

Bangladesh – Forecast Based Early Action – 2021 – Cyclone YAAS

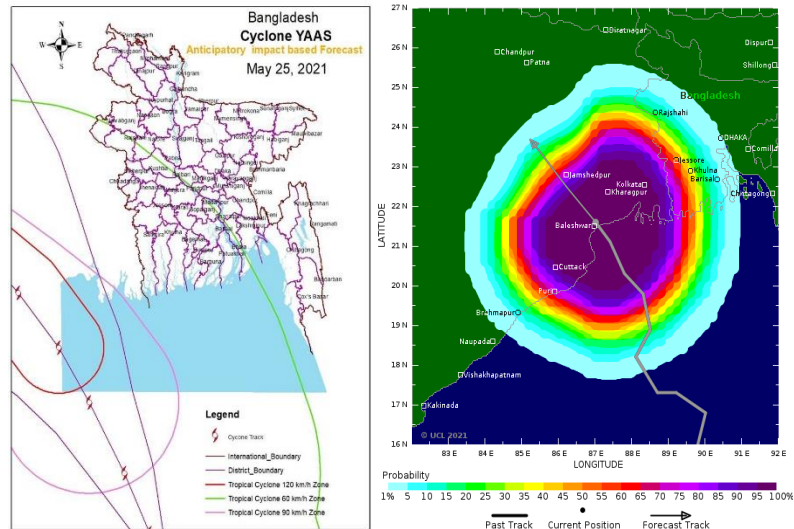
Case Study: Anticipatory Action and Shelter Kit Distribution

Project Type: Forecast Based Anticipatory Action

Disaster: Cyclone YAAS in Patuakhali and Barguna, Bangladesh

People supported by the project: 750 HHs received Cash and Hygiene kits. 300 HHs (150 in Patuakhali and 150 in Bagerhat) received cluster standard Shelter NFIs.

Shelter Size: Repaired Houses Averaged 30m²

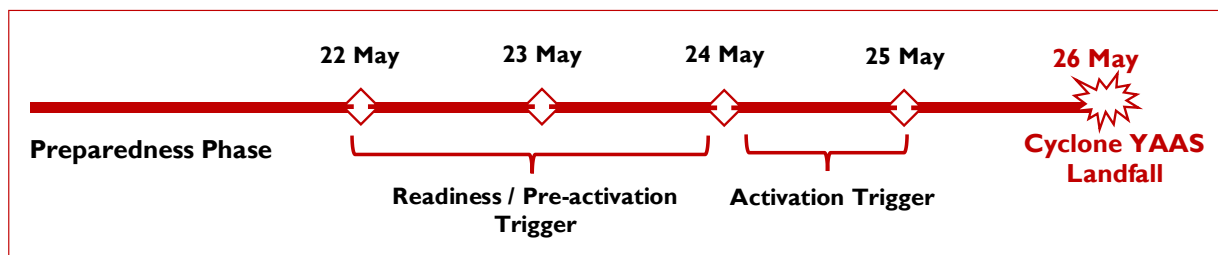


Project cost per shelter: BDT 5,500 (USD 65)

Project summary:

To save lives and assets, as well mitigate potential losses and damages at the community level, Save the Children implemented a pilot project on **Forecast Based Early Action** targeting the cyclone-prone Upazilas of Bagerhat and Patuakhali districts in Bangladesh. The project was designed with two phases as **Readiness/Pre-activation phase** (Activated during the raise of Signal-1), and **Activation phase** (Worked during the raise of Signal- 4) prior to cyclone YAAS landfall. At the Pre-activation stage, which is 04 days prior to the YAAS, the project implemented pre-selected community based early actions i.e distribution shelter kits to 300 families, evacuation vulnerable people, re-excavation canal, partial repairmen of weak embankment & roads, prepare cyclone shelters and WASH points. During Activation Phase, which is around 30 hrs before YAAS, the project distributed Cash to selected families living under most vulnerable condition.

Cyclone YAAS Anticipatory Action Timeline:



Strengths and Weaknesses:

- The project successfully established that Anticipatory early action resettles living arrangement mitigates humanitarian impacts and economic losses, reduces damage to infrastructure and assets, and protects people's livelihoods.
- The project supported to strengthen the capacity of local Disaster Committee Members on demonstration the early actions before cyclone landfall.
- Bring positive impact on people's resilience, livelihood, and disaster preparedness.
- The model can easily be replicable for other cyclone prone communities.
- Different planning methods can be applied while developing the strategic protocol. All the alternative plans should be set up based on the current situation of the area.
- During the project implementation, the weather was unpredictable, lack of proper local forecast, unavailability of local transport during an emergency.
- The project was a small-scale piloting initiative so, the resources were limited and had not been allocated for large-scale replication.
- By considering the weather condition, distribution of the shelter kit had been distributed successfully within 4-days before cyclone landfall during pre-activation phase/trigger.
- Beneficiary Management during NFI distribution was challenging due to the wind speed along with high tide and bad weather conditions.
- Usage of the shelter kit could not ensure because already flash floods entered the BNF household and broken embankment allowed bulk of water to enter their living areas.
- Technical orientation needs for saving the community to build resilient houses as per the climate change adaptation mechanism.
- Need to assess the community plan and as per this shelter kits need to be provided.



