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 km of the eye of the Cyclone.

- 1,177 schools and early childhood education centres reopen today.
- There are no indications of disease outbreaks to date. As a preventive measure, UNICEF has provided 30,000 doses of Tetanus-Typhoid (TT) vaccines to the MoHMS for use in the most affected areas.
- 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.
- Orders placed for one air and two sea shipments of emergency supplies.

UNICEF’s response with partners

One week after Cyclone Winston, UNICEF has taken the following actions:

- 26,125 people in the most affected areas, (7.5% 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, the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, and the LDS church.
- 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.
- 30,000 doses of Tetanus-Typhoid (TT) vaccine have been provided to prevent the outbreak of disease.
- UNICEF staff have been embedded into three Government Ministries and seven assessment and response missions to provide technical and coordination support.
- Government Ministries have received technical assistance in assessment data analysis and response planning.
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 lives within 50km of the centre of the Cyclone, the range defined by the Fiji Meteorological Service as experiencing ‘very destructive hurricane force winds’. Homes, public buildings and livelihoods were also damaged by sea water surges and river flooding. 42 deaths were confirmed.

Assessments showed that 240 school were damaged or destroyed and up to 103 schools were used (or are still being used) as evacuation centres. Around 39,500 people remain in 963 evacuation centres; many others are staying with relatives or other host families. 85% of primary and secondary schools re-opened today, despite significant damages to facilities. Information about ECE centres is unclear.

Damage to telecommunications networks, roads, bridges, airstrips and port facilities is constraining access of Government authorities in conducting assessments and emergency relief in remote areas and outlying islands. It is expected to take several months to restore basic services (water, power and sewerage) to the worst-affected areas. 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.

The most economically disadvantaged households 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.

| Estimated Distribution of Affected Population by UNICEF Target Groups in 20151 |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|
|                                   | Total  | Male   | Female |
| Total Affected Population         | 348,000| 179,000| 169,000|
| Children Affected (Under 18)      | 120,000| 62,000 | 58,000 |
| Children Under Five               | 36,000 | 19,000 | 17,000 |
| Children Under One                | 7,300  | 3,800  | 3,500  |
| Pregnant and Lactating Women      | 7,600  | -      | 7,600  |
| People living in evacuation centres (source: NDMO Situation Report 34, 29 February 2016) | 39,500 | -      | -      |

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’.

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. The Pacific Humanitarian Partners, coordinated by UN OCHA are a standing group of humanitarian actors that meet throughout the year to coordinate on preparedness and disaster resilience. Activation by Fiji of their Disaster Policy, protocols and procedures included activation of the Humanitarian Cluster system. The UN Resident Coordinator was named Humanitarian Coordinator by Stephen O’Brien, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.

The Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services leads the WASH Cluster, with UNICEF as Lead Cluster Support Agency. Ministry of Education leads the Education Cluster, with UNICEF and Save the Children as Lead Cluster Support Agencies. The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation (MoWCPA) leads the Safety and Protection Cluster, with UNICEF and UN Women as Lead Cluster Support Agencies. UNICEF also supports the

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1 Pursuant to Section 17(1) of the Natural Disaster Management Act.
Ministry and the National Coordinating Committee on Children (NCCC) with the Child Protection area of responsibility.

UNICEF is working within the Health and Nutrition Cluster led by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, with WHO as Lead Cluster Support Agency. UNICEF collaborates within the UN emergency communications group, the Pacific Humanitarian Information Management Group, and the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group, all led by UN OCHA. UNICEF also collaborates with the Logistics Cluster led by World Food Programme, and with Logisticians at the National Emergency Operations Centre.

**Disaster assessment and initial response**

Initial rapid, cross-sector assessments were carried out by Government, in conjunction with rescues and other first response. Government Ministries then began carrying out more in-depth sector assessments, while relief distributions began at scale. UNICEF staff have been assisting with assessments, analysis, planning and distributions of relief supplies.

UNICEF is building on our longstanding relationship and investment in preparedness with the Government of Fiji. Training was provided to the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MoHMS) and Ministries of Education (MOE) staff on rapid data collection using smart phones with software that includes geo-positioning codes, photos of damages and basic assessment and needs information. In this way, for example, all of the schools in the affected area are being assessed and the information quickly uploaded on the web and analysed by exact location.

All of UNICEF’s pre-positioned supplies from its Suva warehouse as well as vaccines from UNICEF’s regional, refrigerated buffer stock, have been made available to Government partners for distribution. At the same time, funds are being sought and new supply orders raised as per Government requests.

UNICEF’s response is entirely in Government’s Priority Response Geographic Areas, with special attention to children in the hardest to reach areas. Schools, rural health clinics and their surrounding communities are the focus for a multisector package of interventions including Education, WASH, Child Protection, and Communication for Development (C4D), Health and Nutrition. The programme delivery strategy combines important support to Government Cluster Leads for assessment, planning, information management and coordination; emergency procurement and logistics; and technical and cash assistance, for mainly Government service delivery, with complementary services by some non-governmental organisations.

**Education**

Assessments to date report that at 240 schools have been damaged, including 60 schools that have been destroyed. At least and 187 school toilet blocks have been damaged and at least 103 schools are currently being used as evacuation centres, displacing students from classrooms.

