Highlights

- Preliminary report of initial damage assessment by the government in the 3 provinces in the Northern Division show that more than 1,900 houses were damaged or destroyed. These are homes to more than 10,000 people including 3,000 children.

- UNICEF has delivered all of its WASH kits and water containers pre-positioned in Fiji to the Northern Division. Distribution of Education supplies are put on hold until assessments of schools are completed. Some UNICEF supplies stored in the Australian government warehouse in Brisbane have been mobilized for delivery in Fiji.

- The Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the World Food Programme (WFP) and Fiji Airways are helping deliver UNICEF supplies from the Brisbane warehouse to Fiji.

- Five staff are on the ground to provide support to government and other partners in the needs assessment and in the coordination of the initial response.
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Preliminary reports from the initial damage assessment in 3 provinces in the Northern Division showed more than 1,900 houses were damaged, a third of them completely destroyed. More than 10,000 people, 3,000 of them children, were residing in these dwellings. Some 164 evacuation centers are still active and providing shelter to over 7,000 people. 159 of the evacuation centers are in the Northern Division and 5 are in the Eastern Division.

Except for the urban centers of Labasa and Savusavu, most of the island of Vanua Levu is still without electricity. Some 58 cell sites of mobile phone operators have been damaged. Internet and phone services, however, are functional in Labasa and Savusavu, where power has been restored. A total of 13 road systems have been affected, 6 of them closed and 7 restricted. The Water Authority of Fiji reported that a dam in Vanua Levu has been damaged and is now reduced to 50 per cent capacity. Damage to water sources in the islands of Galoa, Yaqaca and Tavea were also reported.

The entire country was put under a state of natural disaster for 30 days starting on 16 December 2020. The entire machinery of the Fiji Government is being mobilized, supported by other partners, to respond to the emergency. The Government has delivered some 10,000 food packs to the island of Vanua Levu. Food and non-food items (NFIs) are also on their way to Lau and Lomaiviti group of islands in the Eastern Division. New Zealand and Australia have delivered relief supplies to Fiji. The private sector also pitched in with one barge full of relief donations arriving in the Northern Division on 23 December.

Results of immediate needs assessments are being consolidated even as in-depth sectoral assessments have also been initiated. The Fiji Government has provided a list of priority relief items that they have requested from diplomatic missions and humanitarian organizations. The list includes WASH kits, water containers, water purification tablets and soap.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF leads the clusters for WASH, education (with Save the Children), and health and nutrition (with the World Health Organization (WHO)) and is co-lead of the protection cluster (with UNWomen) under the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT). The PHT is a network of humanitarian organizations that works together to assist Pacific Island Countries and Territories in preparing for and responding to disasters. It is composed of UN agencies and international humanitarian organizations and co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinators and the head of OCHA. UNICEF and the PHT support the leadership of governments and work within their respective political structures. Fiji have officially adopted the cluster approach in their humanitarian architecture. Unlike cluster systems in other countries, these mechanisms are active year-round and are the coordinating bodies not just for emergency response but also for disaster risk management and preparedness. UNICEF is providing support to the national clusters of Fiji in preparing for the cyclone, particularly the clusters where UNICEF is co-leading with the government ministries on WASH, Education, Health and Nutrition, Gender and Protection and the sub-cluster on communication and community engagement.
Funding Overview and Partnerships

Based on initial data, UNICEF estimates that it would need USD 1.5 million to support its TC Yasa response. UNICEF has mobilized its thematic humanitarian fund of USD 150,000 and the Republic of Korea approved a contribution of USD100,000. UNICEF will help the ministries develop their response and recovery plans based on assessments that are still ongoing. The UNICEF response plan will be in support of the government plans particularly for WASH, Health and Nutrition, Education, Child Protection and Communication for Development.

The Australia DFAT has been instrumental in delivering to Fiji UNICEF emergency supplies prepositioned in the Australian humanitarian warehouse in Brisbane through Australian Defense Force (ADF) assets. An ADF cargo plane delivered 5.5 metrics tons of WASH and Education supplies to Fiji on 22 December while the HMAS Adelaide of the Royal Australian Navy is on its way to Fiji with more relief supplies including 35 UNICEF tents from the Brisbane stock. The WFP has also chartered a cargo flight from Brisbane to Nadi, Fiji on 24 December with 5.7 metric tons of UNICEF supplies.

