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Operation Update Report

Bangladesh: Cyclone YAAS

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n° MDRBD027	GLIDE n° TC-2021-000058-BGD
Operation update n° 1; date of issue: 25 June 2021	Timeframe covered by this update: 21 May to 13 June 2021
Operation start date: 21 May 2021	Operation timeframe: 3 months; end date: 31 August 2021
Funding requirements (CHF): 228,279	
N° of people being assisted: 47,500	
National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) has over 800,000 volunteers and staff, and 68 units all over the country. The National Society is well known and respected in the country and works closely with the government. The role of the BDRCS is well articulated in the government's Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD) which is the main guiding and regulating tool for disaster response and management in Bangladesh.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, German 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, UN Resident Coordinator (RC) office, UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs.	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

The severe cyclonic storm "YAAS" made landfall in West Bengal and Odisha coast in India and later it crossed the west coast of Bangladesh. Cyclone YAAS did not directly make landfall in Bangladesh as forecasted earlier when the imminent DREF was published. However, coinciding with the full moon, a tidal surge across the coastal belt area resulted in broken embankments in many places and inundated houses and forced people into temporary displacement or living in a marooned situation. Based on the disaster impact and current priority needs of the affected communities, BDRCS revised the operation strategy and increased the target (number of people) from 20,000 to 47,500 people for the provision of emergency food, safe water, oral rehydration salt (ORS), face masks, etc. Additionally, considering the significant impact in terms of livelihood through this DREF operation, BDRCS has included cash-based intervention and targeting to reach 1,000 affected households with multipurpose cash grant assistance and another 200 households through cash-for-work under the outcome of livelihood and basic needs. As a result, within the approved DREF budget and timeline, a revision was made with an increased budget up to CHF 113,738 from CHF 59,242 under livelihood and basic needs and some of the early actions related activities like support mass early warning dissemination, evacuation and transportation, communication and mobilization of volunteers and installation of temporary handwashing stations at the cyclone shelters have been deprioritized.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

The severe cyclonic storm "YAAS" made landfall in West Bengal and Odisha coast in India on 26 May 2021 at a wind speed of 150 kmph. On the same day, late evening, it crossed the west coast of Bangladesh. Coinciding with the full

moon, causing a 6-8 feet tidal wave across the coastal districts, namely in Bhola, Patuakhali, Sathkira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Jhalokathi, Barguna, Barisal and Pirojpur; resulted in broken embankments and inundation. Consequently, people in these areas were forced into temporary displacement or living in a marooned situation. According to the Need Assessment Working Group (NAWG¹) report dated 6 June 2021, the cyclonic event affected approximately 1.3 million people, damaged around 26,000 houses as well as 16,183 latrines and 1,986 water points in 9 coastal districts. The most affected districts are Bhola, Patuakhali, Sathkira, Bagerhat and Barguna. It is also estimated that around 39 per cent of croplands have been damaged and 3,599 hectares of prawn and fish cultivation area affected. As of 6 June, according to the control room of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and health emergency operation centre (EoC), the number of deaths was three.



Cyclone YAAS brought tidal surges that flooded hundreds of villages in the coastal region of Bangladesh (Photo: BDRCS)

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

BDRCS closely monitored the cyclone situation using various global and national forecasting model and shared the monitoring report (*Synoptic Weather Analysis*) with stakeholders, including in-country Movement partners and different other non-movement partners. Four preparatory meetings were organized on Cyclone YAAS, where BDRCS senior management and the representatives of movement partners actively participated. Subsequently, BDRCS updated its disaster contingency stock. The Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General of BDRCS participated in the preparatory meeting of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR).

Considering the forecast of Cyclone YAAS, BDRCS requested the IFRC to mobilize the imminent DREF for implementing the early actions and for providing emergency relief assistance, such as food, water, health and shelter. With the support of this DREF, BDRCS allocated a total of 9,500 family packages, which comprised dry food, ORS, face masks, drinking water and soap to the affected district branches - Bhola, Barguna, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Bagerhat, Satkhira and Khulna. Besides that, 1,000 tarpaulins and 1,000 hygiene parcels² were also allocated.

During this reporting period, relevant BDRCS branches with the support of the national disaster response team (NDRT), volunteers and staff distributed family packages among the 9,500 cyclone-affected households. A total of 1,000 hygiene parcels and 1,000 tarpaulins were also distributed among the most vulnerable households. In addition to that, BDRCS reached 734 people with psychosocial support (PSS), 175 people with first-aid support and 1,508 people with emergency health service through the mobile medical team.

In addition to that BDRCS is in process to deploy national disaster WASH response team (NDWRT) members to install emergency latrines for the affected people. According to the revised operational strategy, BDRCS has initiated coordination with respective district branches and relevant stakeholders to provide multipurpose cash assistance

¹ NAWG is joint humanitarian platform working under humanitarian coordination task team (HCTT)

² Each hygiene parcel consisted of bathing soap (12), laundry soap (8), sanitary pad (1 pack), toilet paper (5 rolls), toilet brush (1), nail cutter (1), toothpaste (2), toothbrush (5), hand washing liquid soap with dispenser (1) along with refill packages (2), hair oil (1), comb (1) and towel (1).

among 1,000 most affected households to meet the emergency needs of one month. At the same time, BDRCS is coordinating with local authorities and affected communities to initiate the cash for work interventions.



BDRCS volunteers preparing dry food packages for the people affected by Cyclone YAAS (Photo: BDRCS)

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

IFRC Country Delegation (CD) in Bangladesh has been in close coordination with BDRCS, Participating National Societies, and other relevant stakeholders. The forecast, possible impact, and preparedness measures for cyclone YAAS were updated on a regular basis. Technical support was provided to BDRCS to take necessary readiness and early action measures like updating contingency stock and existing response capacity. IFRC CD also alerted all its staff to provide necessary support as required. Considering the forecast of Cyclone YAAS and BDRCS request, the IFRC approved the imminent DREF and allocated CHF 228,279 for the BDRCS to implement emergency activities like early warning awareness message dissemination, evacuation support, dry food distribution, provide safe drinking water, tarpaulins distribution along with technical orientation, hygiene parcel distribution, installation of portable handwashing facilities at the cyclone shelters, construction of emergency latrine facilities for communal use, mass awareness on COVID-19, provision of first aid and psycho-social support and provide emergency health services through mobile medical teams.

