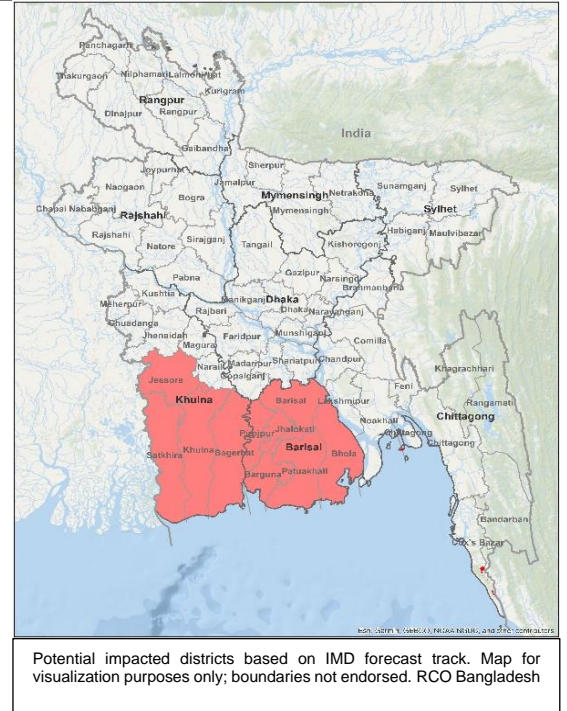


This report is produced by the Inter-cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) in collaboration with cluster and sectors coordinators and humanitarian partners, based in Bangladesh. It was issued on 26 May 2024. It covers the period before the landfall of Cyclone Remal on **preparedness actions**. The next report will be issued as needed.

HIGHLIGHTS

- According to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), super Cyclone Remal is expected to make landfall in Bangladesh on 26 May 2024 in the evening.
- Wind speeds are forecasted to exceed 118 km/hr in some areas of the country, with gusts potentially reaching up to 135 km/hr.
- 51 upazilas across 10 districts are likely to be impacted: Barguna, Barishal, Bhola, Jhalokathi, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Bagerhat, Jashore, Khulna, and Satkhira. These districts, along with their offshore islands and chars, face a critical threat of inundation due to a storm surge of 8-12 feet above normal tide levels.
- The Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG) reports that a total of 8.4 million people may be affected in ten districts, including 4.1 million men, 4.3 million women, 760,433 children, 127,956 persons with disabilities, 617,521 elderly individuals.
- The government has converted social, educational, and religious institutions into makeshift shelters, alongside 4,000 designated cyclone shelters in coastal districts, to accommodate the most vulnerable populations. Most evacuation centers are primary schools located in Barisal and Khulna divisions.
- In support of the government, BDRCS and STEP have activated decentralized anticipatory action funding to provide cyclone shelters, cattle feed, and 50 liters of water per family in cyclone shelters, among other necessities.
- Start Network has released £180,000 to nine partners in four districts to provide cash assistance, food, water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) services, education, shelter, and health assistance.
- The government announced BDT 20.25 million in humanitarian assistance (cash) to be distributed among the affected population in 15 districts.
- The airport of Chittagong and Cox Bazar's have closed, along with the country's three seaports.



8.4M
1 Potential
Affected
population



2.1M
Katcha and
Jhupri
Houses are
at risk



4000
Shelter
opened



2
Airport closed

¹ Needs Assessment Working Group report 26 May 2024

SITUATION OVERVIEW



Health

- The Health Cluster is actively monitoring the overall health situation, collaborating closely with the Health Emergency Operations Centre (HEOC) and Control Room of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) at the national level, the Divisional Director (Health) Office at the divisional level, and the Civil Surgeon's Office at the district level, in addition to other partner agencies.
- Besides the District Hospital and Upazila Health Complexes, Mobile Medical Teams have been deployed at the union level, equipped with sufficient medical supplies, and are on standby in the coastal areas expected to be affected by the cyclone.
- Probable Health Impacts: Injuries, Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD), Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI), Eye, Ear, and Skin Infections, Snakebites, Sexual & Reproductive Health Issues, Mental Health & Psychosocial Problems.



