



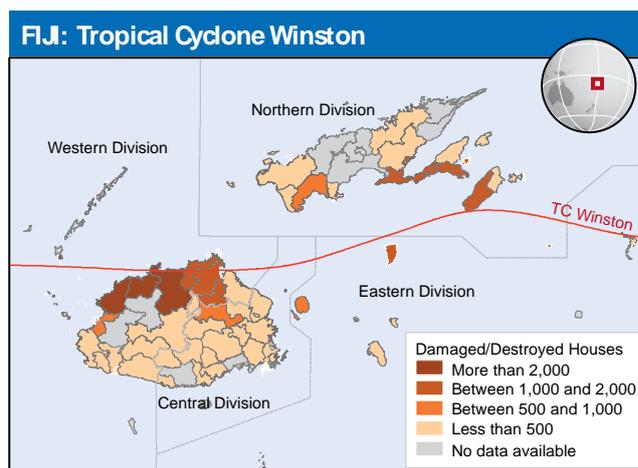
This report is produced by the OCHA Regional Office for the Pacific (ROP) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 15 to 17 March 2016. The next report will be issued on or around 23 March.

Highlights

- Of the 100 schools and early childhood, care and education (ECCE) centers destroyed, only five schools remain closed.
- Access to safe drinking water has been restored to 150,000 people.
- Almost 4,600 people remain in 237 evacuation centres.
- More than 500,000 cuttings have reached affected farmers.

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

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



Sources: Fiji Ministry of Lands, NDMO, Min of Local Government, Urban Dev, Housing & Environment
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created on 17 March, 2016

350,000

people affected by the cyclone

45,000

farmers need agricultural support

4,700

people in evacuation centres

11,000

houses completely destroyed

40,000

children received vitamin A capsules

5

schools remain closed

Situation Overview

Almost a month after the cyclone, the Government-led response has delivered life-saving assistance to hundreds of thousands of affected people. Remaining gaps are being identified across the clusters. A total of 28,000 houses were damaged or destroyed by the cyclone. While humanitarian efforts are well underway to provide temporary shelter, 11,000 households remain in need of tools and training to ensure they can construct transitional shelters, understand safer building principles and invest in disaster preparedness and risk reduction. Only five schools of the 100 that were completely destroyed are still closed owing to a timely and coordinated response. There remains however, an urgent need for more temporary learning spaces in damaged schools to restore pre-cyclone learning conditions for students and prevent overcrowding. Food rations, seedlings and seeds are being distributed across affected parts of the country but there remains a need for international support to ensure longer term food security as crops are replanted. Access to safe drinking water has been restored to some 150,000 people, yet around 100,000 people remain without it.

The Government and humanitarian partners are planning to use cash assistance, vouchers and cash-for-work programmes in a number of areas, including food, shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). The informal Cash Working Group is compiling a set of standards for each area which will be shared with the Safety and Protection Cluster for review. These will then be provided as guidance to all partners interested in cash or voucher programmes. Several organizations are planning market and community assessments to explore viability and potential impacts of cash assistance. These will be coordinated and shared through the working group. Further analysis is also underway to better understand who is most in need of such assistance and what support they may already have access to.

Many people affected by the cyclone are showing resilience and are coping relatively well in the face of extreme adversity. However, some are at an increased risk of experiencing psychological problems, including mental

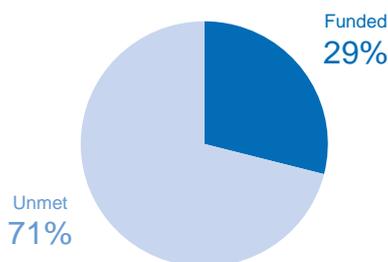
disorders such as depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and psychosis. The Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MoHMS) is leading a Psychosocial Support and Mental Health Sub-Cluster with local and international partners to assess and address the needs of those affected. Trained volunteers are supporting people who were affected. Mental health professionals have been trained to provide psychological first aid training to others in Northern, Central and Western Divisions, and are expanding the reach of this support. For example, group *talanoa* sessions giving relevant psychosocial information and promoting mutual support will be provided at community and evacuation centers, as well as providing individual psychological first aid to those in distress.

