

## Fiji: Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasa Situation Report No. 06 (as of 06 January 2021)



This report is produced by the OCHA Office of the Pacific Islands (OoP) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period of 30 December – 06 January 2021. The next report will be issued on or around 12 January 2021.

## Highlights

- Assessments and initial distribution of relief assistance are continuing throughout affected areas. According to authorities, relief has reached every affected community in the Northern and Eastern Divisions with more than 37,000 food ration packs and NFIs delivered. Around 900 households have received seedlings to help rehabilitate damaged farms;
- The number of Evacuation Centres has decreased to 35 (all in the Northern Division), currently accommodating 803 persons. All schools have been cleared as evacuation centres and should be ready to receive students when the new school year is starting in about two weeks;
- The Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) opened an operations room in Labasa for all partners operating in the north. This will help to further enhance coordination and liaison between humanitarian partners and governmental counterparts;
- *HMAS Adelaide*, an Australian navy vessel, reached Fiji waters on 30 Dec and has begun its support of TC Yasa relief efforts by assisting distribution of NFIs and other relief items to remote areas, helping to rehabilitate damaged and destroyed school buildings as well as providing safe drinking water.

## Situation Overview

Assessments and initial distributions of relief assistance are continuing throughout affected areas. Humanitarian partners (UN agencies and NGOs) are working together with government authorities (NDMO, ministries, division entities) to assess the impact of TC Yasa, establish humanitarian needs and work on the response.

According to authorities, relief has reached every affected community in the Northern and Eastern Divisions with more than 37,000 food ration packs and NFIs delivered to people in need. Around 900 households have received seedlings to help rehabilitate their damaged farms. That support will continue on a needs-only basis as assessments complete.

The local government is asking support from all to accelerate efforts to clean villages from debris. Essential services continue to be restored. In Savusavu, the second largest town on Vanua Levu, the power supply has been restored to 80 percent, but Labasa itself is still about only 40 percent.

As of 05 January, 2021, 35 Evacuation Centres (all in the Northern Division) remain active, accommodating 803 persons. Delivery of food rations and NFIs to open ECs is continuing. No schools are used anymore as evacuation centres. However, there are community members who cannot return to their villages, they will be supported with tents and other facilities to stay within the school premises temporarily. All schools should be ready for the start of the school year on 18 January.

## General Coordination

Coordination of the relief effort by Fijian authorities and humanitarian partners is continuing at national, divisional, provincial level. There are daily meetings between international humanitarian actors with national authorities at Suva and Labasa level. A PHT Operations Room in Labasa (in the same building as the District Commissioner North's

Office) is now fully functional with connectivity and telephone lines for all humanitarian partners operating in the north. Coordination between government entities coordinating the relief effort and humanitarian partners at the sub-national level is proceeding well.

Finalization of assessment and distribution data is in progress. An assessment dashboard has been created for the Eastern Division and detailed analysis of collected data is in progress.

OCHA is also working closely with NDMO, national and regional cluster leads as well as individual humanitarian partners on a 5W. Government food/NFI distribution data will be added shortly and are currently verified by NDMO and official in the Northern and Eastern Divisions.

### Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination

On 30 Dec, Australian Navy vessel *HMAS Adelaide* arrived in Fiji waters. Following COVID-19 quarantine procedures, the crew was able to start work onshore on 06 Jan by supporting the repair of schools, provide technical expertise and equipment for potable water production, assist in the distribution of NFIs to remote villages (via helicopters stationed on board the navy ship) and generally support Fiji's recovery efforts.

*HMAS Adelaide* is currently anchored north of Galoa Island and its personnel has started working with RFMF to establish temporary school facilities on Galoa Island.

As of 05 Jan, the HMAS Adelaide team moved

- 15.3 tons of building material to Galoa;
- distributed 36,500 l of water from Bekana Jetty, and
- carried out 17.2 tons of aid stores distribution to Nabouwalu.

