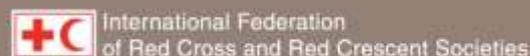


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# Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Fiji: Tropical Cyclone Winston



<b>DREF Operation n°</b> MDRFJ001	<b>Glide n°</b> <a href="#">TC-2016-000014-TON</a>
<b>Date of issue:</b> 22 February 2016	<b>Date of disaster:</b> 20 February 2016
<b>Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA):</b> Stephanie Zoll, Disaster Management Coordinator, IFRC	<b>Point of contact (name and title):</b> Eseroma Ledua, Operations Manager, Fiji Red Cross Society
<b>Operation start date:</b> 22 February 2016	<b>Expected timeframe:</b> 5 months (22 July 2016)
<b>Overall operation budget:</b> CHF 317,459	
<b>Number of people affected:</b> More than 6,000 evacuated (this figure is likely to increase in coming days)	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b> 5,000 people (1,000 households)
<b>Host National Society(ies) presence:</b> The Fiji Red Cross Society has 33 staff members in its headquarters, who are now on high alert. The National Society is currently mobilizing its 138 active volunteers and 162 on-call volunteers for potential response.	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> The National Society is working with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) as well as the Australian Red Cross and New Zealand Red Cross.	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> The National Disaster Management Office leads the government response, under the National Disaster Committee, convened by Fiji's Prime Minister. The Pacific Humanitarian Team has convened under UNOCHA, providing a coordinated approach for UN and NGOs. Fiji Meteorological Service has been monitoring TC Winston and providing warnings and media releases to the general public.	

## A. Situation analysis

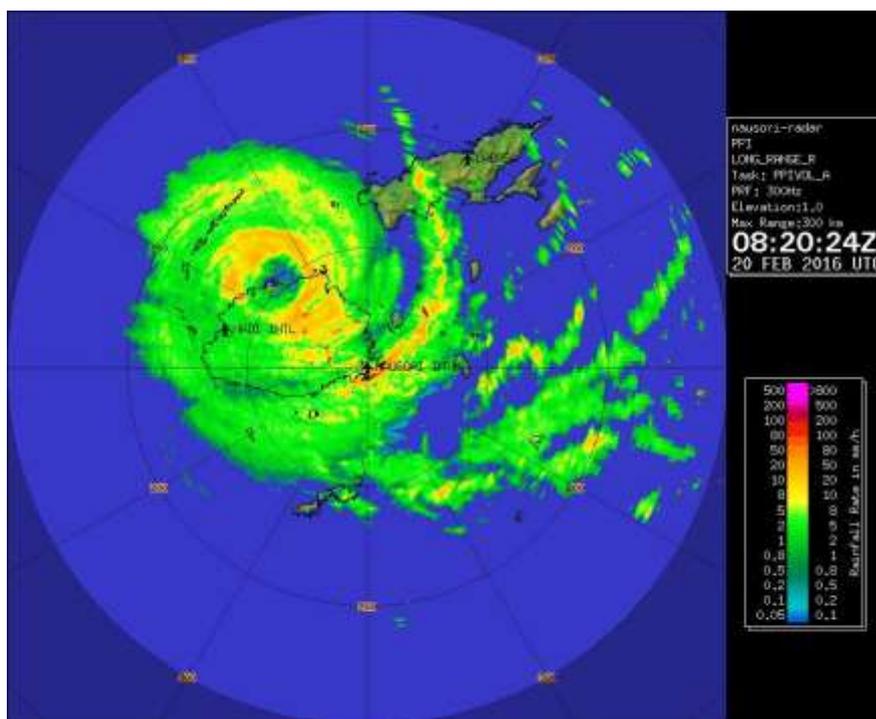
### Description of the disaster

Tropical Cyclone Winston made landfall on 20 February, with wind gusts of up to 325 km/h, as estimated by The Joint Typhoon Warning Centre. As of 9am (GMT +12) on 22 February Tropical Cyclone Winston's centre ([930HPA] Category 5) was located at approximately 17.4 south 175.3 east, about 175km west of Viwa and 230km west of Nadi. The cyclone is moving west at about 22km per hour. At its centre the cyclone is estimated to have wind speeds of 250km per hour, with momentary gusts of 285km per hour. The Government of Fiji has declared a state of emergency at 1pm on Saturday, 20 February, which will remain in place for 30 days.

The Fiji's National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) had urged people to secure their homes, properties, businesses or livestock as Tropical Cyclone Winston approached the country. Both the Nadi Weather Office and disaster officials are closely tracking the movement of the cyclone.

