



Photo: Water tanks are a vital source of rural life in Fiji. This is just one of many destroyed by Cyclone Winston. UNICEF prioritises provision of clean safe drinking water and sanitation supplies to prevent the spread of disease.

## Highlights

Category 5 Cyclone Winston, the strongest cyclone to ever hit Fiji and with some of the highest wind speeds at landfall ever recorded globally, severely affected around 40% of the population.

- US\$ 38.6 million Flash Appeal has been launched, including US\$ 7.1 million for UNICEF projects.
- An estimated 29,000+ people are living in 722 evacuation centres, including in 71 schools (Evacuation centres in Central Division closed).
- UNICEF supplies have provided safe drinking water for over 26,000 people and are assisting 6,000 students to return to school.
- A ship with school and WASH supplies from UNICEF Vanuatu has arrived in Suva Harbour; supplies from UNICEF Solomon Islands being packed for shipping to Fiji; Emergency Charter Flight with health and school supplies arriving on 7 March.

## UNICEF's response with partners

**US\$ 369,849** of UNICEF supplies pre-positioned in Fiji have been provided to the Government of Fiji and are being distributed to the most affected people. This includes **US\$ 82,527** of **Australian Government** supplies donated in kind through UNICEF (excluding logistics costs) and **US\$ 56,945** of **New Zealand Government** funded UNICEF supplies (excluding logistics costs). More funds are urgently needed for additional supplies.

**26,125 people** in the most affected areas provided with WASH supplies to ensure safe drinking water and sanitation. Supplies were provided and distributed by UNICEF, Government of Fiji, Australia, France, New Zealand, and the LDS church.

**6,000 students** at 59 schools in Koro, Vanuabalavu, Ovalau, and the Lautoka and Ba areas have been provided with education supplies, including temporary learning spaces and learning materials.

**30,000 doses** of Tetanus Toxoid (TT) vaccine have been provided to prevent the outbreak of disease.

**11 emergency responders** have been mobilised by UNICEF Pacific to support the response, including information management officers working in government ministries to support cluster coordination.

# Cyclone Winston Fiji

## Humanitarian Situation Report #6



### As of 4 March 2016

**120,000**

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

**350,000**

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

Up to **250,000** people in need of WASH assistance due to electricity, water and sewerage service disruptions

**UNICEF Appeal within  
UN Flash Appeal  
US\$ 7.1 million**

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

From 19 to 21 February, Tropical Cyclone Winston went straight through Fiji from 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'. 43 deaths have been confirmed.

The 4 March NEOC count of people in evacuation centres was 29,237 in 722 centres; many other people are staying with relatives or friends. Numbers in evacuation centres continue to fluctuate due to families or individuals shifting from place to place, to find the best temporary shelter solution. Per the NEOC, 42% of evacuees are in Western Division and Central and Northern Divisions have seen the most people able to leave centres and find shelter close to or in the remains of their homes (Central Division reports all evacuation centres are closed.)

In addition to the damage to homes, schools and medical facilities caused by Cyclone Winston, household items, food supplies and livelihoods (including agriculture, fisheries, and small businesses) were badly affected. Debris clearance is proceeding, including in towns and villages, of roads and river crossings, and cropland.

It is estimated that up to 250,000 people are in need of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assistance due to electricity, water and sewerage service disruptions. Destruction of household water sources means that many families are dependent

on unsafe 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. The additional population displaced into schools as evacuation centres are in need of safe WASH services, either in evacuation centres or in their communities, to enable them to return home.

No vector borne disease outbreaks beyond the already endemic levels have been reported, however spraying against mosquitoes is being carried out where possible. Cyclones tend to destroy mosquito breeding sites, but they return within two weeks so preventive measures are important to guard against dengue, chikungunya and zika.

