Bangladesh: Situation Report #5

Measles Outbreak

25 June 2026

This report was produced by the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group, in collaboration with cluster coordinators and humanitarian partners, members of the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team. It covers the period from 21 May to 24 June 2026.

Highlights

- Bangladesh has reported more than 95,760 suspected and 11,390 confirmed measles cases and 596 suspected and 93 confirmed deaths across all 64 districts as of 25 June, with children under five accounting for 81 per cent of reported cases.
- Recent reporting suggests suspected cases are gradually declining, with the latest 7-day average at around 980 cases per day. However, transmission remains significant, with 996 suspected cases reported in the last 24 hours.
- More than 18.4 million children have been vaccinated through the nationwide measles-rubella (MR) campaign, surpassing the initial target of 18 million children and reaching 102 per cent coverage.
- In the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, the MR vaccination and Vitamin A supplementation campaign reached 94 per cent of the 178,024 targeted children. In Bhasan Char, the campaign achieved 99 per cent coverage.

Situation Overview

The Government of Bangladesh, with support from WHO, UNICEF and Gavi the Vaccine Alliance, launched an emergency measles-rubella (MR) vaccination campaign on 5 April, with national scale-up from 20 April. As of 25 June, more than 18.4 million children have been vaccinated, exceeding the initial target and projected caseload of 18 million children and reaching 102 per cent coverage. In the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, the MR vaccination and Vitamin A supplementation campaign reached 94 per cent of the 178,024 targeted children. The campaign was expanded to Bhasan Char, achieving 99 per cent coverage.

Recent reporting data suggests that the number of suspected cases are gradually declining. However, the daily transmission rate remains significant, with 996 suspected cases reported over the last 24 hours. As of 25 June 2026, the Directorate General of Health and Services reported more than 95,760 suspected measles cases íand 11,390 confirmed cases, and 596 suspected and 93 confirmed deaths across the country. Children under five account for 81 per cent of cases. All 64 districts are affected, including urban centres and hard-to-reach communities.

In the Rohingya refugee camps, including Bhasan Char, 865 suspected and 105 confirmed cases have been reported, with five deaths recorded to date.

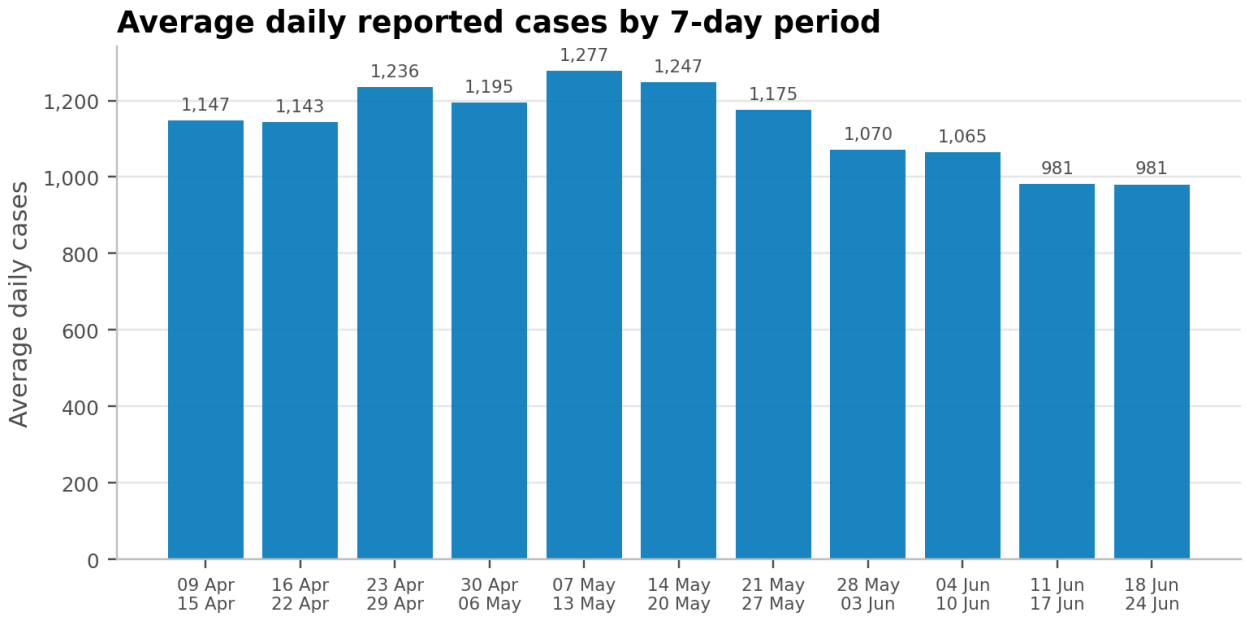

Figure 1. *Average daily reported cases by 7-day period. Weekly averages 980 cases per day.*