Funding

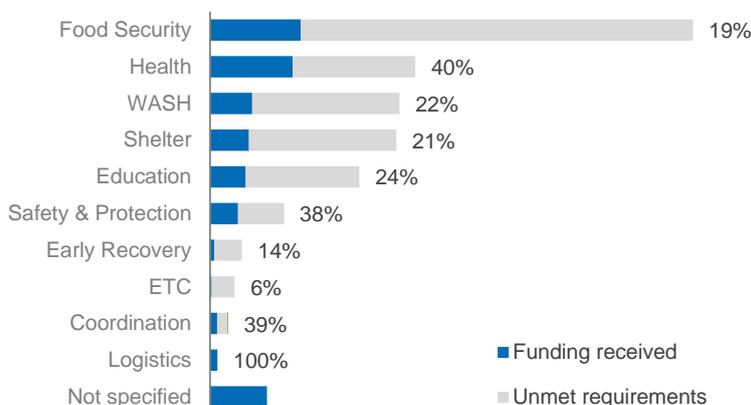
As of 17 March, the Flash Appeal for TC Winston Response is 29 per cent funded, with Australian, Canadian, Swedish and US Governments, as well as the UN's [Central Emergency Response Fund \(CERF\)](#) having contributed US \$11.2 million to its projects. The European Commission has additionally pledged EUR 1 million (US \$1.1 million) to several projects in the Flash Appeal. The Logistics Cluster is completely funded, but all other sectors are significantly under-funded. Sectors providing critical life-saving assistance, including Shelter, WASH and Food Security have some of the largest gaps. 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 by sector



Humanitarian Response



Needs:

- A total of 28,000 households (131,000 people) need emergency shelter assistance, including tarpaulins and tents.
- Some 11,000 families whose houses were destroyed need early recovery and transitional assistance, including shelter kits and tool kits, as well as training, cash assistance and disaster risk reduction interventions.

11,000
families need shelter kits and tool kits

Response:

- As of 16 March, some 6,500 tarpaulins, 1,400 shelter kits and over 200 tents have been distributed to people in need of assistance. Another 5,500 shelter kits will be distributed soon.
- The Shelter Cluster has developed its strategy for response and recovery. It focuses on supporting owner-driven recovery through a variety of programs, including the provision of tarpaulins and other roofing materials, tools, fixing kits, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, as well as training and appropriate non-food items (NFIs) to provide immediate assistance and the basis for longer-term shelter recovery.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Although only 7,000 households of the 28,000 in need of emergency shelter assistance have received tarpaulins, tents or shelter kits, the gap is expected to decrease significantly, as some 20,000 items are beginning to arrive in the country.
- The more acute gap in shelter response is in the delivery of tools, training, and information materials to ensure the 11,000 households whose shelters were destroyed during the cyclone can construct transitional shelters, understand safer building principles and invest in disaster preparedness and risk reduction. This is the immediate basis on which to build durable houses in the longer-term.

**Health & Nutrition****Needs:**

- At least 88 health facilities were damaged as a result of the cyclone, of which 7 have required services to be re-located to temporary sites. More than half of the damaged facilities are in the Western Division.
- Vulnerable groups requiring targeted support include: malnourished children, pregnant and lactating women and girls, people living in informal settlements, homeless people, people remaining in evacuation centres, those staying with host families, as well as people living with disabilities or pre-existing health conditions.

10 mt
of supplies delivered to
five hospitals

Response:

- The MoHMS and members of the Health and Nutrition Cluster continue providing health services in all domains, including general clinical services, child health and nutrition, communicable diseases, sexual and reproductive health, non-communicable diseases, and environmental health.
- The first web-based Early Warning Alert and Response Surveillance (EWARS) report was released based on the reports from the health facilities enrolled in the system.
- The MoHMS continues clean-up and anti-mosquito spraying activities in areas at risk of dengue fever outbreaks.
- Ten metric tons of requested medical aid, including antibiotics, pain relief medication, intravenous therapy solutions and wound care supplies, have been delivered to the following hospitals: Rakiraki Hospital, Colonial War Memorial Hospital, Savusavu Hospital, Korovou Hospital, and Lautoka Hospital.
- Cluster members have provided material and financial assistance to a medical team from the United States running outreach clinics in the severely affected provinces.
- Nutrition supplies continue to be delivered to the affected communities. More than 24,000 nutrition sachets (including therapeutic milk and food) to treat almost 400 children for malnutrition, 83,000 capsules of vitamin A for an estimated 40,000 children aged 6 to 59 months, and 20,000 packs of Multiple Micronutrient Powder for 20,000 children, have been provided to the Ministry of Health. These will be distributed next week, starting with the islands of Koro and Ovalau.

