

Fiji: Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasa

Situation Report No. 03 (as of 22 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 21 – 22 December 2020. The next report will be issued on or around 24 December 2020.

Highlights

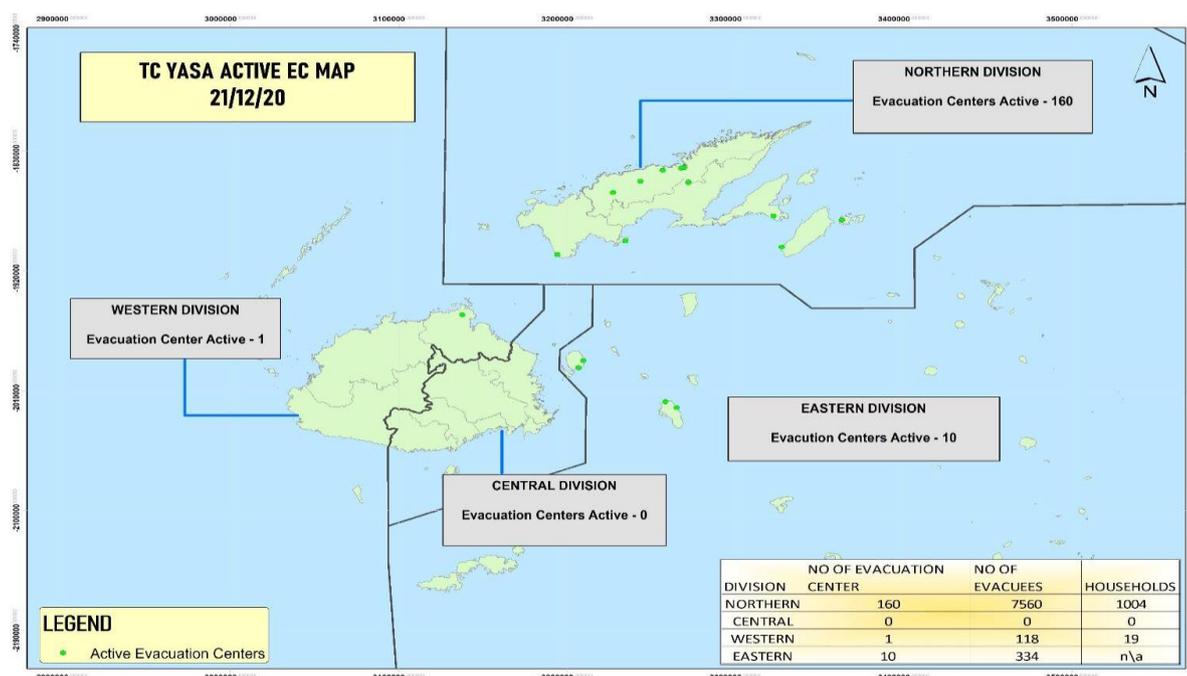
- Assessments in affected areas are continuing and teams on the ground are increasing daily;
- Small-scale distributions of food rations and NFIs have begun in some of the most affected areas;
- Critical infrastructure and essential services continue to be restored, although some hard-to-reach areas are still facing problems with access to water, power outages and connectivity;
- Some 8,000 persons are still in Evacuation Centres; the vast majority in the Northern Division.

Situation Overview

Restoration of critical infrastructure and essential services continues throughout the affected areas. The Water Authority of Fiji has made good progress in re-establishing access to water in the Northern Division, the most severely hit area in the country. Energy Fiji Limited has also restored most of the power. Problem areas are Rakiraki (20%), areas outside Labasa (5%), and areas in Seaqaqa and Dreketi (0%).

Assessment teams have been dispatched by national authorities as well as humanitarian partners to establish needs and damages. Some relief has already reached people in need. Focus now is on consolidating the findings of the assessments and develop a coherent humanitarian response while on-the-spot rapid assistance delivery and distribution is continuing. Logistics are a big challenge as many of the most affected areas are hard to reach.

As of 21 Dec, there were 171 Evacuation Centres (the vast majority, 160, in the Northern Division) still open accommodating 8,012 evacuees (of these, 7,560 persons in the Northern Division).



source: NDMO/NEOC

General Coordination

The Fijian authorities are continuing to coordinate the relief effort. The various ministries, heading the national clusters, have dispatched teams to the most affected areas and additional teams are currently preparing to be deployed in the coming days. Data collection is increasing day-by-day. In some areas, initial relief distribution has taken place (mostly food rations as well as NFIs). More details on this when precise data become available.

