



Listening to cyclone related messages on the radio  
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# UNICEF

## Bangladesh

### Cyclone AMPHAN

#### Situation Report #1



#### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

## Highlights

- Cyclone Amphan started to have an impact in Bangladesh since the afternoon of 20 May 2020, generating severe winds and heavy rainfalls impacting Khulna, Barisal and Chattogram Divisions.
- The cyclone is expected to bring winds of over 200km per hour along with storm surges near the cyclone centre. Information on the impact of the cyclone is not yet fully known.
- The Government has planned to evacuate up to two million people to cyclone shelters in the nine most at-risk districts.
- UNICEF has prepositioned emergency lifesaving supplies to meet the needs of up to 1.5 million people in the most affected areas of the country and is prepared to activate contingency agreements with partners to provide emergency WASH, nutrition, health, child protection and education services.
- While Cox's Bazar District and the Rohingya refugee camps remain out of the cyclone trajectory, strong winds and rains are anticipated. Preparedness was stepped up in refugee camps with the message to stay indoors. Community awareness raising, prepositioning of supplies and strengthening critical infrastructure has also taken place today.

## 20 May 2020

### 14.2 million

Estimated people living in high risk areas

### 5 million

Children in high risk areas  
(UNICEF estimate)

### 9 Districts

Districts at high risk located in Khulna and Barisal divisions

### 2 million

People evacuated in cyclone shelters, including 712,000 children under 18.

## Situation Overview

As reported by the Bangladesh Metrological Department (BMD)<sup>1</sup>, cyclone Amphan is expected to reach the coast of Bangladesh, making landfall in Khulna, Barisal and Chattogram Divisions starting from the afternoon of 20 May 2020. To minimize the impact of the cyclone on exposed populations, the Government of Bangladesh (GoB), under the leadership of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MODMR) has planned to support the evacuation of up to two million people, including 712,000 children under 18, to cyclone shelters.

Government efforts were supported by 55,515 volunteers from the [Cyclone Preparedness Programme \(CPP\)](#) mobilized across 355 unions of 19 at-risk districts to raise awareness and urge people to take shelter. Maintaining social distancing to prevent transmission of COVID-19 is a major concern in cyclone shelters. In this context, under the Government direction, all shelters were cleaned and all primary, secondary schools and madrasas in priority areas were turned into cyclone shelters to provide for more space. Increased shelter space also allowed separating any person with COVID-19 symptoms from other people.

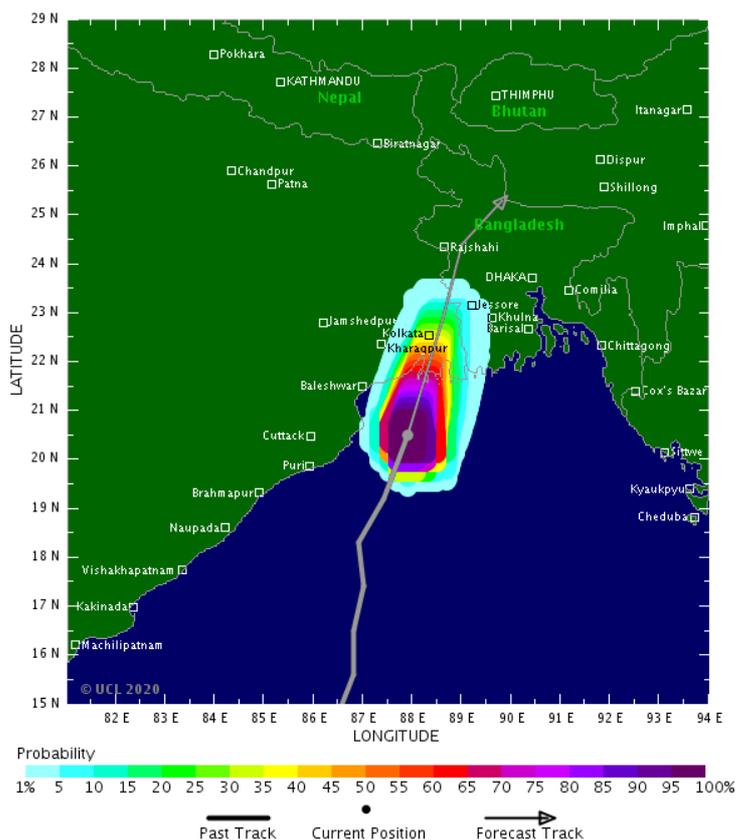
<sup>1</sup> [BMD SPECIAL WEATHER BULLETIN # 32](#) as of 20.05.2020

The Navy has positioned 26 ships for post-cyclone emergency evacuations and relief work in [Khulna](#), [Barishal](#), [Patuakhali](#), [Jhalakathi](#), and [Barguna](#). They were supported by two maritime patrol aircraft, with several helicopters carrying out search and rescue operations after the cyclone.

[The GoB has also allocated](#) 3,100 metric tons (MT) of rice and 42,000 packets of food along with funds for children's food (\$36,400) and animal feed (\$32,900) and US\$ 58,700 in cash to [19 risk-prone districts](#).

In the refugee camps and surrounding host communities of Cox's Bazar, preparedness measures were stepped up by the Government and humanitarian partners. The Senior Secretary of the MODMR requested that facilities including learning centres be available as backup emergency shelters. Emergency supplies and Response Teams are prepositioned at camp-level.

