

Cyclone Winston Fiji

Humanitarian Situation Report #2



Photo: Salome Ululagi and her son sitting in the remains of their home, where they crouched for many hours as the eye of Tropical Cyclone Winston passed over Koro Island and ripped away their house from around them. Salome shows us the suitcase that she put her one year old son in to keep him safe during the storm.

Highlights

Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Winston was the strongest cyclone that has 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.

- 44 deaths have been confirmed, including three children, with numbers likely to rise.
- 67 schools have been destroyed or severely damaged, others are being used as evacuation centres. School has been cancelled nationally for 1 week.
- Over 22,600 people are in 246 evacuation centres, with many more 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 humanitarian 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.

As of 24 February 2016

120,000

Estimated # of children likely to have been moderately to severely affected

347,000

Estimated # of people likely to have been moderately to severely affected

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

UNICEF's response with partners

UNICEF is providing an initial response using prepositioned supplies that have been requested by the Government of Fiji. Funding is needed to sustain and scale up this response. Within the first 24 hours of the request of the Government for assistance, UNICEF has taken the following actions.

- 3,000 people in the worst affected areas have been provided with WASH supplies to ensure safe drinking water.
- 995 students of eight schools in the Lau and Lomaiviti groups provided with education supplies, including temporary learning spaces and learning materials.
- Hygiene kits for 7,920 people and water purification tabs for 1,066 household were donated to UNICEF the Australian Government as part of an Australian Defence Force (ADF) airlift.
- Six Emergency health kits, to service a population of 1,000 people for 3 months, as well as tents and education supplies funded by the New Zealand Government have been provided for immediate distribution to worst affected outer islands

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. It struck the two largest and most populated islands affecting up to 90% of the population of Fiji to some degree. 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'.

36 deaths have been confirmed, six from Central Division, 13 from Western Division, 15 in the Eastern Division and

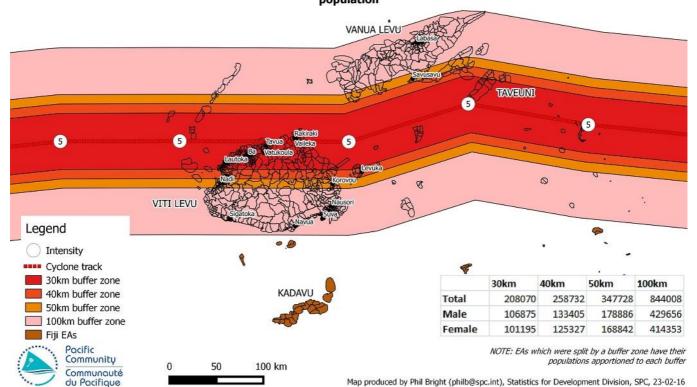
Estimated Distribution of Affected Population by UNICEF Target Groups in 2015 ¹ (Source: Pacific Community, Statistics for Development Division)				
Total Affected Population	347,000			
Children Affected (Under 18)	120,000			
Children Under Five	36,000			
Children Under One	3,600			
Pregnant and Lactating Women	7,600			
People living in evacuation centres (source: NDMO Situation Report 22, 23 February)	22,684			

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.

There are initial reports of serious damage and destruction of schools, clinics and two hospitals. 246 evacuation centres (including at least 46 schools) are currently accommodating 22,684 people and many others are staying with relatives or in unofficial shelters. Schools has been cancelled nationally this week, for two weeks in the worst affected areas.

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. Fiji's two largest islands and many other islands are largely without electricity and many areas have no water supply. Less affected areas

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 center of Cyclone Winston, this is the range defined by the Fiji Meteorological Service as experiencing 'very destructive hurricane force winds'.

should have power restored by the end of February with other areas expected to be without power for a month.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 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 is 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 Authority (NDMO) is coordinating the response and has activated the National Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). Sub-national EOCs are mobilized and deploying teams to undertake Initial Damage Assessments. All Fijian Ministries, the NDMO and the Fijian 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).

Disaster assessment and initial response

The Government is providing strong leadership and coordination through the NDMO. UNICEF is working in support of the Government on their priorities. Initial cross-sectoral assessments by Government have commenced, in conjunction with first response. Assessment teams are not expected to report back from the outer islands and remote communities 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 are joining government assessment missions where possible.

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

Education

2,115 children and their teachers at 23 primary schools on Koro Island, Lautoka and Ba will benefit from temporary learning spaces (TLS) using prepositioned supplies provide that have been released by UNICEF. As requested by the MoE, the supplies provided were 60 tents (10 supported by MFAT) 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 assist children to classes as soon as possible. In-line with UNICEF focus on inter-sectorial convergence, school WASH kit are being dispatched alongside the school-in-a-box kits. This builds on our 'WASH in Schools' programming in Fiji.

Ministry of Education leads the Education Cluster, supported by UNICEF and Save the Children. In February 2016, UNICEF sponsored a five-day training in Suva, Fiji for 25 participants from the Eastern Division, including senior

 $^{^{2}}$ Fiji Electricity Authority Update, 23 February 2016.

