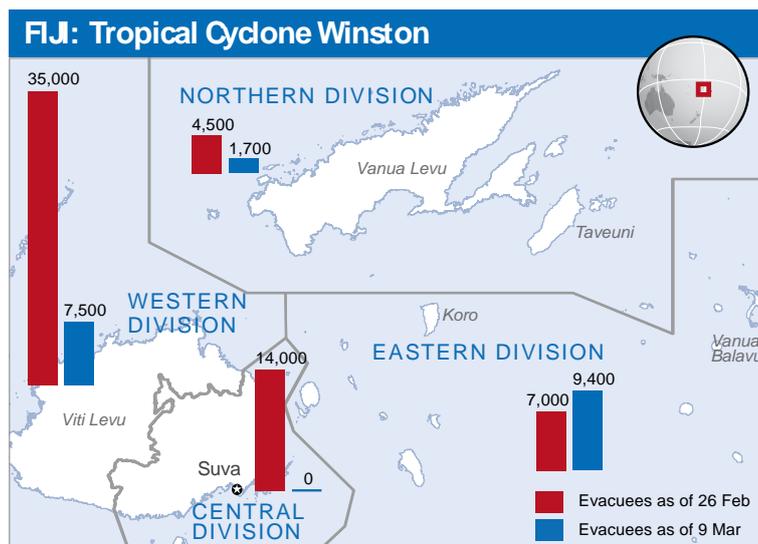




This report is produced by the OCHA Regional Office for the Pacific (ROP) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 7 to 9 March 2016. The next report will be issued on or around 11 March.

Highlights

- The Government and humanitarian partners have provided more than 30,000 people with WASH supplies.
- Some 18,600 people remain in 555 evacuation centres, of which 23 are schools.
- According to the Government, all major roads are now passable, although some only by four-wheel drive vehicles.
- The cost of repairs to schools is estimated at US \$23.8 million.



Sit Rep Sources: Fiji Government, Fiji NEOC/NDMO, PHT Partners, NGO Community, NZ Government.

Datasets available in HDX at <http://data.hdx.rwllabs.org>.

350,000

people affected by the cyclone

38.6mn

US\$ requested in the Flash Appeal

18,600

people in evacuation centres

164,000

need food security assistance

290,000

water purification tablets distributed

30

specialists trained in psychological aid

Situation Overview

Government Ministries continue carrying out in-depth assessments, with only the most inaccessible areas still lacking complete assessment data. However, a comprehensive overview of damage, needs and response is not yet available. The number of people in evacuation centres continues to decrease: as of 9 March, 18,600 people remain in 555 centres. Many have returned to their communities as schools re-opened across the country. Twenty-three education facilities are still functioning as evacuation centres. In the Eastern Division, the number of evacuees has remained relatively constant at nearly 10,000. IOM, in partnership with the Fiji Bureau of Statistics, has rolled out the Evacuee Tracking Matrix (ETM) and is expecting to receive preliminary data this week.

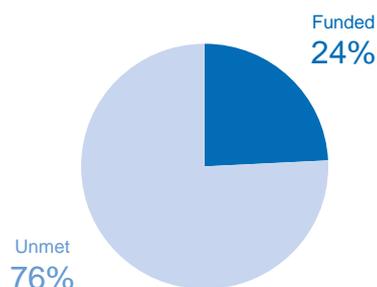
While there has not been a market assessment done in the food security sector, markets are largely functioning, as most supermarkets have reopened, and remittances are being accessed. Even on the outer islands, there are reports of deliveries of goods. At the same time, the likely gap between the initial food distributions and the harvest from newly-planted seeds and seedlings is a growing concern. Even with cash-for-work programmes designed to clear debris from agricultural land to allow rapid re-planting, supplementary food assistance is likely to be required over the next several months.

Funding

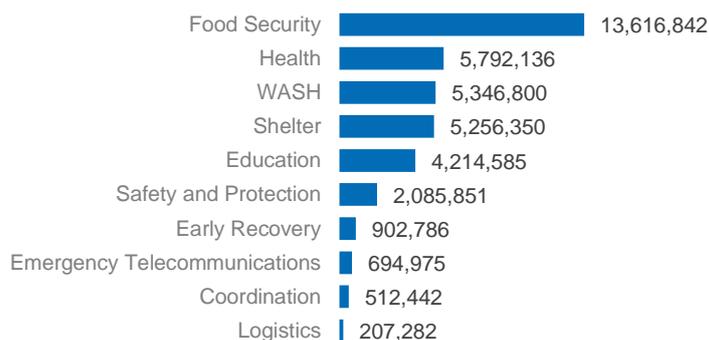
As of 9 March, the Australian Government has contributed close to US \$1.35 million to the Flash Appeal as per data received on OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>). The UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator has confirmed the release of some \$8 million from the UN's [Central Emergency Response Fund \(CERF\)](#) to support immediate response projects in the appeal. All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to notify FTS of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org.

