



Ariel survey photo courtesy of the Government of Fiji

Cyclone Winston in Fiji UNICEF Pacific Humanitarian Situation Report

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Highlights

- Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Winston was the strongest cyclone to ever hit Fiji and, judging by maximum wind speed, one of the strongest to ever hit land in the world. It struck the two largest islands and numerous smaller islands, to some extent affecting up to 90% of the population of roughly 900,000 people.
- 21 deaths have been confirmed, 7 people are reported missing, but not all areas of Fiji have communicated.
- Working with Government, UNICEF has provided WASH supplies for 3,000 people and education supplies for 995 children for distribution through the assessment and relief mission to the Lomaviti group of islands starting on 22 February.
- Flood warnings are in place across the country, as river levels are still mounting. The Ba and Lautoka hospitals as well as many houses have been severely damaged. School has been cancelled for the week and some schools are in use as evacuation centres.
- Over 8,000 people are in evacuation centres, with many more with friends, relatives or in other non-official displacement sites.
- UNICEF Pacific is initially appealing for the full amount of USD 5 million in its Humanitarian Action for Children 2016 humanitarian appeal. This will be used for water, sanitation, hygiene, education, child protection, maternal and child health and nutrition, all according to Government's priorities and requests.

**UNICEF Pacific
Initial Appeal
US\$ 5 million**

**Preliminary range of
estimated affected
population (not
Government of Fiji official
figures)**

**Likely to be in range of
somewhat to seriously
affected, within 100kms
either side of main
Cyclone track:
845,000 (290,000 children)**

**Likely to be in range of
somewhat to moderately
affected, within 50kms
either side of main
Cyclone track:
350,000 (115,000 children)**

**Likely to be seriously
affected:
Not yet known**

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 days¹ and is 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 Authority (NDMO) is coordinating the response and has activated the National Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). Provincial and District EOCs are mobilized and deploying teams to undertake Initial Damage Assessments. All Fijian Ministries, the NDMO and the Fijian military and police have staff who are trained and experienced in emergency response.

Together with the Government, UNICEF is co-leading the WASH, Education (jointly with Save the Children) and Protection (jointly with UN Women) clusters. UNICEF is actively supporting the Health cluster (including Nutrition) led by WHO and the Ministry of Health and providing support to OCHA for the UN emergency communications group. UNICEF cluster leads are participating in NDMO coordination meetings and are a member of the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT).

Disaster assessment and initial response

Given the very strong Government leadership and coordination (NDMO), UNICEF is working in support of the Government on their priorities. Initial cross-sectoral assessments by Government have commenced, in conjunction with first response, but teams are not expected to report back from all outer islands and remote communities for about a week, due to the distance over the ocean and weak or non-functioning communications. The assessment teams travelling by truck and boat are taking emergency relief supplies with them. UNICEF staff are assisting with assessment planning and, in some cases, are on the teams.

UNICEF's approach in the initial days of the response is to build upon the preparedness training provided to the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MoHMS) and Ministries of Education (MOE) for emergency assessments and to provide pre-positioned supplies from the Suva warehouse to those teams for distribution. At the same time, funds are being raised and new supply orders raised as per Government requests.

Education



Ministry of Education leads the Education Cluster, supported by UNICEF and Save the Children. In February 2016, UNICEF sponsored a five-day training in Suva, Fiji for 25 participants from the Eastern Division, including senior officers from the Ministry of Education. These participants are now functioning as first assessors and responders, and it is anticipated that they will be able to assess impact of the cyclone and the provision of assistance using the AKVO Flow software on smartphones for monitoring and mapping. This builds on a best practice identified for replication after Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu in 2015.

Prepositioned education supplies include tents, school-in-a-box, back pack kits for students and recreation kits. Three tents to provide temporary learning spaces for up to 18,900 children in Fiji and an additional 7,200 could be shipped to Fiji from Solomon Islands and 5,400 from Vanuatu.

UNICEF has responded to an initial request from the MoE for eight schools with 995 students in the Lau and Lomaiviti groups being scheduled for distribution via boat through the government assessment teams providing:

- 10x 72 m2 tents
- 20x 42 m2 tents
- 30x School in a Box

UNICEF expects a large order from the Ministry of Education for temporary learning spaces, school-in-a-box and other supplies.

¹ Pursuant to Section 17(1) of the Natural Disaster Management Act.

WASH



Ministry of Health and Medical Services leads the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Cluster, supported by UNICEF. As part of UNICEF's commitments to strengthen the emergency preparedness and response capacity of the Government of Fiji, District Environmental Health Officers from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MoHMS) in Western and Northern Divisions were trained by UNICEF in November 2015 on emergency assessments, including the use of smartphones for data collection using MoHMS/NDMO assessment forms.

UNICEF currently has prepositioned in the Suva warehouse:

- WASH kits for 8,680 people (1,736 households) that contain materials to collect, store, and disinfect water, along with sanitation and hygiene supplies
- Water containers and purification tablets, suitable for households, to serve 5,000 people (1,000 households) for 30 days
- Supplies to provide temporary latrines for 2,000 people at evacuation centres, schools, or other gathering places
- Water tanks that could serve up to 3,600 people at evacuation centres, schools, or other gathering places
- Supplies for testing water quality

UNICEF has responded today to a request from the MoHMS to provide the following:

- 2x 6,000 litre water tanks that can service up to 2,400 people in evacuation centres
- 300 WASH kits for 1,500 people (including collapsible jerry cans, soap, water purification tables and information and communications materials)
- 28 water filters with buckets to provide clean water for 700 people
- 2,000 water purification tab packets to provide 1,667 people with 10 litres of clean water for 30 days
- 200 tarpaulins (4 by 5 meters) for 1,000 people

Providing WASH in schools and health care facilities will be prioritized in the response.

