Fiji: Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasa
Situation Report No. 02 (as of 20 December 2020)

This report is produced by the OCHA Office of the Pacific Islands (OoP) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period of 19 – 20 December 2020. The next report will be issued on or around 22 December 2020.

Highlights

- Assessment of damages in affected areas has begun through aerial surveillance as well as teams on the ground;
- Aid, including food rations, is arriving in cyclone affected communities;
- Restoration of critical infrastructure and essential services main operational focus;
- First small-scale deliveries of humanitarian assistance are taking place in various locations;
- Some 7,700 people still in evacuation centers, however, majority has returned back to their homes;
- 04 persons have been confirmed dead due to the cyclone; one person is still missing.

Situation Overview

TC Yasa, now a Cat 1, has left Fiji territory and is now south-west of Tonga.

Restoration of critical infrastructure and essential services are the main operational focus of the authorities as well as the safe return of evacuees to their homes.

Energy Fiji Limited (EFL) is working on repairing the grid and re-establishing power in all affected areas. In the Central Division, practically all power is restored; in the Eastern Division currently only 15%; in the Northern Division, Taveuni is the most advanced with 55%, other areas like Labasa, Seaqaqa, Dreketi, and Savusavu, the range is between 0 and 4%, in the Western Division it ranges from 15% in Rakiraki to 100% in Korolevu.

The Water Authority of Fiji (WAF) reports that in the Central Division 95% of water supply is restored; in the Northern Division: Labasa 0%, Vunimanuca Borehole 0%, Taveuni 90%; in the Western Division: Rakiraki 100%, Sigatoka to Keiyasi 0%. No information is yet available from the Eastern Division (Maritime Islands – Vanuabalavu, Lakeba).

A total of 124 government officials and other agencies personnel (from the Water Authority of Fiji, Fiji Met, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Meteorological Services, the Republic of Fiji Military Forces, the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management/NDMO, the Ministry of Forestry, the Fiji Red Cross Society, the Fiji Council of Social Services, and from WFP) have been deployed and left for Vanu Levu on 20 Dec to conduct assessments and assist with the distribution of 10,000 food rations.

Initial Damage Assessments (IDAs) by authorities as well as humanitarian organizations, such as the Fiji Red Cross Society and others, have begun and first distributions of relief items have started.

On 19 and 20 Dec, planes provided by the New Zealand and Australian Air Force conducted aerial assessments over Vanua Levu and Koro as well as over the Eastern Division. Data will be available shortly. Preliminary information indicates that some areas were severely impacted while others were almost untouched, showing a very uneven pattern of destruction.

04 persons have been confirmed dead by the authorities: 03 persons died from collapsing walls, 01 person drowned. One person is still missing.

As of today, there were 7,731 persons in 183 evacuation centres, the vast majority (6,313 persons) in the Northern Division (in 133 Evacuation Centres). Police, RFMF and Health personnel are verifying active ECs and assessing situations for safe return home.
General Coordination

On 19 Dec, the Government of Fiji has issued a list of priority items and projected quantities. This list will be adapted as soon as detailed data on humanitarian needs are available. The list contains Shelter, WASH, Food Security and Livelihood items as well as items for Safety and Protection, and Communications Equipment. This list will also be subject of discussion in an upcoming Donor Coordination Meeting at MoFA on 21 Dec.

The RC of Fiji – together with senior Fiji government officials - is currently on a visit to the most affected areas. is scheduled to return to Suva on 21 Dec. More information on this in the next sitrep.

OCHA is working closely with NDMO on coordination issues, assessment tools, various IM products and potential resource mobilization products. More details on this in the coming days when processes and workflows have been further discussed, re/defined and endorsed.

For coordination between regional clusters, humanitarian partners, NDMO and ministries (functioning as national cluster leads), please see below.

Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination

- The New Zealand and the Australian Government has provided aerial assets to conduct surveillance flights over affected areas on 19 and 20 Dec. Data are currently being analyzed and will contribute to a better understanding of the impact of TC Yasa as well as help to identify the needs and the development of a humanitarian response;
- A Royal Australian Airforce Plane landed in Nadi on 20 Dec bringing 350 family tents, 690,000 purification tablets, 320 kitchen sets, 960 bed nets, 320 hygiene kits, 64 blankets, 64 sleeping mats, 320 shelter tool kits, and 320 tarpaulins.
**Overall Response**

### Logistics

**Overview**
- Fiji Airports are reporting that Savusavu Airport and Matei (Taveuni) Airports were operational as of 2 pm 19 Dec.;
- Please see link to Logistics Capacity Assessment conducted by the Logistics Cluster in 2017. [https://dlca.logcluster.org/display/public/DLCA/Fiji](https://dlca.logcluster.org/display/public/DLCA/Fiji);
- RNZAF and RAAF conducted aerial surveillance exercise on 19 and 20 Dec.

**Needs**
None identified at this stage.

**Response**
- Ongoing engagement with Fiji National Cluster Lead – no formal requests for support at this stage;
- WFP/Regional Logistics Cluster has received a request from the NDMO for support with cargo tracking;
- Informed by MoFA that Fiji Airways flight departing from Sydney back to Nadi would be available to carry humanitarian cargo. Cluster shared Fiji Airways contact details as well as loading cut off times for cargo with partners;
- Private company offered space on ship departing from Lautoka to Savusavu on 21 Dec. Cluster shared this information with partners;
- Establishing a TC Yasa section on the Pacific Logistics Cluster current operations webpage;
- Working on identifying potential gaps and formulating plans for service provision if required.

**Gaps and Constraints**
Not known at this stage.

### Emergency Telecommunications

**Overview**
- As of 19 Dec, 66 of 472 Vodafone towers were offline in Vanua Levu and Taveuni. 02 towers were completely destroyed in Vanua Levu and Taveuni;
- 07 of 230 Digicel sites were affected. Only one site remains off-line in Vanua Levu (Natewa Bay);
- No known damages on Viti Levu. For other islands, to be confirmed.
- On 19 Dec, NDMO sent government assessment teams to the Northern Division – initially for five days.
- There is currently no connectivity in the Bua and Macuata areas.

**Needs**
Not yet known at this stage.

**Response**
- ETC Cluster Coordinator will be based at Nabouwalu for the next five days to support NDMO communications with satellite data communications connectivity for agencies reporting back to NEOC;
- ETC Cluster Coordinator conducted a BGAN user training on 19 Dec for NDMO, Fiji Military and Department of Communications staff who will use the satellite transceiver for data communication.
Gaps and Constraints
Not known yet.

Shelter

Overview
- Official Initial Damage Assessment information not yet available but it is anticipated that there will be considerable damage to shelter and settlements caused by flooding, storm surge and destructive winds along the cyclone track. There are reports that the damage is quite concentrated compared to TC Winston where damage was more widespread.

Needs
- Initially, it is anticipated that affected households will require emergency shelter (tarpaulins and toolkits) and essential household items assistance (clothing, kitchen sets, solar lamps, blankets), as well as appropriate technical assistance. Mid-to-longer term shelter assistance will also be required by many of those worst affected;
- NDMO has requested emergency shelter: 32,962 tool kits, 98,886 tarps, 16,481 tents, 200 chainsaws, and essential household item assistance: 32,962 kitchen sets (MoFA note 808/2020, 19/12/2020).

Response
- Western Division: Fiji Red Cross Society provided some emergency shelter and essential households item assistance: 15 black packs, 15 shelter kits;
- Northern Division: Initial damage assessment underway, with IFRC supporting Fiji Red Cross. This will inform revision of the initial Emergency Plan of Action;
- Humanitarian agencies engaged in emergency shelter continue to coordinate their responses to increase reach and effectiveness.

Gaps and Constraints
Gaps can be determined once Initial Damage Assessment data will be available.

Health & Nutrition

Overview
- Four confirmed deaths, and some minor injuries reported (lacerations and fractures);
- Based on initial reports/assessments, hospitals and most health centres are functioning. Some health centres and nursing stations have suffered infrastructure damage, though most damage appears to be moderate/minor – including roof damage, water damage, and fence/gate damage. Health facility damage assessments are ongoing, some nursing stations are yet to be reached/contacted;
- Fiji Emergency Medical Assistance Team (FEMAT) deployed to Northern Division to provide surge support. Clinical and public health teams have been deployed to monitor/support evacuation centres and food stores/vendors (food safety);
- Partners standing by to deploy additional staff/medical supplies, if needed.

