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# Information bulletin

## Bangladesh: Cyclone Bulbul

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>Glide n°</b> TC-2019-000147-BGD	<b>Date of issue:</b> 9 November 2019
<b>Date of disaster:</b> 9 November 2019	<b>Point of contact:</b> Surendra Kumar Regmi, Programme Coordinator, IFRC, Bangladesh Country Office
<b>Operation start date:</b> 8 November 2019	<b>Expected timeframe:</b> NA
<b>Category of disaster:</b> Orange	
<b>Host National Society:</b> Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS)	
<b>Number of people affected:</b> NA (pre-disaster information bulletin)	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b> NA
<b>N° of National Societies currently involved in the operation (if available and relevant):</b> NA	
<b>N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation (if available and relevant):</b> NA	

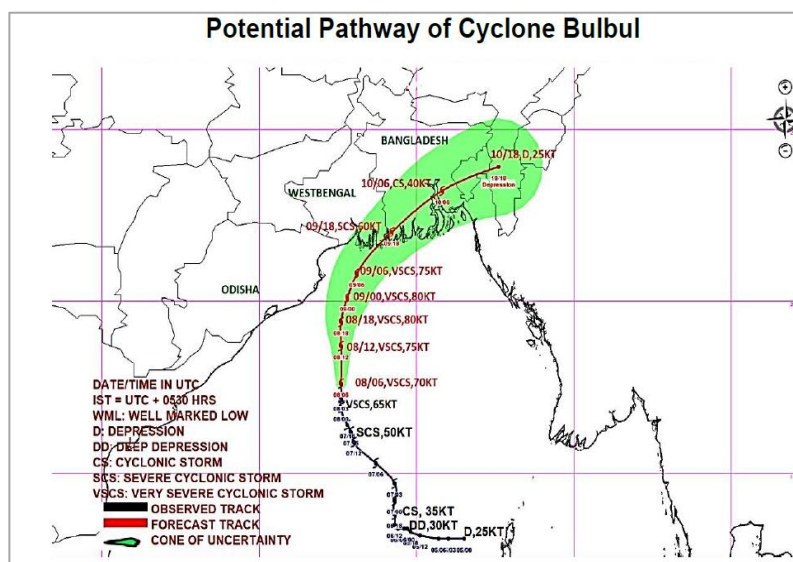
This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. This is a pre-disaster information bulletin which provides updates on the preparations and early actions taken by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) so far. BDRCS through the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is considering seeking funding through DREF activation to provide support to the affected population.

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## The situation

As per the special weather bulletin issued by the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) today, 9 November 2019, a tropical cyclone “Bulbul” has been developed over the northwest Bay of Bengal (BoB) and adjoining area. It then moved north-north-eastwards and is currently lying over the same area. It is again likely to move in a north/north-easterly direction and may cross west Bengal (India) – Khulna (Bangladesh) coast, near Sundarban by this evening. Under its peripheral influence, gusty/squally wind may affect the maritime ports, north bay and coastal areas of Bangladesh from 12:00 hrs local time today.

The BMD has advised the maritime ports of Mongla, Payra and coastal districts of Bhola, Borguna, Patuakhali, Barishal, Pirojpur, Jhalkathi, Bagerhat, Khulna, Satkhira and their offshore islands and chars to keep hoisted to great danger signal no. 10. Maritime ports of Chattogram along with



Cyclone Bulbul track to landfall in Bangladesh. (Source: <http://www.cycloneoi.com>)

coastal districts of Chattogram, Noakhlai, Laxmipur, Feni, Chandpur and their offshore islands and chars are advised to hoist great danger signal no. 9. However, Cox's Bazar is asked to keep hoisted only to signal no. 4.

The districts of Khulna, Satkhira, Chattogram, Noakhlai, Laxmipur, Feni, Chandpur, Borguna, Patuakhali, Barisal, Bhola, Pirojpur, Jhalokathi, Bagerhat and their offshore islands and chars are likely to experience wind speed up to 100-120 km/h in gusts/squalls with heavy to very heavy rainfall during the passage of the Cyclone Bulbul. Under the influence of Cyclone Bulbul and the full moon phase, the low-lying areas of the coastal districts and their offshore islands are likely to be inundated by storm surge of 5-7 feet height above the normal astronomical tide. The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has advised all fishing boats and trawlers over north BoB to remain in shelter until further notice. According to the Global Disaster Alert and Coordinating System (GDACS), around 3.56 million people in the districts of Barguna, Jhalokathi, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Bagerhat. Khulna and Satkhira are in 'medium' to 'high' and 'high' to 'very high' risks due to Cyclone Bulbul.

The GoB through its Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) is monitoring the situation and is organizing coordination meetings with all relevant government and non-government stakeholders. On 8 November 2019, a CPP Implementation Board Meeting took place at MoDMR.

On Friday 8 November 2019, State Minister for MoDMR, Dr. Md Enamur Rahman said that the government had taken adequate measures to face Cyclone Bulbul. Cyclone shelters have been opened in the coastal regions, and local administrations are making announcements on loudspeakers urging people to move away from the coastal areas and move to cyclone shelters. Government officials, Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) and BDRCS staff and volunteers are involved in the evacuation process. The GoB allocated BDT 500,000 (approximately CHF 5,760) for each coastal district to arrange evacuation of people at risk and necessary support for them. The control rooms of National Disaster Response Coordination Centre (NDRCC) and CPP will be opened 24/7. Holidays of government staff in 13 coastal districts have been cancelled. Water transport services were suspended on Friday, 8 November 2019 in the evening. Meanwhile, the Navy said it has kept five ships ready for emergency relief and rescue operations in Khulna, Barishal, Patuakhali, Jhalokathi, and Barguna.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

While coordinating closely with the government at national and district levels, BDRCS along with IFRC Country Office and other International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) partners is closely monitoring the situation. BDRCS has attended the CPP implementation board meeting at MoDMR on 8 November 2019. In addition, BDRCS unit officials and volunteers are regularly attending the coordination meeting with the government and other local agencies at the district level. BDRCS has taken the following action as of 9 November 2019:

- Conducted three forecast monitoring meetings at its National Headquarters (NHQ) to track and analyse the potential risk areas that may be affected by the Cyclone Bulbul.
- Conducted an emergency coordination meeting with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners on 9 November 2019.