Fiji TC Winston Flash Appeal 2016

US\$38.6 million requested



Funding required by sector (in US\$)



Humanitarian Response



Shelter

Needs:

- Up to 24,000 households—a third of the affected population—are estimated to need urgent humanitarian shelter assistance.
- Initial reports show varying levels of destruction, with up to 100 per cent on some islands.

24,000
households need
shelter assistance

Response:

- Nothing to report.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Relatively few agencies are responding in the shelter sector and relief items are only now beginning to arrive for distribution.
- A detailed damage assessment is not yet available, so needs, targets and priorities are difficult to ascertain.
- The Government has repeatedly requested tents as a temporary shelter option for people whose houses have been completely destroyed.



Health & Nutrition

Needs:

- Of the 214 health-care facilities in the affected areas, 88 have sustained damages (46 in the Western Division, and 29 in the Eastern Division).
- A total of 87,500 women of reproductive age have been affected by the cyclone. This includes an estimated 5,600 pregnant women, of which 1,600 are expected to

290,000
water purification
tablets distributed

deliver in the next three months. More than 200 of these deliveries are at risk of obstetric complications requiring emergency care.

- Since the onset of the emergency, 15 cases of malnutrition have been reported, including 3 cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition. This number does not include all potential cases, since not all health facilities have resumed reporting.

Response:

- On 7 March, supplies including Vitamin A supplements 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 in the country. They will be distributed in the affected areas by the MoHMS. The Australian Government has contributed AU\$ 1 million (US\$ 717,000) to support UNICEF in procuring, storing and distributing vaccines to service over 20,000 women and children, including through providing essential cold-chain storage facilities.
- UNICEF has provided seven basic health kits serving 7,000 people over a period of three months to Gau, Koro, Rakiraki and Vanua Balavu. Six of the kits were funded by the New Zealand Government.
- UNFPA provided clean delivery kits and commodities to support the reproductive health medical mission conducted by the Reproductive Health and Family Association of Fiji in Natalera Village in Tailevu Province. The mission assisted 41 women of reproductive age.
- UNFPA is supporting the MoHMS public health outreach to ensure reproductive health needs of women and girls are addressed. UNFPA is also providing dignity kits to pregnant and lactating women to ensure that their special hygiene needs are met.
- UNFPA is deploying midwives to affected health facilities, and is procuring additional Reproductive Health Kits and life-saving medical equipment.
- The MoHMS, WHO and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) are developing early warning alert and response, as well as incidence-based surveillance systems at evacuation centres and communities.
- WHO has distributed 290,000 water purification tablets to communities and health facilities.
- UNICEF has handed over supplies to treat up to 220 malnourished children to the MoHMS for immediate distribution.
- New Zealand and Australian Medical Assistance Teams are working with MoHMS to assess health needs.
- St. John Fiji has assisted at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital and reached out to six villages in Coastal Ra, Delaiyadua, Matainananu, Dogoloa, Nayavutoka, Nabukadra and Verevere with the support of Greenpeace.
- SPC has seconded an epidemiologist and a laboratory specialist to the MoHMS to support in enhanced surveillance and provide technical support.
- ADRA has distributed food storage containers and WASH kits.
- International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) has provided four dignity kits, Ammoxycilin, fungal creams and Panadol. The team also visited Nataleira and attended to 36 clients.
- AmeriCares has consigned more than US \$1.5 million worth of medicine and health supplies to the MoHMS. The organization is working with the Fiji Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Services (FPBS) to support Emergency Inventory and Supply Chain Management activities.
- Direct Relief, working alongside the FPBS, has distributed ten tons of medical aid to the following hospitals: Rakiraki Hospital, Colonial War Memorial Hospital, Savusavu Hospital, Korovou Hospital, and Lautoka Hospital. The organization has also provided material and financial aid to a medical team running outreach clinics in the Ra, Ba, and Tailevu provinces.
- Medical Services Pacific has provided awareness, clinical and psychosocial support to affected people in Tailevu, Rakiraki and Naitasiri.
- The Fiji Health Sector Support Program (FHSSP) has provided tents for temporary clinics and staff accommodation, as well as logistical support to environmental health officers. FHSSP also provided IEC materials on hand-washing and vector-borne disease prevention, and supported psychosocial first aid training.
- The MoHMS and WHO are facilitating the Psychological First Aid Training of Trainers for 30 participants, who include mental health specialists from local authorities, the Fiji Red Cross Society and Empower Pacific.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Transport and communications equipment is needed for medical and public health teams to provide services in hard-to-reach areas.
- Following the initial rapid assessment of damage and loss of health facilities, a more comprehensive assessment of structural, non-structural and functional safety is needed to identify the next steps of restoration and rehabilitation.
- There is a public health concern regarding the impacts of destroyed water supplies and sanitary facilities on increasing waterborne and foodborne fecal-oral infections.
- Health and safety of first responders and humanitarian workers is a concern. Staff fatigue needs to be assessed and teams in severely affected sub-Divisions need to be relieved.
- Psychosocial support to the affected people needs to be strengthened.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Needs:

- Up to 250,000 people, including those remaining in evacuation centres, do not have access to safe water, sanitation and/or hygiene services and are in need of WASH assistance.
- WASH interventions in 306 education facilities are required for children to safely return to school.
- The MoHMS continues receiving reports of open defecation following the destruction of toilet facilities, including the flooding of pit latrines. Open defecation, together with poor hygiene behavior, has the potential to cause outbreaks of water-borne diseases, including typhoid.
- Many families are reportedly dependent on unsafe and unprotected water sources and have reported diarrhoea cases.

30,000
people received
WASH assistance

Response:

- The Water Authority of Fiji has restored piped water access in most urban areas affected by the cyclone.
- The MoHMS, with support from UNICEF, has reached over 30,000 people with WASH supplies. Items provided include:
 - WASH kits, water purification tablets, water containers, tarpaulins for latrine reconstruction and water filters for 14,800 people. (This includes supplies funded by the New Zealand Government on the islands of Koro, Batiki, Gau, Nairai, Vanua Balavu, Yacata and Bua).
 - Australian-funded hygiene kits, water purification tablets, buckets and tanks for 23,095 people in affected areas in Central Division (Tailevu, Wainibuka), Western Division (Ra), Northern Division (Cakaudrove) and Eastern Division (Lau)
 - Hygiene kits for 450 people provided by the Latter Day Saints Charities to Vanua Balavu.
- Additional UNICEF supplies for 20,000 people have arrived and are being cleared by the NDMO.
- The Department of Water and Sewerage under the Ministry of Infrastructure is preparing a plan for water quality monitoring and risk management.
- WASH, Shelter, and Education Clusters are working together on an action plan and approved designs for emergency sanitation.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The disruption of power supply in Ba Province, where most water in rural areas is drawn from bores using electricity-reliant pumps, may continue for as long as four to six months. This raises significant concerns about medium-term access to water by affected communities. Local authorities have requested generators to address this issue.
- More attention is needed regarding the provision of safe sanitation facilities and bathing areas. There is an urgent need to agree on shared standards between the WASH, Education and Shelter Clusters.
- Health and Nutrition and WASH Clusters are working to coordinate hygiene promotion activities.



Food Security and Livelihoods

Needs:

- An estimated 164,000 people need food security assistance.
- Although assessments in the Fisheries Sector are ongoing, it is evident that fishing gear and boats are needed for fishermen to recover their livelihoods.

164,000
people need food
security assistance

Response:

- Almost all affected areas have been covered with the initial Government food distributions.
- The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) continues undertaking field assessments on the damage sustained by the agriculture and livelihoods sector.
- World Food Programme (WFP) is planning to support the Government in topping up food vouchers within existing social safety net systems.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Debris-clearing for agricultural lands remains a priority to allow for a timely planting of currently distributed seeds. Delays in clearance represent a risk of pest infestation on affected lands and reduced recovery options.
- Seedling stocks available in-country are now almost completely depleted. The MoA continues to seek and procure fresh planting materials from non-affected areas in the country, as well as overseas.
- The Divisional Commissioners have requested better coordination with NGOs around food and seedling distributions to avoid duplication and gaps.
- Partners distributing seeds and seedlings are encouraged to include drought-resistant crops in their packages, as the El Niño weather phenomenon is expected to affect their harvest.


Education
Needs:

- Schooling for more than 73,000 primary and secondary children, including over 35,200 girls, continues to be disrupted. Just over 240 primary and secondary schools (27 per cent) have been damaged and 64 schools (7 per cent) were destroyed. The cost of repairs to these schools is estimated at FJ \$50.2 million (US \$23.8 million) and the cost of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) repairs is estimated at FJ \$7.6 million (US \$3.6 million).
- It is estimated that over half of the 481 ECCE centres are affected.
- Psychosocial assistance to affected children and their teachers is urgently needed.

