

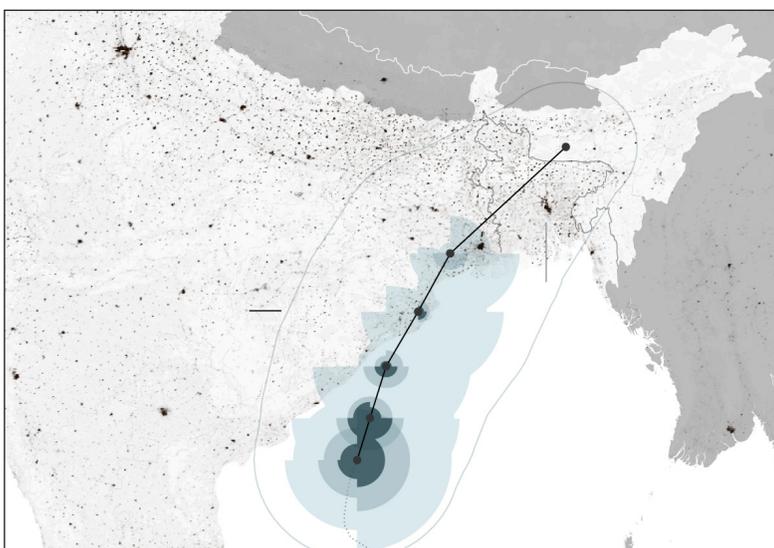


# CYCLONE FANI

## SITUATION AND COAST IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

# Fani

## IMPACT OF FANI



Cyclone Fani had come to Bangladesh with panic, specially among the coastal people, but passed the country with comparatively lighter impact, caused much less damage compared with that by cyclones Sidr (2007) and Aila (2009). Sidr claimed more than 3,000 lives and affected some 40 lakh people while Aila claimed at least 121 people and affected more than 30 lakh, but the death toll from Fani rose to 14 till the reporting date, 5th May, 2019. The very severe cyclone entered Bangladesh with wind speeds of 50-60kmph, and took around 10 hours to cross the country through Khulna and Rajshahi regions before heading towards Assam of India.

The National Disaster Response Coordination Centre

(NDRCC) informed that, at least 36 villages in Patuakhali, Bagerhat, Bhola and Satkhira were inundated as storm surges breached earthen dykes and overflowed them. A total of 32.28km of earthen dykes were damaged. Around 13,000 houses were fully or partially damaged due to cyclonic storm in the coastal districts, including Bhola, Chandpur, Bagerhat, Khulna, Satkhira, Patuakhali and Barguna, according to the NDRCC. Crops on 330 acres were totally damaged while those on 52,728 acres were partially affected. Around 16 lakh people took shelter in 4,071 cyclone shelters in 19 coastal districts on Friday and early yesterday. By yesterday noon, however, they started going back to their homes as the weather improved.



*COAST provides continuous information on the cyclone to the people of Charfasson of the Bhola district using its community radio. The radio named Radio Meghna broadcasted cyclone related information and awareness program and it also broadcasted non-stop 22 hours special program on Fani during 3rd and 4th May. Using this community radio people got information about the cyclone easily.*

## COAST COORDINATION WITH FIELD STAFF



### FANI IN COAST WORKING AREAS

COAST is mainly working in 8 coastal districts in Bangladesh. Its main two working areas are Bhola and Cox's Bazar. In Bhola about two hundred houses in one union have been damaged by the Fani.

A woman has died and more than 200 homes have been destroyed in Bhola as Cyclone Fani is crossing Bangladesh after hitting India's Odisha and West Bengal coasts.

The woman died as the house collapsed in the storm on the morning of 4th May, 2019. According to the local administration, over 200 houses in parts of Sadar Upazila were destroyed by the storm. Under the influence of Fani, strong wind with rain started to lash many parts of the coastal district from Friday night, destroying the homes, damaging crops and roads, and uprooting trees. South Dighaldi Union Council Chairman Iftarul Alam Swapan said more than 100 homes were destroyed in his Union.

40 villages in Kutiubdia and 14 villages in Mohshkhali flooded away due to the impact of Fani.