Shelter

- 2.1 million Katcha and Jhupri Houses in Barguna, Barishal, Bhola, Jhalokathi, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Bagerhat, Jashore, Khulna, and Satkhira are at risk of being damaged or destroyed.
- Residents of kutchra and jhupri houses may lose their shelter, household items, and kitchen utensils due to the damage.
- The Shelter Cluster has contingency stocks to reach 35,000 households through its 11 partners.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- The Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), Save the Children, Oxfam, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, BRAC, and UNICEF have readied 35 water treatment plants. These are on standby, prepared to be deployed in the areas affected by the cyclone.
- Jago Nari, Barguna district-based local NGO, has already distributed 6000 liters of water at evacuation points and shelters as part of the Anticipatory Action.
- Life-saving WASH supplies, including Water Purification Tablets (WPTs), Hygiene Kits, Jerrycans, and emergency latrines, are prepositioned and ready for distribution in the community and shelters. Through this supply, UNICEF could cover 50,000 people.
- UNICEF WASH Contingency Programme Document for the Cyclone rapid response-2024 also ready to activate in the Khulna, Barisal, and Chattogram Divisions.



Food Security

- Partners pre-positioned dry foods (flattened rice, biscuits, brown sugar) and folders for distribution in evacuation centers.
- WFP has made AA digital payments for 300,000 people.



Education

- The majority of primary schools in the 11 districts are being used as evacuation centers.



Displacement Management

- Approximately 8.4 million people residing in kutchra and jhupri houses in Barguna, Barishal, Bhola, Jhalokathi, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Bagerhat, Jashore, Khulna, and Satkhira are estimated to be displaced.
- Partners such as Jago Nari, Uttaran, Caritas, BRAC, CODEC, and World Vision are assisting with evacuation by providing food, hygiene kits, and water purification tablets at the centers.



Child Protection

- In partnership with the Department of Social Services (DSS), a total of 56 social workers across Barishal and Khulna divisions are on standby to provide psychosocial and case management support.
- Awareness messages on preventing family separation, drowning prevention, and Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) have been shared with 70 Women and Children Police Help Desks in three divisions: Barishal, Khulna, and Chattogram.
- More than 1,500 Family kits, 2,500 Dignity kits, and 798 Recreational kits have been prepositioned.
- Child Safe Spaces have been established in the 25 cyclone centers.

GBV

- Khulna and Bagerhat Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) chapters/groups are active in providing support.
- Partners such as ActionAid, Oxfam, Perona have raised awareness about Gender-Based Violence (GBV) for evacuating women and girls.
- Partners like JAGO NARI, aided by Oxfam, provided cash aid to 606 families in Barguna to mitigate cyclone impact and reduce GBV risks.
- More than 5,000 Dignity kits and 850 menstrual health management kits are prepositioned.

FUNDING

- Start Network released £180,000 as Anticipatory Finance to 9 partners in four districts to provide cash, food, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services, education, shelter, and health assistance. Additionally, Start Network has a contingency fund of £550,000 for emergency response, to be released immediately within 72 hours if partners raise a response activation request.
- The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) activated decentralized funding for anticipatory action.

GENERAL COORDINATION

- Coordination is taking place across all clusters and sectors. A second ICCG meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to discuss the impact and response.

ROHINGYA REFUGEE RESPONSE: COX'S BAZAR

Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar live in temporary shelters in a highly congested camp setting. With Bangladesh ranking third in the world among states most hit by natural disasters, Rohingya refugees are highly exposed to weather-related hazards, such as cyclones, flooding and landslides. The following preparatory actions are taking place in Cox's Bazar.



Shelter and CCCM: *Lead Agency IOM and UNHCR*

- List of communal shelters for potential relocation has been shared and non-food items (NFI) prepositioned.
- Updated cyclone alerts and advisory have been shared to DMCs with meetings held regularly.
- Cyclone response operational control rooms established in specific camps through the Camp in Charge (CiCs).
- Site Management (SM) teams working within a multi-sector response structure, have been readied for activation.
- Shelter tie-down kits have been distributed.
- SM volunteers on the ground prioritizing early warning messaging and hoisting of flags to alert communities and facilitate relocation of families from at risk areas to safer zones.
- SM volunteers on the ground and ready to support DMU volunteers for relocation.
- The emergency Cash for Work (CfW) workers are on standby for any immediate Site Development intervention. The heavy machinery and equipment are prepositioned to respond in both Ukhiya and Teknaf camps.
- SM teams will provide support remotely to the CiCs and based on the nature of the request on the ground.