As for access to safe water, it is worthwhile to note that a water purification plant was established in Vanua Levu. ADF personnel are working together with the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) and the Water Authority of Fiji (WAF) to distribute the clean water from the water distribution point at Bakana Jetty, while also maintaining strict COVID-safe protocols set up by Fiji's MoH/MS. The water entering the purification plant is demineralized, made safe and distributed by the RFMF and WAF to affected communities in Vanua Levu in a COVID-safe manner, prioritizing the highest hygiene standards.

The Australian High Commission in Suva deployed a small team to Labasa to assist with liaison with the Commissioner's office and partners on the ground in relation to the tasks being carried out by *HMAS Adelaide* and coordination of Australia's broader humanitarian assistance to the Northern Division.

## Overall Response

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### Logistics

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#### Overview

- Australian Navy vessel *HMAS Adelaide* arrived in Fiji on 30 Dec, deployed to support the response. All transport requests for movement of humanitarian cargo from responding agencies are being coordinated through the Fiji NDMO.

#### Needs

- NTR.

## Response

- WFP, in conjunction with the Resident Coordinator's Office, has facilitated the secondment of a logistician from the private sector to NDMO. The secondee deployed to Labasa on 29 Dec for an initial period of two weeks to support the Commissioner of the Northern Division and logistics operations;
- The cluster continues to engage with partners regarding transport and logistics needs to try and identify any gaps;
- The first of two Mobile Storage Units provided by WFP to NDMO have been erected in Kubulau, Vanua Levu. The warehouse is being utilized by NDMO to support distributions and response in affected areas.

## Gaps and Constraints

- NTR.



## Emergency Telecommunications

### Overview

- NTR

### Needs

- Assessments ongoing.

### Response

- Mission to Galoa on 29 Dec to carry out telecommunications assessments – only 09 of 60 solar panels fitted to homes were damaged. These panels were installed by the Government in 2019. Mobile coverage through Vodafone and INKK Mobile was good. There was no Digicel coverage. Recommendation was made for Mobile Network operators (MNOs) to install an extender to improve connectivity;
- Mission to Yadua on 30 Dec to carry out telecommunications assessment – there is very little connectivity on the island- which was determined to be a pre-existing issue prior to TC Yasa. There was very little mobile coverage through Digicel and none with Vodafone and INKK. Recommendation for MNOs to resolve the issue with the towers on the mainland and possibly install an extender on the island to improve connectivity. Of the 38 households with solar panels installed, 13 household's panels were damaged. The remaining panels have not been functional since being reinstalled after the cyclone. Recommendation was made to have qualified electrician assess. For now, villagers use portable solar-powered power banks to charge their mobiles. The only source of keeping the community updated is via radio. The BGAN unit connectivity worked well.

## Gaps and Constraints

- NTR



## Shelter

### Overview

- Assessments are ongoing.

### Needs

- Priority needs identified include 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, potentially including support to relocate a number of houses to safer locations in some cases, 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 (FRCS) continues with assessments, distribution of emergency shelter and essential household items, and provision of technical support to 12,531 people (2,506 households) in the provinces of Bua, Macuata, Cakaudrove, Lau, Lomaiviti and Ba;
- Habitat for Humanity Fiji is engaged in assessments (initial and detailed), provision of emergency shelter assistance, supporting repair of shelters and wash facilities, and development of build back safer information, education and communication materials in Bua, Cakaudrove and Macuata;
- Live & Learn Fiji has two teams in the north (Labasa and Savusavu) carrying out distributions of tarpaulins, rope and WASH kits;
- Partners have been requested to complete 3W reporting for planned and completed actions.

## Gaps and Constraints

- Shelter Cluster members currently have the capacity (ongoing and planned actions) to reach approximately 3,600 households to complement Government response efforts;
- Information management continues to be a major challenge, so the 3Ws do not currently reflect the full extent of emergency shelter assistance planned and households reached. This makes it difficult to analyse gaps in relief assistance.