The in-country Participating National Societies and ICRC have also been closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with BDRCS to prepare and respond to the adverse situation. The Movement Anticipatory Action team, which comprised BDRCS, IFRC, German Red Cross, American Red Cross and the Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) Climate Centre started monitoring the disturbance detected by the Indian Meteorological Department right after Cyclone Tauktae made landfall in India on 17 May 2021. The team also monitored the tropical disturbance detected by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) and the Global Forecast System (GFS) model. The team shared technical weather synopsis regularly, which was also widely circulated with the inter-sectoral coordination group (ISCG) in Cox's Bazar as part of readiness activities. Multiple channels, like WhatsApp groups, have been opened to circulate forecast analyses with partners and stakeholders, such as BDRCS, Cyclone Preparedness Protocol (CPP), MoDMR, Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) and ISCG to ensure timely coordination. The in-country Movement Forecast-based Action partners meetings were organized by BDRCS on 19 and 20 May, where IFRC, RCRC Climate Centre, and in-country PNS, American Red Cross and German Red Cross took part. BDRCS, RCRC Climate Centre and German Red Cross Forecast-based Financing (FbF) team in Bangladesh closely monitored the disturbance's pattern and provided necessary technical support to BDRCS. The American Red Cross through its Forecast-based Action (FbA) under the coastal Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) programme of BDRCS has expanded their branch-level decentralized funding in the coastal districts based on the [Tropical Cyclone Amphan](#) experience.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The MoDMR coordinated all necessary preparatory actions with relevant district administrations for necessary support from the government side. The BMD regularly updated Cyclone YAAS situation and changes in the weather. District administrations of all coastal districts have been regularly taking updates regarding devastations of Cyclone YAAS from concerned *upazilas*/sub-districts. Local government representatives, administration and the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDP) are working with the local people to minimize the embankment damage. Due to heavy water flow, work on the closure is not yet possible. As per the NAWG report on government allocations as of 2 June: BDT 1 lakh (CHF 1,100) for fodder and BDT 1 lakh (CHF 1,100) for baby food for each of the nine *upazilas* of Khulna district; BDT 2 crore 15 lakh (CHF 238,000) for emergency support in Satkhira district; BDT 1 crore 33 lakh (CHF 147,000) and 357 metric ton of rice for emergency relief purposes in Barguna district. Additionally, the government has also allocated BDT 1 lakh (CHF 1,100) for fodder and BDT 1 lakh (CHF 1,100) for baby food for each of the six *upazilas* of Barguna district. In Patuakhali district, Government has allocated BDT 2 crore 20 lakh (CHF 244,000) for emergency relief purposes. Government of Bangladesh through the MoDMR allocated BDT 45 lakh to support the most vulnerable. Also, 24 *upazilas* of 10 districts received 5,100 bundle sheets of tin as a metal roofing material and BDT 15,300,000 (CHF 170,000) as cash assistance for house repairing. The MoDMR distributed 16,500 packages of food in 27 *upazilas* under the nine worst affected districts. The government will also sanction loans for agricultural and fish farmers at low interest rates.

Shelter Cluster organized one meeting with its partners for coordinated response and participated in two inter-cluster meetings on Cyclone YAAS, where the initiatives and actions of the partners were discussed to overcome the losses. Shelter Cluster has also contributed to the preparation of the '*Cyclone YAAS: Light coordinated joint needs analysis report*' by NAWG. In addition, information has been collected from partners of their activities on Cyclone YAAS. IFRC also participated in the Displacement Cluster meeting on Cyclone YAAS.

Save the Children Bangladesh Country office initiated an 'Early Action for Cyclone project' at Patuakhali and Bagerhat district with the partnership of Jago NARRI and JJS in 2021. At the preparedness stage, the project identified threshold and trigger along with potential community and family level early actions. For Cyclone 'YAAS', the project demonstrated pre-selected early actions like people evacuation, re-excavation canal, partial repairmen of weak embankment and roads, prepare cyclone shelters and WASH points through activation of the 'Readiness Trigger' in Signal-1. Subsequently, 700 families received cash and hygiene kits, and 300 families received shelter kits under the 'Activation Trigger' when the signal increased. The action put an example that early actions could save lives and assets as well mitigate potential losses and damages at the community level, which helped people to cope with disaster (source, NAWG).

One representative from the IFRC CD is closely working with the national NAWG and providing timely inputs and feedback to prepare the needs assessment report. The NAWG is the platform for government and non-government humanitarian agencies under Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT). The secretariat of the Working Group is hosted by CARE Bangladesh under the "Supporting Bangladesh Rapid Needs Assessment (SUBARNA) II Project."

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

Due to Cyclone YAAS, the low-lying areas of the coastal districts of Bangladesh namely Bhola, Patuakhali, Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Jhalokathi, Barguna, Barisal and Pirojpur were severely affected. About 26,000 houses were completely and partially damaged, as shown in Table 1. The coastal areas were mainly affected by the high tide, where the plinths of most of the houses were severely damaged and presently under threat of oversaturation due to protracted waterlogging.

Table 1: Breakdown of damages to houses by districts

District	Bagerhat	Barguna	Barisal	Bhola	Jhalokathi	Khulna	Patuakhali	Pirojpur	Satkhira	Total
Fully damaged	-	-	57	3,579	-	1,200	484	-	4,695	10,015
Partially damaged	690	1,800	1,083	7,730	50	50	4,209	550	378	16,540
Total	690	1,800	1,140	11,309	50	1,250	4,693	550	5,073	26,555

Also in these areas, embankments, agricultural lands and fish enclosures were severely damaged. The people of the area do not have the capacity to recover from these impacts immediately. Moreover, these areas were also severely damaged by TC Amphan in 2020, which the population are also yet to fully recover from. Due to the ongoing rainy season, those people are currently living in a very fragile condition. In this context, emergency shelter assistance is one of the priority needs, particularly for displaced families and those who have lost houses.

