


www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Information bulletin Bangladesh: Tropical cyclone

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information Bulletin n° 1
GLIDE n° TC-2013-000060-BGD
16 May 2013

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is not currently seeking international funding or other assistance from donors for this operation. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, however, can be approached for discussions on the direct assistance to the affected population.

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



BDCRS volunteers are disseminating early warning message to the potential affected areas in Chittagong. **Photo:** BDRCS.

The situation

According to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), the depression formed in the Bay of Bengal has turned into cyclonic storm Mahasen on 12 May 2013.

As of 18:00hr on 15 May, the cyclonic storm, over west central Bay and adjoining east central Bay moved slightly north-northeastwards and was positioned over west central Bay and adjoining north Bay centred about 700 kms southwest of Chittagong port, 640 kms southwest of Cox's Bazar port and 575 kms south southwest of Mongla port (near lat 17.50 n and long 87.70 e). It was likely to intensify further and move in a north- north-eastern direction and cross between Khepupara upazila in Patuakhali district and Teknaf coast near Chittagong by 16 May 2013.

Maritime ports of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar have been advised to keep hoisted danger signal number seven (r) seven. The coastal districts of Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Noakhali, Laxmipur, Feni, Chandpur, Bhola, Borguna, Patuakhali, Barisal and its offshore islands and chars are under danger signal number seven (r) seven.

Meanwhile, Maritime port of Mongla has been advised to keep hoisted danger signal number five (r) five. The coastal districts of Pirozpur, Jhalokathi, Bagherhat, Khulna, Satkhira and its offshore islands and chars are under danger signal number five (r) five.

Under the influence of the storm the low-lying areas of the coastal districts of Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Noakhali, Laxmipur, Feni, Chandpur, Borguna, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barisal, Pirozpur, Jhalokathi, Bagherhat, Khulna, Satkhira and the offshore islands and chars are likely to be inundated by the storm surge of 5-7 feet

height above normal astronomical tide. Due to the heavy rainfall, landslide may occur at places over the hilly regions of Chittagong division. The BMD advised all fishing boats, trawlers and marine vessels over the north Bay area to remain in shelter till further notice. The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Coast guard are on standby for any response intervention.

On 15 May, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) district branches and Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) officers reported slight rainfall at several intervals during the day in the coastal areas. The local administration and BDRCS volunteers, including CPP volunteers, are disseminating alerts messages to coastal communities to prepare for safe evacuation upon issue of evacuation alert. Communities residing outside the embankment were waiting to be evacuated to safer places.

In Moheshkhali offshore island, approximately 25,000 people have moved to the cyclone shelters and other safer places such as two storied buildings, concrete school/public building, raised lands, houses and other private buildings with strong foundation and structures. The low lying areas in the islands are expected to be inundated during high tide. Local governments are arranging dry food for those in the safer shelters, while Department of Public Health Engineering is repairing the tube wells for ensuring safe water supply to the affected people at safer shelters.

In Hatiya, the southern tip in the Bay of Bengal, the situation was similar to Moheshkhali offshore island, where slight rainfall was reported. Populations living outside the embankment have moved to the safer shelters and other safer places.

In Swandip, the only island of Chittagong, wind speed observed stronger than normal. The embankment of Bhola district was breached due to heavy flow of high tide. According to the BDRCS Bhola district unit, many people were forced to leave their homes for safer shelters.

Information Ministry has been disseminating warning messages through Bangladesh Betar (radio channel) and television. Media, both print and electronic, has also been disseminating messages across the nation. Six community radio stations operated in coastal region of Bangladesh have been continuously disseminating early warning awareness messages ahead of the cyclonic storm.

Air traffic in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar ports has been suspended until the situation improves. Navy ships are deported to deep sea to avoid heavy wind and potential consequences of the cyclonic storm.

Some actions were materialized after the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) implementation board meeting on 13 May. A total of 49,365 CPP volunteers are being mobilized in the 13 coastal districts for disseminating the early warning message to the coastal people. The CPP control room is working round the clock. The CPP personnel are communicating with the local volunteers on hourly basis. Coordination meetings were held at all 37 upazila (sub-district) level in the 13 targeted districts. The National Disaster Response Coordination Centre (NDRCC), located in the secretariat, MoDMR, has been activated and is working round the clock since 13 May 2013. All the 13 Coastal district disaster management committees working as per the standing order. District Commissioner of Bandarban and Rangamati (hill tract district) which do not belong to the coastal region have been alerted and is preparing to respond to any potential heavy rainfall associated with cyclonic storm that may induce mud slides.