A total of 80 evacuation centres were activated across the country and some 6,000 people have sought shelter in these centres. Schools and markets have been closed, government hospitals are on standby, and electricity and water supply is still affected in some parts of the country. The death toll has risen to 18 as authorities on Monday began to get a grasp on the scale of the disaster and deploy aid to hard-hit outer islands.

Heavy rains and wind persist hampering the initial damage assessments. The government undertook an aerial survey of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu in the afternoon of 21 February. A separate assessment will be undertaken tomorrow of the Yasawa Islands, which is still experiencing the effects of the cyclone.



This [radar image](#) is of TC Winston as it passes over Fiji on 20 February, 2016

## Summary of the current response

### Overview of Host National Society

In preparation for the cyclone making landfall in Fiji, an emergency meeting was called and attended by the Fiji Red Cross Society (FRCS), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and other in-country Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners. FRCS has released its own funds in order to support preparedness and response.

The FRCS Headquarters (HQ) has been in close contact with all division coordinators, as well as all 15 branches, providing them with situation updates. All FRCS branches are on standby, however there are no volunteers in the Lau Island group. In the northern division, FRCS volunteers are supporting the local authorities in the emergency centres. On 20 February, as TC Winston made landfall, FRCS volunteers assisted 151 people to evacuate their houses and move to evacuation shelters, where first aid was administered by FRCS as required.

An Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) has been set up in the FRCS HQ with teams on standby rotating in 12-hour shifts. The National Society's contingency and disaster management plans have been activated. Emergency Response Team (ERT) members, equipment and vehicles are on stand-by and disaster preparedness stocks are ready to be dispatched as soon as needed.

### Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

National Societies in the Pacific, along with the IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) in Suva and Partner National Societies, have been on high alert since this Tropical Cyclone was sighted and meteorological projections indicated its imminent impact in Fiji. The IFRC Suva CCST organized several teleconferences for concerned partners, to better coordinate the preparedness for response. The IFRC CCST continues to closely liaise with FRCS, providing support for information management (including preparation of situation reports) and international relations management.

A coordination teleconference call has been organized on 20 February between the IFRC CCST in Suva, the Regional Office in Kuala Lumpur and the Pacific National Societies (Australian Red Cross, Fiji Red Cross Society, New Zealand Red Cross, and Tonga Red Cross Society). The IFRC Suva CCST activated its business continuity plan prior to TC Winston making landfall. The available stock reports from Pacific National Societies have been shared and analyzed to prepare for potential dispatch of NFIs to affected island communities. Meanwhile, the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) is supporting in setting up the system for Restoring Family Links (RFL).

An [Information bulletin](#) and a [news story](#) were issued on 20 February, covering the situations and Pacific National Societies and IFRC preparedness and response plans. Additional support has been offered by the IFRC, but no official request has yet been received for assistance from outside the Pacific. The teams will remain in close contact and re-evaluate support needs. Delegates from Pacific National Societies are also on stand-by for deployment if needed.

### **Overview of non-RCRC actors in country**

Fiji is a regional hub for a number of UN and Non-Government agencies. The Regional Clusters are mostly based in Suva, including the WASH cluster, the Health and Nutrition cluster, Protection cluster and Logistics cluster. UNOCHA is also based in Fiji providing coordination and communication, as well as WHO, UN Women and WFP among others. NGOs present in country include ADRA, Oxfam, Save the Children, Care, World Vision, Live and Learn, as well as a large number of civil society organisations, who are coordinated through Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO). Suva is home to the vast majority of NGOs in the Pacific and is headquarters of the Council of Regional Organisation in the Pacific which includes the Foundation of the People for the South Pacific (FSP), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the South Pacific Commission (SPC).

### ***Coordinating with the authorities***

The FRCS coordinates closely with the NDMO and is an active participant in the high level National Disaster Committee, which is chaired by the Fiji's Prime Minister. Through its auxiliary role to the government, FRCS has access to trucks and ships. Red Cross volunteers are being mobilized at the request of the NDMO and will support in joint damage assessments in the coming days. The NDMO has made radio announcements encouraging communities at risk to cooperate with the Red Cross volunteers and with NDMO itself. FRCS has also mobilized its volunteers to provide support in Government-run evacuation centres.

The Government will be providing food for affected communities, and has committed to provide a one-month food distribution.

### ***Inter-agency coordination***

A cluster coordination meeting was held on 20 February at UNOCHA. The meeting was attended by approximately 30 UN agencies and NGO, as well as a representative from the Fiji's NDMO. Information on available resources and preparedness strategy was shared to ensure the country was adequately prepared for the impact of TC Winston. The next cluster meeting is being held on 22 February.