73,000
children's education
disrupted

Response:

- The Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts (MoEHA) is distributing UNICEF-supplied education relief on Koro, Vanua Balavu and Ovalau Islands, as well as to Lautoka and Ba areas in Western Division. These supplies include temporary learning spaces and learning materials and will benefit approximately 20,000 students.
- UNICEF, funded by DFID, has released over FJ \$85,000 (US \$40,500) to the MoEHA to support assessments and coordination.
- In partnership with the MoEHA, Save the Children has delivered 500 School Bag Kits in the Ra area.
- Psychosocial support materials for teachers and children have been shared with the Psychosocial Support Sub-Cluster under the Health and Nutrition Cluster. UNICEF will print these materials for wider distribution once they are endorsed by the MoEHA.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Twenty-three schools are still functioning as evacuation centres.
- A large gap in Education in Emergencies supplies remains. These supplies are urgently needed to ensure all affected children have access to quality education materials.


Safety and Protection
Response:

- Mapping and assessment of existing referral services is ongoing. The Safety and Protection Cluster is preparing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for GBV referral and reporting pathways. The Cluster has shared the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines for Integrating GBV Interventions in Humanitarian Programming and other guidance with the GBV Sub-Cluster members. These materials will also be disseminated to other Clusters.
- The Cluster is exploring the possibility of setting up eight Women-Friendly Spaces in Cakaudrove, Lomivite, Tailevu, Ra and Ba provinces in coordination with the establishment of Child-Friendly Spaces.
- The Cluster is preparing key messages on psychosocial first aid, as well as information, education and communication (IEC) materials. UNICEF is planning to provide psychosocial support to affected children through the Just Play programme, Youth Officers and Administrators, as well as networks from the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Support will target children in evacuation centres, those from informal settlements and staying with extended families.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is a need for an improved tracking of the number of people staying at evacuation centres, as well as of those who have left them. Police and security forces at remaining evacuation centres need to be sensitized about gender-based violence (GBV) and other protection issues. Information from the field suggests that women at evacuation centres feel unsafe.
- A mapping of female police officers working in the affected areas is needed.
- Responders need to ensure that assistance is delivered in a way that prevents violence against, and exploitation of, vulnerable community members. Reports from the field indicate that women and vulnerable groups, including people living with disabilities, sometimes face barriers in accessing relief distributions. It is important to mainstream gender in cash-for-work interventions and protection in all food security and livelihoods interventions. Better communication with affected communities, especially women and girls, about available relief and services is required.
- There are concerns about an increase in gender-related post-traumatic stress due to the increased burden of domestic work for women and the inability of men to provide for their families. This may lead to negative coping mechanisms, such as increased alcohol consumption.
- Distribution of dignity kits with sanitary materials for women remains a gap.
- One case of physical child abuse has been reported, highlighting the risks for unsupervised children in the affected areas.

**Infrastructure and Utilities****Response:**

- According to the Government, all major roads are now passable, although some only by four-wheel drive vehicles. Drivers are encouraged to ensure they stay within the load limits to avoid further damage to the roads.
- The Government continues restoring power supply systems.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Logistics support to transport power lines to the affected areas, including air freight and specialized engineers, are needed.
- In some rural areas of Ba Province, restoring power supply may take up to four to six months, according to the Emergency Operations Centre in Ba Town.

**Emergency Telecommunications****Response:**

- The ten-day needs assessment in northern Lau, Koro Island and the Yasawa Islands by the senior ICT specialist from FITTEST has been postponed until 11 March. This is due to logistics difficulties in accessing a number of remote sites.

**Logistics****Response:**

- As of 9 March, 21 requests (amounting to 417mt) for the importation of humanitarian relief goods by 15 organizations was tracked through the streamlined relief import process, which is implemented by the NDMO with WFP assistance. Of this total, 43 per cent is expected to arrive in-country over the coming weeks. The system supports operational planning by monitoring the quantity of humanitarian relief goods arriving by air and sea.
- Nausori and Nadi Airports are reported to be fully operational. Sourcing additional forklifts in Nausori has increased cargo-handling capacity.