## Health & Nutrition

### Overview

- One nursing station in the Northern Division was destroyed (Kia Island) and 23 other health facilities and adjacent staff accommodation were damaged (mostly moderate/minor) in the Northern, Eastern and Western Divisions. Initial assessments of damage to health facilities in the Northern and Eastern Divisions indicate an estimated \$2.3 million FJD required for repairs. The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, in coordination with Fiji's Ministry of Health & Medical Services and the National Disaster Management Office, will be supporting repairs to damaged facilities through a construction contractor;
- Despite the damage and impact on health workers, communities in all areas affected by TC Yasa continue to receive essential health services.

### Needs

- At least 24 health facilities in the Northern and Eastern Divisions have suffered infrastructure damage, and repairs are needed. Some quick-fix repairs have already started, and tents provided by UNICEF and UNFPA are providing supplementary working space. New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) will be supporting health facility repairs in the Northern Division through a construction contractor;
- Monitoring and assessment of the acute malnutrition situation among children and women, and treatment of any identified cases of severe acute malnutrition are needed. Concerns are mounting around the possibility of future nutritional stability of children and pregnant/lactating mothers given the large-scale destruction of food crops in the Northern Division.

### Response

- Over 40 FEMAT (Fiji Emergency Medical Assistance Team), Ministry of Health & Medical Services staff and partner agency staff have deployed to the Northern and Eastern Divisions to support clinical, public health and psychosocial response. Mobile medical teams from the MHMS/FEMAT, Fiji Red Cross Society, and Medical Services Pacific are providing clinical services throughout affected areas in the Northern Division. FEMATs deployment will continue until 10 January;
- WHO deployed its Pacific Health Cluster Coordinator to Labasa from 26-31 December to support health and nutrition response coordination in the Northern Division;
- UNFPA deployed four staff to the Northern Division, and is providing Reproductive Health kits, Clean Delivery Kits and Dignity Kits through the Division and Sub-Division Health teams;
- UNICEF has provided 10 tents to the MHMS on to re-establish working space at damaged nursing stations and health centres in the Northern Division.

## Gaps and Constraints

- NTR



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

### Overview

- Assessments through WASH Cluster partners are mostly completed with more than 1,761 WASH kits, 550 MHM kits, 145 water treatment packs and 59 water tanks distributed;
- A WASH Cluster Coordinator has been onboarded by UNICEF to support the WASH Cluster ensure a coherent response without gaps or overlaps;
- Fiji WASH Cluster webpage has been refreshed and operational ([FWC Webpage](#)) to support coordination and promote sharing of information;
- WASH Cluster Response Plan based upon NDMO data is in preparation and will be published when data is confirmed;
- 35 Evacuation Centres (EC) remain open (northern division only) with 803 evacuees.

### Needs

- An evidence based and costed WASH Cluster response plan (in progress) will refine priorities, costs and indicators based upon latest needs assessments, support provided and gaps;
- Many institutions (schools and health care facilities) and households have lost water tanks (blown away by cyclonic winds);
- More detailed assessments are anticipated to focus on most impacted areas to provide detailed cost estimates for rehabilitation works required.

### Response

- Distributions and response by WASH partners since previous sitrep:
  - 590 MHM Kits (551 Bua, 23 Macuata, 16 Lomaiviti);
  - 1,761 WASH Kits (837B, 385C, 269M, 50 Lau, 220 Lom);
  - 145 packs Purification tablets (not part of kits) (43 B, 102M);
  - 59 Water Tanks (56M, 3C);
  - 17 Emergency Latrines Installed, with 128 to be deployed shortly.
- *HMAS Adelaide* is focusing on supporting Educational facilities and also providing logistics support to distribute WASH NFIs to remote locations;
- The New Zealand High Commission has pledged to support health facilities including repairing WASH facilities.

## Gaps and Constraints

- Actual response for distribution of emergency supplies is significantly higher than reported above with some partners yet to complete 5W. This is being chased by WASH Cluster team to ensure coherent picture;
- Interventions and appropriate funding to ensure rehabilitation works follow a '*build back better*' to be advocated to all stakeholders to increase resilience against future disaster;
- Warehouses need urgent resupply to meet needs identified and ensure continued preparedness. Local suppliers will be sought to improve future responsiveness;
- Support required for messaging and awareness raising related to disease risks and food safety.