## **Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning**

### **Needs assessments**

As of 22 February, detailed information on TC Winston's impact on the population is still unclear. Observation reports of heavy damage are surfacing; however, the full level of damage will not be known until official assessments are carried out in the coming days.

FRCS is contributing to the overall objectives of the national response according to its role in Fiji's National Disaster Plan. This includes assistance in post disaster damage and needs assessments, provision of emergency shelter and other household items, among other things. The FRCS branches have commenced initial damage and needs assessments. All FRCS assessments are conducted in close consultation with the government-managed Division and District Operation Centres. The initial assessments' findings will complement the upcoming government-led assessments.

The FRCS assessments have already started in the central division and the west (Suva, Nausori, Korovou, Rewa, Tailevu, Naitasiri). In consultation with the Government, and if accessible, FRCS also plans to undertake assessments in the north (Tavua, Rakiraki, Lautoka), the east (Nabouwalu, Savusavu and Tavenui), and in Koro, Levuka, Kadavu, Lau Group. The accessibility to other assessment areas will be confirmed by the Disaster Management Committee (DISMAC) of Fiji's NDMO. Assessments will be carried out by teams of 10 volunteers and 5 staff members. The aforementioned branches are supported by a Diversional Service Centre in the West, in Lautoka and a Diversional Service Centre in the north, in Labasa, which act as hubs between the HQ and the branches.

To date, media has reported damage to houses in Nausori, Korovou, Rakiraki, Ba, Savusavu, Taveuni and the Lau group. Shelter needs are expected to be a priority in this response. It is likely that replenishment of shelter kits will be needed promptly.

Based on further information and assessments, when conditions safely permit (heavy rains continue in Fiji), the Emergency Plan of Action may be revised to address evolving needs, across different sectors. Additional assistance may be requested through the IFRC international disaster response mechanisms.

### **Beneficiary selection**

Given the little available information on the impact of TC Winston on the population, FRCS's priority will be given to households that have been completely displaced, with special consideration given to families that are highly vulnerable due to gender, age, disability or other factors. The initial distributions will focus on the most accessible areas as identified by DISMAC.

## Risk Assessment

Following the impact of TC Winston, there might be difficulty in accessing to some remote areas. Roads may be damaged and low-lying land flooded, which may pose risks for volunteers' safety. In the evening of 21 February, TC Winston was located to the far west of Fiji, moving further away from Fiji. Associated rain bands continue to affect parts of Fiji with occasional heavy rains and squally thunderstorms. Flood warnings and alerts are in force in low lying areas.

## B. Operational strategy and plan

### Overall objective

This operation aims to support the FRCS in responding to the immediate needs of communities affected by Tropical Cyclone Winston, providing emergency shelter and non-food relief items (NFRIs), and undertaking rapid assessments to inform the development of a detailed action plan. At this stage, the cyclone has caused substantial damage to housing and infrastructure. This operation aims to meet the most urgent needs of those displaced by Tropical Cyclone Winston and it is likely that it will be developed into an Emergency Appeal in the coming days once the needs and planned response are better known.

### Proposed strategy

To provide access to emergency shelter and other relief assistance for an estimated 5,000 people (1,000 families) in prioritized disaster affected areas.

In order to address the immediate needs of the most affected population, the National Society proposes to focus on 1) undertaking rapid assessments, and 2) the distribution of emergency shelter materials and non-food items (NFI's).

Assessments will be carried out using the Fiji Red Cross templates (aligned with the government's assessments), which also incorporate gender disaggregated analysis to provide the necessary information for gender appropriate response.

### Operational support services

#### Human resources

The FRCS is a strong national society with 15 branches and its HQ in Suva. FRCS has 33 staff members and 314 volunteers. Aside from the FRCS's volunteers being the first responders in this response, 24 ERT trained volunteers in the North and 27 in the West have also been activated and are on standby. In terms of staff, it is planned to provide additional surge capacity to some key locations. This DREF covers travel, accommodation and per-diem costs for the staff and volunteers. The DREF will also cover insurance for the volunteers in the operation through the IFRC global volunteer accident insurance scheme.

The FRCS has determined that it will need technical support from the IFRC and Partner National Societies present in the region to respond effectively. The IFRC Regional Logistics Coordinator is currently in-country supporting the response. Furthermore, an RDRT member will be requested for deployment to provide technical surge support. Also, the IFRC Field Delegate from the TC-PAM response based in Vanuatu, will be deployed to Fiji to provide operational support in the coming days. Additional support can be provided by the IFRC's operation manager in Suva.

