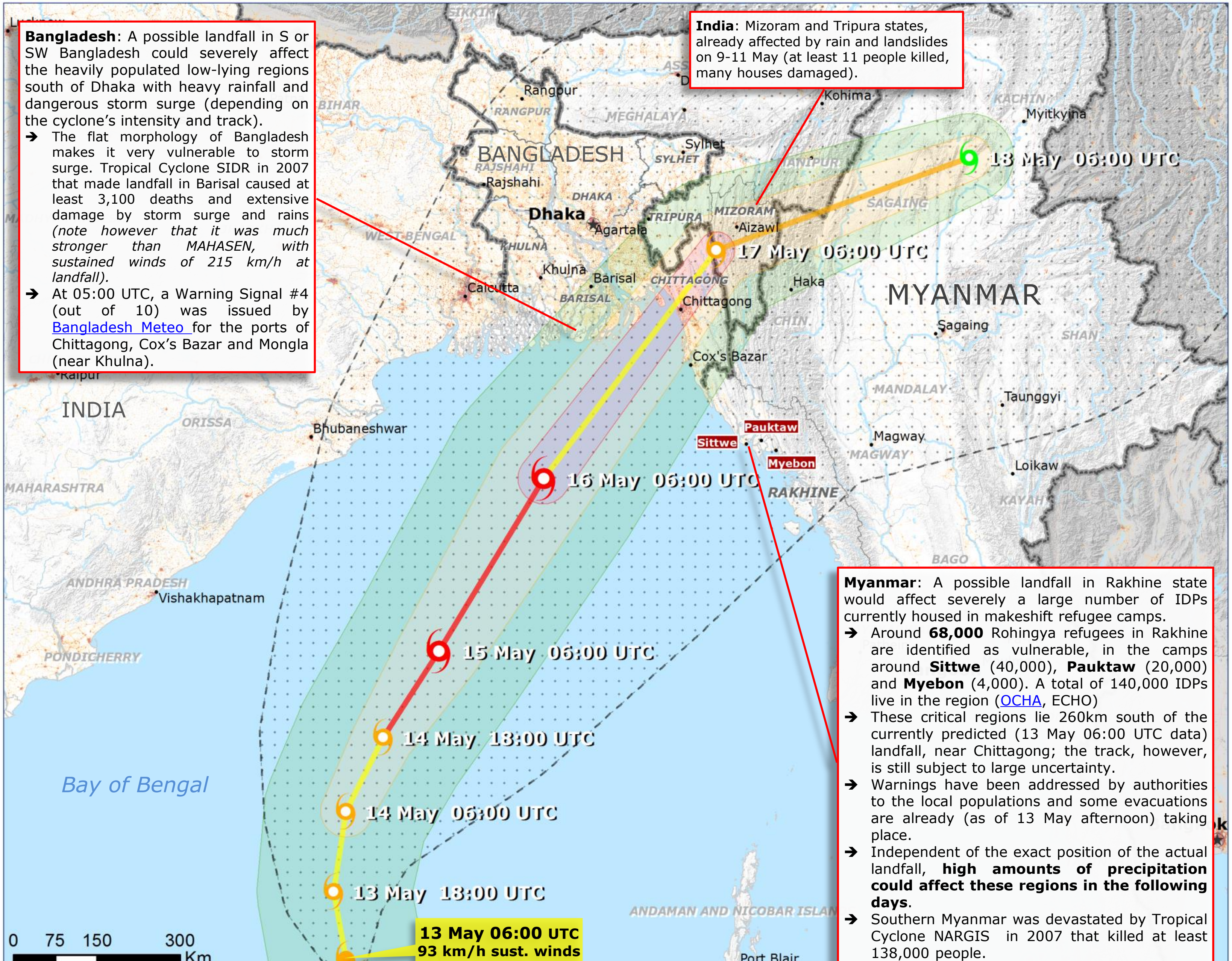
13 May 2013: Bangladesh & Myanmar – Tropical Cyclone MAHASEN

European Commission



Bangladesh: A possible landfall in S or SW Bangladesh could severely affect the heavily populated low-lying regions south of Dhaka with heavy rainfall and dangerous storm surge (depending on the cyclone's intensity and track).

- ➔ The flat morphology of Bangladesh makes it very vulnerable to storm surge. Tropical Cyclone SIDR in 2007 that made landfall in Barisal caused at least 3,100 deaths and extensive damage by storm surge and rains *(note however that it was much stronger than MAHASEN, with sustained winds of 215 km/h at landfall).*
- ➔ At 05:00 UTC, a Warning Signal #4 (out of 10) was issued by Bangladesh Meteo for the ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla (near Khulna).

India: Mizoram and Tripura states, already affected by rain and landslides on 9-11 May (at least 11 people killed, many houses damaged).

Myanmar: A possible landfall in Rakhine state would affect severely a large number of IDPs currently housed in makeshift refugee camps.

- ➔ Around **68,000** Rohingya refugees in Rakhine are identified as vulnerable, in the camps around **Sittwe** (40,000), **Pauktaw** (20,000) and **Myebon** (4,000). A total of 140,000 IDPs live in the region (OCHA, ECHO)
- ➔ These critical regions lie 260km south of the currently predicted (13 May 06:00 UTC data) landfall, near Chittagong; the track, however, is still subject to large uncertainty.
- ➔ Warnings have been addressed by authorities to the local populations and some evacuations are already (as of 13 May afternoon) taking place.
- ➔ Independent of the exact position of the actual landfall, **high amounts of precipitation could affect these regions in the following days**.
- ➔ Southern Myanmar was devastated by Tropical Cyclone NARGIS in 2007 that killed at least 138,000 people.

SITUATION

- Tropical Cyclone MAHASEN, formed on 10 May is heading towards the coasts of Bangladesh and Myanmar. At 06:00 UTC on 13 May its centre was located in the Bay of Bengal, ca. 1,100 km SSW of the coasts of Bangladesh, it had a max. sust. wind speed of 93 km/h (equivalent to a Tropical Storm in SSHS) and was heading N.
- In the next 24-48h it is forecast to strengthen gradually and turn NNE, in the general direction of SE Bangladesh close to the Myanmar border. According to the 06:00 UTC 13 May data it could approach the Bangladesh coast on **16 May**, affecting the area with **strong winds, heavy rain and storm surge**.
- According to the latest ECMWF forecast (12/05/2013) high amounts of precipitation within the next 10 days can be expected in Bangladesh, Myanmar, north-east India and Bhutan. No large-scale floods are expected in Myanmar (JRC)
- As can be seen in the map, the **uncertainty** in the future track is still quite **high**; the track could shift NW or SE, causing the centre of MAHASEN to make landfall in the southern coasts of Bangladesh or in Rakhine in Myanmar. *See map texts for possible effects of these two scenarios.*

POP. DENSITY (pop/km²)
- 501 - 2,500
- 2501 - 5,000
- 5001 - 130,000

TRACK POINTS
- Trop. Dep.
- Trop. Storm
- Hurricane

XXX Critical Sites in RAKHINE in Myanmar (ECHO, OCHA)

AREA OF TRACK UNCERTAINTY

WIND BUFFER
- 64 km/h
- 92 km/h
- 119 km/h