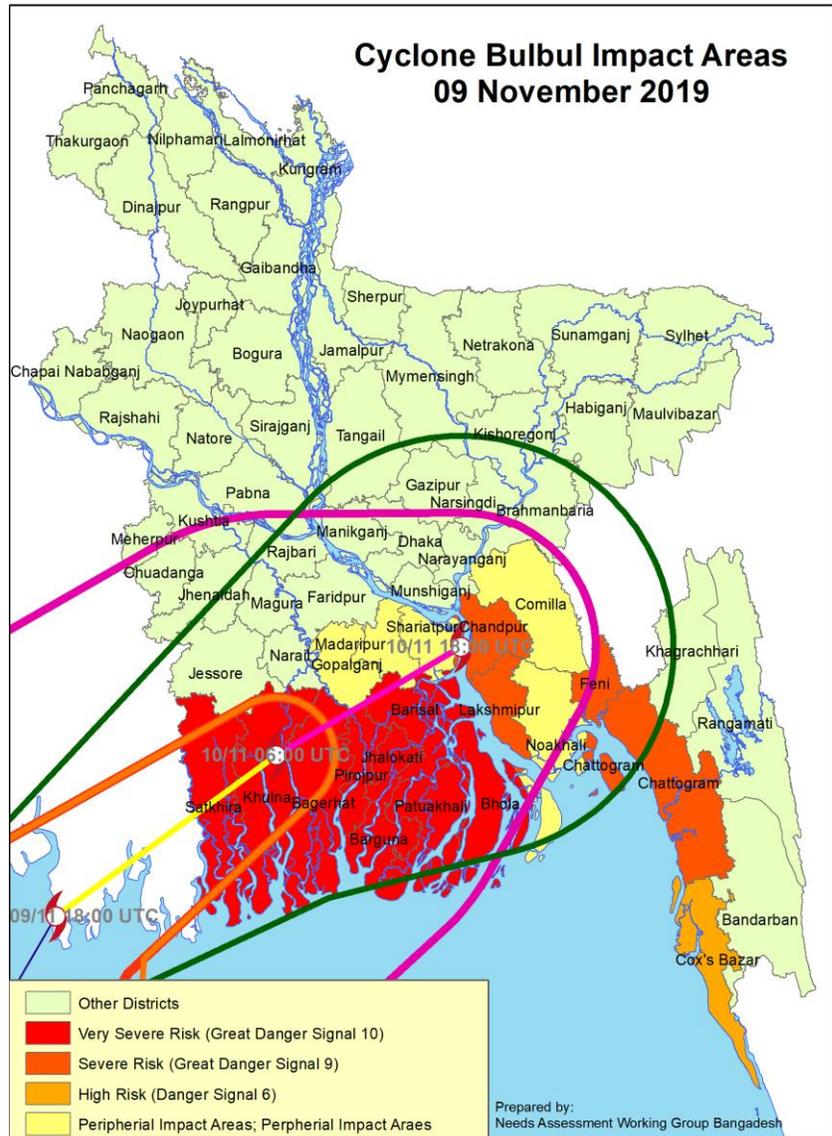


**Office of the UN Resident Coordinator Flash Update No. 1 (09 November 2019)**

**Bangladesh | 2019 Very Severe Cyclonic Storm “Bulbul”**

9 November 2019 (6:00 PM, GMT+6:00): According to the Bangladesh Metrological Department (BMD)’s Special Weather Bulletin #24, the very severe cyclonic storm “Bulbul” over Northwest Bay is likely to move in a north/northeasterly direction and may cross West Bengal-Khulna coast (near Sundarban) today evening (8pm to midnight). Under the influence of the very severe cyclonic storm “Bulbul” and the moon phase, the low-lying areas of the coastal districts of Chattogram, Noakhali, Laxmipur, Feni, Chandpur, Borguna, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barishal, Pirozpur, Jhalokathi, Bagherhat, Khulna, Satkhira and their offshore islands and chars are likely to be inundated by storm surge of 5-7 feet height above normal astronomical tide. All fishing boats and trawlers over north bay were advised to remain in shelter until further notice. The maritime ports of Mongla and Payra have been advised to keep hoisted great danger signal no. (10) ten while Chattogram port was advised to keep hoisted danger signal no. (4) four.

According to the UK Met Office situation report 0930 UTC 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019, Bulbul is expected to produce flooding impacts due to very heavy rainfall and a storm surge. The winds could be destructive. The worst impacts are expected in the Ganges Delta region, with less impactful conditions to the southeast.



The National Disaster Response Crisis Management Centre (NDRCC) situation report no.01. on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 9 am informed that several preparedness measures were taken by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) under the leadership of Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) and the directives from Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Risk information was communicated to the 13 most at-risk districts and evacuation to cyclone shelters of most exposed populations were undertaken with the logistics support from the District Commissioners (DCs) and the volunteers of the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP). Dry food and cooked food were provided to the populations evacuated. Emergency allocation of cash and rice to concerned District Disaster Management Committees (DMC) were made. The GoB allocated 2000 MT GR rice, 11 Million BDT GR cash, 1,400 packet dry food, 900,000 BDT for child food and 900,000 BDT for animal food to 13 risk prone districts.

