

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Information bulletin Asia Pacific: Cyclone Fani

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information bulletin n° 2; Glide n° TC-2019-000041-BGD	Date of issue: 3 May 2019
Date of disaster: 3 May 2019	Point of contact: Necephor Mghendi, head of disaster and crisis prevention, response and recovery (IFRC Asia Pacific regional office)
Host National Societies: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS); Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS); Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS)	

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), requested for a Disaster Emergency Relief Fund (DREF) as imminent crisis in supporting the preparedness measures. In addition, no international assistance is requested at this stage for Bangladesh and Myanmar.

[<click here for detailed contact information>](#)

The situation

Cyclone Fani made landfall near Puri, in Odisha State, about 9:30 am local time today. Fani brought sustained winds of 240 kmph, which is equivalent of a super typhoon or Category 4 hurricane. It is the strongest storm to hit India since 1999, media reported.

According to the latest information bulletin from India Meteorological Department (IMD), as of 3 May, the system is very likely to continue to move north-northeastwards, weaken gradually and emerge into Gangetic West Bengal throughout Friday and into Saturday. Fani is expected to bring large storm surges and significant wind damage. Most affected areas would be northern Andhra Pradesh (Vijayanagaram, Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam districts), Odisha – (Ganjam, Gajapati, Khurda, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Bhadrak, Jajpur, cuttak, Mayurbhanj and Balasore) and West Bengal (East and West Medinipur, South- and North-24 Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly, Jhargram as well as Kolkata districts). It is also expected to affect 10,000 villages and 52 towns in Odisha State alone.



Source: Google Earth

All flights to and from Kolkata have been canceled from 3:00 pm local time. Several trains passing through Odisha or destined to Odisha are cancelled.

Before the Cyclone made landfall, more than a million evacuated from different districts in India. About 5,000 kitchens established to serve food to the people evacuated to safe shelters. Electricity department is prepared to restore power supply in case of any disruption due to cyclone. Sanitation ministry will move additional water supplies and kept packaged drinking water supplies ready to dispatch. The ministry of food processing industries is keeping in readiness packaged ready-to-eat food. The health ministry has mobilized emergency medical teams,

medicines and also coordinated with Indian Red Cross Society to provide assistance. It has kept ready 17 public health response teams and five quick response medical teams with emergency drugs.

Besides, the Indian Coast Guard and the Indian Navy have deployed ships and helicopters for relief and rescue operations while the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force units in the three states have also been put on standby.

In Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) advised to hoist danger signal seven for coastal districts of Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Jhalokathi, Pirozpur, Barisal, Patuakhali, Borguna, Bhola and their offshore islands and chars. Maritime ports of Mongla and Payra have been advised to hoist danger signal number Seven while Maritime Ports of Chattogram has been advised to hoist danger signal number Six. Coastal Districts of Chattogram, Noakhali, Laxmipur, Feni, Chandpur and their offshore Islands and chars will come under danger signal number Six. Maritime ports of Cox's bazar have been advised to keep hoisted local Warning signal number Four. Apart from those coastal districts, Jessore, Kustia, Rajshahi, Bogura, Natore are also likely to be affected by the storm followed by heavy rain falls and potential flash flood, as the meteorologist predicts.

According to the Needs Assessment Working Group, the projected track anticipated that the Cyclone will pass through Chuadanga district on 4 May. A total of 26 districts are projected as risk prone due to cyclonic wind or deep depression. An estimated 59,010,780 population of Bangladesh are exposed to cyclonic storm and heavy rainfall. There is a possibility of tidal inundation in low lying areas of 14 coastal areas. There is likelihood of heavy damages of crops due to heavy rainfall.

The Bangladesh government issued mass evacuation orders in 19 coastal districts to over 4,000 shelters erected along the coastlines. The armed forces were also kept ready for disaster response. According to the media report, the evacuees will be provided with dry food and potable water. The district administrations are also equipped with medicines and other relief materials to tide over the post disaster phase as well.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In India

Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) has been implementing preparedness measures before the Cyclone make landfall. In National Headquarters, family kits such as 1,000 tarpaulins, 500 cotton blankets, 1,000 bed sheets, 250 kitchen sets, 500 cotton towels and 300 gents dhotis are dispatched from the regional warehouse in Kolkata to Odisha State. Water purification units along with trained volunteers, State Disaster Response Team (SDRT) and National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) are on standby to be deployed.

Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal State branches have been preparing for the Cyclone, especially in Odisha, where a response team consisting of six of Youth Red Cross Counsellors and 30 trained Volunteers has been formed in 11 districts likely to be affected by the Cyclone. Odisha state branch have prepared 2,500 dry food packets which contains flattened rice, Jaggery, biscuits, Sattu (flour), candles & match boxes. Additional 3,000 more packets will be ready by Friday afternoon for immediate dispatch.

There are 65 Cyclone Shelters managed by Odisha State Branch and additional community based local volunteers in all 65 Cyclone shelters on standby to provide any support required. The community leaders ready to arrange necessary dry food and IRCS state branch released INR 5,000 (CHF 73) to each Shelter house.



Strong winds on the outskirts of Puri in the Indian state of Odisha on Friday (Credit: Associated Press)



Volunteers and staff members of Odisha State Branch packing dry food items. (Photo: IRCS)

Two emergency control rooms have been operational 24x7 in the State Branch in the DM Unit to closely monitoring all preparedness and relief activities in the vulnerable areas and in the Cyclone shelters.

A quick action team consisting of 100 fully trained and equipped volunteers are ready in Odisha State Branch to be deployed at required places. IRCS is also coordinating with local authorities and Youth Red Cross (YRC) Units in vulnerable places to prepare cooked foods and distribution amongst affected people.

Central Red Cross Blood Bank is ready to meet any kind of urgent needs or demands.

For post cyclone response, 500 NFI household kits could be dispatched which consisting of two Sarees, two Dhotis (wrap around for men) buckets, one mug, one night gown, one towel, two tarpaulins, and two bedsheets, one kitchen set and one cooking stove.

Leaflets consisting dos and don'ts (before, during and after Cyclone) have been circulated in vulnerable areas by Social and Emergency Response Volunteers besides announcement on loud speakers.

In Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal, IRCS State Branches are also preparing relief suppliers ready to be dispatched. Social and Emergency Response Volunteers are giving early warning messages and helping authorities evacuate vulnerable people.

A DREF allocation of CHF 87,703 has been approved for supporting IRCS to deliver assistance and support to some 20 million people for one month, with a focus of DRR (mainly early warning campaign) and Shelter (family pack). More details can be found [here](#).

In Bangladesh

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) has been consistently monitoring the situation since the beginning of the depression formed in the bay.

The cyclone contingency plan of BDRCS is being activated and control room continues to be open for 24 hours since 1 May. Control room already communicated with 60 cyclone shelters in the districts of Barguna, Bagerhat, Khulna and Satkhira to ensure those are ready for sheltering people. BDRCS **hotline number +8801811458524** is active and managed by volunteers (9:00 am to 5:00 pm local time) for answering questions about cyclone Fani.

BDRCS is maintaining close coordination with Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP) at NHQ level as well in the 13 coastal districts. CPP volunteers are continuing with the dissemination of Early warning messages with support from RCY/ community volunteers of BDRCS. BDRCS allocated BDT 435,000 (CHF 5,000) in Khulna, Baguna, Barisal and Bhola zone CPP commanding area ensuring continuous communication. BDRCS units and CPP have participated Districts Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) meeting in all coastal districts and also the non-coastal districts.



Dry Food items such as Flattened Rice, Flour is being packed. (Photo: IRCS)



Community Meeting at the Cyclone Shelters. (Photo: IRCS)



CPP volunteers are disseminating early warning messages. (Photo: BDRCS)

All coastal units (branches) and the non-coastal units like Rajshahi, Jessore, Magura units, have been communicated and been advised to be prepared. An Official has been deployed to perform as Unit Level Officer (ULO) for the Satkhira Unit since the ULO position was vacant there.

In terms of human resources, 148 National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members and 84 National Disaster WASH Response Team (NDWRT) members have been kept standby at NHQ level to be deployed whenever needed. Besides, the Units have been asked to engage trained Community Disaster Management Committee (CDMC) members and Community Disaster Response team (CDRT) members to support the current situation. Youth and Volunteers department has sent an email to all units asking their trained volunteers to be ready for deployment if needed.

Eight National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members have already reached in Bagerhat, Khulna, Satkhira and Barguna to support the Units. Three emergency Medical Team, with four health professionals in each, have been formed already in coordination with Health Department who are ready to be deployed anytime with necessary medicines for two weeks.