#### Logistics and supply chain

The table on the right is the list of non-food items and the quantity ratio per household. Most of the stocks are readily available in the containers pre-positioned by FRCS.

The FRCS has a total of 22 containers spread around their branches and at HQ. Each container warehouse contains sufficient pre-positioned NFI's for 100 households (total of 2,200 household). In addition to these NFI's, a total of 200 shelter tools kits, available in NS stock, will also be distributed. This DREF will serve to replenish part of these stocks following the distribution of relief items to 1,000 of the most affected families.

Items	Quantity
Tarpaulins (6m x 4m)	2
Hygiene kits (family of 5)	2
Kitchen sets (A)	1
Jerry cans (10-litre)	3
Dignity kit	1
WASH kit	1
Blankets	3

All procurement related to this DREF will be following IFRC standard procurement procedures.

FRCS has one truck available at HQ for the immediate distribution of relief goods. Additionally, FRCS has an agreement with the government and with three private companies for trucking services. FRCS has access to

boats/ferries through the government for the movement of staff and volunteers as well as for transportation of relief goods to outer islands.

Australia Red Cross and New Zealand Red Cross have additional emergency stocks — NFIs and emergency shelter items including shelter kits, which could possibly be deployed if international assistance is requested by the government. Depending on the impact of TC Winston, these stocks could also be used to replenish those distributed by FRCS.

Logistics costs within the region tend to be extremely high due to the significant distances between countries/areas. Movement of human resources will be expensive and is expected to take up a larger proportion of the overall budget.

The IFRC Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) in Kuala Lumpur will provide the technical support to the FRCS and IFRC Suva CCST, as needed.

### **Information technologies (IT)**

Tropical Cyclone Winston has affected the power supply and communication infrastructure in its wake. FRCS has one satellite phone, in addition to this, NZRC has activated four satellite phones which can be used by FRCS. Teams being deployed will be equipped with mobile and satellite phones as required and telecommunication costs are factored into the budget of this operation.

### **Communications**

Communications are a vital aspect to any emergency operation. To assist with clear and timely communications and information management, a communications delegate has been identified and will be seconded to the operation.

### **Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)**

Reporting on the operation will be carried out in accordance with the IFRC minimum reporting standards. One update will be issued during the operation's timeframe and a final report within three months of the end of the operation. However, if this operation evolves into an Emergency Appeal, subsequent reporting will be done within the context of that Appeal. The IFRC PMER delegate for TC Pam, based in Vanuatu, is supporting remotely, and if needed, in-country PMER support will be explored if the DREF develops into an Emergency Appeal.

### **Administration and Finance**

The IFRC, through the department of finance, provides the necessary operational support for review, validation of budgets, bank transfers, and technical assistance to the National Society on procedures for justification of expenditures, including the review and validation of invoices. The IFRC has strong relations over many years with the National Societies of the Pacific and these Societies are accustomed to these financial procedures.

The finance and administration team in the IFRC Suva CCST (one finance manager, and three finance officers as well as two administration officers and five drivers) is providing the necessary support (including transport) to facilitate the operation.





**Budget****DREF OPERATION**

22/02/2016

MDRFJ001 : Tropical Cyclone Winston

<b>Budget Group</b>	<b>DREF Grant Budget CHF</b>
Shelter - Relief	31,200
Clothing & Textiles	18,000
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	10,000
Medical & First Aid	34,000
Utensils & Tools	30,000
Other Supplies & Services	29,000
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>152,200</b>
Distribution & Monitoring	14,600
Transport & Vehicle Costs	49,200
Logistics Services	7,500
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>71,300</b>
National Society Staff	4,605
Volunteers	55,054
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>59,659</b>
Travel	12,700
Office Costs	1,650
Communications	500
Financial Charges	75
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>14,925</b>
Programme and Services Support Recovery	19,375
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>19,375</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>317,459</b>

## Contact information

**For further information, please contact:**

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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to **inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the **maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world**.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



