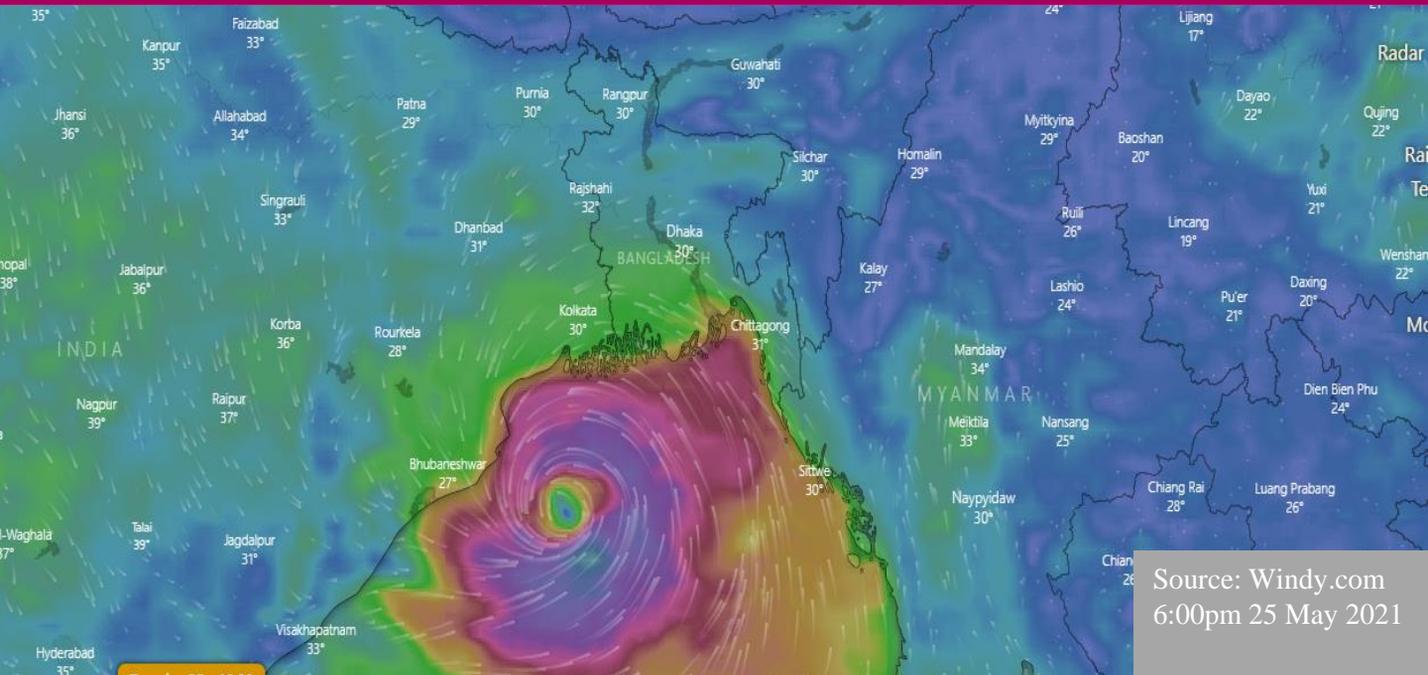


CYCLONE YAAS – Situation Update

25 MAY 2021 | 6:00pm
BRAC Humanitarian Programme



Latest Update:

- ❑ The severe cyclonic storm “Yaas” over the northwest Bay and adjoining area has moved northwestwards and intensified as very severe cyclonic storm, which is now situated about 525 km south-west of Chattogram port, 505 km south-west of Cox’s Bazar port, 390 km south-southwest of Mongla port and 309 km south-southwest of Payra port, as of 6:00pm today. It is likely to move in the north-west direction and may cross the North Odisha-West Bengal coast around noon tomorrow (26 May 2021). Maximum sustained wind speed within 74 km of sever cyclone center is about 120 kph rising to 140 kph in gusts.
- ❑ Maritime ports of Chattogram, Cox’s Bazar, Mongla and Payra are now advised to hoist local cautionary signal number three (3).
- ❑ The latest special bulletin issued by the Bangladesh Meteorological Department mentions that districts of coastal Bangladesh including Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Jhalokathi, Pirojpur, Borguna, Patuakhali, Barishal, Bhola, Noakhali, Laxmipur, Feni, Chandpur, and Chattogram and their offshore islands and char areas are to experience gusts with wind speed of 80-100 kilometers per hour along with heavy rainfall. The bulletin also warns that due to influence of full-moon, inundation of about 2 to 4 feet of tide water may be seen in the abovementioned districts.

Updates from the ground:

- ❑ BRAC representatives at the Satkhira has informed that embankments in some parts of Shyamnagar Upazila, Satkhira, have been breached or are at risk of failing due to strong tidal surge. Embankments at Gabura union in Shyamnagar Upazila is at risk of breached during high tide around midnight today. Some areas such as Vatkhalı are already flooded. Local administration have asked communities to move to shelters due to inundation. Communities started repairing roads and embankment to reduce the risks of tidal surge.
- ❑ In Borguna district, Padma areas under Patharghata Upazila are flooded due to high tide. Embankments have been breached in some places and about 8,000 households are inundated. Trawlers movement has been restricted affecting people's mobility.
- ❑ In Bagerhat district, the river water at Baleshwari, Bhairab and Panguchi have risen 1.5 to 2 feet higher than usual. Many infrastructures including the health complex are inundated.
- ❑ In Bhola district, tidal surges have caused inundation and high winds have caused damage to 3 unions of Charfession Upazila (char island areas), including Dhalchar union which is completely flooded. Local people are moving to higher grounds for safety. Approximately 20,000 people are now stranded.
- ❑ In Patuakhali district, eight villages under the Lalua union of Kolapara are inundated.

BRAC at action:

- ❑ At both district and upazila level, BRAC's disaster management teams in the coastal districts are closely monitoring the situation to track any sign of damage and support needs among the people. They are also in close coordination with the local administration and local government institutions and conducting coordination meetings with local disaster management committees to identify necessary steps in order to reduce risks and damage.
- ❑ Communities are being warned through dissemination of early warning and preparedness message integrated with COVID-19 preventive measures through seven community radio stations covering all coastal districts.
- ❑ BRAC's Polli Shomaj members along with CPP volunteers are mobilised in their communities to disseminate warning signals of the cyclone Yaas and increase awareness on COVID-19 preventive measures through door to door visit so that the people take preparedness measures immediately.



BRAC's Preparedness and Early Actions:

- ❑ BRAC Humanitarian Programme (BHP) is closely monitoring the situation since the formation of the low-pressure and is taking a multi-layer preparedness and early actions to respond to the impending cyclone Yaas.
- ❑ The Disaster Management Steering Committee (DMSC) has conducted a special meeting to review the latest situation and decide for next course of action to support the vulnerable communities.
- ❑ BRAC's Disaster Management Teams at district and upazila level have been activated; they are standing by and equipped to take immediate actions to respond to the crisis at local level.
- ❑ BRAC's Emergency Response Team (ERT) has already been alerted and ready to be deployed depending on the severity of the crisis.
- ❑ Communities are being warned through dissemination of early warning and preparedness message integrated with COVID-19 preventive measures through seven community radio stations covering all coastal districts.
- ❑ The Emergency Operation Center (EOC) at head office level has been activated to play the key role for monitoring the situation, guiding the field team and coordination at various level.
- ❑ All 14 coastal district-level cyclone contingency plans have been prepared. These plans will guide the local responding teams of BRAC to take actions according to the needs and damage incurred by any cyclone.
- ❑ Non-food items (NFI) packages including emergency shelter items and mobile water purification plants have been prepositioned in Khulna and Jessore regions. These are ready to be mobilized and distributed in order to meet the immediate needs of the affected families.

