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Cyclone Winston Fiji

Humanitarian Situation Report #3

unicef 

Photo: A mother and daughter sit in their damaged home in Rakiraki, North of Viti Levu, Fiji.

Highlights

Category 5 Cyclone Winston was the strongest cyclone to ever hit Fiji and had some of the highest wind speeds at landfall recorded globally. It struck the two main islands of Fiji and numerous smaller islands, with around 40% of the population estimated to live within 50 kms of the eye of the Cyclone.

- 42 deaths confirmed, including three children.
- 134 schools destroyed, severely damaged or being used as evacuation centres.
- Over 62,400 people, 7.2% of the total population, are staying in 875 evacuation centres, with others staying with relatives or in other non-official displacement sites.

UNICEF Pacific is initially appealing for USD 5 million through the Pacific Humanitarian Action for Children 2016 appeal. This will be used for water, sanitation, hygiene, education, child protection, maternal and child health and nutrition, all according to Government's priorities and requests.

UNICEF's response with partners

UNICEF's initial response builds on an investment in Fiji's emergency response capacity and distributed prepositioned supplies that were requested by the Government of Fiji. These supplies are now depleted and funding is needed to sustain and scale up the response. Five days after Cyclone Winston, UNICEF has taken the following actions:

- 20,000 people in the most affected areas, 5.8% of the estimated population in these areas, have been provided with WASH supplies to ensure safe drinking water and sanitation. Supplies distributed by the Government were provided by UNICEF and the governments of Australia and New Zealand.
- 2,115 students at 23 schools on Koro Island, Lautoka and Ba areas have been provided with education supplies, including temporary learning spaces and learning materials.
- Seven Emergency Health Kits, each serving a population of 1,000 people for 3 months, have been distributed to health facilities in Rakiraki, Koro, Gau and Balavu. Six of the kits were funded by the New Zealand Government.
- UNICEF staff have been embedded into three Government Ministries and six assessment and response missions to provide technical and coordination support.

As of 26 February 2016

120,000

Estimated # of children likely to have been moderately to severely affected (40% of child population)

347,000

Estimated # of people likely to have been moderately to severely affected (40% of total population)

These estimates by the Pacific Community (PC) are based on the zone between 0 and 50 kms from the center of Cyclone Winston, the range defined by the Fiji Meteorological Service as experiencing 'very destructive hurricane force winds'.

UNICEF Appeal
US\$ 5 million

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

From 19 to 21 February, Tropical Cyclone Winston went straight through Fiji from west to east as a Category 5 system with sustained winds of 230 kmph, gusting up to 325 kmph. Around 40% of the population is estimated to live within 50km of the centre of the Cyclone, the range defined by the Fiji Meteorological Service as experiencing 'very destructive hurricane force winds'.

42 deaths have been confirmed, six from Central Division, 13 from Western Division, 21 from the Eastern Division and two from the Northern Division. Not all villages have reported or been reached with any communication, particularly in the north where aerial images show that some villages have been completely destroyed. Communication with the worst affected areas is still not possible.

The Government has reported serious damage and destruction to 67 schools, numerous clinics and two hospitals. 875 evacuation centres (including at least 91 schools) are currently accommodating over 62,400 people and many others are staying with relatives or in unofficial shelters. School has been cancelled nationally for one week and for two weeks in the worst affected areas.

