• According to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), a depression in the Bay of Bengal is likely to intensify into a ‘severe cyclone’ named REMAL and make landfall between Kolkata (India) and Patuakhali (Bangladesh) from **26 May midnight to 27 May early morning 2024**.

• BMD has issued Danger Signal 10 (Ten) for the Coastal Districts of Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Pirojpur, Jhalokathi, Barguna, Barishal, Bhola, Patuakhali and their offshore island and chars.  

• Maximum wind speed is expected to hit 100-110 km/h during high impact time while heavy rainfall is forecast, with the possible risk of floods, flash floods and landslides in other parts of Bangladesh.

• The low-lying areas of the coastal districts of Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Pirojpur, Jhalokathi, Barguna, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barishal, Noakhali, Laxmipur, Feni, Cumilla, Chattogram, Cox’s Bazar, and their offshore chars (silt deposited islands) are likely to be inundated by a wind-driven surge of 3-5 feet height of water above normal astronomical tide.

• Approximately **8.4 million people (760,433 children, 4.3m women and 127,956 persons with disabilities)** are at risk for the cyclone Renal.

• The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) has on the 25th May instructed the evacuation of families along the cyclone route into shelters.

• In Cox’s Bazar Field Office, an Emergency Response Team meeting updated the preparedness status and reviewed the emergency stock list.

• Relevant Field Offices are constantly monitoring the situation on the ground in coordination with government counterparts and partners.

• UNICEF has three contingency partnerships with civil society organizations (CSOs), which are ready for activation in case a rapid response in the cyclone-affected areas is immediately required. 19 partnerships can be also reprogrammed in case of emergency response.

• About **$1.26 million worth of supplies** have been prepositioned in 35 warehouses countrywide. As an initial response, UNICEF can reach up to **156,000** people including Rohingya Camps (50,000) and Cox’s Bazar (15,000).

• **19 UNICEF staff** are ready to be deployed in case of emergencies.

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1. BMD Special weather bulletin, Sl no: 11 (Eleven), date: 26.05.2024
2. NAWG 25 May 2024
3. BMD Special weather bulletin, Sl no: 11 (Eleven), date: 26.05.2024
Expected Impact

- **8.4 million** people (**4.3 women, 760,000 children, 128,000 persons with disabilities**) are at risk of being impacted by the Cyclone.
- According to the Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG), West Bengal and Bangladesh coasts will be the most affected around midnight on May 26th, bringing heavy rainfall and strong winds with expected damage of up to **490,000 houses**.
- The Rohingya refugees in Ukhaa and Teknaf are at higher risk of wind impact of the cyclonic storm given their fragile shelter and living conditions, and up to **979,306 Rohingya Refugees and host communities (463,840 children)** are at risk from Cyclone Remal.

UNICEF Preparedness

Program Update

- The Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans (EPRPs) for 2024 have been updated in all field offices.
- In Dhaka, the Emergency Task Force has been activated, while in Cox’s Bazar Field Offices, the Emergency Response Team is active and held a meeting held to review the preparedness status. All implementing partners have been reached and their prepositioning of emergency stock reviewed.
- In Khulna, Barisal and Chattogram Field Offices colleagues are alerted and on standby, constantly monitoring the situation on the ground in coordination with partners.
- The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief MoDMR) has on the 25th May instructed the evacuation of families along the cyclone route into shelters.
- UNICEF-led clusters (WASH, nutrition, Education and Child Protection) and Working Group on AAP have participated in an ICCG meeting organized by the Resident Coordinator’s Office on the Cyclone Remal response and updated cluster information on preparedness.
- **Three contingency Programme Documents (PDs)** are ready for activation for cyclone response in Khulna and Cox’s Bazar.
- WASH, Child Protection, Education, Nutrition and SBC have prepositioned supplies for up to 156,000 people, including 50,000 Rohingya and 15,000 Host communities in Cox’s Bazar.
- Emergency Medicines and other supplies are available at the Medical Sub Depot at the Division level and the list is circulated to the districts for sending their demands.
- Additional information can be found in [Emergency preparedness factsheet - April 2024.pdf](sharepoint.com)
Key highlights from different Sectors