## Education

### Overview

- Detailed damage assessment is complete and has informed planning of “quick fix” repairs and supplies to be dispatched to affected schools;
- School cleanup and “quick fix” repairs are ongoing;
- Preparation for dispatch and delivery of supplies from multiple partners via *HMAS Adelaide* with partnership of Australian Defence Forces (ADF) and Royal Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) is underway;
- Schools reopen 18 January for the next school year (students return 19 January).

### Needs

- The Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts (MEHA) has completed assessing 75 schools out of the 85 affected. Approximately 6,000 students in Bua, Macuata and Cakaudrove have been affected, according to the Minister;
- Distribution of supplies to support teaching, learning, psychosocial support and hygiene for all affected schools, guided by damage assessment data;
- Distribution and setup of supplies to create safe temporary learning spaces to ensure all schools can open safely and on time for the start of the school year, in cases where repairs/construction will require more time.

### Response

- The Government is working on a timeline to ensure that schools are ready for the new term. They have identified 32 schools as a priority for the RFMF and ADF Engineers to construct temporary shelters, including the restoration of water and electricity supplies to these schools.
- Damage assessment & planning:
  - UNICEF provided technical assistance to MEHA in the damage assessment questionnaire, including integration of PSS and DRR questions, and trained teams from MEHA on AKVO FLOW for onsite capturing and reporting data during damage assessment;
  - One UNICEF staff was deployed to support MEHA in gathering data on damage assessment. ADRA and UNICEF provided some financial support to costs associated with damage assessment;
  - UNICEF has secured IM support for MEHA/Fiji Education cluster, starting 5 January.
- Coordination:
  - MEHA convened an Education Cluster meeting on Wednesday 16 December 2020 and has planned a second on 6 January 2021.
- Supplies:
  - MEHA has produced a list of all needed supplies by school as of 4 January 2020;
  - MEHA requested UNICEF support of a first set of supplies for Savusavu, Qamea and Yanuca. 22 tarps, 8 school-in-a-box, 5 ECD kits and 5 recreation kits arrived in Savusavu aboard the cruise ship *Nai'a*;
  - UNICEF now has 113 tents, 409 tarps, 172 SIB, 3,600 backpacks, 174 ECD kits, 73 Recreation kits in Fiji (thanks to ADF Flight, “HMAS Adelaide”, and WFP Charter flight). MEHA also has some supplies previously provided by UNICEF in its warehouse: 11 x ECD Kits, 13 x Recreation Kits, 2 x School-in-the-Box Kits;
  - Preparation for dispatch and delivery of supplies from multiple partners via *HMAS Adelaide* with partnership of ADF and RFMF is underway. Detailed on supplies to travel on *HMAS Adelaide* are expected soon. Details are being worked out for distributing the Education-in-Emergencies (EiE) supplies to damaged schools;
  - Australia is exploring procurement options for other critical supply needs;
  - Save the Children and ADRA also confirmed availability of supplies in Fiji for potential dispatch to schools. UNICEF has agreed to procure WASH in School kits.
- Other
  - Non-supply needs may include development of MEHA’s response plan, psycho-social support for students and teachers, training of teachers on ECD kits and recreational kits in affected schools, and support to early recovery and system strengthening for the future.



## Gaps and Constraints

- Additional funding and support is expected to be required to ensure schools and students are ready for the new school year, as well for early recovery & reconstruction. This will be informed by the TC Yasa Education Response Plan.



## Overview

- Assessments are still ongoing.

## Needs

- Requests for psychosocial support for children and adults who have experienced trauma during the cyclone and loss of familiar environments and objects. e.g. school, homes etc.;
- Vast and dire need for assistance for people living with disabilities in the villages in the Bua Province. These individuals are in need of mobility aids, medical checkups and financial assistance to help them in their everyday survival. People living with disabilities in these villages have been hit hard and affected psychologically and physically after TC Yasa.

## Response

### UN Women:

- Providing technical and secretariat support to national and divisional level coordination of Safety and Protection Cluster and GBV in emergencies Technical Working Group;
- Supporting the detailed protection assessment;
- Together with Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation (MWCPA) is raising GBV awareness at Evacuation Centres, reaching out to health centers and police posts on GBV referrals and hotline information;
- Supporting localized roll out of the GBV Multi-Sector Service Delivery Protocol.