Table 2: Summary of affected population by districts and disaggregated by gender and age (Source: NAWG report dated 6 June 2021)

District	Affected Population	Total Population	% of Population Affected	# of Affected People				
				Male	Female	Children	Elderly	Disability
Bagerhat	24,196	1,406,578	2%	12,542	12,374	10,091	1,559	446
Barguna	17,320	939,310	2%	8,490	8,830	7,080	1,039	365
Barisal	127,162	2,293,071	6%	61,947	65,215	57,528	7,668	1,729
Bhola	169,260	1,853,656	9%	84,469	84,791	82,841	7,955	2,471
Jhalokathi	149,000	671,297	22%	71,848	77,152	65,113	9,871	2,891
Khulna	50,400	2,259,613	2%	25,635	24,765	19,674	2,610	887
Patuakhali	559,363	1,807,356	31%	274,944	284,419	246,385	31,212	9,404
Pirozpur	108,000	1,115,447	10%	53,231	54,769	46,193	6,974	2,279
Satkira	94,850	2,115,096	4%	46,927	47,923	37,317	5,434	1,584
Total	1,300,271	14,461,424	9%	640,033	660,238	572,222	74,322	22,057

According to the light joint needs assessment report by NAWG, more than 39 per cent of croplands were damaged in the nine most affected districts³. It was also reported that 3,599 hectares of prawn and fish farm (*gher*) areas were damaged. People's livelihoods have been severely affected, which will last up to years as fishing *ghers*, agricultural lands and huge numbers of livestock and poultry have been washed away, small businesses have been destroyed and day laborers are out of work. According to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), due to Cyclone YAAS, 12,150 hectares of crops out of 210,135 hectares of agricultural land are affected - due to the breach of embankments, which led to saline water intrusion into agricultural lands. This will have an impact on rice production. According to the NAWG findings, cash for work is the highest priority to address the livelihood restoration, embankment repair, which will support the local economy and improve food security. Food and livelihood assistance is vital to ensure households' food security, as agriculture production will be challenging for quite a long time until desalinization. Multi-purpose cash grant (MPCG) also helps them to restore their livelihoods and other basic needs.

Cyclone YAAS damaged the water points and latrines in the coastal areas of Bangladesh. The drinking water points were submerged with saline water due to the breach of the embankments, caused by high tide and storm surges. As such, the rehabilitation of water points, tube wells and latrines are urgently needed. Separate WASH facilities for women, girls and people with disabilities (PWDs) in the cyclone shelter need to be constructed to provide the best services to vulnerable people at such shelters. The affected people need hygiene materials as they have lost their hygiene items during the disaster. The menstruating girls and women lack hygiene products. Climate-resilient WASH facilities need to be constructed and installed at the household and community level to address the long-term needs of community people.

The impact of Cyclone YAAS has been most felt in low-lying areas where people have still been struggling to recover from the devastation of Cyclone Amphan amid the global COVID-19 pandemic. Many people were temporarily displaced, the majority residing in temporary shelters on embankments, cyclone shelters and hosted by relatives in affected areas. A total of 16,183 latrines and 1,986 tube wells were damaged (Source: DPHE) in the affected districts. Communicable disease outbreaks (e.g. Diarrhea and skin diseases) are likely to increase due to polluted water, disrupted sanitation systems and salinity intrusion as per the report prepared by NAWG and Information Management Working Group.

According to the NAWG report, the repair work of the damaged embankments are the topmost priority for the affected districts as recurring tropical cyclones have caused notable damages in the infrastructure, which resulted in saline water intrusion, flooding, and long-term waterlogging in these areas. Due to climate change impact and geographical location, disaster frequency, intensity and density are increasing in Bangladesh. Therefore, it's high time to ensure sustainable development in the community for their survival. Infrastructures development, community-based disaster risk management, early warning system, multi-hazard assessment, relocation plan, declaration of the hazard zone, strengthening the livelihood options are the most important issues for disaster risk reduction.

Operation Risk Assessment

Apart from the difficulty of road access in the affected areas and increased health risks considering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, water-borne diseases and vehicle accidents, there are no major threats in Bangladesh that may directly interrupt the implementation of operational activities. BDRCS has been practising field implementation guidelines considering the current COVID-19 context to minimize risk while implementing the emergency operation. IFRC CD has also updated its framework on ABC (actioning business continuity), which has helped to minimize the risk to sustain these critical humanitarian needs.

In addition, both BDRCS and IFRC has a 'Zero Tolerance' policy against corruption, discrimination against gender or race, sexual harassment, sexual abuse and bullying. As a mitigating measure of the above risks, staff member/volunteers have been oriented accordingly on IFRC policies and guidelines.

³ The affected districts are Bhola, Patuakhali, Satkira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Jhalokathi, Barguna, Barisal and Pirozpur

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

Overall operational objective

The overall objective of this DREF operation is to assist 47,500 people affected by the cyclone through the provision of emergency food, drinking water, MPCG, sanitation, health, shelter and cash for work support.

Proposed strategy

Cyclone YAAS did not directly make landfall in Bangladesh as forecasted earlier when the imminent DREF was requested. Nevertheless, tidal wave across the coastal districts resulted in broken embankments in many places and inundation, which forced people into temporary displacement or living in a marooned situation. The operation strategy revolves around the following key activities to reach 47,500 people in the seven most affected districts, namely Bhola, Patuakhali, Sathkira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Barguna and Pirojpur to meet the emergency needs in coordination with the government, UN agencies, INGOs, NGOs and others.

- Support mobilization of BDRCS volunteers, NDRT, NDWRT members, staff and conduct assessment to provide emergency assistance.
- Based on the disaster impact and priority needs of the affected communities in terms of food, WASH, shelter and health, BDRCS increased the target (number of people) from 20,000 to 47,500 people who will be provided with emergency food, water, ORS, face mask, etc.
- Provide affected people with emergency health services through mobile medical teams and first aid services from trained volunteers.
- Considering the significant impact on food and livelihood and based on the priority needs of affected people, BDRCS is targeting to reach 1,000 affected households with MPCG assistance and another 200 households through cash for work modality.