Authorities in Bangladesh are taking all preparatory measures to minimize damages and the suffering of the exposed population. An Inter-Ministerial Disaster Management Committee (IMDMC) meeting took place today. It was chaired by MoDMR’s State Minister with the participation of the Principal Secretary of the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO), the Information Secretary, Armed Forces Division (AFD) and other officials as well as with the Secretary General of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS). During the meeting, it was decided that 18 million people will be

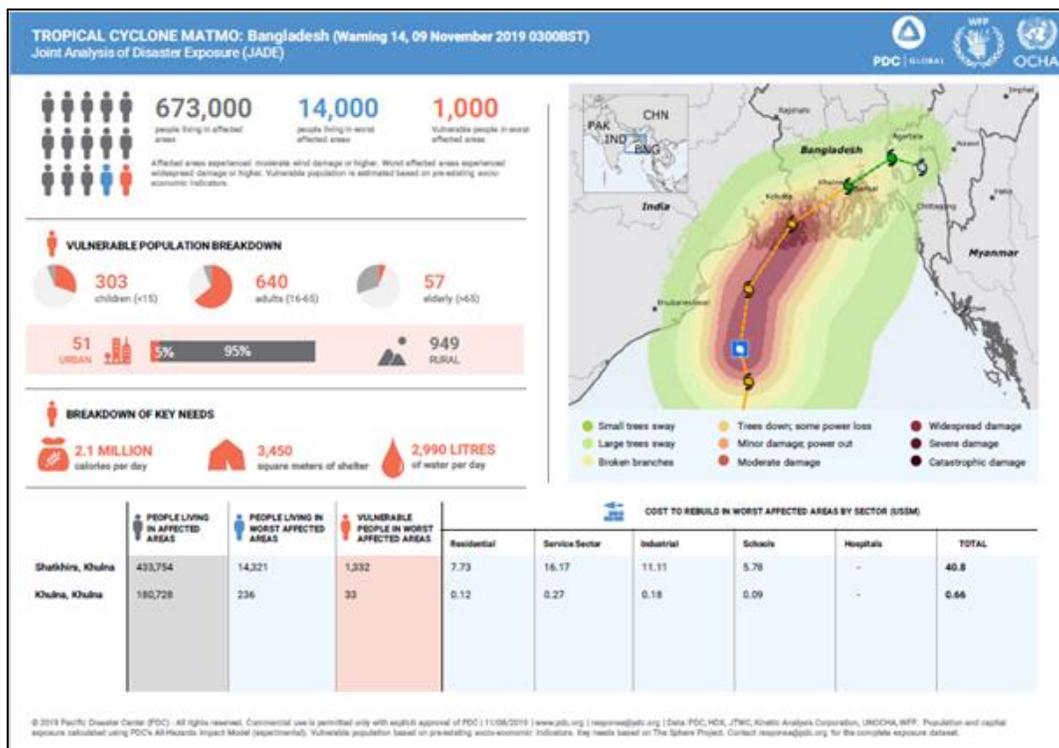
evacuated to cyclone shelters. It was also decided to ensure the sufficient allocation of relief items to the probable affected districts and to suspend all waterway transport.

In the refugee camps and surrounding host communities of Cox’s Bazar, preparedness on 72-hours response plan is ongoing: stocks and equipment, and ERT are prepositioned at field level. Coordination bodies and rapid assessment mechanisms are also ready to be implemented. A meeting with the military agreed on: telecommunication (exchange of frequencies, deployment of VHF-equipped vehicles); the key support of volunteers; partners’ contact list to be shared at field level with the army for a better coordination and finally relocation and evacuation of affected people by identifying spots in the surrounding areas of refugee’s camps.

The DC convened a district DMC meeting where ISCG summarized the level of interagency preparedness. Among the key outcomes of the meeting, the DC asked humanitarian agencies to also focus on damage affecting the host communities, in addition to the refugee camps. At field level, in Ukiya on November 8 a UzDMC meeting took place, key NGOs representatives, union chairman/members, Ansar , BGB, CPP, ISCG and UNO. In this forum it was decided to activate Upazila control room 8 hrs/day. The need of a detailed mapping service indicating the emergency medical at camp level was highlighted. Priority will be given to vulnerable persons both from host community or Rohingya refugees to cyclone shelters to be prepared near the camps. Upazila health officer was asked to ensure stand-by ambulance services.

Today ISCG accompanied the additional RRRC, DRRO and the Emergency focal point of RRRC office in their visit to camp 23. The Shamlapur camp commander Major Sarfaraz confirmed today that in case of emergency, army camp will be relocated to nearby police station and 5,000 EVI will be relocated to 32 temporary shelters by the military and 30 dedicated volunteers will be in stand by for Shamlapur. Besides the above, cyclone preparedness activities are ongoing, under the leadership of the CPP and government bodies.

The Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG) under the HCTT produced a [first SITREP](#) on 8 November 2019. A second one is expected later today. In addition, a Joint Analysis of Disaster Exposure (JADE) undertaken by OCHA, WFP and Pacific Disaster Centre (PDC) was released. The outcome of this assessment is based on the wind only, tidal surge and possible infrastructure collapses are not captured in the analysis.



An inter-cluster/working group meeting will take place in Dhaka on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to discuss the situation and further steps. Humanitarian partners in the field provided support to local authorities for their preparedness interventions. An assessment report will be produced jointly with Government after 72 hours based on conditions in



the field. A HCTT meeting might be convened in the next few days. All partners are on stand-by and ready to complement government-led efforts if/when required.

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