Cyclone Amphan is not expected to have a major impact on Cox's Bazar District, where over 860,000 Rohingya refugees are living in makeshift shelters, alongside a Bangladeshi community of 2.3 million.



## Humanitarian Coordination

Authorities in Bangladesh have undertaken comprehensive preparatory measures to minimize the impact of the cyclone on vulnerable populations. A National Disaster Management Council (NDMC) was formed which reviewed the preparations for the super cyclone. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina joined the NDMC meeting on 20 May 2020 and said her government was prepared to face cyclone Amphan. The Prime Minister expressed her satisfaction with the overall preparations ahead of the cyclone by MODMR, armed forces, police and community members involved in the process. Frequent emergency meetings were also organized by the Government at sub-national level with the participation of the Red Crescent, CPP Volunteers, the UN and NGO partners.

At national level, since 19 May 2020, the [Needs Assessment Working Group](#) (NAWG) under the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) has produced regular reports on the situation overview and anticipated impact. A special HCTT meeting co-chaired by MODMR was convened on 20 May to discuss the current situation, the Humanitarian Preparedness and Response Plan and clusters' preparedness to respond.

UNICEF is working closely with divisional and district-level government officials as well as line departments at the sub-national level, UN agencies, humanitarian clusters, and international and national NGO partners to support preparedness activities and is prepared to respond to the humanitarian situation throughout the country if required.

## UNICEF and Partners' Response

UNICEF maintains emergency lifesaving supplies in disaster-prone areas of the country to support emergency WASH, nutrition, child protection and education services. This includes water purification tables, jerry cans, hygiene kits, education and recreation kits. Field staff are ready to be deployed to affected areas to support emergency programmes for affected children and families. UNICEF has contingency partnership agreements at sub-national levels covering over 82,000 people in Khulna and 71,000 people in Barisal. Contingency plans are also in place for Chattogram and Cox's Bazar.

### Khulna

Cyclone awareness messages were disseminated by CPP and Red Crescent Volunteers to facilitate the evacuation of people to the cyclone shelters through miking and community radio network groups. UNICEF provided agreed cyclone preparedness messages, which were used for miking as well as disseminated through radio stations to the

local communities. A total of 644,594 people were moved to 3,450 cyclone shelters in three coastal districts -- Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat. 303 medical teams and 26,213 volunteers are ready in the three coastal districts to face any situation over the cyclone storm.

### **Barisal**

Bangladesh Betar and 3 Community Radio Stations disseminated key cyclone preparedness messages provided by UNICEF. Field Office maintained close contact with District administrations to observe the situation of children and women and shared the Institute of Public Health Nutrition (IPHN) guideline on preparation of young children food package with District administration. The government evacuated 998,000 people to cyclone shelters in Barguna, Bhola and Patuakhali. 469 medical teams and 23,180 volunteers are ready in the three coastal districts to face any situation over the cyclone storm.

### **Cox's Bazar**

With government and NGO partners, UNICEF and its partners have undertaken preparedness measures across the Rohingya camps and host communities, including:

**C4D:** Approximately 110,500 Rohingya refugees were reached with cyclone Amphan messages through 436 mosques over the last 24 hours. Radio Naf 99.2 FM has been broadcasting an announcement on the danger signal and flag signs. Meanwhile, nine community consultations were held with 66 males and 19 females to discuss cyclone Amphan-related concerns with particular focus on maintaining social distancing in cyclone shelters. Thirteen information and feedback centres remained open disseminating messages through model mothers and youth volunteers.

In the host community, 37 Local Governance Coordinators reached 248,634 people through tom-tom based cyclone Amphan messaging, while radio station Bangladesh Betar ran similar announcements as Radio Naf in the camps.

**Health:** UNICEF partners have ensured extra stocks of basic drugs at UNICEF-supported health facilities in the camps and host communities, and readied oral rehydration corners. Health facilities in camps have been tied down and those in host communities properly locked up. Mobile teams and ambulances are ready in both host communities and camps.

**Nutrition:** A buffer stock of one-month worth of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) and medicines has been prepositioned in each of the 27 UNICEF-supported Integrated Nutrition Facilities (INFs) in the camps and all 1,032 children with severe acute malnutrition currently in treatment have two weeks' rations of RUTF due to decreased accessibility of INFs due to COVID-19 restrictions and weather concerns. Each INF has been tied down and the 12 facilities identified with structural vulnerabilities are being rehabilitated (3 completed, 4 are ongoing and 5 are planned). Twenty-seven a standby Mobile Nutrition Teams were formed to open temporary nutrition centre(s) in non-accessible areas or provide door-to-door services.

**Education:** By March 2020, when access to the camps was restricted due to COVID-19, UNICEF had tied down 1,837 learning centres in preparation for the cyclone and monsoon seasons. On 19 May, UNICEF received approval to enter the camps to repair LCs damaged by heavy winds in April; UNICEF will leverage this permission to mobilize its partners to repair LCs immediately after the cyclone.

**Child Protection:** Message dissemination was undertaken through project staff, mosques, Majhis and members of community-based child protection committees about the safety of children and themselves before, during and after disasters.



Cyclone Preparedness Programme Volunteers alerting people to take shelter in Bhola district. ©UNICEF Bangladesh/2020/Adilur

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