**ChildFund International**

**Humanitarian Situation Report 3**

**INDIA CYCLONE - YAAS**

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**Updates are in yellow colour**

**Part 1: The Overall Situation**

As per the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), the **Severe Cyclonic Storm “Yaas” (pronounced as “Yass”)** over northwest & adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal moved north-northwestwards with a speed of about 15 kmph during past 6 hours, and lay centred at 1430 hrs IST of 25th May, 2021 over northwest Bay of Bengal about 200 km southeast of Paradeep (Odisha), 290 km south-southeast of Balasore (Odisha), 290 km south-southeast of Digha (West Bengal) and 280 km south of Sagar Islands (West Bengal). It is very likely to move north-northwestwards, intensify further into a **Very Severe Cyclonic Storm** during next 06 hours**.** It would continue to move northnorthwestwards, intensify further and **make landfall near north Odisha coast close to Dhamara port by the early morning of Wednesday, 26th May**. It is very likely to cross north Odisha-West Bengal coasts between Paradeep and Sagar Island close to north of Dhamara and south of Balasore, during noon of Wednesday, the 26th May as a **Very Severe Cyclonic Storm**. *Photos: showing cyclone path with potential affected areas with wind speed forecasts.*

The Very Severe Cyclonic Storm “YAAS” landfall started at 9 am on 26th May until afternoon at Bahahaha block of Balasore in Odisha impacting both bordering areas of both Balasore and Bhadrak districts. The Very Severe Cyclonic Storm made landfall with a maximum sustained wind speed of 130-140 kmph gusting to 155 kmph. The landfall process lasted for four hours and then cyclone moved to Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar district of Odisha. The cyclone’s wind speed has weakened at the time of landfall from an estimated 155-165 kmph gusting, which was a matter of relief and resulted into less destruction.

**Key updates of the cyclone (pre & post):**

* IMD issued Rainfall Warning for North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal and Sikkim, Jharkhand, Bihar, Assam and Meghalaya states.
* IMD issued Wind Warning for north Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, and Bangladesh coasts and Jharkhand.
* In Odisha: Local administration evacuated around 750,000 vulnerable people from the affected areas including 4,500 pregnant women who moved to local PHC / CHC.
* 112 National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams were deployed to 6 states/union territories including Odisha with 52 teams of NDRF.
* On 28th May 2021, the Prime Minister of India conducted ariel survey of the cyclone affected areas in both Odisha and West Bengal. He also held separate review meetings with the Chief Ministers of Odisha and West Bengal during his visit: The government announced the following relief measures to the affected:
  + PM announced to provide ex-gratia of ₹200,000 to the next of kin of the deceased and ₹50,000 to the seriously injured due to the storm.
  + The PM announced INR 5 billion financial assistance to the Odisha government.
  + Odisha Chief Minister announced 7 days of dry ration to the affected communities especially in 128 villages.
* In, Odisha, around 128 villages in Bhadrak and Balasore districts had been swamped by heavy rain and sea water whipped up by the cyclone but people in most areas had already been moved to safe cyclone shelter.
* Similarly in West Bengal, cyclone affected East Midnapore and South 24 Parganas village as per the State Chief Minister around 10 million people affected and 300,000 houses damaged.
* As per the report of Special Relief Commissioner-Odisha, more than 500,000 people of the villages within 3 to 4 km from the sea, were evacuated in the alerted districts and now returning to their homes, but in Bhadrak and Balasore, people will stay for another day.
* People coming to shelter were provided with double mask and followed the covid protocols. Also Cyclone shelters accommodated with 50% capacity to maintain physical distance.
* Two persons have reportedly killed by falling of tress due to strong winds. However, confirmation of these incidents from the district administration is awaited.

**Part 2: The Situation in Areas Where ChildFund Works**

ChildFund implements sponsorship program in Kendrapara district of Odisha, which is also on high alert. The sponsorship program is implemented in 45 villages of Mahakalpara block, which is the nearest program location of ChildFund to the cyclone landfall site. The cyclone has impacted our sponsorship program areas in Kendrapara district but the severity seems low. The following is the firsthand information we collected through our field teams over phone.

* As per the report of District Authority, road cleaning, repairing of electric wires / poles are in full swing by the trained forces.
* Around 1,05,000 people were evacuated and took shelter in Kendrapara district and most of them now returning to their homes.
* Approx. 200 kuchha houses are reported fully/partially damaged including 139 enrolled children’s families, it may increase after field level data collection.
* Livelihood impacted those depend upon the individual fish-pond and kitchen garden which is inundated by tidal surge and rain water.