Table 3: Summary of key activities covered through this DREF operation

Sector	Activity	Target
Food Security and Livelihood	Provide emergency food assistance	47,500 people
	Provide MPCG assistance	5,000 people
	Provision of cash for work to improve income	1,000 people (200 HH)
WASH	Provide safe drinking water	47,500 people
	Distribution of hygiene parcels	5,000 people
	Construction of emergency latrine facilities for communal use	2,000 people
Health	Mass awareness on COVID-19	47,500 people
	Provide first aid and psychosocial support	200 people
	Provide emergency health service through mobile medical teams	500 people
Shelter	Distribution of tarpaulins along with technical orientation	5,000 people

Communication

The communication team of the IFRC CD and BDRCS, in close coordination with the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) communication unit, have been maintaining a steady flow of information and communication between operations in the field and major stakeholders, including media, RCRC Movement partners, and donors. Information on BDRCS, IFRC and Movement partners' actions have been shared via social media, and national and international newspapers. The principal aim has been to ensure that this humanitarian response is professionally communicated, understood and supported by the stakeholders.

Since the forecast period of the cyclone, the teams have externally communicated the preparedness activities and actions taken by BDRCS, CPP and the partners. A press release was issued which was covered by various Bangladeshi and international media including [Al Jazeera](#), Reuters, Agence France Presse (AFP), and [Dhaka Tribune](#). Regular updates have been provided to external audiences through the official Facebook and Twitter accounts of IFRC and BDRCS. The activities have been widely covered by different Bengali newspapers as well.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

The CEA team of BDRCS along with the IFRC was continuously in touch with the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) platform to disseminate the lifesaving messages in line with the COVID-19 context. Furthermore, BDRCS through its social media has taken a few steps to raise awareness in terms of 'dos' and 'don'ts' through social media, with more than 238,500 people reached. With support from the IFRC and American Red Cross, BDRCS was engaged with CPP and MoDMR regarding the update of the cyclone early warning protocol and messages for cyclone-

prone areas considering the COVID-19 pandemic situation. Based on the updated messages, BDRCS jointly with CPP organized a Facebook live event '*Cyclone preparedness amid COVID-19 and things need to follow*' in May 2021, where during the live event, more than 100 viewers joined and overall, more than 21,500 people reached. Different questions related to COVID-19 and cyclone preparedness were answered by the panel of BDRCS' Deputy Secretary General, Director of CPP and a DRR expert. During the event, the IFRC health officer addressed technical questions and two volunteers from the field shared their experience during Cyclone Amphan in 2020.

Lifesaving messages before, during and after the cyclone was shared by BDRCS through its social media platforms. The same also was shared with the RCCE platform for wider dissemination. BDRCS was ready to share the evacuation message via short message service (SMS) with the support of the RCCE platform through mobile networks, especially targeting the population at the coastal belt. However, since the cyclone signal was not raised further and the official evacuation order was not given by the government, this was not executed. On top of that, the hotline number and feedback email (feedback@bdracs.org) of BDRCS were shared widely. Through these, BDRCS responded to the information request of 17 people about humanitarian assistance in cyclone-prone areas. At the distribution sites, volunteers engaged with the people through information desks and face-to-face communication and addressed different questions of the affected people. Questions/topics include who are getting the support, what are the types of support, will they get any additional support, etc. NDRTs deployed received sensitization on the CEA and worked closely with the operation team on the ground. BDRCS will deploy a dedicated NDRT focusing on CEA aspects of the operation to support the cash distribution.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion

A considerable number of people have been displaced and taking temporary shelter on embankments, open places (mostly highlands), cyclone shelters and others' houses. In protection and safety issues, women, children girls, and PWDs have become more vulnerable due to the potential risk of sexual and gender-based violence, abuse, exploitations, and distress. Even a risk of children being separated from the family may lead to trafficking. Since household areas are damaged, loss of proper habitats and minimum incomes, families may tend to overcome the situations by taking negative coping strategies like borrow money with a high interest rate, marry off their children at an early age, selling livestock at low prices, which expose a higher level of vulnerabilities for the affected people.

Along with the key needs, affected people particularly women, girls, children, lactating women, pregnant women, elderly people, and PWDs have been prioritized for humanitarian assistance like food package, hygiene parcel, water, etc., through door-to-door household assessment by trained volunteers and NDRT members. These groups will be also given priority when the assessment for cash support is conducted. Apart from that, BDRCS will develop and disseminate key lifesaving awareness messages on child protection, gender-based violence, and trafficking which may help to reduce and mitigate SGBV, child abuse, and negative coping strategies. PGI has been mainstreamed into all of the sectoral intervention of this DREF operation. The hygiene kit included 10 sanitary pads for immediate need. At distribution sites, separate lines are maintained for male and female. Furthermore, priority lines are also maintained for PWDs, the elderly, lactating women and parents with children.

Logistics and supply chain management

The initial household items like tarpaulins, hygiene parcels were dispatched from BDRCS pre-positioning stocks right after Cyclone YAAS made landfall, which allowed BDRCS to meet the immediate needs of the affected areas. Accordingly, the IFRC CD will procure and replenish 1,000 packages of hygiene parcels through local procurement and 1,000 tarpaulins through the IFRC Global Humanitarian Services & Supply Chain Management unit in Asia Pacific (GHS&SCM-AP).

The IFRC CD along with the BDRCS always maintain the required coordination with the National Logistics Cluster in terms of sharing necessary information related to the affected and operational areas, immediate response plan and intervention update to the targeted areas, any problem/benefits, necessary support, relief import issues, customs clearance, and duty exemptions issues. For fleet support, IFRC CD Logistics and Procurement Department has been accommodating the requirement within the existing capacity of Vehicle Rental Programme (VRP) vehicles.

Emergency dry food, water, soaps and face masks have been procured locally following the BDRCS procurement process and these items comply with the minimum quality requirement of the government. For providing cash assistance, IFRC has a framework agreement with the financial service provider and this agreement will be used to reach people with cash assistance. This framework agreement was concluded following the IFRC procurement process.