The cooperation between government entities and humanitarian partners (UN agencies, NGOs, regional cluster leads, national clusters, donors) is working well. Regional clusters are working closely with their national counterparts in ensuring a coherent approach in conducting assessments as well as in establishing response plans. OCHA on its side, is working with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), lending support in coordination aspects as well as capacity development and providing equipment for data collection, data analysis as well as information management.

Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination

- A Royal Australian Air Force Flight with DFAT relief items arrived in Nadi today. Among these items were various shelter kits, tents, tarpaulins, Wash/Hygiene First Responder Kits, Solar Lights and Medical Supplies;
- The Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) established a composite company called Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Taskforce on 19 Dec and formed four teams. Two have been deployed to the North (one to be stationed at Nabouwalu, while the other to assist with CND HQ in Labasa), one deployed to assist with PA Ra's Office while one is on stand-by at QEB.

Overall Response



Logistics

Overview

- A second DFAT flight departed Brisbane for Nadi on 22 Dec. *(for more details see Humanitarian Civil–Military Coordination above)*

Needs

- Not known at this stage.

Response

- The WFP Pacific Humanitarian Air Service (PHAS) is conducting a flight from Brisbane to Nadi on 24 Dec carrying supplies and cargo for partners;
- WFP is providing two Mobile Storage Units (MSU) to Fiji NDMO which will be transported on PHAS flight;
- The Cluster has been requested to provide technical assistance to NDMO for cargo tracking.

Gaps and Constraints

- Currently not known.



Emergency Telecommunications

Overview

- Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) installed a repeater capable of HF and VHF at Nabouwalu on 21/12. VHF connectivity has been strengthened and the mission team has been testing throughout 21/12 and 22/12;
- Update from previous report: there are still parts of Bua where mobile connectivity is not restored and remains offline - Yadua, Yaqaga, Galoa, Tavea.

Needs

- Awaiting coverage maps from Vodafone and Digicel that outline prioritization of restoration services;

Response

- Cluster coordinator currently based in the Operation Centre located in Nabouwalu;
- Cluster Coordinator has been requested to accompany and assist RFMF to set up another operations centre in Labasa - at time of writing report connectivity in Labasa was unknown.

Gaps and Constraints

- Access to islands to restore connectivity – RFMF is working to rectify.



Shelter

Overview

- Impact on shelter and settlements continues to be assessed. Aerial assessments indicate that Bua is the most impacted province.

Needs

- 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 be required by many of those worst affected.

Response

- Humanitarian agencies engaged in emergency shelter response continue to coordinate in order to increase reach and effectiveness;
- Fiji Red Cross Society continues with assessments and emergency distributions. The revised emergency shelter component of the Emergency Plan of Action will target 12,531 people (2,506 households) in the provinces of Bua, Macuata, Cakaudrove and the Districts of Koro in the Lomaiviti Province and Nacula in the Ba Province;
- Habitat for Humanity Fiji is planning a three-phase response: relief needs, emergency repairs, and water supply repair;
- Live & Learn / CARE Australia and ADRA are preparing a joint proposal for shelter, protection, cash and WASH assistance. This will include also a gender, disability and inclusion analysis for shelter;
- Reports of Government providing essential household item assistance (kitchen sets) in Bua;
- Royal Australian Air Force flight arrived today with additional shelter relief items donated by Australian Red Cross, to support Fiji Red Cross operations;
- Partners have been requested to complete 3W reporting for planned and completed actions.

Gaps and Constraints

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



Health & Nutrition

Overview

- At least one nursing station has been destroyed (Kia Island) and least 30 health facilities and adjacent staff accommodation have been damaged (mostly moderate/minor) in the Northern and Eastern Divisions, while several health facilities are yet to be reached/assessed. Nevertheless, communities in the areas most affected by TC Yasa continue to receive essential health services;
- The Cluster now has active sub-clusters focusing on Family Health and Mental Health & Psychosocial Support.
- Clinical, public health and mental health/psychosocial teams have been deployed to the Northern Division, and are supporting ongoing assessments, health service delivery/outreach in communities and evacuation centres, outbreak surveillance and other services.
- While access to communities is improving and health system recovery is underway, risks to health remain – including risks of injuries as people clean up and repair their homes, risk of water-borne diseases, risk of vector-borne diseases such as dengue, as well as the ongoing psychosocial challenges of those affected by the cyclone in addition to the added stress caused by COVID-19 throughout the year.