The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) is allocating resources of food and cash at the field level, amounting to BDT 100,000 and 100 MT of rice for each district. With the Cabinet approval, the District Disaster Management Committees (DDMCs) have been advised to treat all public buildings as safer shelters, including some private buildings such as hotels. Around 100 water treatment plants are ready to be mobilised to the potential affected areas. The Armed Forces, under the Prime Minister's Office order, is establishing a coordination and information hub to coordinate the Air force for food distribution.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

With the cyclonic storm approaching the coastal areas of Bangladesh, BDRCS immediately has alerted and mobilized its CPP volunteers and staff for disseminating early warning messages to the populations living in the 13 targeted districts. BDRCS called an emergency review meeting to prepare a plan for mobilizing its staff, volunteers and resources to respond to the cyclonic storm. An official order was issued to all CPP staff to be on standby for response operation.

BDRCS and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), as members of the CPP implementation board, have participated in a meeting at the Ministry of Disaster Management and

Relief on 14 May. During the meeting, BDRCS/IFRC has updated on its level of preparation and has been requested to prepare its volunteers support and non-food items (NFIs) including tent/tarpaulins.

BDRCS Response Coordination Centre (RCC) has been activated and on standby. The RCC is maintaining close contact with its coastal district branches, updating/sharing the level of preparation with its counterparts. National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) roster has been updated. Of 44 trained NDRT members, 34 members are available to be deployed for emergency response. BDRCS has circulated a press release regarding preparedness for the cyclonic storm response. The BDRCS's Chairman has promoted the National Society's response readiness on a local TV talk show.

BDRCS cyclone contingency plan has been activated. BDRCS/IFRC has deployed three joint teams in Chittagong, Noakhali and Barisal regions which are likely to be affected by the cyclonic storm. Each of the teams has BDT 100,000 cash for use in emergency procurement of dry food at local level. BDRCS national headquarters (NHQ) has also dispatched three trucks with 3,000 NFIs to these areas.

Five mobile medical teams with 15-day supply are on standby to be deployed immediately when the cyclonic storm hits the Bangladesh coastal area. In addition, 100 health volunteers are mobilized to assist the mobile medical teams in the emergency response. BDRCS has requested physicians from Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College Hospital to join the mobile medical teams. A number of trained Red Crescent Youth and Training volunteers from the 13 district branches are also ready to be deployed to the targeted area.

The Chittagong district and city units are working in close coordination with the respective Deputy Commissioners. The Cox's Bazar unit is well-prepared to respond to the cyclonic storm. Some of the safer shelters have been prepared for people to move in.

IFRC is monitoring the situation closely in coordination with BDRCS. BDRCS/IFRC is in close contact with GoB, Humanitarian Country Task Team (HCTT), UN agencies and other international NGOs coordination platform, in regards to sharing updates, information and coordination of possible response. IFRC, as the co-lead of Shelter Cluster, is conducting 3W (who where and what) table with member organizations for potential need assessment and coordinated shelter intervention. IFRC is sharing the updates on the cyclonic storm with the in-country Partner National Societies (PNSs), the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), UN agencies, others INGOs/NGOs and donors. In-country PNSs like the German Red Cross and British Red Cross have provided vehicle support for BDRCS in conducting initial response activities. The German Red Cross and British Red Cross are expected to take over the operations in their respective project areas in offshore islands of Hatia, Khulna and, Borguna, Patuakhali districts.

Contact information

For further information related to this operation please contact:

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society:

- BMM Mozharul Huq ndc, Secretary General, phone: +88 02 935 0596, email: secretarygeneral@bdracs.org

IFRC Bangladesh country office:

- Tsehayou Seyoum, head of delegation phone: +88 02 933 7314, fax: +88 02 934 1631, email: tsehayou.seyoum@ifrc.org

IFRC South Asia regional office:

- Azmat Ulla, Head of Regional Office, phone: +91 112411 1122, fax: +91 11 2411 1128 email: azmat.ulla@ifrc.org

IFRC Asia Pacific zone office:

- Mathew Schraeder, Operations coordinator, phone: +603 9207 5735, mobile: +6019 6200 758, email: mathew.schraeder@ifrc.org
 - Al Panico, Head of operations, phone: + 603 9207 5704, email: al.panico@ifrc.org
 - Alan Bradbury, Head of resource mobilization and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER), phone: + 603 9207 5775, email: alan.bradbury@ifrc.org
Please send all funding pledges to zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org
-

1. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

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 Disaster 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.

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.