

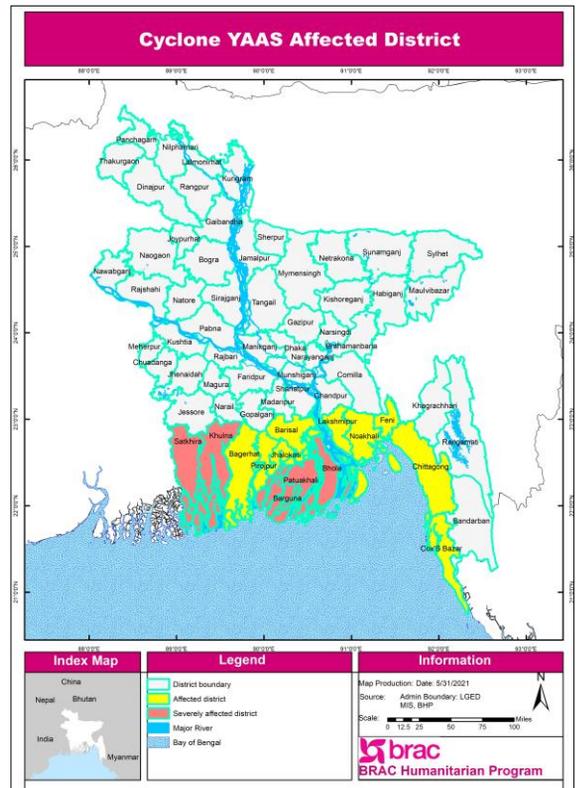
Cyclone YAAS

Situation Update # 4
MAY 31, 2021



Situation overview:

- The very severe cyclonic storm “YAAS” made landfall on May 26, 2021, over Odisha-West and West Bengal coast in India with a wind speed of 130-145 kmph, leaving at least 4 persons dead.
- Though Cyclone YAAS has not impacted Bangladesh directly by high winds but the average tidal waves ranging from 3-6 feet due to coincident with a perigeon spring tide whipped the low-lying areas of 14 coastal districts resulting in breach of embankments and severe inundation.
- The severely affected districts are Satkhira, Khulna, Bhola, Patuakhali and Borguna, where more than hundred kilometers of embankments have been breached at many points, and hundreds of villages and thousands of acres of agricultural land have been inundated, thousands of fish enclosures have been damaged.
- In Satkhira district, about 90 km of embankments have been damaged and 7,650 fish enclosures have been washed away in Assasuni and Shyamnagar upazila. People are suffering without access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, especially during high tides and remoteness of the existing safe water sources. Many houses have been slumped and dirt roads have been washed away resulting difficulties in communications.
- In Dacope, Koyra and Paikgacha upazila of Khulna district, about 60 km of embankments and over 1,000 houses have been damaged and 200 fish enclosures have been destroyed.
- Extensive damage of houses, crops lands, and fish enclosures have been observed in the most affected Bhola Sadar and Charfession upazila of Bhola district due to the damage and breach of flood control embankments.



Community voices

“We don’t need any relief; we are still alive. We need a sustainable embankment so that we can continue to lives and livelihoods in this area.”

- Chairman, Gabura Union, Shyamnagar, Satkhira

“The situation is normal now, but people still have sufferings. Households living outside of the embankment were inundated several times. People lost their houses, crops and shrimp farms. Cash support to restore their livelihoods is an urgent need at this moment.”

- Chairman, Southkhali Union, Shoronkhala, Bagerhat



- In most affected Patharghata, Borguna Sadar and Taltoli upazila of Borguna district, about 25 km of embankments have been damaged and around 2,000 houses have been inundated and damaged. About 350-400 households in Taltoli upazila are still living outside the embankment.
- Properties of 1,200 households in Kaukhali upazila of Pirojpur district have been damaged by flooding due to breach of embankment. Embankments in Pathorghata has also been heavily damaged.
- The embankments of Bagerhat Sadar, Morelgonj and Sharonkhola upazilas of Bagerhat district have been broken and about 1,000 families are living in stranded situation. Many of the inundated households lost their houses and WASH facilities and most of the shrimp farms have been damaged by tidal water. In Southkhali union of Shoronkhola upazila, approximately 400 households are still living outside of the embankment.

Government's initiatives:

- The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief distributed 16,500 packages of food in 27 Upazila under nine worst affected districts. The government also allocated BDT 100,000 for fodder and BDT 100,000 for baby food for each of the nine Upazilas of Khulna district; BDT 21.5 million for providing emergency support to the affected people in Satkhira district; BDT 13.3 million for emergency relief purposes, 357 metric ton rice, BDT 100,000 for fodder and BDT 100,000 for baby food in Borguna district; BDT 22 million for emergency relief purposes in Patuakhali district.
- Government has also allocated budget to financially support people affected by cyclone YAAS and will sanction loans for agricultural and fish farmers at low interest rates.

Priority needs

By analyzing the overall impacts and ground level assessment of damages and needs, BRAC revealed that while there is need for immediate lifesaving supports in some pocket areas, but recovery and longer-term resilience building is important for the most vulnerable households affected by cyclone YAAS. The priority humanitarian supports are needed in following sectors:

- Repairing of embankments and critical community infrastructures through cash for work services.
- Repairing and installation of tube wells and sanitation facilities, and promotion and access to safe hygiene practices with a focus on COVID-19 preventive measures.
- Restoration of livelihood and generating employment opportunities.
- Recovering from the damage and loss of agriculture and fish cultivation.
- Repairing of houses including plinth raising.
- Support for disinfection of inundated ponds.