

Monsoon Response Communications Protocol

June 2019

Dissemination pathways and core products

1) Mailing list

An open mailing list is maintained by ISCG on mailchimp for the purposes of weather related communications including monsoon and cyclone.

The members of mailing list are: HoSO, Sector Coordinators, EPWG, agency/organization emergency focal points, others on request. *Note that NGO Platform is on both the Sector Coordinators and HoSO groups. Dissemination to networks is expected.*

This mailing list will be used primarily for verified information from the BMD generating warnings or alerts, as detailed below. Standard weather updates will not be shared, only warnings or alerts that may impact Cox's Bazar, as issued by BMD. Information circulated will not be confidential and should be considered public.

2) WhatsApp Group

A closed Whatsapp group will be maintained by ISCG for the purposes of weather related communications including monsoon and cyclone.

The members of the group are HoSO, Sector Coordinators, EPWG, others on approval (closed group). *Note that NGO Platform is on both the Sector Coordinators and HoSO groups. ISCG will be the admin.*

The Whatsapp will be used primarily for verified information, weather updates and standard products as detailed below. However, information circulated may be non-public on a case-by-case basis. The status of information (i.e. not for further distribution) will be clearly marked.

3) Site Management Sector - Daily Moderate Incident Report (Camps) *(previously Category 1 incident report)*

The Site Management Sector tracks daily moderate incidents in the Camps. This is shared every evening with ISCG Secretariat, Sector Coordinators, HoSOG, and other on request.

It collates incident reports received every day from the Camp level. It includes indicative information on the location and nature of the incident, shelter damage (partial/total), no. of displaced population, fatalities, injuries, damaged facilities especially WASH, Food Distribution Points, health, and indicates immediate needs by camps and sectors.

It is indicative information only, based on rapid assessment. It is intended to guide immediate verification of needs and response as appropriate by Sectors. It should not be considered verified information.

4) ISCG Weekly Monsoon Update

Maintained and produced by ISCG, the weekly report briefly summarises the week’s incidents, weather impact, and response.

5) Emergency Communications Protocol *(to be further developed)*

In case it becomes necessary, a system of VHF radio/alternative communication tools to inform operations when internet service is disrupted. Will likely be mixed tech – some radio, sporadic cell phone use etc. Should be based around radio room structure at key locations – EOC, HCCs, etc.

Messages issued with weather warnings and alerts

Alert	Key message	Frequency	Products	Response expected	Dissemination	Modality
Severe Weather Alert/warning message based off of weather forecast – to be issued when criteria described in BMD Upazila forecast monitoring protocol are met	The BMD weather forecasts indicate (insert description of indicators of severe event – example “XX consecutive days of rain above YY mm”). If this forecast proves correct, we may see similar impacts as during (boilerplate description of previous event). Agencies are advised to pay attention to weather forecasts disseminated in the media and credible online sources, and appropriate preparedness measures should be taken.	Once the weather alerts are released	BMD Operational NWP	Sectors and Agencies to remain on stand by for any appropriate response	Sector Coordinators, HoSOG, EPWG members, NGO platform members, Whatsapp groups	Mailing list, Whatsapp group

Alert	Key message	Frequency	Products	Response expected	Dissemination	Modality
<p>ONLY BMD Maritime Warning (including maritime signals 1, 2 and 3 outside the cyclone seasons mid-March to late May, and Mid-September to Mid-December)</p>	<p>There are currently weather conditions at sea leading to issuing of maritime warning by the Bangladesh Meteorological Department indicating (adjective such as squally) weather for maritime ports of XX, Cox's Bazar, XX and XX. All of the above-mentioned ports have been advised to hoist local cautionary signal number XX. While the wind speeds and rain mentioned in the warning concerns areas offshore, Cox's Bazar may experience some rain and wind.</p> <p>Please note that Marine Warnings are different to the Special Weather Bulletins related to cyclones - pdf bulletins associated with cyclone are always titled "Special Weather Bulletin". At present, neither IMD or BMD are indicating presence of a forming cyclone, however ISCG will continue to monitor closely and update as further information becomes available.</p> <p>ISCG will send updates if the Maritime Warning changes or if BMD issues other warnings or Upazila forecasts change significantly. Please note that weather conditions in Cox's Bazar vary considerably across short distances.</p> <p>The above weather information is extracted from Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) weather forecast and available warning products. ISCG does not further analyse meteorological data or issue independent</p>	<p>Once the weather alerts are released</p>	<p>BMD Maritime Alert http://bmd.gov.bd/p/Marine-Warning-156/ --- BMD Special Weather Bulletin http://bmd.gov.bd/p/Special-Weather-Bulletin/IMD Cyclone Bulletin http://rsmcnewdelhi.imd.gov.in/images/bulletin/indian.pdf IMD RSMC bulletin http://rsmcnewdelhi.imd.gov.in/i</p>	<p>Sectors and Agencies to remain on stand by for any appropriate response</p>	<p>Sector Coordinator, HoSOG, EPWG members, NGO platform members, Whatsapp groups</p>	<p>Mailing list, Whatsapp group</p>

