In a collaboration between UNICEF and DPHE, a mobile water treatment plant is being operated to distribute water in jerrycans to Cyclone Remal-affected people at Modelganj Upazila of Bagerhat District. © DPHE

UNICEF Bangladesh
Situation Report on Cyclone Remal No. 3
29th May 2024

Highlights

- Severe Cyclonic Storm Remal, made its landfall in Patuakhali district, Bangladesh, on 26 May 2024 with a maximum wind speed of 111 km/h. The storm surge, accompanied by extremely heavy rainfall, caused flooding of 5-8 feet and a 2.2-meter storm surge in the coastal districts.
- Sixteen (16) deaths have been reported in the aftermath of the cyclone. Around 3.8 million people have been affected, with 150,000 houses partially or fully damaged.
- A needs assessment by the inter-agency Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG) is ongoing, with results expected by the 1st of June of May 2024. The results of the needs assessment will provide information on severely impacted locations and guide identification of response needs.
- In Dhaka, the Emergency Management Team (EMT) convened an urgent meeting to assess the situation and activated six (6) emergency Programme Documents (ePDs) to accelerate the cyclone response in Khulna, Barisal, and Chattogram Divisions.
- The Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) already distributed 215,000 Water Purification Tablets (WPTs), 3,800 Jerry Cans, 300 water buckets and 500 Hygiene Kits in the affected area (Bagerhat, Sathkira and Barguna) and shelters in Patuakhali, all with support from UNICEF.
- Approximately 1,069 pregnant women have received US$ 51 as multipurpose cash transfers to facilitate their access to a range of critical goods and services, which are essential for children and pregnant women’s wellbeing.
- In Cox’s Bazar, a total of 910 individuals (384 girls, 323 boys, 68 females, 135 males, including 6 persons with disabilities) have been provided with Psychological First Aid (PFA) and/or Psychosocial Support (PSS).
- $1.26 million worth of supplies from 35 warehouses countrywide have been deployed for the response. These supplies will provide up to 156,000 people with life-saving interventions. Additional resources are required to support the women and children impacted by the cyclone.

Situation in Numbers

- 3.8 million People affected in Bangladesh. (27 May 2024)
- 260,262 Under five children are at risk (27 May 2024)
- 156,000 People can be reached with immediate support from UNICEF including Rohingya camps.
- 979,306 Rohingya population in need of assistance (UNHCR, 30 April 2024)

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Approximately 3.8 million people have been affected, with 150,000 houses partially or fully damaged\(^5\). Preliminary assessment reports sixteen (16) deaths\(^6\) have occurred due to the cyclone.

In Khulna Division, 4 districts (Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira and Jashore), 14 Upazilas (sub-districts) and 190 Unions have been impacted heavily by the cyclone. 123,000 houses have been damaged, either fully or partially, impacting more than 1.1 million people (494,900 women, 30,000 pregnant mothers and 181,800 children under 5).

In Chattogram Division, 27,471 houses have been damaged and 126,368 people (F-63,816, M-62,552) including 17,690 under 5 children, 3,154 pregnant women and 35,155 adolescents (Girls-17,401, Boys-17,401)\(^7\) affected. Locations affected include a total of 67 unions of 14 Upazilas\(^8\) in 3 districts (Chattogram, Noakhali and Laxmipur) of Chattogram Division.

In total, over 800,000 people were moved into the cyclone shelters for safety. Food for children, drinking water, cattle-feed, cash for buying roofing sheets and house-making materials and dry foods have been identified as immediate needs and gaps.

The offshore chars (islands) of Monpura, Tozumuddin and Daulatkhan Upazila of Bhola district are lying under tidal water with 6-8 feet depth posing risks to the lives of communities in these areas. Embankments protecting the mainland of Barguna district have been breached by the force of strong surge and winds.

3 districts (Bhola, Barguna and Patuakhali) of Barishal division have been severely impacted by damage to houses and erosion of riverbanks due to strong tidal surges.

Child Protection Community Hubs (CPCH) supported by MoWCA and UNICEF have been significantly impacted, with more than 67 hubs damaged across the three divisions. Barisal experienced the most severe damage, with five hubs completely or severely damaged.

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3 NAWG, 25 May 2024  
4 Start Fund Briefing note on Cyclone REMAL dated 28 May 2024. Ongoing assessment from NAWG will present complete data on the impact.  
5 State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief  
7 DRROs, local media and sectoral departmental assessment reports  
8 Upazilas are also referred to as sub-districts.
UNICEF Preparedness and Response

- In Dhaka, the Emergency Management Team (EMT) convened an urgent meeting to review the progress of the UNICEF response and make decisions regarding activating six (6) emergency Programme Documents (ePDs) to accelerate the cyclone response in Khulna, Barisal and Chattogram divisions.