Two teams comprising relevant and skilled officials of BDRCS and in-country Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Partners are formed and ready for deployment to the affected districts. IFRC coordinating this with Movement partners. Also, IFRC is coordinating with Movement partners for possible Joint Need Assessment (JNA).

In terms of dissemination to the public, do's and don'ts before cyclone has been shared in BDRCS social media to make vulnerable people aware on 'what to do' and 'what not to' before the cyclone as a part of Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA).



BDRCS volunteers are disseminating early warning messages along coastal areas. (Photo: BDRCS)

BDRCS continues participating coordination meeting at MoDMR and Inter-Ministerial Meeting and also media briefing. For internal coordination, four meetings have already been conducted among BDRCS Management and in-country Movement Partners.

The following disaster preparedness stock of BDRCS is ready to meet the immediate need of the affected people, this includes the PMO stock:

Items of DP stock	# of Stock
Blankets	29,000 pcs
Tarpaulins	60,000 pcs
CGI sheets	2,251 pcs
Mosquito Nets	40,000 pcs
Plastic Bucket -10L	25,000 pcs
Sleeping Mat	47,000 pcs
Rope	20,000 packs
Hygiene Parcel	5,000 pcs
Oral Saline	100,000 packs
Jerrycan (including PMO)	20,402 pcs
Water Purifying Tablets	47,000 pcs
Water Treatment Plant/Man Pack	27
Mobile medical teams-standby	10 teams

In Myanmar

MRCS, in coordination with the IFRC country office, continue to closely follow the developments and path of Cyclone Fani since 25 April. MRCS has put in place its alert system in all states and regions as per its Standard Operating Procedures for disaster response, and MRCS's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in Nay Pyi Taw

and Yangon are monitoring the situation continuously. MRCS's EOC continues to be in daily contact with its branches with a focus on Rakhine State, coastal areas and the Bay of Bengal providing weather updates on the path of the cyclone to staff and volunteers and in return receiving updates on local weather conditions. 200 emergency response team and national disaster response team volunteer members from seven states and regions are available for deployment within 24 hours should it be required. Prepositioned relief items in central and regional warehouses are being reviewed. MRCS is coordinating closely with the relevant government departments, in particular the Department of Disaster Management, Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, and the National Emergency Operations Centre

For more latest information regarding the Cyclone Fani, it can also be found in the GO webpage. [Here](#).



[Click here](#)

1. Click [here](#) to return to see the map (not available)
2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

India

- **In the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS)**
 - Dr. Veer Bhushan, joint secretary; email: jointsecretary@indianredcross.org
- **In the IFRC country cluster support team (CCST), New Delhi**
 - Marwan Jilani, acting head of CCST; email: marwan.jilani@ifrc.org
 - Meenu Bali, disaster preparedness and logistics officer; email: meenu.bali@ifrc.org

Bangladesh

- **In the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS)**
 - Md. Feroz Salah Uddin, secretary general; email: secretarygeneral@bdracs.org
- **In the IFRC Bangladesh Country Office**
 - Azmat Ulla, head of country office; email: azmat.ulla@ifrc.org
 - Surendra Regmi, programme coordinator; email: surendrakumar.regmi@ifrc.org
 - Hasibul Bari Razib, manager, humanitarian response & shelter; email: hasibul.bari@ifrc.org

Myanmar

- **In the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS)**
 - U Khin Maung Hla, secretary general; email: khinmaunghla@redcross.org.mm
- **In the IFRC country office, Yangon**
 - Joy Singhal, head of country office; email: joy.singhal@ifrc.org
 - Sonja Veronica Bjorklund, programme coordinator; email: sonja.bjorklund@ifrc.org

IFRC Asia Pacific regional office, Kuala Lumpur

- Alka Kapoor, acting deputy regional director; email: alka.kapoor@ifrc.org
- Necephor Mghendi, head of disaster and crisis prevention, response and recovery (DCPRR); email: necephor.mghendi@ifrc.org
- Alice Ho, operations coordinator; email: alice.ho@ifrc.org

IFRC Geneva

- Nelson Castano, manager, operations coordination; email: nelson.castano@ifrc.org
- Tiffany Loh, sr. officer, operations coordination; email: tiffany.loh@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges

- Nabila Nasir-Myers, marketing and partnerships coordinator; email: nabila.nasirmyers@ifrc.org

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

- Liew Siew Hui, PMER manager; email: siewhui.liew@ifrc.org

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 (NGOs) 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**.