Needs

- WASH in health facilities is a priority, with a number of facilities currently lacking access to safe/adequate water and appropriate sanitation facilities;
- At least 31 health facilities in the Northern and Eastern Divisions have suffered infrastructure damage, and repairs are needed;
- Communities are expressing significant psycho-social support needs, and partners are deploying staff trained in Psychological First Aid (PFA) to provide assistance. A need for psycho-social support for first responders has also been identified;
- Monitoring for situation of acute malnutrition among children and women, and treatment of any cases of severe acute malnutrition.

Response

- FEMAT (Fiji Emergency Medical Assistance Team), Ministry of Health & Medical Services staff and multiple partner agencies have deployed clinical, public health and psychosocial support staff to the Northern Division;
- Damage/needs assessments in both the Northern and the Eastern Divisions are ongoing;
- Many partners are distributing food to affected families/communities. The emergency nutrition food basket endorsed by the NDMO has been shared with partners;
- Essential Nutrition supplies are mobilized to the Northern Division. This includes MUAC tapes for identification of acute malnutrition in children, therapeutic milk (F 75 and F 100), Ready-to-use Therapeutic Food (RuTF), Vitamin A and deworming medicines. A joint statement against the distribution and use of breastmilk substitutes and foods high in fats, sugars or salt has been drafted for endorsement.

Gaps and Constraints

- Access and communication remain challenges, with some health centres and nursing stations yet unreached due to mobile network outages. Assessments are ongoing.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Overview

- Assessments are currently ongoing through MoH divisional health staff with UNICEF support in Bua (4 teams) and Nambouwalu (5 teams). Assessment formats have been agreed and staff are receiving on the

job training from UNICEF to strengthen WASH data quality and populate 4W. IFRC assessments are focused in Nambualka and with results expected tonight (December 22nd);

- The WASH Cluster has developed an initial response plan and supplies are already being mobilized to families in most affected areas through multiple partners and in close coordination with MPH divisional health teams;
- Needs for emergency WASH supplies are widely reported. Water supply systems are being repaired with temporary fixes and sanitation and hygiene needs are likely under reported at this stage.

Needs

- Coordination of assessment and response tracking is of primary importance to ensure accurate consolidation of facts and figures from different agencies to allow for planning for effective planning and budgeting for early recovery;
- **Priority Needs:**
 - Ongoing rapid assessment and distribution of emergency supplies as needed (WASH kits and collapsible water containers + purification tablets);
 - Provision of latrine slabs to most affected communities;
 - Appropriate hygiene messaging through multiple channels and in collaboration with health, nutrition, mental health and protection partners;
 - Further in-depth assessment of WASH needs in affected communities and institutional facilities to ensure effective 'build, back better' strategy can be mobilized;
 - To support the information sharing and better coordination, diligent completion of 5Ws by all partners as well as sharing regular updates between national and divisional levels.
- **WASH Cluster Priorities:**
- Provide effective leadership and oversight, for a coordinated and effective WASH response for all including vulnerable groups;
- Provide emergency water, sanitation and hygiene services to displaced people and those communities without access to piped adequate water supply;
- Restore Provide resilient water, sanitation and hygiene services to directly affected communities;
- Provide emergency safe water, sanitation and hygiene services in schools and temporary learning spaces, and in health care facilities;
- Provide resilient water, sanitation and hygiene services in schools and health care facilities.

Response

- 400 WASH Kits and 200 water containers have been released by UNICEF to the Ministry of Health and transported to most impacted areas of Vanua Levu on 21 Dec. UNICEF WASH staff are currently on the ground working to support the Fiji MoH who are undertaking damage assessments and distributing WASH kits by boat/truck to the most affected families on Kia Island and northern coastal areas of Vanua Levu. An additional 200 kits are scheduled for delivery in Bua Tikiana on 22 Dec;
- Water Authority of Fiji is working to repair water treatment works in Vanua Levu;
- MSP, Oxfam, Pacific Rotary association as well as DFAT are supporting / facilitating delivery of WASH and Dignity kits to affected families.