 $^{^{3}}$ Pursuant to Section 17(1) of the Natural Disaster Management Act.

officers from the Ministry of Education. These participants are now functioning as first assessors and responders, and it is anticipated that they will be able to assess impact of the cyclone and the provision of assistance using the AKVO Flow software on smartphones for monitoring and mapping. This builds on a best practice identified for replication after Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu in 2015.

WASH



The Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MoHMS) leads the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Cluster, supported by UNICEF.

The four priorities of the WASH cluster are:

- 1. Provide effective leadership and oversight, for a coordinated and effective WASH response
- 2. Provide emergency water, sanitation and hygiene services to displaced people and those communities without access to piped water supply.
- 3. Restore water, sanitation and hygiene services to directly affected communities.
- 4. Provide safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services in schools and temporary learning spaces, and in health care facilities.

On 23 February, UNICEF responded to a request from the MoHMS to provide supplies for 3,000 people in the worst affected areas provided with WASH supplies to ensure safe drinking water. These included:

- 2x 6,000 litre water tanks that can service up to 2,400 people in evacuation centres
- 300 WASH kits for 1,500 people (including collapsible jerry cans, soap, water purification tables and information and communications materials)
- 28 water filters with buckets to provide clean water for 700 people
- 2,000 water purification tab packets to provide1,667 people with 10 litres of clean water for 30 days
- 200 tarpaulins (4 by 5 meters) for 1,000 people

On 23 February, a donation of WASH supplies, including hygiene kits for 7,920 people and water purification tabs for 1,066 households, was received from the Australian Government. It was delivered on an ADF flight to Fiji and UNICEF will facilitate transport to our Suva warehouse, for targeted distribution by the Ministry of Health. WASH in schools and health care facilities will be prioritised in the UNICEF response.

The WASH cluster has provided an additional 440 households with WASH kits and is preparing WASH kits for schools for up to 8,000 children. As part of UNICEF's ongoing commitments 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 for data collection using MoHMS/NDMO assessment forms.

Communications for Development (C4D)

UNICEF is working closely with the Health and Nutrition Cluster, led by the Ministry of Health (MoH) to develop and broadcast public service announcements nationwide on all radio stations in all vernaculars promoting key health seeking behaviours. These key messages have been identified through cluster priorities for disaster affected communities, and include messages on boiling drinking water, food safety, nutrition including breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), waste disposal, destroying mosquito breeding sites and psychosocial support. Prepositioned Information, Education and Communications (IEC) print materials such as emergency pocket guides are also being disseminated through the WASH cluster to be delivered with education and WASH supplies to affected communities.

Our partnership with Oceania Football Federation's Just Play programme will be used 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



The Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MoHMS) leads the Health and Nutrition Cluster, supported by the World Health Organisation (WHO). UNICEF is a member of this 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. Six New Zealand Government funded UNICEF basic health kits (each a population of 1,000 people for 3 months), zinc, ORS and vitamin A have been released to the Central pharmacy as requested by the Government. One more basic health kit has been provided to Koro island. 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.

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.

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



UNICEF will work with the government welfare officers who participated in 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, from informal settlements and staying with extended families. Tents for Child-Friendly Spaces (CFSs) and recreations kits will also be provided as needed. 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 finalize a Code of Conduct for humanitarian workers involved with all aspects of relief and response and support wide spread 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

The Pacific Logistics Cluster, headed by World Food Programme (WFP), is assisting NDMO and other Government agencies with coordination of logistics. The Government'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. Initial needs assessment missions by boat are being organised by NDMO and the Lead Cluster Ministries, and UNICEF staff will participate. Coastal roads are being cleared, as well as roads in main towns. However rivers are flooded and many smaller roads, causeways and interior roads remain flooded and/or damaged. Wharfs and jetties are damaged at Savusavu, Nabouwalu, Blackpoint, Waiyavu and Koro, which will slow relief delivery by boat. The international airports in Nadi and Nausori are open and fully operational.

The majority of UNICEF's prepositioned supplies for the Pacific are in the Suva area and were not damaged by the Cyclone. Vaccines are pre-positioned by Ministry of Health in Suva, and by UNICEF in Nadi. Additional supplies are prepositioned in Manila (Philippines), Dubai and Copenhagen (Denmark), while numerous long-term agreements with suppliers are ready for activation in many countries, including the Peoples Republic of China, and supply orders are ready, pending Official Government requests and order placement. Since late last week, staff and volunteers have been preparing school backpack kits and WASH kits in the UNICEF warehouse in Suva. 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.

All Clusters in which UNICEF is active, and all UNICEF Programme areas, have UNICEF support 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.

Safety and Security

The national wide curfew has been lifted as of Monday 22 February 5:30 am. Fijian military and police forces are providing well organized security, which is controlling access to areas that are not safe due to fallen power lines, flooding, as well as preventing looting. No increase in crime has been reported. UNICEF staff travelling by boat are issued with life vests and UNICEF travelling on any field mission outside of cell phone range are issued with emergency communication devices that use satellites for connection. UN DSS is active and based in Suva.

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 and also transported UNICEF WASH and education supplies on their first flight of emergency supplies from Australia on 23 February. UNICEF Pacific has reprogrammed 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%

^{* &#}x27;Funds received' does not include pledges.

Next SitRep: 26 February 2016

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