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Bangladesh Cold Wave | Situation Report #2 | 20 January 2026



Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) reached more than 22,000 families with blankets amid of the ongoing cold waves in the country.
Photo: BDRCS Magura & Chittagong District Unit

Overall Situation:

Current weather & forecast:

Apropos to today's forecast of Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), **minimum temperature on 20 January 2026 recorded at Tetulia 9.4°C**. Except this north-northwestern part of the country, other areas of the country aren't experiencing any coldwave. During next five days, night and day temperature may fall slightly for one or two days and later may rise over the country.

Ensemble forecast models such as ECMWF also shows the increase of temperature till 27 January following by slight fall for one or two days between this duration and later increasing onwards.

In summary, over the next 10 days in Bangladesh, there is no strong cold wave expected nationwide. **Temperatures will stay relatively higher** than last few weeks, with daytime highest mostly in the mid 20°C and nighttime lows not showing extreme drops typical of cold waves. However, localized chilly conditions, morning fog and cooler nights in the north and northwest can still occur.

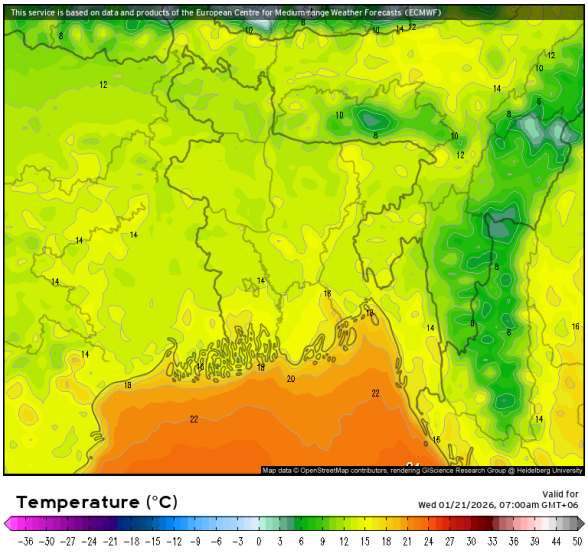


Figure 1: Minimum temperature forecast on 21 January 2026, ECMWF ensemble model

Impact:

Weather is expected to be **predominantly hazy to partly sunny** with **very unhealthy air quality noted** in forecast. Morning **fog/chill could still persist in places**, especially early mornings.

Chillier mornings can increase the feel of cold even without extreme low temperatures, and heightened risk of **cold related health issues** (especially for children, aged, persons having respiratory illness, and other vulnerable groups). Unhealthy air quality can exacerbate asthma and cardiovascular issues.

The cold and fog may also temporarily disrupt **transport and outdoor work productivity** early in the day. While severe or moderate cold wave conditions are not uniformly forecasted, localized mild cold spells may persist in north-northwestern parts of the country for the next few days.

BDRCS actions:

In response to the ongoing cold wave affecting large parts of Bangladesh, the **Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS)** has launched a **nationwide cold wave response** aimed at mitigating cold-related risks among the most vulnerable populations. To date, BDRCS has mobilized **over 650 volunteers and staff** and allocated **more than BDT 2.25 crore** (approximately **USD 150,000**) to support life-saving interventions.

Since the onset of the winter season, BDRCS has been actively implementing **cold wave awareness campaigns** in districts identified as highly vulnerable to extreme cold conditions. **Cold wave early warning messages** are being disseminated through a range of channels, including **social media platforms, public announcements (miking), community awareness sessions, and the distribution of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials** at mass gathering points and educational institutions.



As part of its immediate response activities, BDRCS has **distributed more than 22,000 blankets** to vulnerable households across affected areas. The **distribution of an additional 12,000 blankets** is currently underway to further support at-risk families during the winter period.

In parallel, BDRCS remains fully prepared to activate its **Cold Wave Early Action Protocol (EAP)** for extreme cold wave events in Bangladesh. The EAP, supported through the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), will be triggered upon reaching pre-defined forecast-based thresholds. BDRCS is closely monitoring weather forecasts and, upon activation of the EAP, will reach the most vulnerable households with **multi-purpose cash assistance**, **blankets**, and **first aid services** to reduce the humanitarian impact of extreme cold.

This cold wave response is being implemented with the continued support of valued partners, including the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)**, **American Red Cross**, **British Red Cross**, **Danish Red Cross**, **Qatar Red Crescent Society**, **Swiss Red Cross**, and **Comic Relief**.

For Further Information:

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