



TROPICAL CYCLONE WINSTON RESPONSE IN FIJI

SITUATION REPORT: 24 MAY 2016



IOM Staff undertake distribution in Nausori Highlands, Nadi (Photo: Rajnel Prasad)

Highlights

■ Assessments and Monitoring

The findings of Round One of the Evacuation Tracking & Monitoring (ETM) have now been released. Please see overleaf for further information, with the full report available at:

<http://goo.gl/ZUttZ1>

IOM currently has a team in Vanua Levu conducting scoping visits for Round Two of the ETM.

■ Distribution in progress

Despite setbacks due to poor weather conditions, distribution rates have increased following a drop in early April due to Cyclone Zena. Distributions done by local NGO implementing partners continue in Viti Levu, Vanua Levu and Ovalau Island.

■ Protection

IOM continues to implement protection activities through its involvement in the Shelter Cluster, including provision of solar-powered lanterns and street lights as part of the emergency supplies provided to communities through implementing partners.

Situation Overview

The response to Cyclone Winston continues, with over 100 humanitarian partners supporting the Government of Fiji to respond to needs in the areas of food security, health, water and sanitation, shelter, and protection in particular.

The response has been affected by the onset of a secondary cyclone—Tropical Cyclone (TC) Zena—a category-3 cyclone that hit Fiji on April 6th which brought gale force winds with gusts of up to 170 km/h and heavy rainfall. The Fiji Government was prompt in its response and announced the nationwide closure of all schools, as well as a nationwide 'restriction of movement' order which came into force at 6pm local time. The Fiji Police Force, in support of the Emergency and Discipline Services was tasked with maintaining this order.

With gale force winds and heavy rainfall affecting already Winston-ravaged areas, there were reports of more than 3,500 people in affected areas being evacuated to evacuation centres. Over 100 official centres that were closed after TC Winston opened up again as a result of flash floods brought on by the heavy rainfall.

Flash flooding hit towns including Nadi, Rakiraki and Ba, which experienced a considerable rise in water levels, reaching thigh height. Main roads along the Queens and Kings Highways were flooded, with many bridges either partially or completely under water.

Government and non-government agencies have provided assistance to those affected, including water purity kits, sanitation kits, food and water items, clothing and technical support to clean up efforts.

Following the initial response, the situation has stabilised, and members of the *Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT)* and other actors are beginning discussions about recovery, reconstruction and disaster risk reduction. An after-action review of the PHT has proved that stronger ties with the GoF and its ministries needs to be developed, broader information-sharing will be essential for any further response and reconstruction efforts are now a priority. The PHT also concluded that a strategic response plan should be in place not only for Fiji but for the rest of the Pacific. IOM is an active member of the PHT and continues to engage with partners on a cooperative way forward for Fiji.



Navo Bridge, Nadi (Photo: MWH)

IOM RESPONSE



Shelter and NFIs

IOM procured and delivered 81 MT of Shelter materials in response to TC Winston. Through partnerships with local implementing partners these materials have reached some of the most remote and severely affected populations of Fiji.

IOM's local NGO implementing partners, Live and Learn (LaL)/CARE Australia and Habitat for Humanity (Fiji), continue to distribute NFIs in affected areas on Viti Levu, Vanua Levu and Ovalau island.

- From 18-March to date, LaL/CARE distributed shelter kits including tarpaulins to 1,177 households in settlements and villages in Magodro and Naviti districts of Ba Province.
- From 18- March to date, Habitat for Humanity Fiji along with its distribution partners, Peoples' Community Network (PCN) and ADRA has distributed 2,650 shelter kits to families in the North and the Western divisions.
- As a protection component of the programming, solar lanterns that IOM included in the NFIs given to the implementing partners have been distributed in areas that are still without electricity, along with mosquito nets issued to pregnant women. The remaining solar lanterns are due to be distributed in the next couple of weeks.
- Ongoing assessments and distributions have suffered delays due to flooding in the affected areas from unusually heavy rains.

Evacuation Tracking & Monitoring—Round one data released by Government

In the immediate aftermath of the Cyclone, IOM was requested by the Government of Fiji to conduct tracking and monitoring to capture information related to the needs of people who had been evacuated. Working in close collaboration with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and the Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics (FIBoS), 32 enumerators trained by IOM conducted Evacuation Tracking and Monitoring (ETM) on 9-23 March 2016. The ETM enumerators were deployed to Ba, Ra, Bua, Lomaiviti, Ra, Cakaudrove and Lau Provinces and were able to survey 309 evacuation sites, interviewing key informants such as village leaders and private individuals seeing to the needs of the evacuees as well as knowledgeable evacuated persons themselves.

The initial findings through this mechanism have shown continued gaps in shelter as well as consequent protection concerns for vulnerable communities.

The full findings of the Round One ETM are available at: <http://goo.gl/ZUttZ1>

IOM will commence with Round Two of the ETM. This round will focus on information gathering on reconstruction needs, continued protection needs, return and reconstruction activities and numbers, as well as conditions of evacuation centers and other communal and government structures. The results are expected in early June.

IOM Shelter Kits Distributed

3,827 Kits (benefiting approximately 17, 000 individuals)

74% of total planned distribution

Fast Figures from the ETM as of 23 March 2016

7,062 residual evacuees
1,593 evacuated households
167 evacuee sites in 6 provinces

IOM's Emergency Response Operations in Fiji are supported by:



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