- The Fiji National Logistics Cluster is operating seven warehouses: a main hub in Walu Bay, Suva, comprising three warehouses; two warehouses in Nausori; one warehouse in Lautoka; and, an Australian Mobile Storage Unit on Koro Island.
- The DHL Disaster Response Team is supporting the NDMO with the receipt, sorting and documenting of humanitarian relief at Nausori Airport prior to it being shipped to affected areas.
- The Australian, French, New Zealand and Tongan military continue supporting the Government and humanitarian partners by providing relief flights and vessels to transport humanitarian cargo.
- Road access has improved significantly, although some segments of the road systems on Koro, Gau and Ovalau islands, as well as some road crossings in the north-east of Viti Levu and southern Vanua Levu remain restricted. (The latest map of road access constraints map can be downloaded [here](#).)

Constraints:

- The limited number of wide-bodied aircraft operating between Sydney International Airport and Fiji may cause delays.
- Insufficient capacity at Nadi Airport limits the ability to handle large aircraft (B747) to one per day.

Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination

On 8 March, the HMAS Canberra conducted a reconnaissance trip to Savusavu (Vanua Levu) to assess damage. The town is clear of debris, power is restored, mobile networks are operational and shops, banks and government offices are open. According to the Australian Defense Force (ADF), over 490 houses are completely destroyed and a number of community buildings are damaged as a result of storm surge along the coastline. The town's water system appeared largely unaffected by the cyclone; however, some water tanks were affected by the storm surge and are contaminated. The roads and wharf were in good condition and do not require immediate assistance with the exception of some coastal access roads. In addition, the ADF delivered relief supplies to Taveuni Island, Savusavu and Bua (in Vanua Levu).

The HMAS Canberra was due to report back to Suva on 9 March before returning to the Northern Division. Humanitarian partners are encouraged to make use of the established *Request for Assistance* (RFA) form to access military support for the transportation of cargo to the Northern Division. To date, over 50 RFAs were submitted to the Government's Future Operations cell; 11 RFAs were submitted by the humanitarian community. In total, 16 RFAs have been completed.

The French military aircraft deployed to Fiji will cease operations on 10 March 2016. A French patrol boat will arrive in Suva on 9 March to maintain France's engagement and will deliver supplies to Cicia and Natokalau in Lau District (Eastern Division).

The New Zealand Defense Force (NZDF) conducted deliveries on 8 March 2016 to Yacata Island via the HMNZS Wellington. Materials delivered included medical supplies and seedlings. Additionally, the NZDF continues to provide engineering support to islands in Northern Lau.

The Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) and the ADF continue to provide engineering support to Koro Island. This includes engineering support for the rehabilitation of community centers, hospitals and schools. The coming days will see continued support to Koro, with an eventual transition to Taveuni Island, southern Vanua Levu and Ovalau.

The UN-CMCoord team was invited to visit the HMAS Canberra on Sunday 6 March and had the opportunity to brief the Australian Joint Task Force Commander Brett Sonter about current humanitarian activities.

The UN-CMCoord team can provide detailed sector-specific information on deployment of foreign military assets, as well as relief operations undertaken by the RFMF and FRANZ partners (cmcoordfiji@gmail.com).

General Coordination

The Fiji Government is leading the response to the emergency. The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) is coordinating efforts and has activated National and Divisional Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs). A [30 day State of Natural Disaster](#) has been declared and will expire on March 21. National Clusters have been tasked with identifying specific needs and working in cooperation with international and national partners to ensure gaps are covered. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) is providing technical advice and support to the Fiji Government, agencies and partners.

The PHT, as well as new partners arriving in Fiji, are requested to work through the existing Fijian cluster structure to allow for a coordinated and effective response. It has been agreed that UNOCHA will be the conduit for

communications between the NDMO and international humanitarian partners regarding offers of assistance within Fiji and internationally.

On 9 March, the Government and humanitarian partners met to coordinate key messages on water, hygiene, sanitation, nutrition and health to ensure consistent and effective communication with the affected communities. In a separate meeting, partners agreed to align key Public Information messages.

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Situation reports and other materials related to the TC Winston response are available on [UNOCHA's Humanitarian Response Info](#) page.

Background on the crisis

Tropical Cyclone Winston, the most powerful cyclone to strike Fiji in recent time, cut a path of destruction across the country on 20 and 21 February 2016. The eye of the Category 5 cyclone packed wind bursts of up to 320 kilometers per hour. The cyclone tracked west across the country, causing widespread damage in all four divisions. It affected up to 350,000 people - equivalent to 40 per cent of Fiji's population. This includes 120,000 children and more than 3,100 people with disabilities. The hardest hit areas are the Lau group and Lomaiviti groups, which includes Koro Island, in the Eastern Division, Rakiraki and Tavua in Western Division and Taveuni and Cakaudrove in Northern Division. Fiji, like most Pacific countries, was already suffering from the impact of the strong El Niño event, which has caused drought and water shortages.

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