

## Fiji: Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasa

### Situation Report No. 04 (as of 24 December 2020)



This report is produced by the OCHA Office of the Pacific Islands (OoP) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period of 23 – 24 December 2020. The next report will be issued on or around 29 December 2020.

## Highlights

- Increasing number of assessment teams are collecting data in the cyclone-affected areas to establish damages and humanitarian needs;
- The government-led Initial Damage Assessment estimates the loss of Crops, Livestock and Infrastructure at FJD 109m (approx. USD 53m);
- Some areas are still not accessible, particularly remote islands;
- First humanitarian assistance deliveries to people in need are taking place;
- There are still 159 Evacuation Centres open (mostly in the Northern Division) accommodating 5,346 evacuees;
- Australia provides AUD 4.5m (approx. USD 3.4m) in humanitarian relief to support the response to the devastation caused by TC Yasa.

## Situation Overview

Essential services continue to be restored in affect areas. Telecommunications are working in Labasa again. Telecom Fiji Limited (TFL) reports that 80% of fibre-lines infrastructure is restored across the Northern Division. Additional teams to fast track power supply restauration have been deployed. Repair of water supply systems by the Water Authority of Fiji (WAF) is proceeding well.

There is now an increasing number of assessment teams on the ground from various government entities and humanitarian partners. The effort is government-led and coordinated by the National Disaster Management Office. In addition, the MoH has deployed more than 40 staff to the Northern and Eastern Divisions to support ongoing assessments, health service delivery/outreach in communities and evacuation centres, outbreak surveillance and other services.

Still some remote areas have not yet been reached by assessment teams. Access to islands is still a challenge. The Government of Fiji has sent a number of vessels with teams and relief items to hard-to-reach areas. On 23 Dec, for example, a ship departed to Koro, Nairai, Gau and Batiki carrying 3,924 food packs including NFIs for distribution and government officials to conduct damage assessments. Another ship left for Nabouwalu, transporting MHMS, RFMF, MIMS, WAF and MOA officers to assist in DDA for the Northern Division.

Initial assessment data coming from these deployed teams indicate that priority fields of intervention seem to be food assistance, emergency shelter, WASH interventions (particularly for damaged health facilities), assistance to farmers and also Protection-related services such as psycho-social support. The precise needs and extent of humanitarian response activities will be established in the coming days when more assessment data become available and are being analyzed.

The Ministry of Agriculture conducted an Initial Damage Assessment and estimates the loss of crops, livestock, and infrastructure at about FJD 109m (95% of this amount is for crops alone). Almost 50% of this destruction happened in the Northern Division.

Initial distributions such as food assistance, emergency shelter and also WASH kits, as well as essential household items have started in various locations of affected areas. Substantial number of relief items, among them food rations, WASH and health supplies are on their way to cyclone-hit areas. Despite damage and impact on health facilities, communities in the areas most affected continue to receive essential health services.

As of 24 Dec, there were still 159 Evacuation Centres (ECs) open, accommodating 5,364 evacuees. The majority of these centres were in the Northern (154 centres with 5,170 persons), the rest (05) in the Eastern Division (with 194 persons). All ECs in the Central and Western Division are closed. All open ECs receive food rations and NFIs.

## General Coordination

Coordination of the relief effort by Fijian authorities and humanitarian partners is continuing at national, divisional, provincial and *tikina* level.

The Resident Coordinator based in Fiji and OCHA's Head of the Pacific Office - together with senior government officials - conducted a mission to Labasa to have a first-hand impression of the impact of TC Yasa and to discuss with authorities challenges faced and existing coordination structures.

UNOCHA in collaboration with NDMO are providing support through the following:

- Development of joint IDA for national clusters and partners conducting assessments in affected areas;
- Daily briefing of deployment teams, prior to departure on the use of the joint IDA. One team to Lomaiviti on 22, one team to Lau on 23 and two teams to Lau on 24 Dec, 2020
- Ongoing consultation on development of 3Ws and assessment;
- Development of online registration form for TC Yasa fundraising;
- Development of a series of dashboards for the office of the National Disaster Controller;
- Ongoing engagement within national ODA team supporting the coordination of the development of an aid register for UN agencies.

For coordination between regional clusters, humanitarian partners, NDMO and ministries, please see below under the relevant cluster chapter.

### Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination

- The Royal Australian Navy will deploy the *HMAS Adelaide* to provide immediate assistance to people in need, including many from remote island, whose homes, schools and other local infrastructure were damaged. The vessel will also carry members from the Australian Army's 6<sup>th</sup> Engineering Support Regiment which will assist Fijian authorities to clear debris, and repair critical infrastructure and schools. The ship is leaving in the evening of 24 Dec and will arrive in Fiji waters next week.

## Overall Response



### Logistics

#### Overview

- The Cluster continues to share relevant information with partners on offers of logistics support and transport.

#### Needs

- The Cluster continues to engage with partners regarding transport and logistics needs.

#### Response

- The WFP Pacific Humanitarian Air Service flight departed this morning from Brisbane Airport carrying cargo for WFP, UNICEF and IFRC;
- WFP is providing 2 Mobile Storage units to NDMO;
- The cluster has been requested to provide assistance with tracking NDMO Non-food-items and food parcels and is currently working with the NDMO Logistics team to understand requirements and collect data;

- The cluster is working with the national cluster lead to provide support with reporting and information management;
- The Pacific Logistics Cluster is sharing relevant information with partners on offers of logistics support and transport from private sector.

### Gaps and Constraints

- Currently unknown – nothing reported at this stage.



## Emergency Telecommunications

### Overview

- Telecommunications is restored and online in Labasa;
- Yadua, Galoa in Bua remain offline while Tavea and Yaqaga now have mobile connectivity;
- On 23 Dec, Energy Fiji Limited (EFL) sent a mission of engineers to the North to carry out assessments – which are expected to be completed by 25 Dec;
- Telecom Fiji Limited (TFL) have reported that they have restored 80% of fibre-lines infrastructure across the North but are awaiting ELF to restore power to these sites.

### Needs

- Not yet known.

### Response

- Cluster coordinator is currently based in the Operation Centre located in Labasa;
- ETC provided technical advice to RFMF regarding radio connectivity solution for communication between Labasa – Lekota and Lekota – Bua;
- ETC Coordinator will travel to Yadua and Galoa on 26 and 28 Dec to carry out needs assessments as it has been reported they are without electricity as solar panels have been destroyed.

### Gaps and Constraints

- Access to islands to restore connectivity – RFMF is still working to rectify.



## Shelter

### Overview

- Impact on shelter and settlements continues to be assessed. Aerial assessments indicate that Bua is the most impacted province with housing in villages such as Cogea severely affected by wind and flood waters.

### Needs

- Priority needs identified include emergency shelter (tarpaulins and toolkits) and essential household items assistance (clothing, kitchen sets, solar lamps, blankets), as well as appropriate technical assistance. Mid-to-longer term shelter assistance, potentially including support to relocate a number of houses to safer locations in some cases, will be required by many of those worst affected.

### Response

- Fiji Red Cross Society continues with assessments, distribution of emergency shelter and essential household items, and provision of technical support. Approximately 550 households were reached in the Northern and Western Divisions;
- The Lomaiviti response team departed Suva on the 22 Dec, and the Lau response teams are preparing to depart for Vanuavatu, Nayau, Oneata, and Lakeba on 24 Dec;

- The revised emergency shelter component of the Emergency Plan of Action which has been approved on 24 Dec targets 12,531 people (2,506 households) in the provinces of Bua, Macuata, Cakaudrove and the Districts of Koro in the Lomaiviti Province, Nacula in the Ba Province, and in Lau;
- Partners have been requested to complete 3W reporting for planned and completed actions.
- According to NEOC, all still open Evacuation Centres receive NFIs.

### Gaps and Constraints

- Gaps to be determined once Initial Damage Assessment data are available.



## Health & Nutrition

### Overview

- One nursing station in the Northern Division has been destroyed (Kia Island) and at least 20 other health facilities and adjacent staff accommodation have been damaged (mostly moderate/minor) in the Northern, Eastern and Western Divisions, while several health facilities are yet to be reached/assessed;
- Despite the damage and impact on health workers, communities in the areas most affected by TC Yasa continue to receive essential health services;
- Over 40 clinical, public health and mental health/psychosocial staff from the Fiji Ministry of Health & Medical Services and partners have been deployed to the Northern and Eastern Divisions, and are supporting ongoing assessments, health service delivery/outreach in communities and evacuation centres, outbreak surveillance and other services;
- Critical health supplies, including dignity kits, reproductive health kits and tents have been dispatched to the Northern Division, with more being deployed in the coming days.

