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Information bulletin Asia Pacific: Cyclone Fani

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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Date of disaster: Imminent	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), is requesting 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>](#)

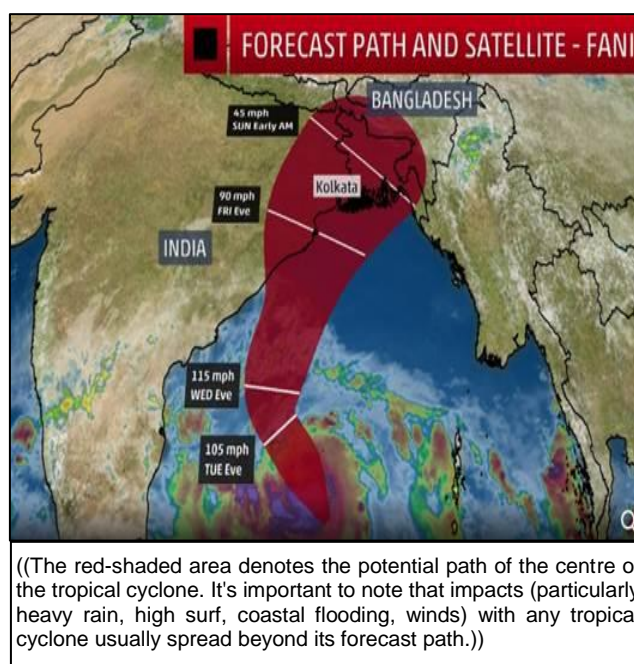
The situation

On 26 April 2019, a low-pressure system named Cyclone Fani, developed over the Indian Ocean and adjoining Bay of Bengal.

According to the latest information bulletin from India Meteorological Department (IMD), as of 30 April, Cyclone Fani was over Southwest and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal moved northwestwards with a speed of about 21 kmph over Southwest and adjoining Westcentral & Southeast Bay of Bengal and is about 760 km south-southwest of Puri (Odisha) and 560 km south-southeast of Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) and about 660 km north-northeast of Trincomalee (Sri Lanka). It is very likely to intensify further into an Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm in early morning of 1 May. By 3 May, it is very likely to cross Odisha Coast with maximum sustained wind of speed 175-185 kmph gusting to 205 kmph.

The IMD bulletin also cautioned fishermen against venturing into sea as squally winds are predicted in the region. According to a media report, six National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams were positioned in Arakkonam and Chennai on standby for any disaster response, if required.

Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) advised the maritime ports of Chattogram (Chittagong), Cox's Bazar, Mongla, and Payra to hoist distant cautionary signal no. 2. Speculations from the Emergency Preparedness



Core group in Cox's Bazar suggest the possibility of landfall in the next seven days, probably on the night of 5 May or morning of 6 May, during which high tide may lead to storm surges.

Based on a media report, 250 Coastal Security Group personnel were deployed in Ramanathapuram, Pudukottai and Tanjore districts in preparation for the cyclone, and Andhra Pradesh held an emergency review meeting of 9 districts to discuss official preparedness and measures to be taken to mitigate potential damage and loss of life. In Bangladesh, the Global Forecast System (GFS) model indicates a near-direct landfall of Fani on Cox's Bazar at midnight on 6 May. If this model materializes, the impacts on both the host community population of Cox's Bazar district as well as those in the camps could be significant.

Based on observations from 6 different sources (including BMD, IMD, and others), it is still not certain where the cyclone will make a landfall; however, most of the models converge to the likelihood of Fani making landfall in Odisha, India on 3 May with a wind speed of approximately 150 kmph. It is expected to reach the coast of Andrapradesh and Tamilnadu of India (on 1 May), and then re-curve towards Odhisa. Thereafter, it is expected to lose strength and a portion of it will go towards Satkhira and further north (on 4 May) at a lower intensity of 95 kmph. Nevertheless, the weather phenomenon is highly dynamic and might change at any point of time.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In India

The IFRC County Cluster Support Team (CCST) in Delhi is in close coordination with IRCS. IRCS National Headquarters is closely monitoring the developments, and its warehouses are in a state of readiness for any response that may be required. IRCS National Headquarters has also sent out alerts to state branches.

IRCS is in close coordination with the State Disaster Management Authority. The Odisha State Branch organised an emergency meeting for deciding on the actions to be taken. A control room is operating under the Disaster Management Unit. Youth Red Cross Coordinators of the coastal districts have been asked to remain alert. State Disaster Response Team and (SDRT) and District Disaster Response Team (DDRT) members of the Coastal Districts are on standby to provide humanitarian assistance. Volunteers are coordinating with the local government. The Branch is also in constant contact with 65 IRCS cyclone shelters and is working on pre-stocking of medicines and dry food items.

The IFRC CCST is currently supporting IRCS to launch a DREF. The Internal Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is also present in country. IRCS, IFRC and ICRC are regularly coordinating with each other on the plans to support the response operation.

In Bangladesh

The IFRC Bangladesh Country Office is monitoring the situation and coordinating closely with BDRCS and Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP). BDRCS National Headquarters is maintaining close coordination with its Cox's Bazar office and Population Movement Operation (PMO). For PMO, the cyclone contingency plan is updated already.

BDRCS has the first Early Action Plan (EAP) for Cyclones approved in Asia Pacific region, and together with IFRC Bangladesh Country Office and German Red Cross, colleagues are in contact with the Climate Centre to monitor cyclone development. BDRCS has already initiated required preparations and planning to activate emergency control room and contingency plan. German Red Cross, together with the Climate Centre, is technically monitoring the situation and meeting with the concerned government agencies. Over the next few days, the meteorological forecast will become more accurate, which may trigger the Forecast-based Action (FbA) by the DREF and immediately activate funds in support of response activities. The FbA activation committee has been formed.

An emergency meeting was called yesterday (29 April), attended by BDRCS Secretary General, IFRC, ICRC, and PNSs. The meeting took stock of the situation and current level of preparedness. BDRCS has already started alerting its district branches and volunteers, potential suppliers, and other relevant people. A list of Disaster Preparedness (DP) stocks has been compiled and BDRCS is looking at ways to quickly mobilise those items in case of need. An emergency meeting was also held in the PMO office in Cox's Bazar between BDRCS, IFRC, Movement partners, and sector focal points to discuss preparations for Cyclone Fani. BDRCS, IFRC and PNSs are also participating in external working group meetings in coordination with BDRCS.

There will be another meeting on 1 May, at 2:00 pm in BDRCS National Headquarters (NHQ) to review the situation and take further decisions on the evolving situation related to Cyclone Fani.

The IFRC Country Office is coordinating funding for early action and a request has already been made to IFRC Geneva for an advance to support approved early actions, to be reimbursed by the DREF if FbA is triggered. In the case of no FbA trigger, the requested funds will be used for the approved early action activities.

In Myanmar

MRCS, in coordination with the IFRC country office, is closely following the developments and path of Cyclone Fani, and is taking ongoing preparatory measures over the coming days. 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 is in daily contact with all states and regions providing information and weather alerts to staff and volunteers, in particular to the branches in coastal areas, including Ayeyarwady, Rakhine, Chin, and Yangon. The availability of MRCS National Disaster Response Team members and Emergency Team members is being updated, including their availability for immediate deployment. Prepositioned relief items in central and regional warehouses are being reviewed.

MRCS is also coordinating closely and is in daily contact with the relevant government departments, in particular the Department of Disaster Management, Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, and the National Emergency Operations Centre.



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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 (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.