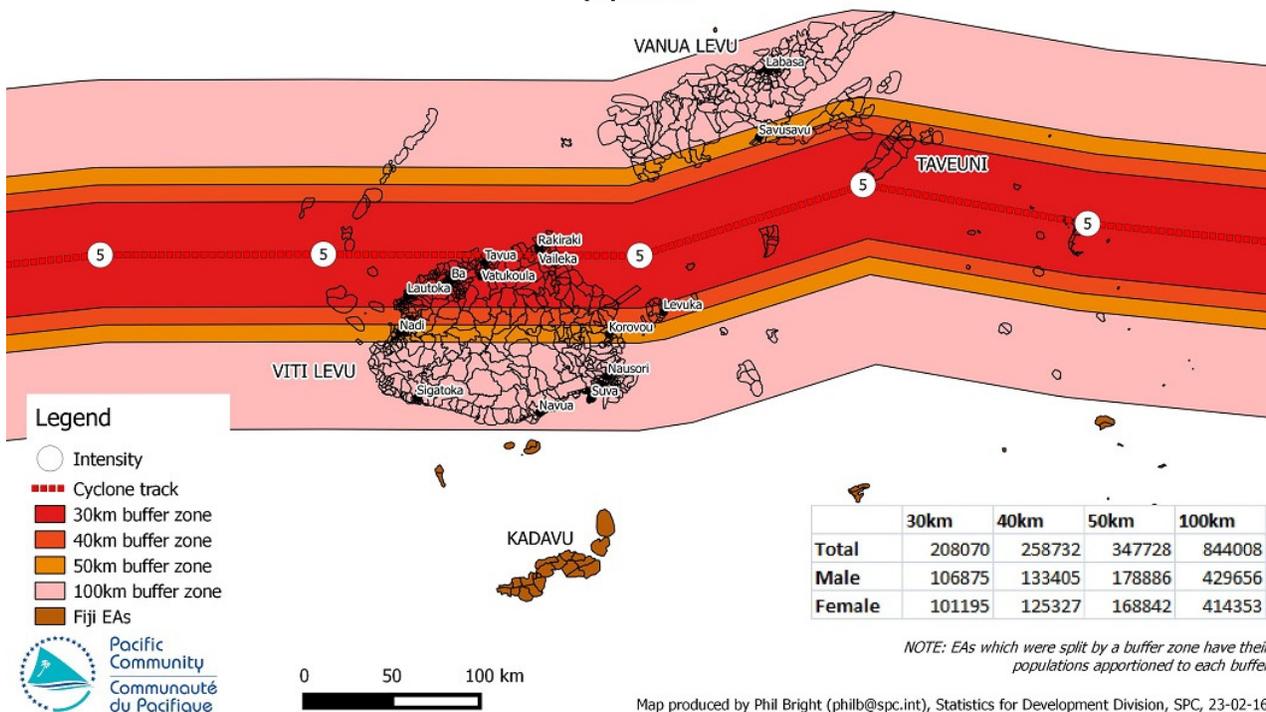
Estimated Distribution of Affected Population by UNICEF Target Groups in 2015¹

(Source: Pacific Community, Statistics for Development Division)

Total Affected Population	347,000
Children Affected (Under 18)	120,000
Children Under Five	36,000
Children Under One	7,300
Pregnant and Lactating Women	7,600
People living in evacuation centres (source: NDMO Situation Report 28, 25 February 2016)	62,400

CYCLONE WINSTON POTENTIAL IMPACTED POPULATION - 23/02/16

NOTE : Population figures projected to 2015 using age distribution from 2007 Population and Housing Census then prorated down to match total projected population



Damage to telecommunications networks, roads, bridges, airstrips and port facilities is constraining access of Government authorities in conducting assessments. It is expected to take several months to restore basic services

Guidance on damage zones

0-30km	Likely to be severely to extremely affected
30-40km	Likely to be seriously to severely affected
40-50km	Likely to be moderately to seriously affected
50-100km	Likely to be somewhat to moderately affected

¹ Estimate is based on the zone between 0 and 50 kms from the centre of Cyclone Winston, this is the range defined by the Fiji Meteorological Service as experiencing 'very destructive hurricane force winds'.

(water, power and sewerage) to the worst-affected areas.² In addition to the damage to homes, schools and medical facilities, many people's household items, food supplies and livelihoods (including agriculture, fisheries and tourism) will have been badly affected.

Vulnerable communities, including the most economically disadvantaged, are expected to be the worst affected. They are more likely to live in dwellings made from weaker materials in higher-risk areas (such as areas prone to flooding) and will have fewer safe water, food and financial reserves to draw upon in the coming days and weeks.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

On 20 February 2016, the Government of Fiji declared a 'State of Natural Disaster,' activating the Disaster Management Act, for 30 days³ and leading the response. On 21 February, the Government appealed to the international community for 'assistance and support that may be needed in the immediate, medium and even to a longer term' to facilitate Government-led relief assistance, recovery and rehabilitation. The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) is providing coordination support and all Fijian Ministries, military and police have staff who are trained and experienced in emergency response.

Together with the Government, UNICEF is co-leading the WASH and Education (jointly with Save the Children) clusters. The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation (MoWCPA) leads the Safety and Protection Cluster, with UNICEF and UN Women Co-Coordinating. UNICEF is co-leading with the Government the Child Protection sub-cluster under the National Coordinating Committee on Children (NCCC).