Gaps & Constraints:

- According to the Government, the number of typhoid cases in Qelekuro Village has increased from five to seven. This highlights the need to restore access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities for disease prevention.
- Transport and communications equipment is needed for medical and public health teams to provide services in hard-to-reach areas.
- There is a need to ensure vulnerable people are reached, including people still in, or having recently left, evacuation centres, those living in informal settlements and people living with disabilities.
- Psychosocial support to the affected people needs to be strengthened across several clusters.
- In-depth and systematic assessment of damage to, and repair costs of, affected health facilities is needed for the recovery planning.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)****Needs:**

- As a result of the cyclone, access to safe drinking water, sanitation and/or hygiene services for up to 250,000 people was disrupted.

150,000
people with restored
access to safe water

Response:

- Nearly 57,000 people across the affected areas have received sanitation or hygiene kits, or key hygiene items.
- Access to safe water has been restored for almost 150,000 people.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Access to safe water remains to be restored to over 100,000 people, and 193,000 still have not received required WASH supplies.
- Gaps are particularly large in the provision of sufficient water and access to appropriately designed, gender segregated toilets for children in schools or learning programmes.
- 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.

**Food Security and Livelihoods****Needs:**

- The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) has completed a detailed crop and livestock damage assessment. Preliminary results indicate that 94 per cent of the agricultural damage is to crop and the remaining 6 per cent to infrastructure and livestock. The total damage is estimated at FJ \$120 million (US \$57 million). Cash crops such as yagona, cassava and taro have been significantly impacted, while livestock impacts have been mostly on small-holder poultry, dairy-cattle and honey production.
- Stakeholders have raised concerns that fishing gear, boats, boat repair kits, and fingerlings are urgent needs for affected populations drawing their livelihood from fishing activities. The timely provision of these items is essential to stabilizing food security for these groups.

Response:

- The Ministry of Agriculture and the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster partners have distributed more than 500,000 cuttings to affected farmers.
- Some 377,000 people have received first round emergency food distributions, reaching almost 100 per cent of the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster target.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Debris-clearing for agricultural lands is urgently required to allow for timely planting of crops with the seeds currently being distributed to farmers.
- A shortage of seeds available for procurement is hindering the progress of seed distributions.
- Food rations, seedlings and seeds are being distributed across affected parts of the country but there remains a need for international support to ensure longer term food security as crops are replanted.
- Humanitarian actors should remain conscious that the additional impacts of El Niño may have consequences for replanting efforts and recovery of agriculture-based livelihoods.
- Although the MoA continues distributing animal feed to affected farmers, gaps remain mostly for cattle and pigs.

**Education****Needs:**

- Approximately 500 primary and secondary schools (55 per cent) have been damaged or destroyed, affecting over 85,900 students.

Response:

- To date, more than 9,400 student backpacks containing learning supplies have been distributed by Education Cluster partners.
- Over 5,800 children and their teachers have benefitted from temporary learning spaces as a result of school tents and school-in-a-box kits of teaching materials.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Although nearly 100 schools and ECCE centres were completely destroyed by the cyclone, only five schools, with around 700 students, remain closed thanks to a timely and coordinated response.
- The gap in Education in Emergencies supplies has decreased significantly, but additional funding is needed to ensure all affected children have access to quality education.

- Updated information on supply needs at the school level is required for effective operational planning.

Safety and Protection

Needs:

- Addressing basic needs in hard-to-reach locations should be prioritized to prevent and respond to protection risks.
- The humanitarian Code of Conduct should be endorsed by all responders to promote principled humanitarian action.
- Lost or damaged birth registration certificates need to be replaced to ensure access to basic services.