UNICEF has responded to 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 to support them in their Lead Cluster Coordination role, and an international expert from Save the Children has arrived as well. The
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; data, geo-location and photos of more than half of the damaged schools are already on the website. Education assessments are being facilitated by helicopter flight time donated by the Government of France.

Ministry and Cluster members are planning for the provision of more supplies as well as psycho-social support to students and their teachers. Many schools resumed classes on 29 February, despite damages to facilities, and others are working hard to commence as soon as possible. Great credit goes to the Ministry staff, including committed teachers, their students and students’ families are pitching in together in true Fijian spirit to get children back to learning and some normalcy.

![A screenshot of the AKVO Flow website mapping the education survey to date is below. Users can click on each data point and see the survey information and photographs collected at that location.](image)

**WASH (Water and Sanitation, Hygiene)**

Up to 250,000 people need WASH assistance due to electricity, water and sewerage service disruptions. Destruction of household water sources means that many families are dependent on unsafe and unprotected water sources. The MoHMS as well as assessment teams report increased open defecation as schools, other public buildings and families have lost access to toilets and latrines. Drinking unsafe water, open defecation and poor hygiene behaviours must be addressed in order to prevent outbreaks of water-borne diseases, including typhoid. Increases in vector-borne diseases are also a threat.

Displaced families sheltering in evacuation centres lack basic hygiene material, such as soap and sanitary pads for women. A 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.

Today the MoHMS delivered WASH supplies to ensure safe drinking water and sanitation to 3,750 people in Bua and 2,375 people in Rakiraki. A total of 26,125 people have received WASH assistance, using supplies provided by UNICEF, Australia, New Zealand and the LDS church. WASH kits and a NOMAD water treatment unit with the capacity to produce 10,000 litres of drinkable water per day, have been donated by the Government of France.

A UNICEF WASH Specialist has been embedded into the MoHMS and an Information Management Officer has arrived as surge staff to support the cluster. 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 & Medical Services’ leadership of the Health & Nutrition 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 in 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

Working under the MHMS, whose leadership of the Health & Nutrition Cluster is supported by WHO, UNICEF takes particular responsibility for supporting MHMS with community health communication; health outreach services for mothers and children; immunisation and micro-nutrient /vitamin distribution; infant and young child feeding, and the prevention, identification, referral and treatment of malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.

A ‘Joint Statement on Appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) for Fiji During Emergencies’ was signed today between the Minister for Health and the Minister responsible for Disaster Management together with the Representatives for WHO and UNICEF. The Statement supports a gazetted Government policy discouraging import and distribution of breast-milk substitutes, and reminds that even in emergencies, “Breast is best.” There is a need for clear communication and support on breastfeeding in evacuation centres.

UNICEF has provided 30,000 doses of Tetanus-Typhoid (TT) vaccines to the MoHMS for use in the most affected areas as a preventive measure. There are no indications of disease outbreaks to date. The situation is being carefully monitored and there are contingency arrangements for more intensified immunization efforts for catch-up in affected and under-vaccinated population groups. There have been significant damages to cold chain equipment (including solar panels); both the equipment and spoiled vaccine stocks will need to be replaced. (There were 57 vaccine refrigerators in the worst affected areas.)

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 a room-sized refrigerator donated by New Zealand, as contingency stock for the Pacific region. UNICEF also has malnutrition treatment supplies prepositioned in Suva for up to 5,700 children. UNICEF has additional health supplies enroute by air and sea.

Health services for reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health, especially at the community level, have been disrupted and impaired, although doctors, nurses, aides and technicians have heroically resumed services under very difficult conditions. WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF have coordinated their support to MHMS in order to maximise efficiency and impact. Already malnourished children will be especially vulnerable due to limited access to nutritious food.

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

UN Women and UNICEF are supporting the Cluster Coordination Lead role of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation. 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. Child-Friendly Spaces (CFSs), including tents and recreations kits, and support for replacing damaged and destroyed birth registration documents will also be provided as needed.

Psychosocial support to help children 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 is continuing.

To prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, a Code of Conduct for humanitarian workers involved with all aspects of relief and response has been endorsed by the Safety and Protection Cluster and Permanent Secretaries of Ministries. UNICEF is 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. Local NGOs involved in child protection and GBV are reaching out to vulnerable communities in which they work to provide immediate humanitarian assistance and promote prevention of abuse. To ensure support for protection of vulnerable individuals the Safety and Protection Cluster has finalized a joint assessment form which is being used by both NGO and government partners to obtain information to target the response to the most vulnerable children and their families. Follow up of cases of women and children who disclose abuse is supported through a referral protocol.

Supply and Logistics

As of 2 February, USD 311,787 of UNICEF supplies (including USD 48,254 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 43,834 of New Zealand Government funded UNICEF supplies (excluding logistics). UNICEF has now distributed the bulk of prepositioned supplies that were held in Suva and additional funding is urgently needed to procure additional supplies.

The Government of Fiji’s standby arrangements with the Governments of Australia, France and New Zealand 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; electricity and water systems are being repaired, but the work is enormous and many areas are still without electricity and communities are relying on water trucking and carting or on possibly unclean open sources.

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. Two experienced disaster and child-sensitive photographers are working to document impact across all affected areas. Four 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)

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<th>Appeal Sector</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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* 'Funds received' does not include pledges.

**Next SitRep: 2 March 2016**

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