A large scale deployment of Australian, New Zealand and French military assets and military and medical personnel, working closely with Fijian personnel, has been making an enormous contribution to relief and early recovery. In addition to community clean-up and repairs, tonnes of relief supplies have been brought to Fiji and are being shipped inter-island, by these foreign military and shipping assets (including from neighbouring Pacific countries), and distributed. There is a significant contribution being made through outreach and donations by Fijian and international religious groups, as well as by thousands of less-affected Fijian people and businesses. Along with UNICEF, the Fiji Red Cross, with support from its international parent organisation, has been very active from Day One, and continues its assessment, first aid and relief items distributions. With emergency acceleration of visa processing, staff from many international NGOs have arrived and begun disaster relief activities, and Government has made strong reminders on reporting on who is doing what, where and when, through Government coordination mechanisms.

## Humanitarian leadership and coordination

On 4 March 2016, the Fijian Government and the United Nations jointly launched the Fiji Flash Appeal: Tropical Cyclone Winston.<sup>2</sup> US\$ 38.6 million is sought, including US\$ 7.1 million for UNICEF, to meet immediate relief needs of the affected population between February and May 2016. UNICEF's urgent financial needs are presented in the

### Estimated Distribution of Affected Population by UNICEF Target Groups in 2015<sup>1</sup>

(Source: Fiji Flash Appeal: Tropical Cyclone Winston)

	Total	Male	Female
<b>Total Affected Population</b>	350,000	180,000	170,000
<b>Children Affected (Under 18)</b>	120,000	62,000	58,000
<b>Children Under Five</b>	36,000	19,000	17,000
<b>Children Under One</b>	7,300	3,800	3,500
<b>Pregnant and Lactating Women</b>	7,600	-	7,600
<b>People living in evacuation centres</b> (source: NDMO)	Over 50,000	-	-

<sup>1</sup> 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'.

<sup>2</sup> <https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/Fiji%20TC%20Winston%20Flash%20Appeal%20FINAL.pdf>

WASH, Education, Health and Nutrition, and Safety and Protection sectors. Cross-cutting areas of support requested by Government through UNICEF include coordination, information management, monitoring and reporting, and logistics.

The Official 'State of Natural Disaster,' announced on 20 February 2016, is still active. The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) continues to provide operational coordination, particularly with the herculean task of receiving, storing and transporting relief supplies. The Pacific Humanitarian Partnership, a standing group of humanitarian partners coordinated by OCHA, has integrated themselves to support Government Ministries which hold the Humanitarian Cluster Coordination roles. A deployed UNDAC team is supporting overall coordination, including civil-military coordination. The UN Resident Coordinator is serving as Humanitarian Coordinator for the duration of the response.

The Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MoHMS) leads the WASH Cluster, with UNICEF as lead cluster support agency. The Ministry of Education (MoE) leads the Education Cluster, with UNICEF and Save the Children as joint 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 joint lead cluster support agencies. UNICEF also supports the Ministry and the National Coordinating Committee on Children (NCCC) with the Child Protection Sub-cluster. UNICEF is an active member of the Health and Nutrition Cluster led by the MoHMS, with WHO as lead cluster support agency. UNICEF collaborates within other relevant clusters and technical working groups. Other Clusters include Food Security, Shelter, Emergency Telecommunications, and Logistics.

Initial rapid, cross-sector assessments were carried out by National and Sub-national Government, in conjunction with the first response. Subsequently, Ministries have been carrying out more in depth needs assessments. Only the hardest to reach areas are still lacking complete assessment data. Updates on distribution data for food and non-food items, including health, education and WASH, are reported through Government channels; as are updates on repairs to roads, bridges, wharves and jetties. The response from the Fijian police and military has been massive, and there are also French, Australian, and New Zealand (FRANZ) military assets and military and medical personnel in Fiji tasked with a wide range of relief and early recovery work, including transport of food and non-food items as well as repairs.

Humanitarian Action Plans have been prepared by Ministries leading all Clusters/Sectors, simultaneously with continuation of emergency relief actions.