Response:

- On 18 March, the Safety and Protection Cluster will hold a workshop on Protection in Assessments for its members. The session will put forward good practice in assessments, including ethical issues and disclosure concerns.
- Safety and Protection Cluster partners will train Fiji Police Force Officers, who are the first responders to reports of abuse, violence and exploitation. The training will include components on the human rights-based approach (HRBA), gender-based violence (GBV) and psychosocial support. It will focus on the need to consistently follow existing police procedures, which integrate the HRBA when handling cases involving vulnerable groups.
- In order to ensure access to basic services, the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages Office is planning to re-issue birth certificates free of charge and waive fees for birth registration in the severely-affected provinces of Ba, Ra and Tailevu.
- Members of the GBV Sub-Cluster will participate in a joint scoping mission to prepare for the establishment of Women Information Centres. The mission will take place on 18 March and will be led by the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation and the MoHMS.
- An assessment to examine the coverage of support to people with disabilities, as well as additional requirements over the next three months, is under way.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Children should be informed about debris-related dangers. Those in unfamiliar surroundings also need to be sensitized to watch out for risks they may not be aware of.
- Affected populations without access to electricity are at risk, with women reporting harassment and feeling unsafe in unlit areas at night time.



Emergency Telecommunications

Response:

- The hardest-hit islands of Vanua Balavu and Koro islands were assessed between 11 and 12 March. On Vanua Balavu, Digicel and Vodafone were found to have restored coverage in Lomaloma and the surrounding areas since 10 March, with Digicel also providing 3G services. The north-west of Koro was found to have functioning Vodafone and EasyTel (TFL) mobile networks, while the east of the island was covered by Digicel, including 3G. EasyTel was not yet operational in the east of the island.
- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster and the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) continue to meet with Digicel, Vodafone and Telecom Fiji Limited for updates on network restoration progress and addressing possible gaps with technical interventions.

Constraints:

- While national telecommunications services and commercial service providers are restoring communications networks, gaps still remain.



Logistics

Response:

- As of 16 March, 29 requests have been received from 22 organizations for the importation of some 967 mt of humanitarian relief cargo through the streamlined relief import process.
- Sixty-seven per cent of relief items awaiting import are expected to arrive within the next two weeks. Sixty-eight per cent of this cargo is comprised of shelter items and 21 per cent of health items.
- Eight wide-body cargo aircraft transporting relief are expected to arrive as part of a government donation between 17 and 28 March. This increase in humanitarian cargo arriving into Fiji could put pressure on exiting logistics capacity and the flow of humanitarian relief items.
- Road access to all areas affected by the cyclone is now possible using four-wheel drive vehicles.

68%
of incoming cargo is
shelter items

Constraints:

- Air transport delays from Sydney to Fiji for relief cargo are expected to continue until the end of March due to a limited number of commercial wide-bodied aircraft operating on the route.
- Withdrawal of the foreign military force transportation assets in the coming weeks could increase pressure on transport and relief distribution capacity.
- As a result of damage to foundations, the Navaca Bridge in southern Taveuni requires rebuilding, and the Blackpoint and Waiyevo Jetties on the island require ongoing repair to return to full operational capacity.

Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination

The Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) have supported the relief operation by assisting in debris clearance and relief distributions in Eastern, Northern and Western Divisions. The Australian Defence Force (ADF) are conducting initial emergency response assessments for various districts in the Northern Division, where the HMAS Canberra continues to provide support of relief efforts. The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) continues providing support for relief operations in the Lau group of islands. The HMNZS Canterbury is currently anchored in Suva. The HMNZS Wellington has ceased operational activity in the Lau Group. The French patrol boat La Moqueuse is supporting relief operations in the Lau Group of islands. The Tongan patrol boat and logistics barge ceased operations on 16 March.

So far, 97 *Request for Assistance* (RFA) forms for the use of national and foreign military assets have been presented to the NDMO Future Operations Division, of which 63 were successfully completed.

General Coordination

The Fiji Government is leading the response to the emergency. The 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 21 March. 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 supporting the Government, agencies and partners. This support includes provision of data and information, as well as technical advice, equipment and other resources.

The Pacific Humanitarian Team (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.

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.

Fiji National Cluster Coordinators

Sector/Cluster	Role	Name	Position & Organization	Phone	Email
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All humanitarian partners responding to TC Winston are encouraged to register on [Humanitarian ID](https://www.humanitarian.id/).

For further information, please contact:

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Situation reports, the meeting calendar and other materials related to the TC Winston response are available on [UNOCHA's Humanitarian Response Info](https://www.unocha.org/humanitarian-response) page.