Red Crescent advising and helping people to evacuate to cyclone shelters. (Photo: BDRCS, Bagerhat district)



BDRCS called for an emergency coordination meeting with Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners in its NHQ on 9 Nov 2019 morning. (Photo: IFRC)

- BDRCS NHQ allocated BDT 300,000 (approx. CHF 3,450) and 300 pieces of tarpaulin, 300 jerrycans and 300 chadors (thin blankets) for 9 potentially most affected districts with great danger signal number 10 to be immediately mobilized for emergency actions like evacuation, transport and dry food support. Similarly, BDT 200,000 (approx. CHF 2,300), 200 pieces of tarpaulin, 200 jerrycans and 200 chadors (thin blankets) have been allocated for five districts with great danger signal no. 9.



Red Crescent and CPP volunteers disseminating warning signals through megaphones and sirens. (Photo: BDRCS)

- Activation of the national response control room. Control rooms are also opened in the unit (branch) at the coastal district level.
- National Disaster Response Team (NDRT), National Disaster WASH Response Team (NDWRT), Unit Disaster Response Team (UDRT) and other trained volunteers are on stand-by. Around 200 Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteers are already engaged in the coastal districts in disseminating early warning messages and evacuation of the people to the cyclone shelters.
- Closely coordinating with the CPP, and 56,000 CPP volunteers are engaged throughout the coastal areas.
- An emergency medical team is on stand-by.
- Updated its disaster preparedness stock at Chattogram and Dhaka warehouses.
- Three assessment teams comprised of BDRCS and Movement partners staff are on standby.

In Cox's Bazar, BDRCS with support from the American Red Cross (Cyclone Preparedness Programme) and IFRC, raised signal no. 4 by the CPP volunteers in close coordination with CiC (Camp-in-Charge) and Site Management.

EOC (Emergency Operation Cell) with updated contingency plan is functional and active with NDRT on board. While contingency stock is updated, other logistics arrangements are being made. Communication with the camp focal, CPP supervisor and Communication with Community (CwC), Inter Sectoral Coordination Group (ISCG) and UN agencies continues.

IFRC Country Office in Bangladesh is keeping close coordination with BDRCS, its sub-office in Cox's Bazar, in-country Movement partners and the Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) in Kuala Lumpur. IFRC is closely monitoring the development of Cyclone Bulbul and its consequence in the coastal districts as well as camp settlements in Cox's Bazar to determine necessary response. As formally requested by the BDRCS, IFRC is working on the development of an emergency plan of action (EPoA) in view of a DREF activation that is likely to be submitted to the IFRC Secretariat by midday on Sunday, 10 November 2019.



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## Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

### In Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

- Feroz Salah Uddin, secretary general; mobile: +880 181 145 8500; email: [secretarygeneral@bdracs.org](mailto:secretarygeneral@bdracs.org)
- Rafiqul Islam, deputy secretary general; mobile: +880181 145 8501; email: [rafiqul.islam@bdracs.org](mailto:rafiqul.islam@bdracs.org)
- Mijanur Rahman, director in-charge, disaster response; mobile: +880 0181 145 8522, email: [mdmijanur.rahman@bdracs.org](mailto:mdmijanur.rahman@bdracs.org)

### In IFRC Bangladesh Country Office, Dhaka

- Surendra Kumar Regmi, acting head of country office and programme coordinator; mobile: +880 173 819 6480; email: [surendrakumar.regmi@ifrc.org](mailto:surendrakumar.regmi@ifrc.org)
- Hasibul Bari, senior manager, humanitarian response and shelter; mobile: +880 171 853 5128; email: [hasibul.bari@ifrc.org](mailto:hasibul.bari@ifrc.org)

### In IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office, Kuala Lumpur

- Mohammed Omer Mukhier, deputy regional director; email: [mohammedomer.mukhier@ifrc.org](mailto:mohammedomer.mukhier@ifrc.org)
- Necephor Mghendi, head of disaster and crises unit; email: [necephor.mghendi@ifrc.org](mailto:necephor.mghendi@ifrc.org)
- Vinod Muniandy, operations coordinator south asia; email: [opscoord.southasia@ifrc.org](mailto:opscoord.southasia@ifrc.org)
- Riku Ässämäki, logistics coordinator; email: [riku.assamaki@ifrc.org](mailto:riku.assamaki@ifrc.org)
- Zulaikha Mudzar, acting communications manager; email: [zulaikha.mudzar@ifrc.org](mailto:zulaikha.mudzar@ifrc.org)

### In IFRC Geneva

- Nelson Castano, manager, operations coordination; email: [nelson.castano@ifrc.org](mailto:nelson.castano@ifrc.org)

### For resource mobilization and pledges

- Alice Ho, resource mobilization in emergencies coordinator; email: [alice.ho@ifrc.org](mailto:alice.ho@ifrc.org)

### For planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) enquiries

- Liew Siew Hui, PMER manager; email: [siewhui.liew@ifrc.org](mailto: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.**