### Needs

- WASH in health facilities continues to be a priority, with a number of facilities currently lacking access to safe/adequate water and appropriate sanitation facilities. Salt water has penetrated some groundwater sources;
- At least 21 health facilities in the Northern and Eastern Divisions have suffered infrastructure damage, and repairs are needed;
- Monitoring for situation of acute malnutrition among children and women, and treatment of any cases of severe acute malnutrition is continuing.

### Response

- Over 40 FEMAT (Fiji Emergency Medical Assistance Team), Ministry of Health & Medical Services staff and partner agency staff have deployed to the Northern and Eastern Divisions to support clinical, public health and psychosocial response. Mobile medical teams from the MHMS/FEMAT, Fiji Red Cross Society and Medical Services Pacific are providing clinical services throughout affected areas in the Northern Division;
- WHO will be deploying its Pacific Health Cluster Coordinator to Labasa on 26 Dec to support health and nutrition response coordination in the Northern Division, and will provide vehicles to support MHMS mobile clinical teams;
- *Empower Pacific* and *Medical Services Pacific* (MSP) are also providing psychological support in affected communities in the Northern Division;
- Women's Safe Spaces are being established by the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation with support from the MHMS and UNFPA;
- UNICEF is providing tents to the MHMS to re-establish working space at damaged nursing stations and health centres in the Northern Division. The first batch of 7 tents were handed over on 24 Dec;
- Risk communication messaging and information/education/communication (IEC) materials regarding sexual and reproductive health are being disseminated in affected communities;
- Damage/needs assessments in both the Northern and the Eastern Divisions are ongoing, and detailed findings/needs will be available next week;

### Gaps and Constraints

- A small number of health centres and nursing stations have yet to be reached due to mobile network outages. Assessments are ongoing.



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

### Overview

- Assessments through WASH Cluster partners under the leadership of the MHMS are ongoing and are reported to NDMO.
- The Fiji Red Cross, UNICEF, Rotary Club, MEP, MSP, Oxfam, Field Ready, Sea Mercy and multiple other partners are delivering emergency WASH kits in parallel to the ongoing damage and needs assessments.
- The Water Authority Fiji has rapidly rehabilitated multiple water supply systems. Extensive damage to rural water supply systems in the Northern Division is reported. Water cartage is in operation while networks are being restored in these locations.
- An information management specialist has been onboarded by UNICEF to support the WASH Cluster to consolidate incoming data and strengthen gap analysis for the WASH Cluster including the collection of information from other sectors and Clusters.

### Needs

- MHMS has done detailed WASH assessments in 49 settlements in Northern Division. Data from the Eastern and Western divisions are still being compiled. In the Northern Division, household sanitation has been highlighted as significantly damaged in Bua (232 units), Macuata (256 units) and Cakudrove (03 units). This represents >50% of the population assessed having been affected;
- Health facilities in Wainikoro and Navakasiga Nursing stations remain unreachable at this time;
- Kia Nursing Station (Macatu) has significant damage. Most other HCF have only suffered minor damage.

### Response

- MHMS has distributed 1,000 WASH kits in the Northern Division (200 in Savusavu, 400 in Macuata and 400 in Bua) and 200 in Lomaivit and 250 Lau;
- The Fiji Red Cross Society, UNICEF, Rotary Club, MEP and other partners are delivering emergency WASH kits in parallel to the ongoing damage and needs assessments;
- Sea Mercy Corp has a fleet of seven boats reaching remote communities on the coast of Bua and are undertaking rapid assessments and delivering clean water through desalination units;
- WHO are providing Portable Water Testing Kits to MOH and more supplies are *en route*;
- A total of 1,100 WASH Kits and 400 collapsible water containers have been released by UNICEF to the MoH and transported to most impacted areas of Vanua Levu for distribution. An additional 400 WASH kits and 1,500 water containers are *en route* from Brisbane;
- *Medical Services Pacific* have a 10-person team in the Northern Division supporting evacuation centres and are delivering WASH kits.

### Gaps and Constraints

- Consolidation of different assessment formats across sectors and partners remains a key constraint that is being addressed through the extra IM capacity;
- Warehouses need urgent resupply to meet new needs identified and ensure continued preparedness for future storms;
- Fundraising to cover cost for emergency response and building back better to be maximized;
- IFRC and Govt assessments have both flagged high damage to household sanitation facilities;
- Support required for messaging and awareness raising against disease risks and food safety.