WASH
- An Emergency WASH Cluster meeting was held on 26 May 2024, with 30 Cluster members participating and sharing on their preparedness plans for Cyclone Remal.
- In addition, District Level WASH meetings were held in Barisal, Patuakhali, and Khulna.
- The Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), Save the Children, Oxfam, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, BRAC, and UNICEF have readied 35 water treatment plants to be deployed in the areas to be impacted.
- Life-saving WASH supplies, including Water Purification Tablets (WPTs), Hygiene Kits, Jerrycans, and emergency latrines, are prepositioned and ready for distribution in the communities and shelters. Through this supply, UNICEF will cover 50,000 people.
- The WASH Contingency Programme Document (cPD) for the Cyclone rapid response-2024 is also ready to activate in the Khulna, Barisal, and Chattogram Divisions.

Prepositioned supplies in Khulna DPHE Warehouse

Health
- Coordination meetings are ongoing with the Divisional Director Health in Barishal and Khulna in preparation for Cyclone Remal.
- Letters have been issued by Director Health Barishal and Khulna with instructions to all the Government officers not to leave their stations during cyclone landfall.
- In Barishal Division, 424 emergency medical teams have been formed in all 6 districts. For Khulna, emergency medical teams have been formed and ready to respond in all districts, but, in 3 the coastal districts - Bagerhat, Khulna and Satkhira, 359 medical teams were formed.
- All Civil Surgeons have been instructed to ensure adequate medicines and logistics are prepositioned in hospitals.
- An adequate number of water purification tablets (WPT), IV saline, ORS, and first aid kit including anti-snake venoms have been prepositioned at all levels.
- Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer will ensure alternative power supply (Generator and Solar power), ice with cold box at all EPI stores to maintain a cold chain of vaccines are available in the event electricity supply will be disrupted.

Nutrition
- In Chattorgam, the Nutrition sector has competed the prepositioning of supplies in multiple facilities in the districts of Chandpur, Chattogram, Cumilla, Feni, Laxmipur, and Noakhali.
- In Barisal, the Nutrition team in Barishal is in close contact with district and Upazila level health officials, DMCs, emergency partner NGO Forum for Public Health which has ensured that therapeutic milk for treating Severe Acute Malnourished (SAM) children is available in health facilities to meet the present need while additional therapeutic milk has been prepositioned at the divisional store of Barishal for the cyclone response. The Necessary nutrition equipment are available in the health facilities.
- Several community clinics in Assasuni, Shyamnagar, Koyra, Dacope and Sharankhola are at risk of inundation due to high tidal surge and damage to an existing dam.

Education
- The Director of Planning from the Directorate of Primary (DPE) in Dhaka central level has activated the education in emergency preparedness at the sub-national levels where Cyclone Remal is expected to hit.
- 706 schools Government Primary Schools (GPSs) have been identified for the accommodation of families at risk of the cyclone and converted into cyclone shelters.
The Education Officials are working around the clock with Emergency Control Rooms and all Headteachers are ready to support the families at risk of the cyclone impact.

Emergency Coordination Meetings were held on 25 May 2024 at district levels in Khulna where Divisional Education Offices updated their preparedness status.

Meanwhile, all annual leave for the education officials have been cancelled.

**Child Protection**

UNICEF has engaged with the Divisional Department of Social Services (DSS) and Department of Women Affairs (DWA) to strategize and coordinate efforts. A decision has been made to mobilize Social Workers, Community-based Child Protection Committee (CBCPC) members, Community Volunteers with DSS, and Child Rights Facilitators and Community Mobilizers for information gathering, dissemination of awareness messages, and readiness and response actions.

A total of **56 Social Workers** across Barishal and Khulna divisions will be deployed as required, focusing on providing psychosocial support and managing cases effectively.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), **446 Child Protection Community Hubs (CPCH)** are operational, conducting sessions on crucial topics such as preventing family separation, drowning prevention, and messaging on VACW and GBV prevention.

