpur districts. Under this EAP, BDRCS and CPP volunteers supported the evacuation of people, livestock and moveable assets using vehicles.

To support evacuation and other EAP assistance, BDRCS deployed trained volunteers to disseminate early warning messages among community and camp populations, work alongside local authorities to evacuate people to cyclone shelters, and provide first aid support.



Health

People targeted: 30,000

Male: 15,000

Female: 15,000

Planned and ongoing activities include the following:

- Mass awareness on COVID-19
- Orientation of volunteers on ECV and volunteer safety
- Social media campaign to raise COVID-19 and other disease awareness
- Provide First aid service
- Provide emergency health service through BDRCS MCH and other health centres
- Provide PPE for the volunteers and staffs
- Provide psycho-social support through hotline
- Staff and volunteer wellbeing – duty of care

Progress update:

In view of COVID-19 health advice, BDRCS volunteers provided masks, hand sanitizers and soaps to people in 40 cyclone shelters. They also provided basic first aid service for evacuees in need.

Strategies for implementation

Planned and ongoing activities include the following:

- Provide briefings/orientation to volunteers
- Mobilization of NDRT, NDWRT, volunteers and staffs
- IFRC country office provides procurement support as needed to the National Society's logistics unit for replenishment.
- IFRC country office supports NS in coordinating with other humanitarian actors and relevant clusters on a regular basis
- Coordinating shelter cluster

- Ensure community engagement and accountability
- Assessment of needs, capacities and gaps as part of a multi-sectoral assessment
- Lessons learned workshop for DREF operation
- Work to support National Society to enhance BDRCS capacity in resource mobilization
- Mobilization of IFRC staff to provide technical assistance
- Provide briefings/orientation to volunteers
- Mobilization of NDRT, NDWRT, volunteers and staffs
- IFRC country office provides procurement support as needed to the National Society's logistics unit for replenishment
- IFRC country office supports NS in coordinating with other humanitarian actors and relevant clusters on a regular basis
- Coordinating shelter cluster
- Ensure community engagement and accountability
- Assessment of needs, capacities and gaps as part of a multi-sectoral assessment
- Lessons learned workshop for DREF operation
- Work to support National Society to enhance BDRCS capacity in resource mobilization

Progress update:

For immediate response, BDRCS deployed more than 70,000 first aid, search and rescue and disaster management trained volunteers (including 55,556 CPP volunteers, RCY volunteers, community volunteers and camp volunteers in camps). BDRCS also placed National Disaster Response Team (NDRT), National Disaster WASH Response Team (NDWRT) and Unit Disaster Response Team (UDRT) on stand-by for further support.

BDRCS is working closely with CPP and conducted emergency coordination meetings with in-country Movement partners. BDRCS is leading the cyclone preparedness coordination along with CPP, RRRC, ISCG, site management officials and other clusters. This is with the support of IFRC and its partners.

A rapid assessment was conducted by NDRT to get information on damage and government damage forms have also been collected from several affected districts.

IFRC CO in Bangladesh has been supporting BDRCS in requesting for an imminent DREF and also in all coordination meetings with partners and stakeholders.

D. Financial Report

The financial report will be made available in the final report.

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Forecast-based triggered action](#)
- [Emergency Plan of Action](#)

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.