## UNICEF response

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. A charter flight with emergency health and education supplies from UNICEF's global supply centre in Copenhagen will arrive on 7 March in Fiji. A container of WASH and school supplies has arrived in Suva from UNICEF Vanuatu; another container is being packed by UNICEF Solomon Islands. An emergency charter flight originating in UNICEF's Supply Division central office and warehouse in Copenhagen, will arrive on 7 March at Nadi international airport. A remaining list of supplies requested by Ministries, based on assessments, cannot be filled until additional funds are received; however receipt of funds from the Government of Australia will now allow new supply orders to be placed, including for replacement or repairs to damaged vaccine storage equipment.

All supplies are consigned to the NDMO and distributed according to Government plans. UNICEF's response is entirely in Government's Priority Response Geographic Areas, with special attention to children in the hardest to reach areas. Utilising UNICEF's partnerships with ministries in several sectors, schools, rural health clinics and their surrounding communities will be 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 technical assistance to Ministry Cluster Leads for assessment, planning, information management, coordination and knowledge sharing with Cluster members on Fiji Government's standards. UNICEF staff are also assisting with emergency procurement and logistics; and technical and cash assistance, mainly to strengthen Government service delivery, with complementary services by some non-governmental organisations. Monitoring, reporting and other assurance activities are built in to all activities, including monitoring for equity.

## Education



With assessments nearly complete, and analysis and planning ongoing, 214 primary and secondary schools (24%) have been damaged and 64 schools (7%) have been destroyed, disrupting schooling of more than 64,000 students. 131 schools remain completely closed. It is estimated that over 50% of the 481 early childhood care and education (ECCE) centres have been affected and 17% have been destroyed affecting over 4,000 young children (3 to 5 year). The cost of school repairs is currently estimated at FJD\$47 million and is likely to rise after all schools have been assessed. Additionally, 77 schools are functioning as evacuation centres across the country.

2,400 children and their teachers at 27 primary and secondary schools on Koro Island, and Western Division areas are benefitting from temporary learning spaces (TLS), tents and school-in-a-box kits, supplied by UNICEF and funded in part by the Government of New Zealand. Similar support has been sent to 3,593 children in 32 schools on Vanuabalavu and Ovalau, depleting pre-positioned stocks. Additional education in emergencies supplies for more than 25,000 children and their teachers is expected to arrive in the next three days.

UNICEF has guided 25 MoE officers on the distribution of emergency supplies and also provided guidance on the use of emergency supplies for school staff. UNICEF is providing technical assistance with distributions of supplies and UNICEF Education Specialists are working very closely with the MoE on their Humanitarian Action Plan, which includes provision of psycho-social support to students and their teachers, and provision of one meal per day at selected schools, pending funding.

## WASH



26,125 people in the worst affected areas have benefitted from WASH supplies to ensure safe drinking water and sanitation. The MoHMS has delivered this assistance using transport support provided by the Governments of Fiji, Australia, France, India and New Zealand. UNICEF and MoHMS supplies, some funded by the New Zealand Government, were distributed in Koro, Batiki, Gau, Nairai, Vanuabalavu, and Yacata, as well as to Bua in Northern Division. Australian hygiene kits and water purification tablets were distributed to badly affected areas in Central Division (Tailevu and Wainibuka) and Western Division (Ra). Supplies provided by the LDS Charities were distributed in Vanuabalavu. Additional UNICEF supplies for 20,000 people are arriving in three days. A French Red Cross water treatment unit (NOMAD) is up and running in Taveuni. It provides 30,000 litres of drinkable water per day. A French Red Cross technician will arrive in Fiji soon to assess and fix two additional NOMAD units owned by the Fiji Red Cross.

The WASH Cluster has agreed minimum standards for the response, with input from Gender, Protection, and Disability organizations and experts. UNICEF, the MoE and MoHMS have created a technical working group on WASH in Schools to prioritise schools based on assessment data; develop standards; and determine immediate response and transition plans. Needs of girls are being explicitly addressed through the distribution of menstrual hygiene materials and plans for construction of gender segregated toilet facilities. UNICEF is also working with the Ministry on water quality monitoring and water trucking and carting plans for rural areas that are not linked to reticulated/piped water systems.