	forecasts. Advisory text on potential impacts in the camps are based on Category 1 incident records from 2018 and should be seen as indicative only.		images/bulletin/rsmc.pdf			
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Alert	Key message	Frequency	Products	Response expected	Dissemination	Modality
ONLY BMD Heavy Rainfall Warning	<p>Please note that the Bangladesh Meteorological Department has issued a Heavy Rainfall Warning indicating rainfall (XX-XXmm) for XX, Chattogram and XX divisions with predicted (Adjective) (XXmm) falls at isolated places.</p> <p>ISCG will send updates if the Heavy Rainfall Warning changes or if BMD issues additional warnings.</p> <p>If this forecast proves correct, we may see similar impacts as during (boilerplate description of previous event). Please note that weather conditions in Cox's Bazar vary considerably across short distances.</p> <p>The above weather information is extracted from Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) weather forecast and available warning products. ISCG does not further analyse meteorological data or issue independent forecasts. Advisory text on potential impacts in the camps are based on Category 1 incident records from 2018 and should be seen as indicative only.</p>	Once the weather alerts are released	BMD Heavy Rainfall Warning http://bmd.gov.bd/p/Heavy-Rainfall-Warning-153/	Sectors and Agencies to remain on stand by for any appropriate response	Sector coordinators, HOSOG, EPWG members, NGO platform members, Whatsapp group	Mailing list, Whatsapp group

Alert	Key message	Frequency	Products	Response expected	Dissemination	Modality
<p>Multiple warnings issued at the same time</p>	<p>The Bangladesh Meteorological Department has currently issued multiple warnings relevant to COx's Bazar. They are: 1. (name of warning) stating that (forecast for Cxb), 2. (name of warning), stating that (forecast for Cxb).</p> <p>Please note that Marine Warnings are different to the Special Weather Bulletins related to cyclones. At present, neither IMD or BMD are indicating presence of a forming cyclone, however ISCG will continue to monitor closely and update as further information becomes available.</p> <p>The Upazila forecast for Ukhiya and Teknaf for the next three days (date to date) indicate/do not indicate rainfall over XX mm per day, does/does not indicate hourly gusts above XX km per hour, and indicates XX% likelihood of thunderstorm tomorrow on (date). (If more extreme weather is forecast in other parts of the district, state so here).</p> <p>ISCG will send updates if the warnings or Upazila forecasts change.</p> <p>Please note that weather conditions in Cox's Bazar vary considerably across short distances.</p> <p>The above weather information is extracted from Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) weather forecast and available warning products.</p>	<p>Once the weather alerts are released</p>	<p>http://bmd.gov.bd/p/Inland-Riverport-Warning/</p>	<p>Sectors and Agencies to remain on stand by for any appropriate response</p>	<p>Sector Coordinators, HOSOG, EPWG members, NGO platform members, Whatsapp group</p>	<p>Mailing list, Whatsapp group</p>

	ISCG does not further analyse meteorological data or issue independent forecasts. Advisory text on potential impacts in the camps are based on Category 1 incident records from 2018 and should be seen as indicative only.					
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Incident and response tracking

	Key message	Frequency	Products	Response expected	Dissemination	Modality
Monsoon moderate incidents and response in the Camps (with the start of Monsoon)	<i>Not applicable – regular tracking products</i>	Every 24 hours	SM Sector Moderate incidents report <i>(previously Category 1 incidents)</i> ISCG Monsoon Weekly report	Sectors to respond as per incident tracking reports	Sector Coordinators, HoSOG, ISCG Secretariat, SEG	Mailing list maintained by Site Management Sector for incident reports