Information bulletin n° 3; Glide n° TC-2019-000041-BGD

Date of disaster: 4 May 2019

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Host National Societies: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. No international assistance is requested at this stage by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and or Bangladesh Government.

The situation

Powerful Cyclone Fani, at its worst an “extremely severe” storm, following its landfall in Odisha, India reached the Jessore, Sathkhira and Khulna regions of Bangladesh around 6:00 am on Saturday, 4 May 2019 and then moved north-northeastwards, crossing Chuadanga, Rajbari, Manikganj and Dhaka with the speed increasing negligibly, and has weakened into a land deep depression. According to the Met office, the storm then crossed the Sylhet and Mymensingh region, and finally moved towards Meghalaya in India, leaving Bangladesh. According to the Bangladesh National Disaster Response Coordination Centre (NDRCC), five people were killed while 832 were injured and 153,832 acres crops damaged.

Under Cyclone Fani’s influence the sky overcast and rain/thunder showers with gusty/squally wind continued at many places over the country on 4 May 2019. The wind speed was about 50-80 kph at many places over the country and about 40-50 kph is likely over north bay.

After crossing Bangladesh on Saturday, 4 May without causing major damage, Cyclone “Fani” has dissipated. According to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) latest weather situation update¹, issued on 5 May, squalls were now unlikely over the North Bay and adjoining coastal areas. Maritime ports in Chattogram, Cox’s Bazar, Mongla and Payra have been advised to lower the level of their warning signal.

BMD advised to hoist danger signal seven for coastal districts of Sathkhira, 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 were under danger signal number Six. Maritime ports of Cox's bazar have been advised to keep hoisted local Warning signal number Four.

The Bangladesh government issued mass evacuation orders in its coastal districts and as a pre-caution, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief in conjunction with BDRCS evacuated 1,640,000 people and moved them to 4,071 cyclone shelters in 19 districts. The armed forces were also kept ready for disaster response. A total of 13 flights were cancelled on Saturday, 4 May and some others were delayed due to bad weather caused by Cyclone Fani.

Initial estimates from the National Disaster Response Coordination Centre of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief indicate that approximately 53,000 acres of agricultural land and 13,000 houses were damaged across the country. However, the preliminary estimates undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture indicate that up to 36,414 hectares (89,981 acres) of crops were affected in 21 districts. According to the Ministry of Food, the current national stocks of rice and wheat are sufficient to prevent any shortage of food.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is still closely monitoring the overall situation at the local level in order to prevent possible disease outbreaks in case of disrupted water and sanitation systems in low-lying inundated areas.

The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief distributed 3,800 metric tons of rice, 19.7 million Bangladeshi Taka in cash (approx. CHF 238,000) and, 41,000 dry food packages. In addition to the emergency allocations to the affected districts, it is providing cash assistance to the families of those who lost their lives to the cyclone.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

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

BDRCS staff and volunteers visited communities in Noakhali after Cyclone Fani passed over. (Photo: BDRCS)

BDRCS has been consistently monitoring the situation since the beginning of the depression formed in the bay. The cyclone contingency plan of BDRCS was activated and control room was opened for 24 hours during 1 – 5 May. They communicated with 60 cyclone shelters in the districts of Barguna, Bagerhat, Khulna and Satkhira to ensure those are ready for sheltering people. The control room has dedicated 24/7 contact number +8802 9355995.

Apart from that 24/7 contact number, BDRCS hotline number +8801811458524 was also active and managed by volunteers (9:00 am to 5:00 pm local time) for answering questions about cyclone Fani.
BDRCS maintained close coordination with Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP), which is a joint venture programme of BDRCS and Bangladesh Government, at NHQ level as well in the coastal districts. 56,000 CPP volunteers were engaged in dissemination of Early warning messages with support from local branch Red Crescent Youth (RCY) and other community volunteers of BDRCS. BDRCS allocated BDT 435,000 (approx. 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.

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 were deployed in Bagerhat, Khulna, Satkhira and Barguna districts to support the local units (branches). Three emergency Medical Team, with four health professionals in each, were 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 were formed and ready for deployment to the affected districts. IFRC coordinated 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 regularly participated in coordination meeting at MoDMR and Inter-Ministerial Meeting and also media briefing. For internal coordination, eight meetings have already been conducted among BDRCS Management and in-country Movement Partners.
The following disaster preparedness stock of BDRCS was ready to meet the immediate need of the affected people, this includes the PMO stock:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items of DP stock</th>
<th># of Stock</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blankets</td>
<td>29,000 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarpaulins</td>
<td>60,000 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CGI sheets</td>
<td>2,251 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosquito Nets</td>
<td>40,000 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic Bucket -10L</td>
<td>25,000 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleeping Mat</td>
<td>47,000 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rope</td>
<td>20,000 packs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygiene Parcel</td>
<td>5,000 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Saline</td>
<td>100,000 packs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerrycan (including PMO)</td>
<td>20,402 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Purifying Tablets</td>
<td>47,000 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Treatment Plant/Man Pack</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile medical teams-standby</td>
<td>3 teams</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

People who took shelter in the cyclone centres returned home on Saturday afternoon (4 May), after the BMD lower the signal following cyclone Fani passing through Bangladesh on 4 May afternoon. As the impact of the cyclone was not as severe as initially projected, BDRCS has decided not to go for any international assistance.

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

1. Click [here](#) to return to see the map (not available)
2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page
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For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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.