Needs
- No supplies needed at this time.

Response
- Health Cluster and MHPSS sub-cluster activated, with MoH & Medical Services leading/coordinating;
- Health facility damage assessments are underway/ongoing;
Clinical and public health teams continue monitoring evacuation centres;
Partners on standby to deploy additional support for mental health/psychosocial support and sexual/reproductive health support;
Human resources from Viti Levu (including FEMAT) have deployed to Vanua Levu and Taveuni;
Enhanced surveillance activated to monitor for outbreak-prone diseases;
Public Health and clinical outreach to communities throughout affected areas underway.

Gaps and Constraints

- Some Health Centres and Nursing Stations are yet to be reached/assessed due to downed communication infrastructure;
- Some health facilities damaged and lack access to power and/or water.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Overview

- Ongoing updates have been received from the WASH cluster Viber group;
- WASH response will go in phases: a) distribution of WASH NFIs and quick fixes to the water supply systems; and b) WASH hardware rehabilitation including the sanitation systems, handwashing stations and other similar installations;
- Mobilization of key WASH supplies and kits to areas affected.

Needs

- Initial Damage Assessment and situation analysis with regard to WASH services in affected areas;
- Divisional Health Inspectors in the Northern and Eastern Division will start carrying out IDA from today;
- Initial updates from ongoing assessments indicate severe damage to schools and health care facilities, including WASH systems;
- Technical Assistance in supporting Ministry with tools to gather and analyse damage assessment data;
- Continue to update and share consolidated list of WASH supplies currently pre-positioned across cluster members in warehouses in Fiji;
- Supporting the WASH Cluster / MoHMS for developing the TC Yasa WASH Response and Recovery Plan;
- Cluster preliminary discussions, also based on previous experience, recognize need for i) additional surge support on Information Management and Cluster Coordination, and ii) two in-country surge support (through MoH/DoWR rosters) to work with/support the Cluster Coordinator;
- Damages to sanitation facilities in Taveuni has been reported with the need to send 100 emergency latrines;
- Results from the initial assessments will be shared to the WASH Cluster to assist with the development of the TC Yasa WASH response plan;
- The online 4Ws link has been shared with all WASH partners for the response update: https://exchange.riscon.solutions/data-entry-forms/fiji-wash-4-ws-submission-form/

Response

- UNICEF released 600 WASH kits and 400 water collapsible containers for Bua and Savusavu. They will be distributed by the Northen EOC and MoH staff on the ground;
- A ship leaving Lautoka on 21 Dec for Savusavu will take 200 WASH kits and 200 water collapsible containers to be distributed to seven evacuation centres benefitting 714 men, women and children;
- Evacuation centre assessment, WASH kit distribution and hygiene awareness have started in Bua;
- Water Authority of Fiji (WAF) mobilized 20 skilled workmen from the Central and Western Divisions as part of a quick fix and assessment teams to the North. The team will be based in Nabouwalu.

Gaps and Constraints

- WASH Cluster/MoH looking at available shipping options for getting supplies to affected areas;
- Capacity in funding and technical support to MHMS in undertaking comprehensive Damage Assessments in communities and facilities (health and schools) in affected areas.
Education

Overview
Nothing new to report.

Needs
Nothing new to report.

Response
Nothing new to report.

Gaps and Constraints
Nothing new to report.

Protection

Overview
• Protection needs are currently being established.