### UNFPA:

- Supporting GBV responses alongside UNICEF and UN Women in partnership with the Ministry of Health & Medical Services and MWCPA;
- Completed visiting sites for Women-Friendly Spaces;
- As of today, UNFPA has:
  - Distributed 51 Dignity Kits in Cogeia Village and settlement;
  - Distributed 38 Dignity Kits in Dawara Village;
  - supported distribution of 40 Dignity Kits on Kia Island by Ministry of Health and Medical Services;
  - supported distribution of 80 Dignity Kits distributed in Taveuni by Ministry of Health and Medical Services.
- Distributed 38 Reproductive Health Kits in Northern Division including
  - Clean Delivery kits, clinical delivery assistance, post rape treatment, treatment of STI, management of miscarriage.

### UNICEF:

- Supported deployment of Child Services Unit/ MWCPA/UNICEF to Northern Division from 30 December to 3 January to support the coordination of child protection activities with partners in the field and assess further support required;
- Is supporting the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation's request to deploy 24 Welfare Officers (WOs) for the Child Protection response in the North (8 teams of 3 people). The teams will visit 39 communities in Macuata and Cakaudrove between 11 and 15 January to establish Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) for psychosocial support and psychological first aid support to children and families;
- Will be distributing 39 UNICEF recreational kits with the Welfare Officer's teams to facilitate the child friendly spaces (CFS) in identified communities and distribute recreational kits to the custodian in each community for ongoing use.

### ADRA:

- Distributing 279 combined Dignity, WASH & Hygiene packs in Bua;

- ADRA in partnership with Care International and Live & Learn, is conducting the Rapid Gender Assessments in Koro, Bua, Macuata and Cakaudrove – supported by MFAT and ECHO.

### Empower Pacific

- Provide counselling & psychosocial support in affected communities and distribution of dignity kits;
- As of 3 Jan 2021,
  - 39 Evacuation centres and 100 communities have been assisted;
  - 104 persons have been supported with psychosocial support /counselling;
  - 2,033 persons have been supported with psychological first aid;
  - 335 persons reached directly through group awareness sessions on gender-based violence and child protection;
  - 262 persons living with disabilities were assisted/provided with psychological first aid;
  - 303 combined dignity kits and 541 packs of water distributed;
  - 02 referrals made to Social Welfare.

### Medical Services Pacific:

- Provide counselling, psychosocial support and awareness on child protection and GBV in Evacuation centres, general medical check-up and sexual and reproductive health and rights services and integrated management of childhood illness to affected communities;
- Till date:
  - 10 Evacuation centres and 38 communities have been assisted;
  - 866 persons have been provided with general medical/outpatient and sexual and reproductive health and rights services;
  - 290 persons were supported with psychosocial first aid and psychosocial support;
  - 03 DORM (domiciliary) cases have been assisted;
  - 17 persons living with disabilities have been assisted;
  - 03 Birthing Kit and 01 New Mothers Kit has been distributed;
  - 73 combined Dignity and WASH kits have been distributed;
  - 34 Dignity Kits have been distributed.
- 38 referrals made to Ministry of Health and Medical Services

### Fiji Red Crescent Society (FRCS) / International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC):

- As of 02 Jan, the Restoring Family Link (RFL) service of the Fiji Red Cross Society has received a total of 158 cases, out of which 156 have been sorted. Two cases are pending. This service is being provided with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

### Gaps and Constraints

- Need to ensure protection mainstreaming and GBV risk mitigation in evacuation centers and ensure referrals from health centers identified;
- Need to analyze existing data to better coordinate and identify gaps.



## Food Security

### Overview

- NTR.

### Needs

- NTR.

### Response

- NTR.

### Gaps and Constraints

- NTR.