Food Security Sector: *Lead Agency WFP and FAO*

- Emergency Food Assistance Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) has been shared and presented to partners. The Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) shared the SOP to CiCs for compliance.
- FSS Emergency Focals list of contacts is updated and Camp Focals are on stand-by.
- Volunteers are assisting in preparedness activities in the camps and on stand-by for support in the aftermath.
- CfW workers are on stand-by for clearing/cleaning in the aftermath.
- WFP/WVI kitchen is stocked and staffed ready to deliver 30,000 hot meal packages twice daily.
- Emergency food stocks are prepositioned including energy biscuits in depositories at multi-locations for quick distribution to the affected population in the immediate aftermath.
- Communication channels activated between WFP as emergency lead and FSS, as well as all partners.



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) *Sector Lead Agency: UNICEF*

- The first respondents are WASH Actors already in the camps and Host Communities.
- Camp level ERT team meeting conducted and WASH Sector Emergency Contact Listed shared.

- Camp Focal Points and Host community Focal Points to play a key role in assessing needs and responding.
- Recommended to make sure the water tanks are full/half full.
- Recommended to make sure to have reserved fuel for generator if you have backup power system.
- Strengthening of WASH facilities tie-down activities and protecting the WASH facilities from potential landslides.
- Assuring adequate drainage / protection system in the Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants.
- Collaborating with SCCCM to ensure cleaning of drains to avoid blockage / flood.



Health Sector Lead Agency: WHO

- Disseminated health-sector partners on the response plan for cyclone and monsoon season, including meetings between the health sector/EPR-MMT Technical Working Group.
- Updated the health-sector contingency plan contacts, protocols, and health sector service mapping, including medical hubs and MMTs.
- Updated the contingency plan and brief camp health focal points (CHFP), CDFP, CiC, and other stakeholders.
- Reviewed and updated evacuation plans for healthcare facilities. The evacuation plan will focus on inpatient cases, pregnant women, under 5 children, and vulnerable cases.
- The health cluster has identified the evacuation centers supported by IOM and UNHCR in various camp locations.
- Updated stockpiles of emergency health logistics and medical supplies maintained by health-sector partners.
- Coordinated with Protection on referral links between MMT and Protection Emergency Response Units (PERU).



Protection (including GBV and CP) Sector Lead Agencies: UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA

- The Protection Sector activated the PERU teams to ensure effective targeted individual assistance and is ensuring communities are aware of the current referral pathways and oriented on community-based structures, particularly refugees that might be at higher risk (people with disabilities and older people).
- CPSS has convened meetings with partners, and provided essential templates, including an Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) tracker, an emergency stockpile list, and an incident reporting format.
- CP facilities are prepared to serve as emergency shelters and CP partners are disseminating CPSS emergency messages. Community-Based Child Protection Committees (CBCPCs) are on stand-by.
- GBV camp focal point (CFP) lists and links to camp level GBV referral pathways have been shared with protection and non-protection actors. The network of GBV CFP actors was activated the evening of 24 May to engage GBV actors to start preparedness measures and share awareness messaging.
- Dignity kits will be distributed to women of reproductive age (WRA) with priority going to shelterless population.
- Facilities' staff has assessed and secured Women Friendly Spaces/Women and Girls Safe Spaces in order for the facilities to be used as temporary emergency safe shelters by women and children.



Nutrition Sector Lead Agency: UNICEF

- Alerted and updated nutrition emergency focal points at camp level through WhatsApp group.
- Reinforced (tied up) the nutrition facilities structure and raised stored items.
- Alerted Mobile Nutrition Team (MNT) to support beneficiaries. One per site, in total there are 45 nutrition facilities.
- Nutrition volunteers (>1000) are on standby as first responders when/if support is required.
- Program team will develop lists of nutrition staff for additional mobile emergency support.
- Activation of Nutrition partner's emergency communication tree.



Education Sector Lead Agencies: UNICEF and Save the Children

- Education sector followed the sector Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan to communicate with all sector partners and encourage partners to follow the guidance to secure Learning facilities.
- Learning Centers (LCs) tie-down is in progress to ensure that LCs will be able to withstand the cyclone.
- Teaching and Learning materials repositioning to safe places is in progress to ensure no loss or damage occurs.
- Safer LCs have been identified for possible use as temporary shelters in case shelters are affected.
- School DRM committees are activated and supporting LCs preparedness including the tie-down process.

For further information, please contact:

Inter-cluster Cluster Coordination Group Secretariat- Humanitarian Coordination Task Team
Aleyda Valdes, valdes@un.org

For further information on the camps, please contact:
Rohingya refugee response: Cox's Bazar: iscg@iscgcb.org.