Needs
• Initial needs identified by the Government:
  ● Hygiene kits – 72,866 (need to confirm number of Dignity Kits needed and if Hygiene Kits are recorded under WASH Cluster needs)
  ● Mother – Infant Kits – 32,962
  ● Mosquito Nets – 197,772
  ● Straw Mats – 32,962
  ● Solar Lights – 65,924
  ● Initial requests were made to Fiji Safety & Protection cluster on the support for persons with disability in the affected areas;
  ● Potential need for psychosocial support for persons affected by Cyclone;
  ● GBV - GBV response is likely to be a significant need. Baseline levels of GBV are high in Fiji. 72% of women in Fiji experience IPV their lifetime (FWCC). 31% of women and girls over the age of 15 have experienced physical and/or sexual non-partner assault (FWCC). Rates of intimate partner violence often increase in crisis settings (https://www.unicef.org/protection/gender-based-violence-in-emergencies). It is expected that there will be an increase in the already high rates of GBV as a result of TC Yasa. We await confirmation of specifics from assessment findings;
  ● Child Protection - like with GBV, information specifically on this disaster is not available yet. Child protection is included in initial rapid assessments and detailed assessments to be conducted later. However, two needs are likely to arise based on experience from previous crises:
    ○ 1. Psychosocial support for children who are experiencing trauma due to fear during the cyclone and loss of familiar environments and objects; and
    ○ 2. Some children may require support as a result of neglect, abuse, exploitation, witnessing or experiencing GBV, and separation from families, all of which typically increase in crisis times.

Response
• Mention of MHPSS support provided in central EOC (NEOC SITREPs);
• Reports of Dignity Kits being distributed by Fiji Red Cross Society;
• Restoring Family Link (RFL) hotline established and managed by Fiji Red Cross Society - A total of 95 calls received, 27 have been sorted;
• UN Women provides capacity support to Fiji Safety and Protection Cluster e.g. in relation to information management, GBVIE IEC materials including Code of Conduct. On standby to provide technical support to cluster. Fiji Safety and Protection Cluster is meeting tomorrow (Monday) at 11am Fiji time.
• UNICEF:
○ On standby to provide financial and technical support to the Child Services Unit under the Social Welfare Department of the Ministry of Women Children and Poverty Alleviation to:
  ■ Lead the Child Protection Working Group under the Fiji Safety and Protection Cluster, to coordinate the child protection response; and
  ■ Deploy their personnel from National, Division and District level to the affected areas to provide psychosocial support to the children and advice to parents on how to help their children recover from the trauma, including through the establishment and facilitation of child-friendly spaces where socio-recreational activities can be conducted by teachers and/or community volunteers trained to this effect; and to identify and care for children in need of protection;
○ Pre-positioned recreational kits in Suva and Brisbane;
○ Ready to work with the Education sector on psychosocial support for students and teachers;
○ NGO partners are ready to deploy. Empower Pacific has over 200 trained counsellors around the country ready to provide Psychological First Aid (PFA). Medical Services Pacific (MSP) has trained counsellors and social workers who can provide PFA. Save the Children Fiji has pre-positioned recreational kits for child-friendly spaces (Labasa 05; Lautoka 10; Suva 77), has been visiting evacuation centres with the police to ensure the safety of children, and can mobilise community members already trained on child protection in emergencies who would be able to facilitate Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS).

● UNFPA:
  ○ 1,000 dignity kits to provide women with essential items including sanitary pads to restore dignity and self-esteem. A further 100 kits will be provided specifically to support women with disabilities.
  ○ Key advocacy messages are being developed through the GBV Sub Cluster to support integration of gender and the mitigation of GBV into all post-TC Yasa recovery and reconstruction efforts, including the participation of women in decision making;

● UN Women and UNFPA are working to ensure mainstreaming of gender and mitigation of gender-based violence through all national sectors and clusters;

● Shifting the Power Coalition
  ○ Providing targeted emergency relief - including food, water, hygiene kits and non-food items - to 225 diverse households, including emergency care packages to 50 women with disabilities through FDPF’s Emergency Operations Centre.

Gaps and Constraints

• Not known yet. Likely to be logistics/access to affected communities;
• A further 5,000 specialized Dignity Kits will be required to support the immediate needs of women, women with disabilities and adolescent girls;
• Current mapping of existing services and protection needs remains ongoing which will then be able to inform entry points for interventions to respond and prevent the escalation in GbV.

Food Security

Overview

• Ministry of Agriculture (MoA): The total number of agriculture households estimated to be impacted by TC Yasa is 61,180. This represents 86% of the total estimated number of agriculture households in Fiji;

• The proportion of Agricultural Households in the three impact zones are as follows:
  Zone 1, most destructive winds (within 50km radius of the eye of the cyclone) - 19%
  Zone 2 (from 100km to 200km of the eye of the cyclone) – 20%
  Zone 3 (beyond 200km of the eye of the cyclone) - 61%
• Zone 1: Taro, Taqona, Cassava, Yam, Coconut;
• Zone 2: Taro, Cassava, Rice, Vegetable, Ginger
• Zone 3: Vegetables, Ginger, Rice, Taro, Cassava.