Human resources

BDRCS has been utilizing its existing staff, NDRT, NDWRT and volunteers for the response operation. To complete the DREF operation within the timeline, as of now BDRCS mobilized 14 NDRT members, more than 200 volunteers and three mobile medical teams to provide emergency support.

IFRC staff in Bangladesh CD are assisting BDRCS with the necessary support, such as planning, coordination, information management, need assessment, and technical support for operational management. With the support of IFRC APRO, additional technical surge capacities may be engaged when there is a need.

Information Technology and Information Management

IT has committed to delivering IT solutions, while maintaining the existing IT solutions, to providing IT services, projects, end-user support in the most efficient and skilled manner. Also highly involved with CPP for technical development and digital transformation throughout the year for better communication during the disaster period. Provide accurate data assessments tool like KoBo collect mobile application, train NDRT members to get exact information about beneficiaries ensuring data security and cooperate with IM and programme personnel to analyse data and evaluate actual beneficiaries requires for assistance are among the common support provided.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

The operation team with the support of BDRCS staff and NDRT members and local volunteers carry out periodic monitoring through regular data collection. BDRCS issued three situation reports and disseminated them widely through email. The IFRC's [GO platform](#) is also updated by the operation team. A lesson learned workshop will be organized by the end of the operation and will capture lessons learned and best practices throughout the operation. A final report of the DREF operation will be issued within three months after the operation ends.


Administration and Finance

Both the BDRCS and the IFRC finance and administration team are providing necessary support to the operation as requested by the operation team. This includes necessary operational support for review, validation of budgets, bank transfers, and technical assistance to BDRCS on procedures for justification of expenditures, including the review and validation of invoices.

Security

Since the commencement of the operation, IFRC security closely monitored the security situation of operational locations and responded and communicated with all concerned accordingly. During the reporting period, there was no major security issue except difficulty to work with COVID-19 restrictions as well as road access to some affected communities as tidal water entered into the low-lying areas of coastal districts. However, to ensure the safety and security of the RCRC personnel, a movement monitoring system is in place for all field travels and security advisories are disseminated, including imposing temporary restrictions as appropriate. Safety and security alerts are also sent timely via WhatsApp messages.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

 <p>Shelter People reached: 5,000 Male: 2,483 Female: 2,517</p>		
Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of targeted people with safe and adequate shelter and settlements assistance</i>	5,000	5,000
Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected households.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of households provided with emergency shelter items to have a space that meets the minimum living conditions</i>	1,000	1,000
Output 1.2: Technical support, guidance and awareness raising in safe shelter design and settlement planning and improved building techniques are provided to affected households		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of awareness raising training on safe local building techniques to local builders and/or volunteers and staff</i>	3	4

Progress towards outcomes

To meet the emergency shelter needs of the affected communities, BDRCS immediately mobilized 1,000 pieces of tarpaulins from its existing contingency disaster preparedness stock to reach 1,000 affected households. BDRCS also mobilized its volunteers and staff to assess the affected households in the community and targeting the households based on shelter damage severity and other vulnerabilities.

During the distribution, BDRCS also organized awareness session regarding the safe fixing technique of tarpaulin with available local construction materials. These sessions helped targeted households to construct their makeshift shelters. Table 4 shows the breakdown of household beneficiaries that received emergency shelter assistance by districts.



BDRCS staff and volunteers demonstrating how to use tarpaulin at a distribution centre in Pirojpur (Photo: BDRCS)

Table 4: Breakdown of tarpaulin support by districts

Items	Barguna	Bhola	Patuakhali	Pirojpur	Total
Tarpaulin	300	400	200	100	1,000



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 47,500

Male: 23,584

Female: 23,916

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of targeted people that have emergency food to meet their survival threshold	100%	100%
Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with food assistance	47,500 ⁴	47,500
Output 1.1: Skills development and/or productive assets and/or financial inclusion to improve income sources are provided to target population (off-farm livelihoods).		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households assisted through cash for work	200 ⁵	Planned
Output 1.5: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households reached with MPCG	1,000 ⁶	Planned

Progress towards outcomes

During the reporting period, BDRCS reached 9,500 households (47,500 people) with dry food package during the immediate response period in seven affected districts namely Khulna, Satkhira, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna and

⁴ According to the revised operational strategy the target has been increased from 20,000 people to 47,500 people.

⁵ According to the revised operational strategy provision of cash for work has been included for 200 affected households.

⁶ According to the revised operational strategy multipurpose cash assistance has been included for 1,000 affected households.

Pirojpur. Each of the households received 2.5 kg of flattened rice, 1 kg sugar, 800 gm energy biscuits (10 packets) along with drinking water, soap, oral saline, and facial masks.

Table 5: Breakdown of dry food package support by districts

District	Bagerhat	Barguna	Bhola	Khulna	Patuakhali	Pirojpur	Satkhira	Total
# of households	1,000	1,500	2,500	1,000	1,500	1,000	1,000	9,500

BDRCS respective district branches with the support of volunteers and deployed NDRT members conducted a rapid household assessment to identify the most affected households. At the same time, district branches procured required dry food items locally and arranged local transport for quick delivery.

Considering the significant impact on livelihood, cash for work and multipurpose cash grant assistance component have been included for the affected people. Under the cash for work, around 200 households will be able to work 20 days will receive BDT 400 for each working day. As a result, each targeted household will be able to receive a maximum of BDT 8,000 (CHF 84). The cash for work scheme will be selected in consultation with the local government and targeted communities and through this initiative, a livelihood opportunity will be created for the affected people. The targeted people will be identified through a self-targeting approach and based on their capabilities. The overall technical and monitoring support will be provided by the concerned local government engineering department.



Volunteers distributing food and hygiene parcel to a person who has been affected by Cyclone YAAS (Photo: BDRCS)

Through the MPCG assistance, BDRCS will reach a total of 1,000 most affected households through financial service provider. Each of these targeted households will receive BDT 4,500⁷ (CHF 47) to meet the emergency need of one month. A detailed household assessment will be conducted by trained volunteers and NDRT members using a mobile application like KoBoCollect to identify the targeted households. Priority will be given to the displaced people in the affected areas. In addition, vulnerable groups like elderly persons, children including adolescents, marginal income farmers, female-headed households, lactating mothers, and people with disabilities will be prioritized.



