



Cyclone Winston Fiji

Humanitarian Situation Report #7



Photo: A boy sits in the remains of his school library on Vanuabalavu, a Fijian island hit with the full force of Cyclone Winston.

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.

- Around 19,000 people are living in 557 evacuation centres, including in 23 schools.
- UNICEF supplies have provided safe drinking water for over 26,000 people and assisted over 6,000 students to return to school.
- Recently arrived UNICEF supplies include health supplies to benefit over 45,000 people and teaching and learning supplies for 26,000 students.

UNICEF's response with partners

US\$ 525,422 of UNICEF emergency supplies arrived in Fiji over the last five days for distribution by the Government of Fiji to the most affected areas. On 7 March, US\$ 423,469 of UNICEF health and education supplies arrived by airlift from Copenhagen, Denmark. On 4 March, US\$ 101,953 of pre-positioned UNICEF education and WASH supplies arrived in Fiji by sea from Vanuatu. An additional US\$ 23,129 of supplies is on route from the Solomon Islands. This is in addition to the **US\$ 369,849** of UNICEF supplies pre-positioned in Fiji that have already been provided to the Government of Fiji and distributed to the people in the most affected areas.

30,000 people in the most affected areas have been provided with supplies to ensure safe drinking water and sanitation, which were distributed by UNICEF, the Governments of Fiji, Australia, France and New Zealand, and the Latter-day Saints church. This includes hygiene supplies for **14,800 people** provided by UNICEF.

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.

The Australian Government has contributed **AUD 1.5 million** to UNICEF (US\$ 1.08 million) including: AUD 1 million to support UNICEF to procure, store and distribute enough vaccines to service over **20,000 women and children**, and provide repairs and replacements for essential cold-chain storage facilities; and AUD .5 million for WASH and education supplies.

12 emergency surge responders have been mobilised by UNICEF Pacific, including information management specialists working in government ministries to support cluster coordination.

As of 9 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 the UN Flash Appeal)

US\$ 7.1 million

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

From 19 to 21 February, Tropical Cyclone Winston went straight through Fiji as a Category 5 system with sustained winds of 230 kmph, gusting up to 325 kmph. 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'.

Around 19,000 people are living in over 557 registered evacuation centres; the numbers are declining rapidly. The Eastern and Western Divisions have the highest numbers of evacuees while all evacuation centres in Central Division were closed in the first week of March.

Deployment of military assets and personnel from Australia, New Zealand and France is making a significant contribution, working together with the Government of Fiji. The Government of Fiji is coordinating support from other nations, the UN, NGOs and the private sector through their established coordination mechanisms.

243 primary and secondary schools (27%) have been damaged and 63 schools (7%) have been destroyed, disrupting schooling of more than 72,137 students (47% girls, 53% boys). Additionally, it is estimated that over half of the 481 early childhood care and education (ECCE) centres have been damaged or destroyed, affecting over 4,000 young children (aged 4 to 5 years).

Cold chain facilities have been damaged or destroyed in 91 health facilities, with more than 60 facilities badly affected.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

On 4 March 2016, the Fijian Government and the United Nations jointly launched the Fiji Flash Appeal: Tropical Cyclone Winston.² 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 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, while the Pacific Humanitarian Partnership, a group coordinated by OCHA, has integrated themselves to support Government Ministries with Humanitarian Cluster Coordination roles. A United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination team is supporting overall 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 the World Health Organisation (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.

Estimated Distribution of Affected Population by UNICEF Target Groups in 2015 ¹ (Source: Fiji Flash Appeal: Tropical Cyclone Winston)			
	Total	Male	Female
Total Affected Population	350,000	180,000	170,000
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: Government of Fiji)	19,328	-	-

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'.

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

Updates on distribution data and infrastructure repairs are reported through Government mechanisms.

UNICEF response

On 7 March, US\$ 423,469 of UNICEF emergency supplies arrived from Copenhagen. The delivery included: teaching and learning materials for 20,000 students; medical supplies including antibiotics for 45,000 people; and recreation kits with toys and sports equipment for over 7,000 children. On 4 March, a ship with US\$ 101,953 worth of pre-positioned education and WASH supplies arrived from Vanuatu including teaching and learning materials for around 6,400 students and four 1,500 litre water tanks. In addition, a shipment of US\$ 23,129 of pre-positioned UNICEF supplies is on route from the Solomon Islands.

UNICEF has depleted all locally pre-positioned stocks to ensure that life-saving supplies reach affected communities as quickly as possible. All supplies are distributed by the Government in the Government's Priority Response Geographic Areas, with special attention to children in the hardest to reach areas. UNICEF is also supporting government partners to strengthen supply tracking and monitoring systems.

UNICEF will continue to use its partnerships with various agencies to implement a multi-sector 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, logistics, technical and cash assistance to strengthen service delivery. Monitoring, reporting and other assurance activities are built into all activities, including monitoring for equity.

Education



More than 26,000 children and their teachers will benefit from emergency education supplies that have arrived in the last few days. Over 2,418 children and their teachers at 27 primary and secondary schools on Koro Island, and Western Division areas are already 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.