A UNICEF WASH Specialist and an Information Management Officer working in the MoHMS to support the WASH cluster, and there are additional UNICEF WASH staff working simultaneously on planning and responding. The assessment report, based on data using smartphones, AKVO Flow software and a MoHMS/NDMO assessment form, is almost complete.

## Health and Nutrition



UNICEF is very active in the Health and Nutrition Cluster and takes particular responsibility for community health communication; screening, identification, referral and treatment for severe malnutrition in children under age five; immunisation and vitamin/micronutrient distribution; promotion of breastfeeding and other counselling on appropriate infant and young child feeding, and de-worming and treatment for diarrhoea in children.

The Australian Government contributed AUD 1 million (US\$ 717,000) to UNICEF to strengthen immunization services and restore and improve the vaccine cold chain in the most affected areas. UNICEF Pacific deployed a technical expert in Sustainable and Environment Management to consult with MHMS and conduct an Appropriate Technology Assessment, to “Build Back Better”. The consultation recommended procurement of WHO/PQS

prequalified vaccine refrigeration systems specifically designed to be resilient to natural disasters. These features would include:

- Cooling units and electrical circuitry mounted in the upper compartment of the refrigerators to minimise damage through flooding; a robust and exceptionally heavy product not easily displaced when installed and operational; a design which stores vaccines for up to 7 days (182 hours) if the power supply (solar panels) are disconnected from the refrigerator unit; a feature that fully protects vaccines from any risk of damage through freezing during storage. The models selected are similar to those already in use in Fiji hence indigenous technical knowhow is strong and good maintenance practices assured.

UNICEF has provided 30,000 doses of Tetanus Toxoid (TT) vaccines to the MoHMS for use in the most affected areas through routine immunisation services. Seven UNICEF basic health kits, for a total population of 7,000 people for 3 months, were distributed, (six of the kits were funded by the New Zealand Government.) 130,000 doses of measles and rubella vaccines are pre-positioned by UNICEF in Nadi in case of need. Vitamin A, zinc and folic acid supplies are needed for children and/or pregnant and lactating women, and damaged or lost equipment to weigh and measure children needs to be replaced.

22 new cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) have been reported by the MoHMS since Cyclone Winston, however not all facilities have resumed reporting. The routine sentinel surveillance system has only nine sites reporting, including from non-cyclone affected areas. WHO is assisting MHMS to increase disease surveillance for the emergency period. UNICEF has malnutrition treatment supplies prepositioned in Suva for up to 5,700 children, and the Ministry has identified a need to scale up and strengthen screening, identification and treatment for malnutrition as well as prevention measures. On 29 February, a 'Joint Statement on Appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) for Fiji During Emergencies' was signed by the Minister for Health and Medical Services and the Representatives for WHO and UNICEF to prevent import and distribution of breast milk substitutes and raise awareness. UNICEF has assisted with a revision of an information sheet for families receiving rations; the revision stresses that milk powder should not be substituted for breastmilk, and that for use by people over age two, it should always be prepared with boiled, clean water.

## **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, those 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.

Psychosocial support to help children to return to normalcy is being planned through the extensive country wide network of the Just Play programme, Youth Officers and Administrators and youth networks from the Ministry of Youth and Sports. UNICEF facilitated a workshop for Youth Administrators on identifying symptoms of stress and on psycho-social counselling.

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 the line ministries. UNICEF is supporting widespread dissemination of the Code of Conduct through numerous government channels. 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. The Safety and Protection Cluster members, led by the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, and co-supported by UN Women and UNICEF, all agreed to use a common, joint assessment form. This is now in use by UN, NGO and government staff to obtain information to assist the most vulnerable children and their families. Follow up of cases of women and children who disclose abuse is supported through a referral protocol.