- The six (6) emergency partnerships with civil society organizations (CSOs) will deliver urgent WASH, Nutrition, Education, Social and Behaviour Change, and Humanitarian Cash Transfers to affected women and children.

- In Khulna, Barisal and Chattogram Field Offices are closely coordinating with Disaster Management Committees and District Relief and Rehabilitation officers (DRROs) to identify severely impacted areas and vulnerable populations to be prioritised.

- In Chattogram, Khulna and Barisal, pre-prepositioned stock of WASH, Nutrition and Education and Child Protection have been released for distribution.

- UNICEF-led clusters (WASH, and Child Protection) are regularly meeting to coordinate response actions to mitigate the impact of Cyclone Remal.

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Key highlights from different Sectors responses

WASH

- With UNICEF support, the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) distributed 215,000 Water Purification Tablets (WPTs), 3,800 Jerry Cans, 300 water buckets and 500 Hygiene Kits to vulnerable households in the affected locations (Bagerhat, Sathkira and Barguna) and in evacuation shelters in Patuakhali.

- DPHE, also with support from UNICEF, deployed 9 Mobile Treatment Plants in Barisal, Barguna, Pirojpur, Sthakira, Khulna and Bagerhat to provide safe drinking water to affected families.

- UNICEF supported the DPHE in the distribution of 500 Jerricans and 125 buckets of water to the affected areas in Patuakali, Golachipa sub-district.

- In Chattogram, UNICEF and its partners distributed over 6,000 WPTs to the affected communities in Hatiya Upazila of Noakhali district.

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Health

- Power outage and mobile communication network has not been fully restored in many Upazilas of all 3 divisions making communication between the health managers and field level staffs challenging.

- Routine EPI sessions could not be conducted in the last three days in many Upazilas.
• Solar fridges are being used to store the vaccines in affected Upazilas. However, in some Upazilas, vaccine cold boxes are being used.
• The medical stores of some Upazila Health Complexes were flooded, and many essential drugs a were damaged.
• Two community clinics, one rural dispensary and a 20-bed hospital at Kuakata, Patuakhali have been severely damaged and need immediate repair and renovation for continuity of essential services.
• A joint need assessment by health cluster members and Directorate General of Health Services will be conducted in the next week.

Inundated store of Morelganj Upazila health complex

Nutrition

• Therapeutic milk has been dispatched from the medical sub-deport, Chattogram to the SAM unit at Hatia Upazila Health Complex in Noakhali district.
• Approximately 2 million under-five children have been affected by the cyclone in 9 districts. These displaced children (without shelter and now homeless) are not receiving optimal breastfeeding and complementary feeding which will ultimately lead to malnutrition.
• In addition, gastro-intestinal diseases in the inundated areas will increase which lead to malnutrition.
• The nutrition team is monitoring the situation with the aim of intervening when screening identifies SAM cases.

Education

• The preliminary rapid assessment of the impact of the cyclone Remal on schools reported that 992 Government Primary Schools have been damaged in Barisal (745), Khulna (169), and Chattogram (78).
• The Government has declared the reopening of schools that were not impacted by the cyclone for classroom teaching and learning in the three affected Divisions.
• The district and sub-district education officials are appealing to the National Government to provide support for teaching and learning materials for learners and for the repairs of the affected schools.

Child Protection

• UNICEF, in partnership with the Department of Social Services (DSS), has deployed 108 social workers and 10 psychosocial counsellors across the three affected divisions to support the identification of vulnerable children and women for case management. Additionally, five expert consultants from UNICEF and DSS have been deployed.
• A total of 135 Community-based Child protection committees (CBCPCs), comprising 2,295 community members and 593 social service volunteers, are working with children and families as part of the cyclone response program in Khulna, Barisal, and Chattogram divisions.
• UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS), has deployed more than 90 community mobilizers and facilitators to raise awareness on drowning prevention, the Child Helpline 1098, and disaster prevention and response in cyclone shelters across all seven affected districts. These efforts have reached more than 11,000 children and families, including referring people to cyclone shelters for their safety.
• 799 Community Child Protection Hubs (CPCHs) remain operational, reaching over 133,000 children through support and messaging, including 4,300 sessions.

