

# Hurricane season / Covid-19

WEATHER CLIMATE WATER  
TEMPS CLIMAT EAU

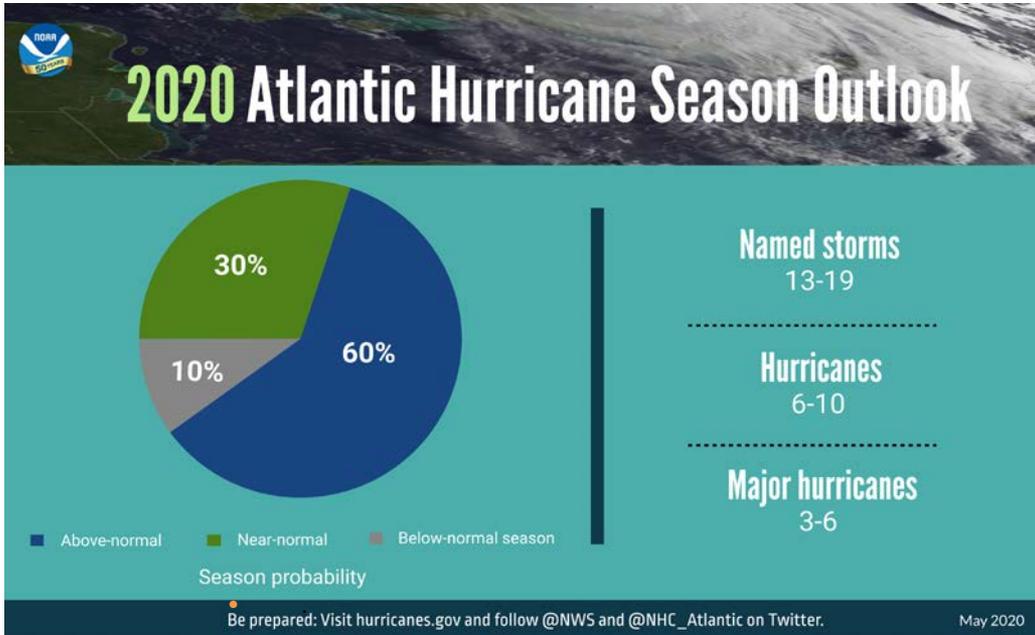


WMO OMM

World Meteorological Organization  
Organisation météorologique mondiale

25 May 2020

# An above-normal 2020 Atlantic hurricane season



- The combination of several climate factors is driving the strong likelihood for above-normal activity in the Atlantic this year.

<https://www.noaa.gov/media-release/busy-atlantic-hurricane-season-predicted-for-2020>

- An average hurricane season produces 12 named storms, of which 6 become hurricanes, including 3 major hurricanes.

- The NOAA / US National Hurricane Center in Miami acts as WMO's Regional Specialized Meteorological Center, providing forecasts and products including storm surge for the North Atlantic and the Caribbean, and eastern North Pacific. Official warnings are then issued by the National Meteorological Services of the countries concerned

<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

# Covid-19/Tropical cyclones: Double challenge

1. The COVID-19 pandemic, with its **requirements for social distancing and stay-home measures**, as well as the additional burden it has placed on health infrastructure, means that the forthcoming hurricane season will be especially challenging.
2. It also means that the need for **reliable forecasts with longer lead time** and coordination disaster management plans are more important than ever before.

<https://public.wmo.int/en/media/news/busy-atlantic-hurricane-season-predicted-2020>

# Covid-19/Tropical cyclones: cooperation and communication among agencies

## Typhoon Vongfong / Philippines

- **Preparedness led by the Government was possible as a result of PAGASA (National Met Service) information and warnings**
- Local officials point to the double challenge of keeping their residents safe from COVID-19 and the typhoon, noting the difficulty of maintaining physical distancing in temporary shelters.
- The Department of Health advised local government authorities to allot wider spaces in evacuation centres to ensure adequate physical distancing. Families who will be evacuated must observe minimum health standards, which includes wearing of face masks, proper hygiene and cough etiquette.
- The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council also urged local authorities to explore alternative evacuation centres, since schools could not be used as many have been designated as quarantine facilities for COVID-19 patients.
- **Several local governments have ordered that evacuation centres be filled only to half capacity, to stem the virus from spreading.**
- **And the Catholic Church has offered the use of its churches and chapels as additional shelters, while some shopping malls have offered their spaces as well**

<https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/asia-pacific/flash-update/zoe9245y50hWw7szxiGIX/>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/05/1064202>

# Covid-19/Tropical cyclones: cooperation and communication among agencies

## Tropical cyclone Amphan/ Bay of Bengal

- **On the basis of accurate forecasts from the regional and national meteorological services:**
- one million people were evacuated in India
- the Bangladesh government evacuated nearly 2 million people and 500,000 livestock before the storm hit.
- **more than 12,000 cyclone shelters were set up with COVID19 prevention measures, including masks, sanitizers, soap and handwashing facilities**

<https://www.unocha.org/story/bangladesh-cyclone-amphan-affects-10-million-people-amid-covid-19>



# Some key messages:

**KEY MESSAGE 1:** It is time to **reduce fragmentation** and take opportunity of all the existent resources, knowledge, expertise, projects, initiatives, etc. Delivering AS ONE??

**KEY MESSAGE 2:** The need to **incorporate Climate Monitoring and Forecasts** information for planning and early preparedness

**KEY MESSAGE 2:** To increase cooperation to **strengthen risk governance** on the basis on a common integrated information tool, for example the **Impact Based Forecast**

**KEY MESSAGE 4:** WMO is **highly interested to join** to this very relevant Coalition on Climate Change and Resilience.



# Thank you



WMO OMM

World Meteorological Organization  
Organisation météorologique mondiale