Context:: The Forecast Base Early Action is a conventional plan that directs the timely and successful implementation of early actions during a severe weather forecast which may critically impact the people



of a target area. Tropical cyclone ‘YAAS’ made landfall on 26th May 2021, castigated a vast area of the coastal belt of Bangladesh with high tides and coastal flooding. Save the Children supported early actions mitigated humanitarian impacts and economic losses reduced damage to shelter infrastructure, assets and protect people’s livelihoods. Save the Children implemented a pilot project called “Forecast Based Early Action” targeting the cyclone prone Upazilas of Bagerhat and Patuakhali districts even before “Cyclone Yaas” made its landfall.

Pre-activation/ Readiness phase:

Pre-activation phase/Readiness phase activated during the raise of Signal-I. From 22 May, when the Bangladesh Government raised Signal I, ‘Readiness Trigger’ started implementing pre-set Early Actions (EAs) with the support from the local community.



In the preparatory and readiness trigger, the project selected the two most cyclone prone Upazilas to work on. Those areas were low lying and most of the households of those selected areas were mainly rural, depending on the river fishing and some were the owner of the shrimp enclosures to supplement their livelihood. The makeshift shelters of those areas was made of traditional materials like bamboo, bamboo sheets, and Nipa fruticose.



❖ EA initiatives:

In the pre-activation/ readiness phase, the project carried out several EA initiatives such as distribution shelter NFIs, preparing cyclone shelters, repairing, and protecting WASH points (tube-well, latrines), awareness message dissemination for cyclone preparedness, partial repairmen of weak embankment & roads, re-excavation of canal, and preparing vulnerable BNF list, etc. In the preparedness period which is mostly project mobilization/inception phase this project mobilized local Stakeholders for BNF selection, arranged project inception meetings, developed the

threshold/Early Action protocol and plan by engaging community and stakeholder consultations through FGD, and identified the Early Actions at the Community level.

❖ Beneficiary selection:

By maintaining COVID protocol beneficiaries’ selection was done by organizing small group consultation meetings for engaging different types of stakeholders such as Upazila Administration, UP bodies, local elite, civil society people, UDMC members, and people of the vulnerable areas. By discussing with them, the project identified potentially vulnerable people who might need actual support to save their families from the cyclonic tidal waves and high winds.

Save the Children initially (SC) targeted the most vulnerable families from the selected areas. SC local implementing partner Jago Nari from Patuakhali and JJS from Bagerhat supported for beneficiary selection process targeting to Cash and Shelter NFIs distribution before the cyclone landfall.

Activation phase:

The Activation phase worked during the raise of Signal- 4. At that time, the wind speed was up to 60-80 kph with heavy rainfalls, and the water level of low-lying areas of the Bagerhat and Patuakhali districts was stated raising above 03-04 feet of high form normal tide. During this time, the project supported those vulnerable who live by the side of the riverbank, and whose household was anticipated to be inundated by the coastal flood due to the broken embankment of targeted areas.

❖ Shelter kit distribution:

In the coastal area, the majority of the people lived in bamboo made traditional houses which became vulnerable during the cyclonic storm. Last year, the AMPHAN cyclone made a great impact by destroying several households' as good infrastructures. Most of the people became shelter less, some were displaced and some return to tend their livelihood from the beginning. This time, the forecast-based early action concept aimed to protect those vulnerable households and their infrastructures prior to the YAAS.



Kader Mollah, 45 "I was petrified after noticing the weather condition due to Cyclone YAAS storm. I had no proper place to take shelter, cannot repair my house due to the shortage of the money and materials. Save the children and JIS gave me standered shelter kit. I use the tent in the roof of my house, and bamboo as a prop to recumbence my house so that my little child and my families can protect themselves from the devastation of cyclone YAAS ".

As an early action, a total of 300 households got shelter NFIs support to start the repairment of their household immediately. In the household's equipment's each household received (Blue color) Tarpaulin Sheet, Rope, Bamboo, 2-inch nails, Claw Hammer, Knife for cutting bamboo/ timber, Hand saw, Shovel for building a plinth, Hoe for building a plinth according to Shelter Cluster guideline in Bangladesh. With the help of those items, vulnerable people quickly strengthened their shelter and saved their family shelter from completely wash away from the high tide and heavy storm.



Material List:

The project supported the below shelter kits for the vulnerable community to construct their household during cyclonic protection.



Materials	
Tarpaulin Sheet	Knife for cutting bamboo/Timber
Rope	Hand Saw
Bamboo	Shovel for building plinth
2-inch nails	Hoe for building plinth
Claw Hammer	