A donation of WASH supplies from the Australian Government DFAT is expected to be received in the coming days through an ADF flight, and UNICEF will facilitate transport to our Suva warehouse, for targeted distribution by the Ministry of Health.

Communications for Development (C4D)

All Clusters in which UNICEF is active, and all UNICEF Programme areas, have UNICEF support for information on the cyclone and reminders on preparedness and post-impact response for families, with special regard to children and other vulnerable people, is being disseminated on UNICEF social media. UNICEF is working closely with the Health Cluster, led by the Ministry of Health (MoH) to develop and broadcast public service announcements nationwide, to prevent possible outbreaks of water- and vector-borne diseases. These will include key message identified through cluster priorities to promote key health seeking behaviours for disaster affected communities. This will include messaging on safe drinking water waste disposal, hygiene and psychosocial support. Our partnership with Oceania Football Federation's Just Play programme can be used for psycho-social support to children if required.

Health and Nutrition



The Ministry of Health and Medical Services leads the Health and Nutrition Cluster, supported by the World Health Organisation. UNICEF is a member of this Cluster, and takes particular responsibility for community health communication; assistance for pregnant women, mothers and children; immunisation and

vitamin distribution; maternity and neonatal assistance, infant and young child feeding, and the prevention, identification, referral and treatment of malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. UNICEF emergency health kits (each serves 1,000 patients) are available to supplement the Ministry's and WHO's prepositioned supplies. Vaccines are pre-positioned by Ministry of Health in Suva, and by UNICEF in Nadi. UNICEF also has malnutrition treatment supplies prepositioned in Suva for up to 5,700 children. UNICEF is standing by for supply orders from the MoHMS, as coordinated by WHO.

Protection, including child protection and gender based violence



The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation leads the Protection Cluster, with UNICEF and UN Women Co-Supporting their Lead Role. Other members include UNFPA, Long-standing partnerships with the Ministry of Justice, the Fiji Police, the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS) and several other Non-Governmental Organisations will be leveraged for the disaster response. UN Women and UNFPA will work with recent trainees on gender-based violence in emergencies and UNICEF will work with the government welfare officers who participated in Child Protection in Emergencies Training in 2014 to provide psychosocial support and to establish child-friendly spaces for children affected by Cyclone Winston. Support will target children in evacuation centres, from informal settlements and staying with extended families. Tents for Child-Friendly Spaces and recreations kits will also be provided as needed. UNICEF's ongoing support to a Child Help Line in Fiji and community protection programming will continue.

Supply and Logistics

The Pacific Logistics Cluster, headed by World Food Programme, is assisting NDMO and other Government branches with coordination of logistics, while the Government's standby arrangements with the Governments of New Zealand and Australia have been activated for provision of planes, boats, supplies and first responders; all have begun to arrive or are planned to do so, soon. Initial needs assessment missions by boat are being organised by NDMO and the Lead Cluster Ministries, and UNICEF staff will participate. Coastal roads are being cleared, as well as roads in main towns. However, rivers continue to rise and flood, and many smaller roads, causeways and interior roads remain flooded and/or damaged. Wharfs and jetties are damaged at Savusavu, Nabouwalu, Blackpoint, Waiyavu and Koro, which will slow relief delivery by boat. The international airports in Nadi and Nausori are open and fully operational.

The majority of UNICEF's prepositioned supplies for the Pacific are in the Suva area and were not damaged by the Cyclone. Vaccines are pre-positioned by Ministry of Health in Suva, and by UNICEF in Nadi. Additional supplies are prepositioned in Manila (Philippines), Dubai and Copenhagen (Denmark), while numerous long-term agreements with suppliers are ready for activation in many countries, including Peoples Republic of China, and supply orders are ready, pending Official Government requests and order placement. Since late last week, staff and volunteers have been preparing school backpack kits and WASH kits in the UNICEF warehouse in Suva. UNICEF works closely with the Logistics cluster led by WFP to support Government arrangements, including for warehousing and telecommunications.

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. An experienced disaster and child-sensitive photographer is standing by in Solomon Islands for the first available flight to Fiji. The UNICEF staff photographer in Suva is currently collecting materials and is scheduled to accompany the first distribution team to Koro Island.

Safety and Security

The national wide curfew has been lifted as of Monday 22 February 5:30 am. Fijian military and police forces are providing well organized security, which is controlling access to areas that are not safe due to fallen power lines, flooding, as well as preventing looting. No increase in crime has been reported yet. UNICEF staff travelling by boat are issued with life vests, and UNICEF travelling on any field mission outside of cell phone range are issued with emergency communication devices that use satellites for connection. UN DSS is active and based in Suva.

Funding

The 2016 UNICEF Pacific Humanitarian Appeal for Children (HAC), which had already 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 USD 500,000 for WASH and Education. UNICEF Pacific has re-programmed USD 200,000 for quick response and will borrow USD 500,000 from a UNICEF revolving fund.

Funding Requirements (as defined in the Humanitarian Appeal 2016 UNICEF Pacific Humanitarian Appeal for Children)				
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds received*	Funding gap	
	USD	USD	USD	%
WASH	2,000,000	0	2,000,000	100%
Education	550,000	0	550,000	100%
Health	650,000	0	650,000	100%
Nutrition	1,000,000	0	1,000,000	100%
Child Protection	400,000	0	400,000	100%
Cluster Coordination	400,000	0	400,000	100%
Total	5,000,000	0	5,000,000	100%

* 'Funds received' does not include pledges.

Next SitRep: 23 February 2016

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