



India

Western-Region
Cyclone Response

Situation Report #1

17 May 2021

unicef 

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm “Tauktae” (pronounced as Tau’Te) started near Lakshadweep islands off the coast of Kerala has traversed all along the west coast of India inflicting damage through high intensity rainfall induced floods and high winds in the states of Kerala, Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra.
- The storm system is now heading towards Gujarat as a severe cyclonic storm, expected to make landfall on the night of 17th May. The maximum sustained surface wind speed of 175-185Km/hr gusting to 205 Km/hr is forecasted to inflict widespread damage to shelter, basic services and critical infrastructure in Gujarat.
- About 1.1 million population including 0.39 million children in 421 coastal villages of 6 districts of Gujarat are at risk and will likely need urgent humanitarian assistance.
- A bulk Oxygen manufacturing facility in the town of Jamnagar in Gujarat is in the predicted pathway of the cyclone. Oxygen supply line to a number of states may get disrupted. States have been advised to maintain a buffer of 2 days’ Oxygen supply.
- State and district level Government in Gujarat has initiated intensive cyclone preparedness and response.
- UNICEF is on the ground and responding to the cyclone in partnership with the interagency group of Gujarat as well supporting Government led response.
- UNICEF is already responding to the COVID-19 crisis in Gujarat and 16 other states of India.

11 lives lost (no child deaths)

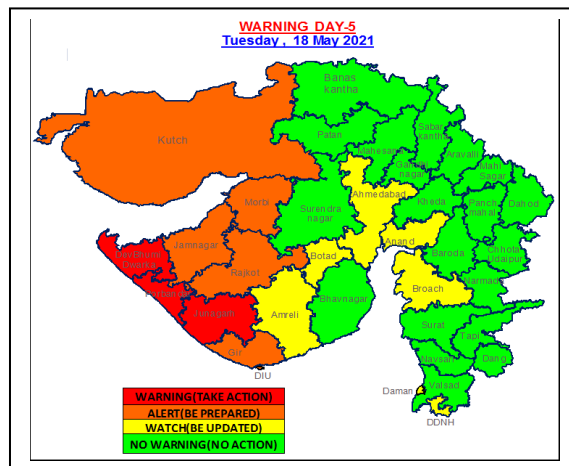
10 districts of Maharashtra have been impacted as 17 districts of Gujarat are expected to be impacted.

1,532 houses damaged in Kerala

1,576 houses damaged in Maharashtra

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

As of 1700 hrs on 17 May, the Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm “Tauktae” (pronounced as Tau’Te) over east-central Arabian Sea continued to move north-northwest wards with a speed of about 15 kmph during past 06 hours, and lay centred about 165 km west-northwest of Mumbai. The cyclone started near Lakshadweep islands off the coast of Kerala and traversed all along the west coast of India inflicting damage through high intensity rainfall induced floods and high winds in the states of Kerala, Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra. The storm system is now heading towards Gujarat as a severe cyclonic storm, expected to make landfall on the night of 17th May (map annexed). The maximum sustained surface wind speed of 175-185 gusting to 205 Km/hr is forecasted to inflict widespread damage to shelter, basic services and critical infrastructure in Gujarat. In Kerala, the first state to get impacted by the cyclone, 68 houses were fully damaged, 1,464 were partially damaged and 9 Schools, 7 Primary Health Centers were also damaged. A total of 6 lives were lost due to drowning and electrocution in Kerala. Similar impact was reported from Karnataka and Goa. In the state of Maharashtra, 12,423 people were evacuated prior to impact. 1 death has been reported and 1,576 houses have been damaged.



In Gujarat, the districts of Diu, Amreli, Junagarh, Gir Somnath, Botad & Bhavnagar and coastal areas of Ahmedabad are expected to face high impact due to wind and storm surge. Other districts to get impacted are Devbhoomi Dwarka, Porbandar, Kutch, Jamnagar, Rajkot & Morbi, Valsad, Surat, Vadodara, Bharuch, Navsari, Anand, Kheda and interior parts of Ahmedabad districts of Gujarat and union territory of Daman, Dadra & Nagar Haveli. 160,000 men, women and children are evacuated by Government of Gujarat to safer places wherein COVID appropriate behaviours are being supported through planning and provision of supplies.