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| **Some images captured by community mobilisers using their mobile phones after returning to their villages from the cyclone shelters where they took refuge.** | |

**Part 3: ChildFund’s Response**

Considering the potential impact of the impending cyclone, ChildFund has alerted our teams, local volunteers and Task Forces created as part of Child Centered Disaster Risk Reduction (CCDRR) program. The following is key update as part of preparedness from ChildFund and its program participants:

* ChildFund participated State level GO - NGO Coordination meeting with IAG members organized by Special Relief Commissioner/Managing Director, Odisha State Disaster Management Authority on 22nd May. He advised civil societies to support the local administration for the careful evacuation, shelter management with adhering COVID protocol.
* On 23rd May, our field team including Program Officer- DRM, SR Coordinator and Field Project Officer attended district level GO - NGO Coordination meeting and as per the advise from district authority, ChildFund field team has shared village level volunteers who will support local authorities in preparedness and relief efforts at the community level.
* Kendrapara location field team held discussion with all volunteers and accordingly 75 volunteers list prepared and shared with block authority for 10 shelter sites to support local administration for evacuation and shelter management.
* Our village level volunteer and task forces already stated the early waring dissemination by using megaphone at the village level and providing support for the careful evacuation during this twin disaster juncture.
* ChildFund participated Pre-Cyclone IAG Preparatory meeting on 25th May 2021 at state level as well as at National level, discussed about the post cyclone sectoral rapid assessment in affected districts including Inter Agency Coordination at state level.
* Today 25th May 2021 at 17:30 PM, the Sr. Specialist – DRM and Sr. Manager – Program & Partnerships had a call with the Odisha state team of ChildFund to take stock of the situation and planned next steps once the cyclone makes landfall especially in Odisha.

**Update after the cyclone made landfall:**

* ChildFund field team based at Kendrapara sponsorship program location will undertake rapid assessment on 28th May 2021 to understand immediate needs and accordingly the response plan will be prepared and shared.
* ChildFund Odisha state office team has participated in the Inter Agency Group (IAG) Coordination meetings held on 26th & 27th May 2021 to get updates from different agencies as well as share our response and updates in the forum.
* Odisha IAG decided to undertake multi sectoral Joint Rapid Need Assessment in 7 affected districts and ChildFund will take lead in Kendrapara district and support the Child Protection sectoral assessment for the State.
* There are reports of damage and sea water intrusion in South 24 Parganas (Sundarban area) of West Bengal including the villages where ChildFund implemented relief and recovery project after the cyclone Amphan in the year 2020.
* Initial reports shared by the local NGO (SSDC) reveals that the saline water inundated the low lying areas and agriculture field due to the storm surge created by the cyclone.
* ChildFund Odisha state team has participated in two more IAG meetings after the cyclone to share our interventions at the field level and next plans.
* We also participating in the IAG assessment as lead agency for Kendrapara (our program area affected by the clone) and lead for Child Protection theme. Our field level volunteers have been oriented by the IAG and currently they are engaged in the data collection using mobile Application. The data collection will be completed in couple of days.
* We have completed the rapid assessment and the following interventions were identified for relief and early recovery support:
  + Shelter kit (Tarpaulin, Rope and Mosquito Net)
  + Hygiene kit consisting of 11 household WASH materials
  + Sanitation drive to disinfect village surroundings
  + Food basket without rice as Govt provides it
  + Support to PHCs and Frontline workers with medical supplies and protective kits
  + Pisciculture support and Agriculture support to restore livelihoods
  + Kitchen garden support
  + Education kits support

**Below are the photographs from the field where Task Force members and Local Volunteers trained under CCDRR Program disseminating early warning and supporting the local authorities in the evacuation process:**

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| Early Warning Dissemination in different villages by the trained Task Force members | |
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| Village volunteers and Task Force members evacuating people to safe shelters | |
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We have identified 357 severely affected families for relief support. So far, we have distributed hygiene kits and shelter kits to 213 families benefitting approx. 1,065 populatin. Below are some images of the relief distributions:

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| ChildFund team member checking the water purification demo by a beneficiary |  | Beneficiaries receiving hygiene kit and shelter kit materials at the distribution point. |

Below Sections for Internal Use Only

* Staffing and Security

All our field team based at Kendrapara sponsorship program location are safe and did not face any injuries.

* Sponsorship and Grants -

All our enrolled and sponsored children and their families are safe and accounted for. Our community mobilisers have reached these children and families through mobile communication and physical visits during the rapid assessments. Some enrolled families houses have got damaged due to the cyclone but no injuries or death were reported.

* Donors -
  + Provide information about potential sources of funding (including grant donors, subsidy, Emergency Action Fund, Alliance members, GIK, etc.) for these emergency response efforts using the chart below.

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| **Donor** | **Program** | **Amount (USD)** | **Requested? (Y/N)** | **Confirmed? (Y/N)** |
| We have reached out to different corporate donors within the country and hopeful of financial support from one corporate amounting to approx. USD 23,727. This support is mainly towards relief related activities. We will update the table with more information once we get confirmation. | | | | |

* Budget –
  + Outline how we will use this funding with a rough topline budget.
* Media/Communications
  + List of media who will be or have been contacted with press releases
  + List of emergency spokespeople, including name, location, contact information, and languages spoken
  + Plans for collecting photos/videos/stories, i.e. should an outside photographer be hired?
  + Key points for messaging and visibility, particularly any host government sensibilities that must be considered.
* Support needed or requested from IO, GSS or Global Teams – whether onsite or remote.

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