UNICEF is working with MoE officers on the distribution and use of emergency supplies for school staff. UNICEF Education Specialists are working 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



With support from UNICEF, MoHMS has reached 30,345 most affected children and their families in Eastern, Central, Northern, and Western Divisions. UNICEF has provided supplies for 14,800 people to collect, disinfect, and store water, and for hygiene and sanitation of all family members, including children and women. The MoHMS has delivered this assistance using transport provided by the Governments of Fiji, Australia, France, India and New Zealand including:

- UNICEF and MoHMS supplies, some funded by the New Zealand Government, to the islands of Koro, Batiki, Gau, Nairai, Vanuabalavu, and Yacata, as well as to Bua in Northern Division.
- Australian funded hygiene kits to badly affected areas in Central Division (Tailevu, Wainibuka), Western Division (Ra), Northern Division (Cakaudrove), and Eastern Division (Lau).
- Supplies provided by the LDS Charities to Vanuabalavu
- Additional UNICEF supplies for 20,000 people have arrived and are being cleared by NDMO.

UNICEF is supporting the MoHMS in WASH cluster coordination. A UNICEF Information Management Officer (IMO) has been deployed to the MoHMS since 27 February and additional support on cluster coordination and supply monitoring is being mobilized.

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.

Health and Nutrition



UNICEF takes particular responsibility for maternal and child health, immunization and nutrition within the Health Cluster. In close collaboration with the MoHMS, planning is underway for integrated health and immunization outreach services to high risk and affected communities. UNICEF is providing technical and operational support to the MoHMS in supply management, forecasting, distribution and tracking and has deployed an IMO into the MoHMS to support cluster coordination.

Vitamin A for 40,000 children, micronutrient powder to prevent and treat anaemia for 8,000 children and iron and folic acid tablets for 5,000 pregnant and lactating women arrived on 7 March for distribution in the most affected areas by the MoHMS. The Australian Government has 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. This funding will be used to purchase and install robust cooling units and refrigerators to store vaccines. UNICEF has provided seven basic health kits for a total population of 7,000 people for 3 months (six were funded by the New Zealand Government) to Gau, Koro, Rakiraki and Vanua Balavu.

15 cases of Global Acute Malnutrition have been reported, including 3 cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition (two in Tavua and one in Korovou) and 12 cases of Moderate Acute Malnutrition since Cyclone Winston, however not all facilities have resumed reporting. UNICEF is providing supplies to treat 220 malnourished children to the MoHMS for immediate distribution to the worst affected areas.

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



UNICEF will work with the government welfare officers to monitor vulnerable children, provide psycho-social support and strengthen 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), recreation kits and support for replacing damaged and destroyed birth registration documents will also be provided. On 4 March, 14 Youth Administrators (7 female and 7 male) from each of the 14 provinces, were trained in psycho-social first aid.

Psycho-social 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 and disseminated widely. Safety and Protection Cluster members are conducting assessments 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) on 11 radio stations with national reach and in English, Fijian and Hindi 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 psycho-social support. UNICEF has also provided emergency pocket guide brochures and emergency handbooks, packed together with emergency relief supplies, in English and Fijian for dissemination to affected areas through the WASH and Education Clusters. 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 to 18 years in affected areas.

Supply and Logistics

On 7 March, US\$ 423,468 of supplies (excluding logistics costs) arrived by airfreight from UNICEF's global supply hub in Copenhagen, Denmark. On 4 March, US\$ 101,953 of pre-positioned UNICEF education and WASH supplies arrived in Fiji by sea from Vanuatu. An additional US\$ 23,129 of supplies is on route from the Solomon Islands.

These supplies, consisting mostly of education and health items were delivered to Government warehouses for rapid distribution to the affected areas. Additional funding is urgently needed to procure more supplies to meet demand and to replenish pre-positioned stocks in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

As of 4 March, US\$ 369,849 of UNICEF supplies (including US\$ 55,747 in logistics costs) had 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 through UNICEF (excluding logistics) and US\$ 56,945 of New Zealand Government funded UNICEF supplies (excluding logistics). The Governments of Fiji, Australia, France and New Zealand are providing planes, helicopters, boats, supplies and first responders to ensure supplies and assistance reach the affected communities.

Media and External Communication

UNICEF is working closely with the UN Communications Partnership Group and the Ministry of Communication to ensure alignment of messaging and joint advocacy where needed. UNICEF continues to engage with regional and local media. New visual documentation is shared twice a week and communications staff and consultants are visiting the most-affected areas, conducting interviews to convey the situation, concerns, needs and viewpoints of affected children and their caregivers. Ten communications field missions (supported by experienced disaster and child-sensitive photographers) have been deployed to outer islands and affected areas of Viti Levu. 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.³ The Government of Australia has contributed AUD 1.5 million (US\$ 1.08 million) to UNICEF. The Government of Sweden has contributed SEK 5 million (US\$ 586,304). The UK has contributed 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 confirmed a contribution of NZ\$246,165 through the Disaster Response Partnership for the provision of additional tents. Pre-positioned contingency stock was funded by the Government of New Zealand and a UNICEF global emergency fund. Central Emergency Response Fund proposals have been submitted to UN OCHA.

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	1,366,899	1,325,190	41,709	3%
Nutrition	90,000	0	90,000	100%
Child Protection	415,800	0	415,800	100%
Cluster Coordination	200,000	0	200,000	100%
Total	7,071,284	1,648,627	5,422,657	77%

* 'Funds received' does not include pledges.

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

Next Situation Report: 16 March 2016

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