Gaps and Constraints

- Communications with some locations remains constrained;
- Information management including at exchanges between national and divisional levels;
- Overlap and gaps in distributions a risk while rapid assessments are ongoing;
- Overlap between different clusters in relief items supplied needs further attention to maximize efficiency.



Education

Overview

- Assessment of damages in affected areas has begun through teams led by MEHA on the ground;

- Early (incomplete) damage assessment data support reports of widespread damage of schools;
- MEHA has already initiated ground damage assessment with team;
- School is virtually finished for the year, but some exams scheduled for Thursday/Friday last week were cancelled with the closing of schools, and the Ministry will prepare a plan to allow those students to sit their exams. All other students are finished for the school year;
- Schools reopen 19 January for the next school year (teachers return 18 January).

Needs

- In order to open affected schools safely in the next 4 weeks (by 19 January, 2021) the following EiE supplies need to be delivered to the affected schools: Tents & Tarpaulins for temporary learning spaces, School-in-a-Box, Students back packs, ECD kits, Recreation kits, WASH kits, hygiene kits. Quick fix toilet and wash facilities. Psycho-social support for students and teachers in affected schools.

Response

- UNICEF provided technical assistance to MEHA in the damage assessment tool, including integration of protection/PSS questions;
- One UNICEF staff has been deployed to support MEHA in gathering data on damage assessment;
- Cluster partners are prepared to support damage assessment data analysis and planning;
- Education Cluster members, including UNICEF, Save the Children, Facility, and ADRA, are coordinating and sharing information with MEHA on the EiE supplies currently pre-positioned in warehouses in Fiji;
- MEHA requested UNICEF support of a first set of supplies for Savusavu, Qamea and Yanuca. 22 tarps, 8 School-in-a-Box kits, 5 ECD kits and 5 recreation kits are on their way aboard the cruise ship Nai'a;
- In addition to supplies in the warehouse in Fiji, UNICEF is also bringing 15 tents (light weight, rectangular, 42m²) and 10 tents (light weight, rectangular, 72m²) to Fiji via the Naval vessel, "HMAS Adelaide" which will depart Brisbane Port (from UNICEF Brisbane warehouse) for Fiji on 24 Dec, and is prepared to bring more as required;
- Cluster members are prepared to provide other education supplies and supports once damage assessment information and/or distribution logistics can be jointly agreed with MEHA, and official requests are made.

Gaps and Constraints

- Funding MEHA in the operation of EOC Centres and the conduct of Detailed Damage Assessments in schools in the affected areas.



Protection

Overview

- Protection needs are currently being established.

Needs

- Request for psycho-social support teams to be sent to the North.

Response

- UN Women:
 - Provides coordination support to the Fiji Safety and Protection Cluster. Support integration of GBV risk mitigation with other clusters, linking to the existing protection mainstreaming priorities.
 - On standby to provide technical support to the Fiji GBV Working Group, Fiji Safety and Protection Cluster and Women's machinery to: support assessment efforts, including data analysis and interpretation; and facilitate skills building and training support to other clusters around how to respond to a disclosure, safe and timely referrals.
 - Procured food aid for 500 families, school kits for 500 girls/boys and 20 wheelchairs in partnership with FRIEND.