### Contact persons in emergency

- Bhola- Ms. Rashida Begum, Regional Team Leader, Mobile 01713328802, Jahirul Islam, Sr. Project Coordinator, Mobile-01713328831
- Barshal- Md Faruk, Regional Program Coordinator, Mobile-01713328826
- Patuakhali-Nazmul Sakib, District Team Leader, Mobile-01713328836
- Noakhali, Nure Alam, Regional Program Coordinator, Mobile-01713328808
- Cox's Bazar, Zahangir Alam Regional Team Leader, Mobile-01713328827, Shahinur Islam, Head-MEAL and Humanitarian Response, Mobile 01713367434
- Ukhiya Relief and Operation Centre (UROC), Ukhiya, Razaul Karim Mobile-01814403970
- Radio Meghna, Ms. Konika Rani Mobile 01708120390

### Dhaka Control Room:

- COAST is maintaining coordination with the respective honorable Deputy Commissioners and local union Chairmen and Members for relief operation on the basis of need. On the other hand 50 skilled staff have been deployed for need assessment of the damages by the organization. Here COAST will avoid the duplication of emergency support.
- COAST has also decided to provide instant cash support of BDT 5,000.00 for each family in the death case.
- COAST has opened a control room in its Principal Office, Dhaka where an Assistant Director-Admin (Mo 01711455591) and Director (01711881662) are responsible for coordinating the emergency responses.



*Team Leader of COAST Bhola region, Rashida Begum gave an interview with BBC on Fani. She says, says these cyclones left a long-term impact. The poor people have lost their homes, trees and livestock and suppressed by debt burden. Rashida Begum said, It is not possible for them to recover these losses. To get back to normal life they take loans from different NGOs or government sectors. They temporarily make houses or make small business or farming. But it is seen that they cannot live for sure for lack of permanent solutions. Because before overcoming the damage caused by the cyclone, they are facing other disasters. They become debt-ridden and poor people remain poor.*

## COAST PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES

### All staff and rescue boats kept in standby

The station leave and leave of all staff have been cancelled and they are instructed to stay in office and women colleagues in their residence. Our all staff are well trained and skilled for disaster response.

We have made ready two rescue boats one in Kachapia ghat, Charfession, Bhola and one in Kutubdia ghat, Cox's Bazar so that they can start rescue just after order. 6. Responsible staff list in the districts supposed to be affected. We have also made available sufficient cash amount in all field offices and selected the vendors for supplying emergency goods and materials. In connection to the preparedness Executive Director of the organization arranged a quick GoToMeeting conference call with all the field leaders of the organization to be alert for responding any kind of emergency situation.

### Continuous communication with Government Officials

COAST attended meetings called by honorable Deputy Commissioners of Bhola, Cox's Bazar and Barishal and UNO (Upazilla Nirbahi Officer-Chief Officer of sub-district) of Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar. COAST provided all the contact numbers of the organizational responsible staff at union level.

### Cyclone tracking

Through our Radio Meghna ([www.radiomeghna.net](http://www.radiomeghna.net)). We are also updating the weather bulletin through our websites. The bulletin sources were BMD (Bangladesh Metrological Department). The Radio Meghna was on air for broadcasting continuous bulleting until the Fani crossed the country.



## COAST IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

*Just after crossing of Cyclone Fani, the Deputy Commissioner with some senior staff of COAST visited Dighaldhi village of Bhola Sadar. Seeing the sufferings of the people, he requested COAST authority to provide lunch for the affected people. Then COAST Trust rapidly provided them 100 packets cooked food who were suffering for cyclone. The organization gave instantly cash support of BDT 5000.00 (Five thousand) for Ranu Begum's family who was killed by the tree fallen on her due to cyclone. During that time local Union Parishad Chairman Mr. Shapan Miya, Journalist, Climate forum members, local political leaders, civil society, community fishers group leader were present.*

## LEARNING FOR FUTURE ACTIONS

- *The field level leaders were alert for the cyclone Fani and for that why it was possible to arrange a GoToMeeting with the leaders by Executive Director only 15 minutes notice.*
- *The leaders can accurately followed the directions of the conference call.*
- *The leaders have the excellent access to the government officials for such an emergency situation.*
- *It has been made for quick response through coordination with the government officials specially the Deputy Commissioner of Bhola district.*
- *Our equipment like mega phone, power pump etc. for emergency purposes should be ready for responses.*
- *Advocacy campaign is needed embankment constructions of outreach islands, mobile network and increasing community radio watt should be strengthened and continued.*