In the context of the COVID-19 crisis, the bulk oxygen manufacturing facility based in the town of Jamnagar in Gujarat is one of the big concerns. Central Government has directed state Government to make advance planning for keeping a buffer stock of oxygen for 2 days to deal with any disruption of oxygen supply to specific states. Various industrial clusters and ports are expected to be impacted. COVID-19 patients in the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat have been relocated from at-risk facilities to safer locations.

In states other than Gujarat the damage and losses are well within the capacity of the local governments to manage and respond to. Disruption of Shelter, WASH and Health services are expected to remain high in four to five coastal districts of Gujarat. The health and other systems that are already stretched due to the COVID-19 crisis will need to be buffered through timely humanitarian response to the needs of women, men, girls and boys from civil society and other actors. About 1.1 million people including 0.39 million children in 421 coastal villages of six districts of Gujarat are at risk and will likely require urgent humanitarian assistance.

Leadership and coordination

Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah reviewed preparations for cyclone ‘Tauktae’ at a high-level meeting through video conferencing with the Chief Ministers of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Administrator of Daman & Diu and Dadra Nagar Haveli. The Home Minister specifically reviewed the preparedness of all health facilities in the areas likely to be impacted by the cyclone.

The Inter-Agency Group of Gujarat, a coalition of humanitarian agencies supported by UNICEF had a series of coordination meetings to prepare and plan imminent response and joint rapid needs and vulnerability assessment.

State Response

- The Government of Gujarat has deployed 24 teams of National Disaster Response Force and 10 teams of Disaster Response Force to assist district administration with search and rescue and other elements of first response.
- The Government of Gujarat has sent a general alert to the district administrations in coastal areas to ensure evacuation of at-risk populations to safe places and related logistics.

- District administrations in coastal districts have alerted the fisherman not to go for fishing. Control rooms have been activated in the coastal districts.
- Gujarat State Disaster management Authority issued the SOPs for cyclone related preparedness and response and advised all District Disaster Management Authorities to ensure its compliance
- COVID-19 patients from high risk locations have been moved to safer places by Government of Gujarat
- Similar actions were taken by the state Government of Maharashtra and other states.

UNICEF Humanitarian Strategy

Overarching UNICEF strategy for the provision of life-saving interventions for cyclone affected women and children is to support service delivery by line-departments (mainstream service delivery mechanisms) wherein UNICEF partners provide on-ground implementation support to mobilise the most vulnerable to utilize the Government-UNICEF services, seek feedback from women, men, girls and boys, and monitor results. An important part of the response strategy includes actions to reduce the burden on the already over-stressed system that is responding to the COVID-19 crisis and reduce exposure of cyclone affected women and children to COVID risk. To enable this, UNICEF is leveraging its partnership with the Inter-Agency Group (IAG) of Gujarat and the Disaster Risk Management System of Government of Gujarat. Partnership with the IAG will help UNICEF leverage time, efforts, skills and reach of the civil society organizations for joint rapid needs and vulnerability assessment and humanitarian response to address gaps in critical responses whereas technical assistance to Government of Gujarat will enable coordination of life saving assistance and coordinated action for early recovery of social sectors (WASH, Health, Child Protection etc.). UNICEF will support Line-departments to ensure COVID sensitive sectoral response planning to addresses humanitarian needs in child protection, health, nutrition Social Protection and WASH.

UNICEF Actions

- UNICEF will support Gujarat-IAG to conduct Joint Rapid Needs and Vulnerability Assessment in the cyclone affected districts followed by on-ground, humanitarian response to address needs of most vulnerable women and children.
- UNICEF is developing a multisectoral response plan (Health, WASH, CP) to support Government-led response. This is expected to include:
 - State level TA to GoG to strengthen coordination between state GSDMA, DDMA's and state IAG and CSO partners to enable coordinated action across levels, social sectors and Non- Government stakeholders.
 - District level TA to affected districts (Gir Somnath, Junagarh and Porbandar) at DDMA level for information management, rapid response planning to enable local, coordinated action between social sector line-departments, CSOs and CSR partners, and monitor the situation of children and most vulnerable and related reporting on response, and early recovery planning.
 - Advocacy and technical support to social sector line-departments for COVID-sensitive response

Funding and Partnerships

The Interagency Group of Gujarat and Sphere India at national level are prominent partners in the UNICEF India response strategy. UNICEF and Government of Gujarat have a long-standing partnership including an ongoing COVID-19 response.

Source of information:

- Government bulletins, Circulars from respective line departments
- Information from IAG and partner NGOs
- Media

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Annex: The following picture shows a predictive path of the depression over the next few days