UNICEF is also partnering with the private sector in delivering supplies and key messages. The Premier Pacific Diving Expeditions made available some space in their cruise ship Nai’a to deliver 1.7 metric tons of WASH and education supplies in 3 areas in Vanua Levu. Fiji Airways also agreed to carry free-of-charge UNICEF emergency supplies through its repatriation flights from Australia to Fiji with the first one scheduled on 28 December with 700 WASH kits.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health and Nutrition

- Fifteen health facilities in the Northern Division were damaged. Two have not been reached yet. UNICEF is responding to the request of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MoHMS) for 10 sets of tents to serve as temporary clinics.
- The MOHMS in the Northern Division have received the following nutrition supplies from UNICEF:
  - 2 cartons of F 75 (2 x 24 cans) - Sufficient for treatment of 12-16 children of SAM with medical complication
  - 2 cartons of F-100 (2 x 24 cans) - Sufficient for treatment of 12-16 children of SAM with medical complication
  - 3 cartons (3 x 150 sachets) of Ready-to-Use-Therapeutic Food (RUTF) – 15 severe acute malnourished (SAM) children for a month, or 4 SAM children if complete dose is provided
  - 200 pieces of Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tapes for nutrition screening
  - 85 packs of Vitamin A (85 x 500 tablets) - sufficient for 42,500 children for one round or 21, 250 children for two rounds of Vit A supplementation

WASH

- A total of 1100 WASH Kits and 400 collapsible water containers have been released by UNICEF to the Ministry of Health and transported to most impacted areas of Vanua Levu for distribution.
- UNICEF WASH staff are currently on the ground working to support the Fiji MoHMS who are undertaking damage assessments and distributing WASH kits by boat/truck in Bua Tikiana of Vanua Levu.
- An additional 435 WASH kits and 1500 water containers are en route from Brisbane warehouse.
- UNICEF has supported the MOH WASH Cluster lead to define response plan and critical priorities.
- To help strengthen Cluster coronation, UNICEF mobilized Information management and additional cluster coordination support to the Ministry of Health and Medical Services.
- An information management specialist from Norwegian Church Aid, a UNICEF standby partner, has been onboarded to consolidate incoming data and strengthen gap analysis for the WASH Cluster. He is working remotely.
Education

- UNICEF provided technical assistance to Ministry of Education and Heritage Arts (MEHA) in the damage assessment tool, including integration of psychosocial support and disaster risk reduction questions.
- One UNICEF staff has been deployed in the Northern Division to support MEHA in training the local staff on gathering data on damage assessment and laying the groundwork for the distribution of education supplies.
- Distribution of education supplies are put on hold until the assessments of schools are completed.

Child Protection

- UNICEF is ready to provide financial and technical support to the Child Services Unit under the Social Welfare Department of the Ministry of Women Children and Poverty Alleviation to:
  - Lead the Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) under the Fiji Safety and Protection Cluster, to coordinate the child protection response (both Cluster and CPWG met 21 December for 2nd time), in close coordination with the GBV and PSS response partners.
  - Deploy their personnel from National, Division and District level to the affected areas to provide psychosocial support to the children and advice to parents on how to help their children recover from the trauma, including through the establishment and facilitation of child-friendly spaces; and to identify and care for and/or refer children in need of protection
  - Provide training on psychological first aid (PFA) and psychosocial support (PSS).
- UNICEF has pre-positioned recreational kits in Suva and Brisbane and can also purchase additional ones locally.
- UNICEF is also ready to work with the Education sector on psychosocial support for students and teachers.

Communication and Advocacy

- Ongoing campaign on UNICEF Pacific across all social media platforms: focus on immediate response with government partners on the ground in Vanua Levu. Content developed together with MHMS and MEHA on digital technology supporting assessments, impacts on children, WASH and Education immediate responses in Vanua Levu. Two communications staff based in Savusavu supporting to cover the response.
- Communication support to supply deliveries with Nai’a, Australian Defence Force, HMAS Adelaide, Nauru Airlines/WFP and government partners.
- Providing advocacy on the needs of communities to partners, National Committees and public
- Support to communication in communities on WASH and Education advocacy priorities

Next Situation Report: 30 December 2020

UNICEF Pacific: [https://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/](https://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/)

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