

CYCLONE YAAS – Situation Update # 3

26 MAY 2021 | 6:00pm
BRAC Humanitarian Programme



Latest Update:

- ❑ The very severe cyclonic storm “Yaas” made landfall today (May 26, 2021) at 9:00 AM over Odisha-West and West Bengal coast in India with a wind speed of 130-145 kmph, leaving at least 4 persons dead. Over 1.15 million people in West Bengal and 3 million people in Odisha were evacuated before the cyclone hit the coast of the country.
- ❑ It later weakened into a cyclonic storm as it moves over land. Maximum sustained wind speed is 89 kph rising to about 117 kmph in gusts. Sea is to remain rough. Steep pressure gradient persists over the northern bay and coast of Bangladesh.
- ❑ Maritime ports of Chattogram, Cox’s Bazar, Mongla and Payra have been advised to continue hoisting local cautionary signal number three (3). Boats and trawlers are instructed to remain sheltered at coast.
- ❑ Tidal surges from three to six feet higher than usual whipped the low-lying areas of 14 coastal districts as a result of full moon influence.
- ❑ Wind speed up to 60 – 80 kmph in gusts along with heavy rainfall was also experienced at the coastal districts as a result of the steep pressure gradient.
- ❑ According to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, [nine districts, and 27 upazilas](#) were badly affected by cyclone Yaas.

Updates from the ground:

- ❑ BRAC representatives stationed at coastal areas reported that there is electricity cut off in many districts. Water levels in the rivers have risen to 3 to 4 feet higher than usual due to the influence of full moon, leaving many villages inundated. Tens of thousands of people are stranded.
- ❑ Many locations in Satkhira district including Shyamnagar and Assassuni upazilas are inundated due to breach of embankments at multiple points. Communities are working together to repair the breached embankment.
- ❑ Paikgacha, Botiaghata, Dumuria and Koyra upazilas in Khulna have been inundated due to breach of embankments. Kajibacha River in Batiaghata is flowing high and imposes threats on to adjacent roads and embankments.
- ❑ In Bhola, embankments were breached in Monpura upazila, flooding many villages and fish enclosures during the high tide. Charfession and Doulatkhan upazilas were also flooded during high tide of about five to six feet higher than usual. More than 20,000 people are stranded in Charfession. One person in Lalmohon upazila has died due to a fallen tree.
- ❑ In Bagerhat, high tides has breached embankment, resulting flooding the Shoronkhola and Mongla upazila. Locations outside the embankment such as Shonatola union are flooded. Sluice gate failure has caused inundation of marketplace in Sadar upazila.
- ❑ In Borguna district, 25 to 30 thousand households are stranded. The river water level were more than 3 to 4 feet higher than usual weakening more than 235 km of embankment. Areas in Lobongola, Majherchor, and Pathorghat upazilas were inundated by the tidal surge affecting households in low lying locations.
- ❑ Four villages of Ramgoti Upazila in Laxmipur district was submerged with tides rising 2 to 3 feet higher than usual.
- ❑ In Jhalokathi distirct, 10 villages near the Bishakhali river in Kathalia upazila was flooded. Low lying locations including Shoilarchar and Borokathalia are inundated.
- ❑ In Patuakhali district, 8 villages Lalua union in Kolapara upazila are inundated.



BRAC's preparedness and early actions:

- ❑ The Emergency Operation Center (EOC) at BRAC Head Office is fully functional and BRAC Humanitarian Programme is monitoring the situation, guiding the field team, collecting latest information from all possible sources, and coordinating at various level.
- ❑ BRAC's staff is on the ground are closely monitoring the situation and assessing the damaged incurred and needs of the people across the coastal communities. They have also joined communities in fixing the breached embankments and have supported the activities of CPP volunteers to disseminate live saving messages.
- ❑ At both district and upazila level, BRAC's disaster management teams in the coastal districts are 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.
- ❑ BRAC's Polli Shomaj members along with CPP volunteers are continuing dissemination of warning message of the cyclone Yaas and increase awareness on COVID-19 preventive measures through door-to-door visit.

Government's initiatives:

- ❑ Government of Bangladesh has allocated budget for supporting the people affected by cyclone Yaas and will sanction loans for agricultural and fish farmers at low interest rates.
- ❑ District commissioners in the coastal zone have been instructed to provide food support to affected households. 16,500 dry food packages have also been allocated for humanitarian support provisions.
- ❑ More than [3,000 cyclone shelters](#) were prepared for evacuation of about 500,000 people in Khulna division.
- ❑ A total of 245 medical team in Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira and Borguna districts have been formed to support the cyclone victims.
- ❑ District administration took preparations to evacuate 2 million people to 4,915 temporary and permanent shelters in Barisal division.
- ❑ Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) are operating in all coastal districts.
- ❑ Total 76,000 volunteers from the Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP), Scouts, Red Crescent Society, Ansar VDP are on the ground to respond to the destruction caused by cyclone Yaas.