Cox’s Bazar

• A total of 240 volunteers, 72 social workers, 6 case supervisors, and 170 Community-Based Child Protection Committees (CBCPCs) are engaged in cyclone response activities. They are operating as mobile teams at the block level.
• 16 help desks have been established and are currently operational throughout eight (8) camps. Eight (8) emergency childcare centres have been established and are operational in eight camps.
A total of **910 individuals** (384 girls, 323 boys, 68 females, 135 males, including 6 persons with disabilities) have been provided with Psychological First Aid (PFA) and/or Psychosocial Support (PSS).

A total of **1,071 individuals** (385 girls, 180 boys, 167 females, 339 males, including 8 persons with disabilities) have been reached with child protection and gender-based violence information and awareness messages.

**Bhasan Char**

- **3 caseworkers, 12 community volunteers, and 4 Community-Based Child Protection Committees (CBCPCs)** are currently engaged in cyclone response efforts.
- A total of **378 individuals** (34 girls, 65 boys, 83 females, 196 males, including 5 persons with disabilities) have received Psychological First Aid (PFA) and/or Psychosocial Support (PSS).
- A total of **279 individuals** (83 females and 196 males, including 5 persons with disabilities) have been reached with child protection and gender-based violence information and awareness messages.

**Social and Behaviour Change (SBC)**

- **A 2nd Social Listening update** on the impact of Cyclone Remal has been **produced** based on the media monitoring data to inform the decision-making process for the design of the humanitarian response plan for UNICEF. In addition, the update has been disseminated to the HCTT/ICCG members.
- UNICEF partners reached **3,460 people in 42 shelters with lifesaving health messages** after the cyclone landfall.
- UNICEF CSO partner in Khulna and Barishal Divisions continue the dissemination of hygiene messages to prevent the outbreak of diseases.
- **Community and regional radios stations in Barishal, Khulna and Chattogram** divisions continue to broadcast of lifesaving Public Service Announcements (PSAs) based on the guidance and messages provided by the UNICEF.

**Humanitarian Cash Transfer**

- Approximately **1,069 pregnant women** have received **US$ 51** as multipurpose cash transfers to facilitate their access to a range of critical goods and services, which are essential for children and pregnant women’s wellbeing and provide a temporary income to offset negative coping mechanisms related to financial hardship such as high levels of household debt, child labor, child marriage, school dropouts among others.
- Another **13,211 pregnant and lactating women** await financial support to strengthen their coping mechanisms after the cyclone.
- **Three emergency partnerships** have been activated to provide immediate support to affected households.

**Supplies**

- **700 Family kits** have been delivered to the Chattogram DPHE Warehouse to support the response.

**HR**

- **2 surge staff** have been deployed to Khulna and Barisal to support the response.

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9 UNICEF has identified 14,280 households (about 57,000 people including 226 persons with disability) with pregnant women in six affected districts (Patuakhali, Bholo, Barguna, Satkhira, Noakhali, Cox’s Bazar, and Khulna) as potential beneficiaries for multi-purpose cash transfers.
Communications
Press releases/statements:
A statement by the UNICEF Representative in Bangladesh published on the web and social media platforms and was picked by 47 media.


The social media posts published so far on Cyclone Remal –

Twitter:
https://twitter.com/UNICEFBD/status/1794967380650807704
https://twitter.com/UNICEFBD/status/1794602118474838130
https://twitter.com/UNICEFBD/status/1794711972510064962

Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/unicef.bd/posts/pfbid0KmXu6q86MosNH9UysDR3V1ztfNjrcVBwAEGBwRPyYL6FiRcsgxhQwu
rbP1PdkeXal
https://www.facebook.com/unicef.bd/posts/pfbid0j4a9D7b74UjymAC4J3yH4EozncNMogJ75LqfWtzAaRkB7QQUM9EVH
6frdFKjJ5I

Instagram:
https://www.instagram.com/p/C7a_x70vgmN/?img_index=1
https://www.instagram.com/p/C7bquUivxU/
https://www.instagram.com/p/C7de5xfyZtJ/?img_index=1

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

The Inter-cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) under the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) is meeting regularly to coordinate the response and to complement GoB-led response efforts. The Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG) is undertaking a needs assessment in 8 severely impacted districts in Khulna and Barisal Divisions.

Health coordination meetings are ongoing in all three districts led by Civil Surgeons and response plans continuously reviewed. UN Women, UNFPA, and UNICEF, through the Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA), GBV Cluster, and Child Protection Cluster, are sharing strategies - assessing tools and approaches to guide in providing immediate safety and protection for women and girls in shelters. This collaboration ensures the security of shelters and other facilities to protect against gender-based violence (GBV).

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 (District Disaster Management Committees, 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$ 1.16 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.

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