## Donations / Funding

- New Zealand

The High Commission in Suva is supporting ADRA's response along the coastal areas of Macuata, Sasa Districts in the communities of Nakalou, Raviravi, Nasea, Naqumu, Naividamu, Niurua, Nabukadogo, Namama, Naduri, Nakalou, Sasa, Yalava and Tabia, Kia island that has 3 village communities Ligau, Daku and Yaro with debris and waste management (634 HHs), multipurpose cash grants (250 HHs), and a rapid inclusion assessment.

For NZ support in the Shelter sector, please see further below.

- Australia

Australia is supporting school repairs and has offered logistic support to transport of education supplies, flooring for temporary learning spaces, and other priority supports.

*HMAS Adelaide* reached Fiji on 30 Dec and started to assist in the TC Yasa relief effort. The Australian High Commission in Suva is deploying a small team to Labasa to assist with liaison with the Commissioner's office and partners on the ground in relation to the tasks being carried out by *HMAS Adelaide* and coordination of Australia's broader humanitarian assistance to the Northern Division.

(For more information on this and activities related to *HMAS Adelaide* see under Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination above)

- France

The French Government sent 64 tons of relief supplies (relief items, building material, construction equipment and tools) to Fiji from French Polynesia. The humanitarian assistance is valued at more than FJD 428,000. It also included supplies collected by students of the University of French Polynesia and the Red Cross of French Polynesia following a public relief drive.

- China

On 30 Dec, the Chinese Ambassador to Fiji handed over a cheque of FJD 420,000 to Fiji's Prime Minister for TC Yasa Relief Efforts.

- India

More than six tons of relief supplies were flown into Fiji on 02 Jan, 2021, donated by the Indian Government. These include temporary shelters and hygiene kits.

- Government of Fiji

The NDMO has issued 57 letters of certification for individuals and organizations raising funds and collecting items for people affected by TC Yasa. The certification process was established last week to assist the NDMO and the Divisional Commissioners in the North and East better coordinate the equitable distribution of relief items in affected communities and villages.

The Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and disaster Management in collaboration with the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority and *Fiji Airways* have launched the **TC Yasa Loloma Package** which provides a 30% discount for organizations, groups and individuals living abroad to send disaster relief items to Fiji on board *Fiji Airways*.

- Vodafone Fiji

On 05 Jan, the company pledged FJD 300,000 to the Government's *Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasa School Rebuilding Assistance* for the construction and rehabilitation of damaged schools. The Minister of Education said the funding would assist the ministry quickly rebuild at least 20 schools.

- The International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) continues to provide support to the Fiji Red Cross Society (FRCS) operations in the areas of Shelter, Health, WASH, Cash assessment and Safety & Protection. One IFRC staff also supports the FRCS at the National EOC.

- Shelter Cluster

The work of the Fiji Red Cross Society is supported by the following contributions which cover the emergency shelter component, as well as the wider response (WASH, health, PGI, first aid, psychological first aid, psychosocial support):

- DREF: FJD 919,000 / CHF 400,000 for 6 months
- DFAT/Australian Red Cross: AUD 250,000 for relief and early recovery, 6 months
- USAID (regional fund): USD 100,000, 6 months
- USAID (global fund): USD 200,000, 9 months
- Australian RC: FJD 280,000 / CHF 122,000 in-kind relief items
- NZ Red Cross: FJD 540,000 / CHF 235,000 in-kind relief items

The work of Habitat for Humanity Fiji is supported by:

- NZ High Commission: FJD 50,000 for emergency shelter and WASH.
- START Network: FJD 197,000 for emergency shelter and WASH.

The New Zealand High Commission (NZHC) has provided:

- 300 shelter tool kits (100 locally procured and packed by the Bua Urban Youth Network);
- 1,500 tarps, generators and chainsaw packs (along with relief supplies for other sectors) to NDMO.

#### Health & Nutrition Cluster

- Partners responding with support from Australia/DFAT, NZ/MFAT and the IFRC;
- NZ/MFAT will support health facility repairs across the Northern Division;
- *AmeriCares* will fund “flash grants” of USD 10,000 or less to government or non-governmental agencies involved in the Yasa response, with a focus on health, psychosocial support and WASH.