**Protection in Emergency (CPiE) Working Groups** have been activated in Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Patuakhali, and Barguna. These groups are working closely with local government counterparts- the Department of Women Affairs (DWA) and the Department of Social Services (DSS).

Essential supplies including **family kits, dignity kits, and recreational kits** are stocked in warehouses and will be distributed as needed.

A working group meeting has convened on 26th May with Khulna, Bagerhat and Satkhira Child Protection in Emergency (CPiE) working group members to discuss on Cyclone preparedness and Response.

CP Awareness messages have been shared with **61 Women and Children Police Help Desks** in two divisions Barishal, Khulna.

**Social and Behaviour Change (SBC)**

UNICEF has communicated with District Information Officers at various locations at risk of the cyclone to support the dissemination of the early warning messages in consultation with the district administration.

Bangladesh Betar Khulna and Barisal stations have received relevant messages from the SBC section to broadcast to the at-risk populations prior to and after the cyclone hits the coast.

UNICEF provided technical guidance to the community radio station, Lokobetar in Barguna for broadcasting public service announcements on cyclone preparedness and alerting people of the upcoming cyclone.

**Humanitarian Cash Transfer**

14,280 households with pregnant mothers have been identified in **six districts** (Patuakhali, Bhola, Barguna, Satkhira, Noakhali, Cox’s Bazar, and Khulna) to receive HCT as part of the cyclone response.

Of these, UNICEF is ready to transfer cash to **6,703 potentially affected households (pregnant mothers)** in these districts immediately in a response.

Three Contingency PD partnerships are in place and ready to provide immediate support to affected households.

**Supplies**

Minimum Preparedness Standard (MPS) 4: Supply and Logistics in emergency preparedness platform (EPP) has been updated.

**Supplies (including for emergency response)** have been prepositioned in Cox’s Bazar Field Office. As an initial response, UNICEF is ready to reach **156,000 affected people** in early action.

**HR**

Minimum Preparedness Standard (MPS) 3: Staff Capacities, Refocusing & Surge in Emergency Preparedness platform (EPP) has been updated.

19 UNICEF staff are ready to be deployed in case of emergencies.
Government and other Partners’ Preparedness

- The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) has on the 25th May instructed the evacuation of families along the cyclone route into shelters.
- The Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG) has undertaken an impact analysis of the projected impact of the cyclone, showing up to 1.9m people at risk.
- Deputy Commissioners of all the potentially exposed districts in the coastal area arranged meeting of District Disaster Management Committees on 25th May.
- A total of 4000 cyclone shelters are made ready for evacuation of community people. Alerts of landslides in the hill areas disseminated.
- In Khulna, Begerhat and Sathkhira, the MoDMR has prepositioned food (rice) and funds have been made available to support a response.
- 650 cyclone shelters are ready for evacuation in Satkhira, Khulna and Bagerhat respectively.
- Jago Nari, Barguna district-based local NGO, has already distributed 6,000 liters of water at evacuation points and shelters as part of the Anticipatory Action.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

The Inter-cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) under the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) will meet on the 26th of May 2024 to assess the forecasted situation and review clusters’ preparedness to complement GoB-led response efforts. The Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG) is closely monitoring the situation and collating information from different sources (India Meteorological Department, Bangladesh Meteorological Department, and Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System which was shared with all agencies).

UNICEF will continue leading the Nutrition and WASH Sectors/Clusters, the Child Protection Sub-sector/Cluster and co-leading the Education Sector/Cluster. UNICEF will prioritize Grand Bargain commitments, mainstreaming child-centred disaster risk reduction across sectors, ensuring accountability to affected populations and supporting the localisation of humanitarian assistance to strengthen national actors’ capacity to lead the response. In this regard, relevant government counterparts (Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Upazila Education Officer, Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer, Sub-Assistant Engineer at Upazila DPHE office, Union Parishad Chairmen and members) are part of all UNICEF-supported response activities in cyclone affected areas.

Funding situation

UNICEF has mobilised US$ 1.17 million in internal resources to support immediate response to meet the priority needs of children, women and people with disabilities. Information on the funding gaps will be shared after the needs assessment.

Who to contact for further information:

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