## Education

### Overview

- NTR

## Needs

- NTR

## Response

- NTR

## Gaps and Constraints

- NTR



## Protection

### Overview

- Initial information indicates substantial need of protection services throughout affected areas.

### Needs

- There have been requests for solar lamps for the communities affected in the North;
- Request for support for sexual and reproductive health and rights for the Western division;
- Requests for psychosocial support for children and adults. This is particularly significant for children experiencing trauma due to fear during the cyclone and loss of familiar environments and objects. e.g. school, homes etc.;
- Specific requests for psychosocial support in Bua.

### Response

- *Empower Pacific* supported by MFAT in Nabouwalu is distributing:
  - Women's Dignity Packs
  - Bottled Water
  - Providing counselling services
- *Diva for Equality*
  - Non-Central Division: Providing: basic food items, SRHR commodities, babies, children and elderly commodities, household items, and a 'Christmas Joy pack' to each village. Currently transporting all of these goods through local women's groups including those affiliated with SSV, Women Defend Commons Networks, LBT Hubs and working with government contacts.
- UN Women
  - Support will be provided to MWCPA on the division level protection coordination in the North.
- Fiji Red Cross Society / ICRC
  - As of 24 Dec, the Restoring Family Links (RFL) service received a total of 152 cases, out of which 143 have been sorted. Of these, 104 were received on the hotline, 21 through satellite phone calls and 18 through safe and well messages. This service is being provided with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

### Gaps and Constraints

- Waiting for assessment data to come in.

## Overview

- Ministry of Agriculture: Overall response plan and activities update status is “on track”;
- Ministry of Agriculture: The packing of 50,000 vegetable seed packets for 10,000 Northern Division households has been completed on 23 Dec and will be sent immediately.

Summary of Initial Damage Assessment results (FJD 000s):

Divisions	Crop	Livestock	Infrastructure	Total
Central	977.5	39.2	39	<b>1,055.7</b>
Eastern	4,057.5	10.8	0	<b>4,068.4</b>
Northern	94,870.5	3,000	2,000	<b>99,870.5</b>
Western	9,948.3	41.2	10	<b>3,999.5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>103,853.9</b>	<b>3,091.2</b>	<b>2,049</b>	<b>108,994.1</b>

- 54% of damage results from loss of Vanua Levu Yaqona production;
- 89% of TC Yasa cyclone track zone 1 affected farmers are subsistence farmers; 6% semi-commercial; 5% commercial;
  - For zone 2: 89% subsistence; 5% semi-commercial; 10% commercial
- 63,890 hectares damaged in zone 1, 39,000 ha zone 2 and 91,995 zone 3.

## Needs

- Zone 1 and Zone 2 households require three-months food rations.

## Response

- MoA are receiving live detailed damage assessments, with over 100 entries made so far (22/12/20). Six Northern Division DDA teams have begun assessments, with one team assisting clean-up operations;
- Eastern Division deployment for DDA is now ready;
- Initial and detailed fisheries assessments are being conducted across affected regions.
- According to NEOC, all still open Evacuation Centres receive food rations.

## Gaps and Constraints

- Vodafone network issues remain a concern for the North.

# Donations / Funding

- Australia  
The Australian Government will provide AUD 4.5m (approx. USD 3.4m) in humanitarian relief to support the response to the devastation caused by TC Yasa. This package will include:
  - Humanitarian relief supplies such as building material, tents, medical supplies solar lighting and hygiene kits;
  - Education supplies to enable children to return to school;
  - Support for international and local NGOs and the Fiji Red Cross to aid their work with affected communities.

Additionally, *HMAS Adelaide* will be deployed to provide immediate assistance to thousands of Fijians, including many from remote islands.

(for more details, please see under *Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination*)

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- On 24 Dec, the Fiji NEOC Sitrep No. 24 reports that a total of FJD 2.8m of in-kind donations are now confirmed through official communication. From this, FJD 2.2m is given directly to the Government. The assistance is coming from the following donors:
    - New Zealand;
    - Australia;
    - United Kingdom;
    - Korea.

[The break-down of donations is available through the Aid Registry administered by MOE.]

- The same sitrep also mentions that the total value of local aid stands at FJD 370,00.
- The Fiji Red Cross Society reports on 23 Dec that it received FJD 5,000 from the Finance Companies Association and FJD 5,000 from Kontiki Finance Limited.
- Health & Nutrition Partners responding with support from DFAT, MFAT and the IFRC.