

Office of the UN Resident Coordinator Flash Update #2 (22 May 2020)
Bangladesh | 2020 Very Severe Cyclonic Storm “Amphan”

Situation Overview

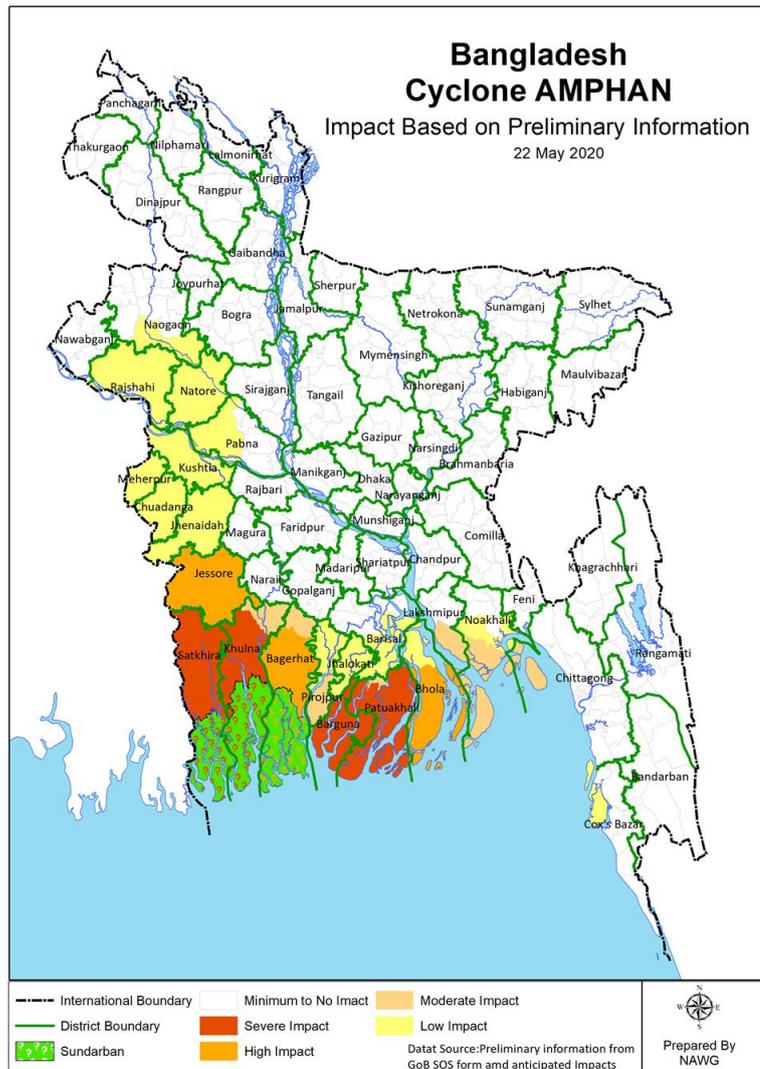
On 20 May 2020, Cyclone Amphan made landfall near Jammu Island, West Bengal at 5.00 pm BST with 130-140 km/h wind speed. Government Early Warning system, the successful massive evacuations to cyclone shelters respective of COVID-19 mitigation measures and the power of the mangrove forest of the Sundarbans contributed to reduce significantly the impact of the cyclone on Bangladesh and to reduce the loss of lives as well as the damages to infrastructures.

As of 22 May 2020, reports indicate that 17 people lost their lives and that 7 people were injured due to falling of trees, boat capsizes, wall collapses and drowning. An estimated 10 million vulnerable people in 19 districts were impacted.

According to preliminary reports collected by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), 330,667

houses were damaged including 55,667 totally destroyed in nine (9) most impacted districts: Khulna, Satkhira, Barguna, Bhola, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Noakhali, Bagerhat and Jessore. The cyclone led to the internal displacement of min. 100,000 persons who are currently staying on embankments and in houses of their friends and relatives.

While national authorities are measuring the full scale of the damages, early reports inform that Cyclone Amphan created damages worth US\$ 130 million. It includes damage to the electricity network, bridges and culverts (200), embankments (150 kilometers), roads (1,100 kilometers), sources of drinking water (220), local administration and community infrastructures.



The winds and the tidal surge damaged livestock and destroyed standing crops, vegetables and fruits on 176,000 of hectares of land (65% of agriculture land in 19 coastal districts), uprooted millions of trees and damaged fish farms worth BDT 3,250 million. The harvests of jute and mung dal, summer fruits mango and litchi are among those severely damaged.

Further health and environmental risks remain due to the large amounts of debris and waste. Protection-related risks are high due to the fact that some of the displaced families are living in the same room or space regardless of their age, sex and gender identity. Menstrual hygiene practice is negatively impacted, due to the destruction of WASH facilities and women face difficulties in cooking, collecting water and fetching firewood. Due to the flooding situation and the disrupted water and sanitation system, the risk of outbreak of diseases exists. Fortunately, according to the Department General for Health Services (DGHS), no health facility has been reported damaged to date.

Government's response

The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) allocated 3,100 MT GR rice, BDT 5 million in cash, 42,000 packet dry food, BDT 3.1 million for child food and BDT 2.8 million for animal feed to the affected districts. Moreover, the GoB allocated 4,550 bundle of corrugated iron sheet and BDT 13.65 million for house repairs.

The Health Emergency Operations Center and Control Room of the Department General for Health Services (DGHS) is activated 24/7 as well as local control rooms. Emergency Medical buffer stocks replenished prior the cyclone with WHO's support are used to provide emergency medical assistance. A total of 1,757 medical teams are operating.

Bangladesh Armed Forces provided medical assistance, emergency rescue and relief assistance. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Directorate, the Bangladesh Army is supporting the local administration to assess the full scale of the damages. It involves 146 military disaster management teams with special equipment and 76 military medical teams. Bangladesh Armed Forces prepared 12,500 relief packages, 16 water purification units and 14 water bladders.

National protection initiatives led to embedding skilled birth-attendants in rapid response teams. In Noakhali, the local administration facilitated the emergency sheltering of girls in schools set-up to shelter women. Upazila Health and Family Planning Officers in several Upazilas of Patuakhali and Barguna ensured the required assistance including safety and security in the shelters for pregnant mothers and adolescent girls. However, 93 female sex workers with 65 children in Banishanta brothel of Dacop Upazila in Khulna district are among those who require immediate shelter and relief assistance.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change constituted a special team to assess the damages to the mangrove forest.

Humanitarian partners' support

As part of immediate response, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) allocated emergency relief items in the three most affected districts (Satkhira, Khulna and Jessore) such as Tarpaulin, Shelter tools kits, hygiene kits and jerrycans. In addition, BDRCS allocated funds for the immediate repair of 200 tube-wells and for the rapid installation of 100 communal latrines. BDRCS distributed dry food to 36,365 people in 192 shelter centers in ten districts with the support of 694 volunteers. An allocation of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) was approved by IFRC Asia Pacific regional office and BDRCS has started undertaking necessary actions to implement planned activities.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and NGOs are using their prepositioned items to contribute to the relief efforts. Nutrition partners will support the Institute of Public Health and Nutrition (IPHN) for the provision of emergency nutrition supplies. UNDP will allocate emergency funding in seven most impacted districts to support the restoration of livelihoods, income generating activities and the repair of rural infrastructures. The humanitarian community is preparing for the development of a coordinated plan to complement the assistance provided by the national authorities.



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