Health

People reached: 47,500

Male: 23,584

Female: 23,916

Outcome 2: The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment

Output 2.1: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people provided with clinical health care services during emergencies	500	1,508
# of people reached by First Aid services	100	175

Outcome 4: Transmission of diseases of epidemic potential is reduced

Output 4.6: Improved knowledge about public health issues among target population in cyclone affected area.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with community-based epidemic prevention and control activities.	47,500	47,500

Outcome 6: The psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened

⁷ [National cash working group guidelines](#)

Output 6.1: Psychosocial support provided to the target population as well as to RCRC volunteers and staff

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached by psychosocial support	100	734

BDRCS deployed three mobile medical teams (MMTs⁸) and first aider volunteers to support the vulnerable community to reduce immediate risks to the health. As of reporting period, BDRCS has provided emergency health service among 1,508 people through the MMTs and first aid service to 175 people.

Along with the disaster, addressing the COVID-19 context in the country was prioritized and access to personal protection equipment (PPE) like adequate face masks for the most vulnerable people as well as for the staff and volunteers was ensured. BDRCS provided some 95,000 face masks and 47,500 ORS among the 9,500 affected households.

The health team also conducted mass awareness on COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. To lessen the psychological impacts of and after the disaster, the BDRCS health team reached 56 individuals including BDRCS' staff, volunteers as well as general people through the psychosocial support call centre and reached 678 patients with psychological first aid (PFA) through MMTs in Satkhira, Patuakhali and Barguna Districts. Besides that, BDRCS also oriented MMT members including three doctors and three paramedics. Since a high number of patients were seeking treatment from MMT, it was challenging to provide health service with limited resources. Due to remoteness and limited accessibility, MMTs have faced difficulties to travel to these most vulnerable communities.



Three mobile medical teams have been deployed in Satkhira, Patuakhali, and Barguna districts following cyclone YAAS to provide free emergency medical treatment to people affected by the cyclone (Photo: BDRCS)



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 47,500

Male: 23,584

Female: 23,916

Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with WASH services	47,500	47,500

Output 1.2: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people have access to safe drinking water	47,500	47,500

Output 1.3: Adequate sanitation which meets Sphere standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of emergency latrines constructed	100	0
# of people have access to emergency latrine facilities	2,000	0

Output 1.4: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached by hygiene promotion activities	5,000	5,000

Output 1.5: Hygiene-related goods (NFIs) which meet Sphere standards and training on how to use those goods is provided to the target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with a set of essential hygiene items ⁹	1,000	1,000

⁸ one mobile medical team (MMT) consists of one doctor, one paramedic and two volunteers.

Progress towards outcomes

During this reporting period, BDRCS distributed 38,000 litres of safe drinking water and 19,000 handwashing soaps among 9,500 households. BDRCS locally procured 19,000 pieces of 2-litre PET (polyethylene terephthalate) bottle of drinking water (mobilization of the water treatment plant was not a feasible option due to saline water intrusion) and 19,000 pieces of handwashing soap. In addition, BDRCS immediately mobilized 1,000 sets of hygiene parcels from its disaster preparedness stock and distributed them among the 1,000 most vulnerable households.

Each of these hygiene parcels consists of bathing soap (12 pieces), laundry soap (8 pieces), sanitary pad (1 pack), toilet paper (5 rolls), toilet brush (1 piece), nail cutter (1 piece), toothpaste (2 pieces), toothbrush (5 pieces), hand washing liquid soap with dispenser (1 piece) along with refill packages (2 pieces), hair oil (1 bottle), comb (1 piece) and towel (1 piece). Before the distribution, the volunteers oriented the targeted households on the use of each item in the hygiene parcels and conduct an awareness session on hygiene practice. During the awareness sessions, the trained volunteers disseminated information regarding proper handwashing, cleaning teeth, keeping the latrine clean, etc.

Table 6: Breakdown of hygiene parcel support by districts

District	Barguna	Bhola	Patuakhali	Pirojpur	Total
# of households received hygiene parcel	300	400	200	100	1,000



BDRCS staff and volunteers giving a briefing about the hygiene parcel and hygiene practice before distribution (Photo: BDRCS)

BDRCS is in the process of mobilizing trained staff and NDWRT members in three districts namely Sathkira, Barguna and Patuakhali to construct emergency communal latrines targeting the displaced people. These latrines will be installed in coordination with the affected communities, local authorities, and the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE).



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People reached: 47,500

Male: 23,584

Female: 23,916

Outcome 1: Communities identify the needs of the most vulnerable and particularly disadvantaged and marginalised groups, as a result of inequality, discrimination and other non-respect of their human rights and address their distinct needs.

Indicators:

Does the operation demonstrate evidence of addressing the specific needs to ensure equitable access to disaster response services?

Target

Yes

Actual

Yes

Output 1.1: NS programmes improve equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Does the operation demonstrate evidence of NS programmes improve equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors?</i>	Yes	Yes

Progress towards outcomes

In addition to the volunteers and staff of respective branches, BDRCS mobilized 14 NDRT to assist local branches to provide humanitarian assistance following the minimum standard of PGI in emergencies. These NDRT members received orientation on Dignity, Access, Participation and safety (DAPS), code of conduct, child protection policy and PSEA during participating NDRT training. These NDRT members guided and supported respective branches to ensure sitting arrangement, separate toilets for men and women, childcare corner, safe drinking water facilities etc. BDRCS has been prioritizing the most vulnerable groups like the elderly persons, children including adolescents, marginal income farmers, female-headed households, lactating mothers, and PWDs.