- Disseminating information on available services using government-approved IEC materials via Markets for Change programming and women market vendors across Fiji.
- UNFPA:
 - Support across Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation and Ministry of Health to enable provision of women's safe spaces.
 - Distribution of 50 specialist dignity kits for women with disability through the Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation.
 - Technical assistance across national clusters to support mitigation of gender-based violence in humanitarian actions.
 - Development of information and education communications materials to support safety of women and girls, including women and girls with disability in collaboration with the Communications working group of the Fiji Safety and Protection Cluster.
 - Maintenance of the GBV Sub Cluster website containing all communications materials, regional and international guidance and tools to support GBV response and prevention programming.
- UNICEF:
 - Supporting Child Services Unit under the Social Welfare Department of the Ministry of Women Children and Poverty Alleviation to deploy PSS personnel to affected areas.
 - Lead the Child Protection Working Group under the Fiji Safety and Protection Cluster, to coordinate the child protection response.
 - Provide PSS for students and teachers.
 - Back to school kits for January.
 - Dignity kits, Early childhood development kits and recreation kits being deployed.
- Live and Learn: Planning to undertake rapid gender disability and inclusion analysis 4th-11 Jan.
- Empower Pacific: counsellors deployed to Vanua levu. Empower Pacific also distributed 300 cartons of bottled water and 200 dignity kits funded by MFAT.
- Fiji Women's Crisis Centre:
 - Bua and Lasawa – providing counselling and support for GBV survivors.
 - If needed, basic food items will be provided, with a focus on women and children. Currently providing in Raki Raki.
 - Plan for radio program addressing DV info and support for GBV.
- Helpline fully operational.

Gaps and Constraints

- Not known yet.



Food Security

Overview

- Initial Damage Assessment forms are being compiled into the national Initial Damage Assessment Report by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA);
- Seven DDA teams have been deployed by MoA, covering Bua (2 teams), Macuata (2 teams), Cakaudrove (1 team) and two veterinary teams;
- Flooding on Viti Levu has affected dalo and ginger crops.

Needs

- Established as per previous sitrep.

Response

- MoA: Teams for detailed damage assessment (DDA) have been deployed to Northern Division to conduct DDA over the next two weeks and assisting division commissioners with clearance of debris and assisting affected farmer populations;
 - In Central and Western divisions MoA conducted refresher training for Kobo Toolbox / DDA;

- MoA: Seeds for 10,000 households being prepared for distribution – this will cover approximately 85% of zone 1 (worst affected area within 50km of path of cyclone eye);
 - Longer term rehabilitation planting material is being mapped and needs will be shared with external stakeholders;
- MoA: Mapping of planting material requirements is taking place with existing stocks and gaps identified;
- Ministry of Forestry (MoF): Housing rehabilitation and clearing of fallen trees is taking place throughout Central, Western and Northern Divisions;
- MoF: forest damage assessment ongoing;
- WFP: produced cyclone track map analysis overlaying both TC Harold and TC Yasa along with pre-existing socio-economic data compiled from mVAM project. Next analysis to be produced when more data is generated;
- FAO: working with Ministry of Fisheries to understand fisheries sector needs;
- Save the Children: Cash Feasibility Assessment for the Northern Division currently ongoing;
- UN Women: Providing temporary tents to markets, especially in Northern Division

Gaps and Constraints

- MoA: Vodafone network issues remains a challenge for the North following TC Yasa. DDA teams relying on Digicel for communications and online survey data capture;
- Some Eastern Division islands remain out of contact.

Donations / Funding

- New Zealand
The New Zealand Government provided an additional NZD 2,000,000 in assistance to Fiji. The support includes:
 - NZD 750,000 to meet urgent water and other priorities;
 - NZD 150,000 to support the provision of essential relief such as emergency shelter, water and sanitation, and trauma counselling;
 - NZD 750,000 for New Zealand NGOs to respond through their local partners for relief and early recovery assistance, including activities focused on the most vulnerable; and
 - NZD 100,000 to the IFRC to support the Fiji Red Cross in its relief activities.

[The support announced today brings New Zealand's contribution to NZD 2,500,000, following an initial package of support announce on 18 Dec.]

ADRA received FJD 50,000 MFAT funding for two months Rapid Response starting on 22 Dec in 15 communities in Macuata and Rapid Gender Analysis with *Live & Learn*.

- Australia
An Australian Defense Force flight with DFAT relief material arrived today in Nadi (*for more details, please see under Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination*)
- European Union
The EU has pledged Euro 800,000 (close to FJD 2,000,000) in humanitarian aid funding. The amount will support humanitarian aid partners who are already on the ground to respond to the immediate needs, including shelter, food, health care and access to clean water, safe sanitation and good hygiene.
- Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council
Received request from NDMO to provide support for logistics and WASH (e.g. trucks forklifts, shipping containers) and FBDRC is currently working on this.
- UNICEF has mobilized more than \$60,000 in funding for emergency WASH supplies and is currently in the process of replenishing Suva warehouse from contingency reserves in Brisbane.