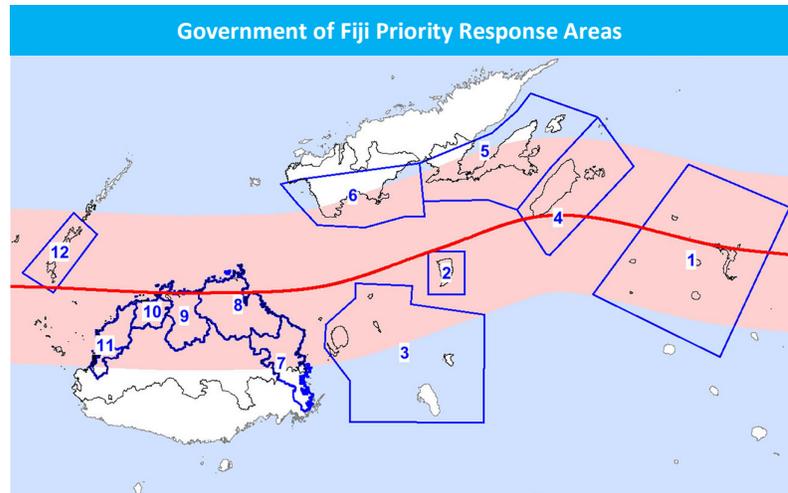
UNICEF is actively supporting the Health cluster (including Nutrition) led by WHO and the Ministry of Health and providing support to OCHA for the UN emergency communications group. UNICEF cluster leads are participating in NDMO coordination meetings and, together with the UNICEF Representative, are members of the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT). UNICEF is a member of the Pacific Logistics Cluster, headed by the World Food Programme (WFP), which is assisting NDMO and other Government agencies with coordination of logistics.

Disaster assessment and initial response

UNICEF is working in support of the Government on its priorities. Initial cross-sectoral assessments by Government have commenced in conjunction with first response. Assessment teams travelling to the outer islands are not expected to report back for about a week due to the distances and weak or non-functioning communications. The teams travelling by truck and boat are taking emergency relief supplies with them. UNICEF staff are assisting with assessment planning and have joined six government assessment missions to date.

UNICEF's is building on our longstanding relationship and investment in preparedness with the Government of Fiji. Training has been provided to the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MoHMS) and Ministries of Education (MOE) for emergency assessments and provision of pre-positioned supplies from the Suva warehouse to those teams for distribution. At the same time, funds are being sought and new supply orders raised as per Government requests.

UNICEF is focusing on the Government's Priority Response Areas, with special attention to children in the hardest to reach areas. Schools will be a focus for a multisector package of interventions including Education, WASH, Child Protection, Communications for Development, Health and Nutrition. The programme delivery strategy combines



² NDMO Situation Report 28, 25 February 2016.

³ Pursuant to Section 17(1) of the Natural Disaster Management Act.

support to Government Cluster Leads for assessment, planning, coordination; gap-filling for emergency procurement and logistics; and technical and cash assistance for mainly Government service delivery.

Education



Early assessment reports indicate that at least 117 schools have been damaged, including 67 schools with 'significant structural damage'. It is estimated that the significantly damaged schools will take two to six months to repair and students will require temporary learning spaces (TLS). At least 67 schools are currently being used as evacuation centres, displacing students from classrooms.

UNICEF to date has responded to official requests from the MoE for tents for temporary learning spaces, learning materials and tarpaulins to selected affected areas. A total of 2,115 children and their teachers at 23 primary schools on Koro Island, and Lautoka and Ba areas are benefitting from temporary learning spaces (TLS) provided by UNICEF. The supplies provided were 60 tents (10 supported by the Government of New Zealand) and 60 school-in-a-box kits. UNICEF is in the process of procuring additional tents, school-in-a-box kits and other supplies to ensure access of all Fijian children to school. A UNICEF Education Specialist has been embedded into the MoE and planning has commenced for the provision of psycho-social support to students and their teachers.

Building on UNICEF's Education in Emergencies training provided just two weeks prior to Cyclone Winston, the newly-trained MoE officials are now functioning as first assessors and responders. UNICEF education staff have accompanied the MoE assessment and response teams to the Western Division to support using AKVO Flow technology for collecting data and assessing the situation of damages to schools. AKVO Flow software on smartphones is used to monitor and map needs and responses and builds on a best practice from Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu in 2015.