To meet the diversified need of the affected people in a dignified manner, BDRCS will provide MPCG assistance among the most vulnerable households through conducting household details assessment. Sex, age and disability disaggregated data (SADDD) will guide BDRCS to identify the vulnerable people and additional cash or in-kind support will be provided among the people with special needs after data analysis. Considering the COVID-19 situation, lifesaving and awareness messages on Child Protection, SGBV and negative coping strategies are disseminated through social media and some of the IEC materials have developed and will be disseminated among the affected areas.



Disaster Risk Reduction

People reached: 100,000 (Pre-disaster)
 Male: 49,650
 Female: 50,350

Outcome 1: Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of people supported with cyclone preparedness and mitigation</i>	2 million	47,500

Output 1.1: Communities take active steps to strengthen their preparedness for timely and effective response to disasters.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of people reached with early warning campaigns</i>	2 million	47,500
<i># of people assisted through evacuation</i>	20,000	0

Progress towards outcomes

As mentioned earlier, the BDRCS FbA team with the support of the German Red Cross and RCRC Climate Centre started monitoring the disturbance detected by Indian Meteorological Department right after Cyclone Tauktae made landfall in India on 17 May 2021. FbA team had been monitoring the tropical disturbance detected by the ECMWF, GFS model and sharing technical weather synopsis regularly which was also widely circulated with both internal and external partners as part of readiness activities. Multiple channels, like WhatsApp groups, had been opened to circulate forecast analyses with partners and stakeholders like BDRCS, CPP, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MODMR), BMD, ISCG, etc. and ensure timely coordination.

Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General of BDRCS participated in the preparatory meeting of the MoDMR regarding preparation for Cyclone YAAS. Alert messages had been disseminated in all 13 coastal districts since 18 May 2021 and branches of the coastal districts had taken preparation based on periodic coordination meetings.

BDRCS, CPP, IFRC and the American Red Cross worked together to customize the national CPP and cyclone early warning messages in line with the COVID-19 situation and based on the experience of Cyclone Amphan in 2020. A

virtual orientation was organized for CPP and BDRCS volunteers and staff from the coastal belt as part of the cyclone season readiness activity.

In Cox's Bazar, under the DRR initiatives of [Population Movement Operation Emergency Appeal](#), BDRCS with support from the IFRC and American Red Cross, revised the camp-settlement context Early Warning Early Action (EW-EA) protocol to ensure proper and timely coordination between CPP, Refugee Relief Repatriation Commission (RRRC), site management agencies, and other stakeholders. A preparation meeting was held on 20 May among BDRCS, American Red Cross and IFRC Disaster Risk reduction (DRR) team to see the preparedness level as well as to take the necessary arrangement for emergency management. A total of 12 camps were reached with orientation on cyclone preparedness procedures in coordination with CPP camp focal and in consultation with CiCs and respective site management support (SMS) agencies in camps before the cyclone YAAS landfall. Virtual meetings were held with Disaster Management Committees of different camps so that they can be involved with the EW-EA process. Host disaster management committee (DMC) members were provided with health PPE. BDRCS ensured regular communications with the camp focal, CPP supervisor and Communication with Community (CwC), ISCG and UN agencies.

Though it was uncertain about the possible path of the cyclone, the BDRCS team in Bhashan Char was also closely coordinating with the RRRC and Bangladesh Navy representatives as well as with other agencies on the island. Around 18,500 people (approximately 4,600 families) who fled violence in Rakhine state of Myanmar and took shelter in Cox's Bazar camps, relocated to Bhashan Char till April 2021. Unlike the camp settlement, at the island, there are 120 well-constructed three-storied shelters available, where people can take shelter during a cyclone. Based on the "danger" signal, the BDRCS team was ready to prepare people to evacuate to the shelters.

Later based on the more accurate forecast, it was anticipated that there was very little possibility that Cyclone YAAS may landfall directly in Bangladesh. As a result, there was no official instruction from the government for mass evacuation to protect people from the direct impact of Cyclone YAAS. However, as the Cyclone YAAS was coinciding with the full moon, a higher tidal surge across the coastal belt area was anticipated and people were alerted accordingly.

Based on the revised operational strategy, BDRCS is targeting to reach around 200 households under cash for work scheme. The cash for work scheme will be selected in consultation with local government and targeted communities and through this initiative, a livelihood opportunity will be created for the affected people and it will also contribute to the DRR aspect of the targeted communities. The overall technical and monitoring support will be provided by the concerned local government engineering department.

Strengthen National Society

Outcome S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of NS branches that are well functioning in the operation	7	7

Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of NDRT/NDWRT/volunteers/staffs mobilized	100	250

Progress towards outcomes

During the reporting period, BDRCS has mobilized more than 200 volunteers, 14 NDRT members, three NDWRT members and engaged more than 35 staff for Cyclone YAAS response. Prior to the deployment of NDRTs, NDWRTs and volunteers, BDRCS organized a proper orientation on relevant subjects such as code of conduct, fraud and corruption prevention, safety and security, PGI, CEA with the support of concerned colleagues from BDRCS and IFRC.

Meanwhile, the BDRCS CEA team along with IFRC was continuously in touch with the RCCE platform to disseminate the lifesaving messages in line with the COVID-19 contexts. On top of that, the hotline number and feedback email (feedback@bdracs.org) of BDRCS were shared widely. Through these, BDRCS responded to the information request of 17 people about humanitarian assistance in cyclone-prone areas. At the distribution sites, volunteers engaged the people through information desks and face-to-face communication and addressed different

questions of the affected people. Questions/topics include who are getting the support, what are the types of support, will they get any additional support, etc. NDRTs deployed received sensitization on the CEA and worked closely with the operation team on the ground.

BDRCS is currently responding in seven districts and all these district branches are well functioning and responding with trained volunteers, executive members in coordination with local authorities and relevant stakeholders.

Influence others as leading strategic partner

Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable</i>	Yes	Yes

Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of assessment done for needs, capacities and gaps</i>	1	1
<i># of lessons learned workshop conducted</i>	1	Planned

Progress towards outcomes

Both BDRCS and IFRC have been actively communicating and coordinating with the public authorities and national government as well as other stakeholders like UN agencies, INGOs, donors etc. through HCTT, cluster and working group meetings. Both BDRCS and IFRC have been actively engaged with the need assessment working group to assess the priority needs and gaps of the cyclone-affected communities.