Government Coordination and Response

The Government of Bangladesh continues to steer the measles response, supported by coordinated action across relevant ministries, departments and partners. To address immunisation gaps, the National Immunisation Technical Advisory Group has recommended targeted vaccination of dropout children aged 6-59 months through routine Expanded Programme on Immunisation sessions. An after-action review with government and partners is also planned to take stock of the response and identify measures to further strengthen outbreak preparedness.

In high-burden areas, health system readiness has been strengthened through expanded treatment capacity in referral facilities and the deployment of additional medical equipment, including oxygen systems and ventilators, to manage severe cases. Health facilities in affected districts are rolling out training based on the updated National Protocol for Measles Management, while Ministry of Health and Family Welfare directives require all districts to put in place isolation arrangements to reduce in-facility transmission. Surveillance and coordination mechanisms have also been reinforced at national and subnational levels to support timely detection, reporting and response planning.

Support is also being provided by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and UNICEF to accelerate procurement of 26 million Vitamin A capsules for the nationwide Vitamin A Plus supplementation campaign, targeting children aged 6-59 months. The campaign, scheduled to launch on 28 June, aims to reduce measles-related complications and mortality while strengthening broader child survival interventions. Risk communication and community engagement activities are also being supported to maximise caregiver awareness and uptake.

Humanitarian Response

Child Protection Cluster

The child protection cluster, co-led by the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MoWCA) and UNICEF, used child protection community hubs and community-based platforms to support safe and equitable access to measles response and immunisation services for vulnerable children. Activities focused on community outreach, protection messaging, orientation for frontline workers, and the identification and referral of vulnerable children, including those missed by initial vaccination efforts.

Through MoWCA community hubs, 1,962 awareness sessions reached more than 40,500 people, including 26,900 women and girls, with messages on measles prevention, vaccination and care-seeking. In parallel, Department of Social Services social workers reached 19,200 people, including 9,100 women and girls, through community outreach and referral support, helping improve access to vaccination and other essential health services for vulnerable children.

Education Cluster

The cluster continues to support measles prevention and vaccination awareness through school-based outreach and partner-led education activities. Through collaboration with Volunteer for Bangladesh and youth-led organisations, the "One Vaccine, One Life" campaign supported by UNICEF has reached 55,550 primary school learners and more than 653,600 parents, caregivers, teachers and young people across 209 schools, with outreach continuing in additional schools.

Following joint orientations with the Directorate of Primary Education, more than 250 district and sub-district education officials have been mobilised to sustain awareness efforts. They are supporting the dissemination of measles prevention and vaccination messages to approximately 20 million students and 385,000 primary teachers nationwide.

The Education cluster partner, UNICEF, is also working with the District Education Office in Kishoreganj to orient secondary school teachers from 60 schools on measles prevention and vaccination messaging. This initiative is expected to support the dissemination of key awareness and prevention messages to approximately 60,000 secondary-level learners.

Health Cluster

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), procured and distributed 11 ventilators, 27 nebulisers and 27 oxygen flow meters to 12 public hospitals. BDRCS also delivered 10,000 units of normal saline to the Dhaka North City Corporation Hospital, with a further 90,000 units in transit. More than 1,500 families affected by measles received unconditional cash assistance of BDT 10,000 through 12 public health facilities. To strengthen epidemic preparedness and response capacity, BDRCS completed three batches of Epidemic Control for Volunteers training across 34 districts, reaching 77 volunteers. Through 33 BDRCS units, 685 health awareness sessions, including community and courtyard sessions, reached 19,786 people with messages on

routine immunisation, hygiene practices and disease prevention. BDRCS health facilities managed 78 measles cases, while 1,550 hygiene kits were distributed to DGHS-designated hospitals and BDRCS health facilities, including hospitals and Mother and Child Health Centres. In Cox's Bazar, 2,364 MR awareness and health education sessions reached approximately 8,320 people. In parallel, 23,378 household visits reached around 35,316 people, including 13,385 men and boys and 21,931 women and girls, with measles prevention messages. These efforts supported the identification and referral of 676 unvaccinated or previously missed children for vaccination.