WASH



It is estimated that up to 350,000 people are in need of WASH assistance due to electricity, water and sewerage service disruptions. Destruction of household water sources mean that many families are dependent on unsafe and unprotected water sources the MoHMS is receiving reports of increased open defecation as families have lost access to sanitation facilities. Use of unsafe water, open defecation and poor hygiene behaviours need to be addressed in order to prevent outbreaks of water-borne diseases, including typhoid.

Displaced families sheltering in evacuation centres lack basic hygiene materials, such as soap and sanitary pads for women. Lack of adequate emergency sanitation facilities also places individuals, particularly women and children, at increased risk. WASH assistance may be needed for up to 300 schools to allow children to return to a safe school environment.

The MoHMS, with supply assistance from Australia, New Zealand and UNICEF, has distributed WASH supplies to ensure safe drinking water and sanitation for 20,000 people in the most affected areas of:

- Koro Island – two 6,000 litre water tanks, 800 WASH kits, 28 bucket water filters, 2,000 boxes of water purification tablets, and 200 tarpaulins provided by the Government of New Zealand and UNICEF
- Central Division – distribution of hygiene kits for 7,920 people and water purification tablets for 1,066 households, received from the Australian Government
- Ovalau – MoHMS distributed 300 WASH kits and 1,000 boxes of water purification tablets provided by UNICEF
- Tailevu Province – MoHMS is distributing 1,050 Hygiene Kits and 2,000 boxes of water purification tablets provided by Australia with assistance from UNICEF
- Vanuabalavu – 440 households were provided with WASH kits provided by the LDS Church

A UNICEF WASH Specialist has been embedded into the MoHMS. As part of UNICEF's ongoing commitment to strengthen the emergency preparedness and response capacity of the Government of Fiji, District Environmental Health Officers from MoHMS in the Western and Northern Divisions were trained by UNICEF in November 2015 on emergency assessments. This training is forming the foundation of assessment missions including the use of smartphones and AKVO Flow software for data collection using MoHMS/NDMO assessment forms.

Communications for Development (C4D)

UNICEF continues to support the Ministry of Health through the Health Cluster for the broadcasting of Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on 11 radio stations with national reach and in English, iTaukei and Hindi 330 times per day at prime time. The PSAs contain messages on boiling drinking water, food safety, nutrition including breastfeeding, Infant and Young Child Feeding, waste disposal, destroying mosquito breeding sites and psychosocial support. UNICEF has also provided emergency pocket guide brochures and emergency handbooks, packed with emergency relief supplies, in English and iTaukei languages for dissemination to affected areas through the WASH and Education Clusters. A communication strategy is being developed with the Health and Nutrition Cluster for integrated communication with disaster-affected communities.

UNICEF is also supporting interpersonal communication through our partnership with the Oceania Football Federation's Just Play programme for the dissemination of key messages with children between ages 6–18 years in affected areas through activities that are being planned and coordinated through the Protection Cluster led by the Ministry for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation.

Health and Nutrition



UNICEF is an active member of the Health and Nutrition Cluster and takes particular responsibility for community health communication; assistance for pregnant women, mothers and children; immunisation and vitamin distribution; maternity and neonatal assistance, infant and young child feeding, and the prevention, identification, referral and treatment of malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.

Cold chain equipment (including solar panels) has been damaged. Both the equipment and spoiled vaccine stocks will need to be replaced. Where possible, vaccines are being moved to facilities with generators and UNICEF is awaiting field assessment reports to determine the needs. Tetanus vaccination will be critical given the number of injuries being reported.

Seven UNICEF basic health kits (each serves a population of 1,000 people for 3 months), zinc, ORS and vitamin A have been delivered to Rakiraki Hospital; Rakiraki Maternity; Qarani H/C, Gau; Nasau H/C, Koro; Nabasovi H/C, Koro; and Lomaloma Hospital, Vanua Balavu. Six of these kits were funded by the New Zealand Government. 130,000 measles and rubella vaccines are pre-positioned by UNICEF in Nadi in case of a need for mass campaign. UNICEF also has malnutrition treatment supplies prepositioned in Suva for up to 5,700 children. UNICEF is standing by for supply orders from the MHMS.