MoA: The total number of farmers estimated to be impacted by TC Yasa is 73,847 which is 89% of the total estimated farmers in Fiji. The percentage distribution of farmers estimated to be affected in the three zones are as follows:
• Zone 1, most destructive winds (50 Km distance) – 22%
• Zone 2 (100 Km distance) – 21%
• Zone 3 (200 Km distance) – 57%

MoA quarters in the North were damaged:
  o Dreketi – 4
  o Seaqaqa Research Station – 3
  o Nabouwalu - 3

Needs
Preliminary needs calculated by MoA (same as reported on 18 Dec):
• Planting materials – seeds, seedlings and cuttings
• Livestock feed including sugar for bees
• Basic farm tools
• Fencing materials and building reconstruction
• Above items for approx. 40,000 farmers (specific quantities to be calculated)

Response
• Initial Damage Assessments (IDA) from MoA continues today and final national Initial Damage Report will be submitted to NDMO on 20 Dec;
• Starting 21 Dec, MoA teams will be deployed to conduct Detailed Damage Assessments (DDA) for a period of two weeks using Kobo Toolbox Damage and Loss Assessment methodology;
• Deployment of surge assessment teams to the Northern Division are finalized:
  • Five teams of 4 members per team will be deployed to Vanua Levu;
  • Two additional teams of livestock vets will be deployed to Vanua Levu;
  • Of the 5 teams deployed to Vanua Levu, two will be sent to Bua; two to Macuata; and one to Cakaudrove
  • One separate team will travel to Taveuni on 21 Dec
  • Teams will leave as soon as MSAF confirms sea travel is open
• On 20 Dec, a Government-led assessment team which includes Red Cross, WFP and FCOS, departed for Vanua Levu. They will also facilitate the distribution of 10,000 ration packs;
• NGO – FRIENDS have issued 8 food packs & Red Cross have donated food packs to affected communities in Yasawa. These will be distributed by the IDA/DDA team.

Gaps and Constraints
• A clearer picture of the agriculture and food security situation is expected in coming days.

Donations / Funding

• New Zealand
  Provided a total of NZD 500,000 of assistance to the Government of Fiji. This amounts includes Emergency Funding, pre-positioned relief supplies, and technical expertise and advice;
  (for more information on New Zealand’s engagement, see also under Humanitarian Civilian – Military Coordination)

• Australia
  Collaborated with the Shifting Power Coalition to set up an emergency (small) grant mechanism to support initial rapid response work.
  (for more information on Australia’s engagement, see also under Humanitarian Civilian – Military Coordination)
• **China**
  On 19/12, China, through its Embassy in Suva, handed over FJD 210,000 from the Red Cross Society of China to the Fiji Red Cross Society;

• The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies launched a DREF / Emergency Plan of Action. The aim is to assist 17,698 people for one month – Allocation CHF 86,034 (approx. USD 97,400);

• The Caritas Relief and Development Group of the Archdiocese of Suva will dispatch a team to the Northern Division on 21/12 to distribute relief packages and help those affected. Clothes and non-perishable food can be dropped at Nicholas House next to Sacred heart Cathedral in Suva; money can be donated to a specially established bank account;

• **Vodafone** has activated its “Vodafone Red Alert TC Yasa Relief” initiative under which 500 cartons of essential food items, basic tools and tarpaulins worth around FJD 100,000 will be distributed to families in the most affected areas in Vanua Levu. Vodafone will also provide free 20GB data, 100 minutes of on-net voice calls and 100 SMS to all customers in the affected regions;

• The **Shifting the Power Coalition** - mobilised an emergency (small) grant mechanism with support of DFAT’s Pacific Women programme to support initial rapid response work;

• **Action Aid** has launched an emergency appeal to support the TC Yasa response at: [www.actionaid.org.au/cycloneyasa](http://www.actionaid.org.au/cycloneyasa).

• A plane engaged by **LifeFlight Fiji** through **YachtAid Global** conducted aerial assessments over Vanua Levu, Taveuni, Rabi, Koro and Gau.