## **Communications for Development (C4D)**

UNICEF continues to support the Ministry of Health for the broadcasting of Public Service Announcements (PSAs) in English, iTaukei and Hindi on 11 radio stations with national reach. PSAs are still being aired 330 times per day

and focus 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 second set of communication activities is being planned under one of the nine objectives in the Health and Nutrition Cluster's Humanitarian Action Plan. 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 aged 6–18 years old; this is planned and coordinated through the Protection Cluster led by the Ministry for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation. The Youth Network of the Ministry of Youth and Sports is also being supported, through the training of Youth Administrators engaged in interpersonal communication for health, recovery and well-being and technical assistance from UNICEF's Sports for Development consultant.

## Supply and Logistics

As of 4 March, US\$ 369,849 of UNICEF supplies (including US\$ 55,747 in logistics costs) have been provided to the Government of Fiji and are being distributed to the most affected areas. This included US\$ 82,527 of Australian Government supplies donated in kind to UNICEF (excluding logistics) and US\$ 56,945 of New Zealand Government funded UNICEF supplies (excluding logistics). UNICEF has now released the bulk of prepositioned supplies for distribution. Additional funding is urgently needed to procure more supplies to meet demand, particularly in education, health, and WASH.

The Governments of Fiji, Australia, France and New Zealand are providing planes, helicopters, boats, supplies and first responders. Rapid progress is reported on roads being cleared and jetties repaired. UNICEF works closely with the Logistics cluster led by WFP to support Government logistics coordination arrangements, including for warehousing and telecommunications.

## Media and External Communication

The Communications team is working closely with the UN Communications Partnership Group and the Ministry of Communication and IT to ensure alignment of messaging and joint advocacy where needed.

Although interest is tapering, UNICEF Pacific continues to engage with global and regional media. New visual documentation is shared twice a week and UNICEF Communications staff and consultants are visiting most-affected areas, conducting interviews to convey the situation, concerns, needs and viewpoints of affected children and their caregivers. Nine communications field missions (supported by experienced disaster and child-sensitive photographers) have been deployed to outer islands (4 missions) and affected areas of Viti Levu (5 missions).

Across all sectors, UNICEF and its partners have provided 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 Fiji Flash Appeal: Tropical Cyclone Winston includes US\$7.1 million for UNICEF.<sup>3</sup> The Government of Australia has contributed AUD 1.5 million (US\$ 1.08 million) to UNICEF, including AUD 1 million for the restoration of the vaccination cold chain, in addition to in-kind donations of supplies and logistics. The UK is contributing support through direct funding of Standby Partners to strengthen UNICEF cluster coordination capacity in the Education, WASH, Safety and Protection clusters, and for technical assistance in maternal and child health and operational areas. The government of New Zealand has confirmed a contribution of NZ\$246,165 through the Disaster Response Partnership for the provision of additional tents for temporary learning spaces, and the government of Sweden has confirmed a contribution of approximately 580,000USD for emergency response. Pre-positioned contingency stock was funded by New Zealand MFAT and a UNICEF global emergency fund. Central Emergency Response Fund proposals have been submitted to UN OCHA.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/Fiji%20TC%20Winston%20Flash%20Appeal%20FINAL.pdf>

Funding Requirements (as defined in the 2016 Cyclone Winston Flash Appeal)				
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds received*	Funding gap	
	US\$	US\$	US\$	%
WASH	2,284,000	111,473	2,172,527	95%
Education	2,714,585	211,964	2,502,621	92%
Health	1,410,689	738,886	671,803	48%
Nutrition	75,600	0	75,600	100%
Child Protection	415,800	0	415,800	100%
Cluster Coordination	200,000	0	200,000	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,100,674</b>	<b>1,062,323</b>	<b>6,038,351</b>	<b>85%</b>

\* 'Funds received' does not include pledges.

Additional information including OCHA Situation Reports can be found here: <http://www.unocha.org/rop>

Next Situation Report: 8 March 2016

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