Caritas Bangladesh is supporting measles awareness and counselling activities in eight upazilas through its Women, Couple and Child Health Development project. Health workers are using existing community platforms, including union health committees, mothers' groups, adolescent groups and cluster meetings, to support localised monitoring, share tailored messages on measles prevention and vaccination, and address concerns and misconceptions about vaccines. Caritas is also reinforcing routine immunisation awareness, nutrition counselling for pregnant and lactating women and young children, and referral to health facilities when needed. Trained village midwives and traditional birth attendants are supporting door-to-door counselling for pregnant women and new mothers on timely vaccination, child nutrition and safe referrals to Upazila Health Complexes.

Friendship provided 12 boats to facilitate access to vaccination campaigns in hard-to-reach areas. The organisation conducted 2,349 courtyard sessions on measles awareness and 235 health education sessions, reaching 3,839 people. Friendship also supported 3,528 people in accessing vaccination services at government health facilities in its intervention areas. During outreach activities, two suspected measles cases were identified and referred for treatment, including one case to Barishal Medical College and one case to Ajmiriganj Health Complex.

JHPEIGO is supporting local outbreak response and immunisation efforts in collaboration with Government counterparts. This includes the development of a brief Bangla handbook on managing infectious disease outbreaks through Upazila Rapid Response Teams, in collaboration with the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research. JHPEIGO is also supporting measles health education sessions at Government health facilities, led by Government physicians, and assisting local health managers to organise intensified immunisation sessions in low-performing, hard-to-reach, and high-risk areas to reach zero-dose and under-immunised children.

UNICEF supported rapid assessments and targeted response measures in 19 priority health facilities to strengthen clinical management of severe cases, as hospitals in affected districts continue to face pressure from admissions of children with measles complications. Assessments have been completed in 15 hospitals, with four ongoing. Fifty surge staff, including doctors and nurses, were deployed, alongside temporary triage and isolation facilities. Training on infection prevention and control, ICU management and measles case management was completed for 20 critical health staff at IDH, with additional training ongoing in high-burden hospitals in Dhaka, Mymensingh and other areas. Health facilities also received oxygen delivery systems, pulse oximeters, nebulisers, paediatric care items, diagnostic kits and PPE. Rapid assessments for paediatric ICUs in three hospitals have been completed, with equipment procurement ongoing

In Cox's Bazar, UNICEF supported the establishment of a 20-bed measles isolation ward at Cox's Bazar District Sadar Hospital and provided 12 support staff, medicines, furniture and essential supplies. Staffing support for the ward has been extended through July. UNICEF continues to participate in Health Sector Measles Task Force discussions on camp preparedness and response and is supporting risk communication, community engagement and the national campaign launch to strengthen caregiver awareness and uptake.

Nutrition Cluster

Nutrition cluster coordinators, the MoHFW and UNICEF are supporting case management, supplementation and community engagement interventions as part of the measles outbreak response. MoHFW coordinated the distribution of Vitamin A capsules for case management, with approximately 90 per cent of districts receiving supplies to support treatment and reduce the risk of severe measles-related complications. UNICEF, in collaboration with the Institute of Public Health Nutrition, conducted training on the management of children with severe acute malnutrition in high-burden districts, reaching 99 health workers across nine Upazila Health Complexes.

For further information, please contact:

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Links to partners' publications on the Measles outbreak:

- Measles Rubeola Campaign RCM Dashboard
- UNICEF FAQs on Measles
- Risk Communication and Community Engagement materials endorsed by the DGHS
- Frequently asked questions and guidance in English & Bangla
- Answers to commonly asked questions on measles
- What should you do if your child contracts measles? Guidance for caregivers
- How to know if your child has measles
- What is measles? Information on symptoms, transmission and prevention
- Guidance for parents and caregivers on how to protect children from measles infection
- Facebook video: Call for vaccination with UNICEF National Ambassador Bidya Sinha Mim