It is likely that health services for maternal and newborn health, especially at the community level, have been interrupted. Already malnourished children will be especially vulnerable due to limited access to nutritious food. UNICEF also has malnutrition treatment supplies prepositioned in Suva for up to 5,700 children. UNICEF is standing by for supply orders from the MoHMS. There is a need for clear communication and support on breastfeeding in evacuation centres.

Safety and Protection (including Child Protection and Gender Based Violence)



UNICEF will work with the government welfare officers who participated in the Child Protection in Emergencies training in 2014 to monitor vulnerable children, provide psychosocial support and ensure referral to services for protection. Support will target children in evacuation centres, these from informal settlements and staying with extended families. Tents for Child-Friendly Spaces (CFSs), recreations kits and support for replacing damaged and destroyed birth registration documents will also be provided as needed. UNICEF is advocating through the Cluster for a return package for displaced persons.

Psychosocial support to help children to return to normalcy is being planned through the extensive country wide network of the Just Play programme and youth peer volunteers from Ministry of Youth and Sports to ensure children both in-school and out of school receive support. UNICEF's ongoing support to a Child Help Line in Fiji and community protection programming will continue.

To prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, UNICEF is supporting the Safety and Protection Cluster to finalise a Code of Conduct for humanitarian workers involved with all aspects of relief and response, and supporting widespread dissemination of the Code of Conduct. Gaps currently exist in information about vulnerable children and families,

children with disabilities and children from informal settlements. A Safety and Protection Cluster assessment is planned to obtain information to target the response to the most vulnerable children and their families.

Supply and Logistics

As of 25 February, USD 269,850 of UNICEF supplies (including USD 42,299 in logistics costs) have been provided to the Government of Fiji for distribution to the most affected areas. This included USD 82,527 of Australian Government supplies donated in kind to UNICEF (excluding logistics) and USD 17,618 of New Zealand Government funded UNICEF supplies (excluding logistics). UNICEF has now distributed bulk prepositioned supplies that were held in Suva and additional funding is urgently needed to procure additional supplies. Prepositioned in Manila (Philippines), Dubai and Copenhagen (Denmark), are available pending official Government requests and placement of orders by UNICEF Pacific.

The Government of Fiji's standby arrangements with the Governments of New Zealand and Australia have been activated for provision of planes, boats, supplies and first responders, most of these have already arrived. Roads are being cleared and jetties repaired. However many smaller roads, causeways and interior roads remain flooded and/or damaged. UNICEF works closely with the Logistics cluster led by WFP to support Government arrangements, including for warehousing and telecommunications.

Media and External Communication

UNICEF Pacific is engaging extensively with global and regional media. New visual documentation is being shared daily and UNICEF Communications staff and consultants will begin visiting most-affected areas as movement restrictions are lifted, conducting interviews to convey the situation, concerns, needs and viewpoints of affected children and their caregivers. An experienced disaster and child-sensitive photographer is standing by in Solomon Islands for the first available flight to Fiji. Three communications field missions have been deployed.

Across all sectors, UNICEF and its partners supported for information on the cyclone, advocacy, human interest stories and reminders on response and recovery for families, with special regard to children and other vulnerable people, on UNICEF social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Funding

The 2016 UNICEF Pacific Humanitarian Appeal for Children (HAC), which anticipated larger and more frequent cyclones as a result of the strong El Nino event, is currently unfunded (www.unicef.org/appeals/pacific_islands). This appeal will be revised in the coming days as the needs in Fiji are clarified.

The Government of Australia has committed AUD 500,000, in addition to in kind donations of supplies and logistics. UNICEF Pacific has re-programmed USD 200,000 of core resources to facilitate a quick response and is also using a USD 500,000 loan from a UNICEF revolving fund. Pre-positioned contingency stock funded by New Zealand MFAT and through a UNICEF global emergency fund, mostly have been distributed via Government partners.

Funding Requirements (as defined in the Humanitarian Appeal 2016 UNICEF Pacific Humanitarian Appeal for Children)				
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds received*	Funding gap	
	USD	USD	USD	%
WASH	2,000,000	0	2,000,000	100%
Education	550,000	0	550,000	100%
Health	650,000	0	650,000	100%
Nutrition	1,000,000	0	1,000,000	100%
Child Protection	400,000	0	400,000	100%
Cluster Coordination	400,000	0	400,000	100%
Total	5,000,000	0	5,000,000	100%

* 'Funds received' does not include pledges.

Next SitRep: 29 February 2016

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