Under this DREF operation, a lesson learned workshop has been planned and through this workshop BDRCS and IFRC will capture lessons learned and best practices throughout the operation.

Effective, credible and accountable IFRC

Outcome S4.1: The IFRC enhances its effectiveness, credibility and accountability

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>IFRC extends appropriate technical support</i>	Yes	Yes

Output S4.1.2: IFRC staff shows good level of engagement and performance

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>% of compliance with IFRC HR procedures</i>	100%	100%

Progress towards outcomes

IFRC staff have been supporting BDRCS since the beginning of this operation through maintaining close coordination with BDRCS counterparts as well as with the IFRC APRO counterparts and in-country PNSs. At the same time support services such as logistics, finance, resource mobilization, communication, PGI, reporting, planning, monitoring and security are being provided by concerned IFRC staff.

D. Financial Report

Having considered the forecast of Cyclone YAAS and the request of BDRCS, IFRC approved the imminent DREF and allocated CHF 228,279 to implement early actions and emergency activities. Based on the evolving situation, the DREF budget has been revised, specifically along the budget lines. However, the total amount remains the same.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

DREF OPERATION

MDRBD027 - Bangladesh - Cyclone

6/13/2021

Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Shelter - Relief	12,552
Food	39,748
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	36,009
Medical & First Aid	16,909
Cash Disbursement	66,421
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	171,638
Distribution & Monitoring	1,046
Transport & Vehicles Costs	6,407
Logistics Services	4,126
Logistics, Transport & Storage	11,579
National Society Staff	4,184
Volunteers	11,506
Personnel	15,690
Workshops & Training	6,224
Workshops & Training	6,224
Travel	5,962
Information & Public Relations	1,161
Office Costs	1,046
Financial Charges	1,046
General Expenditure	9,215
DIRECT COSTS	214,346
INDIRECT COSTS	13,933
TOTAL BUDGET	228,279



Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

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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.



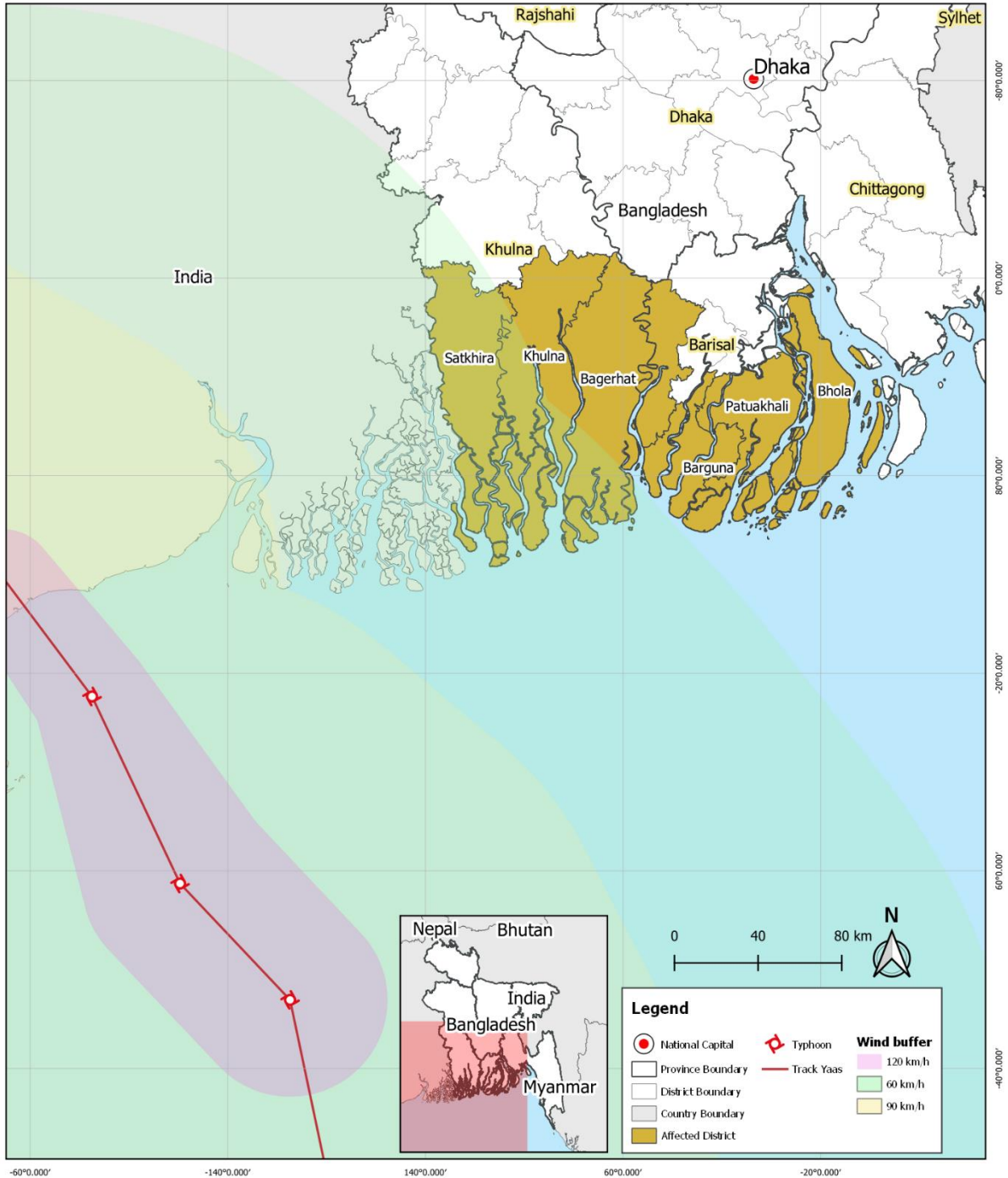
Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



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

**Bangladesh: Cyclone YAAS
Operation update report**

18 June 2021



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of territory or its authorities. Map data sources: OCHA, OSM Contributors, ICRC, IFRC, GDACS-IRC (26 May 2020)