**Save lives.**  
protect livelihoods,  
and strengthen recovery  
from disaster and crises.



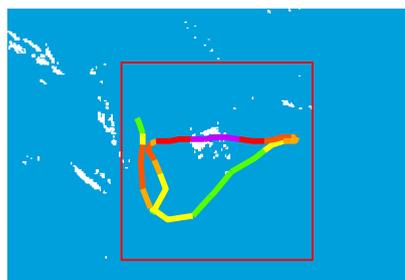
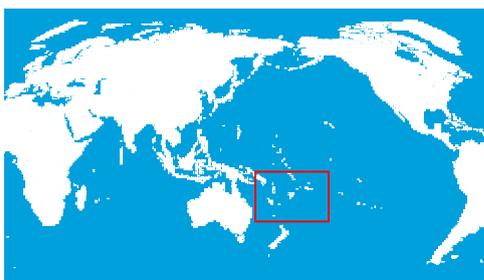
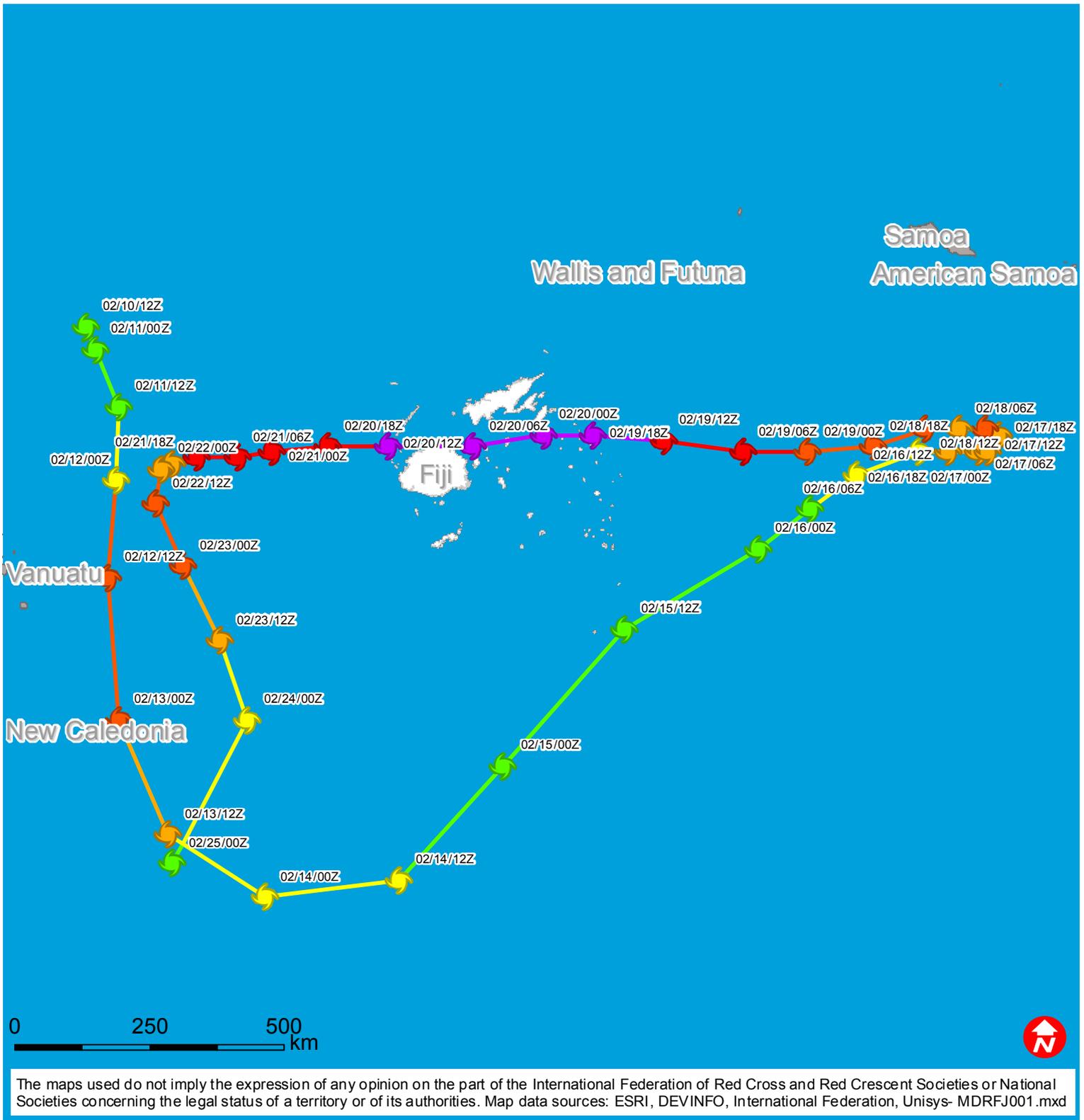
Enable **healthy**  
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion  
and a culture of  
**non-violence and peace.**



# Fiji : Tropical Cyclone Winston



## Winston

- TROPICAL STORM
- CYCLONE-1
- CYCLONE-2

- CYCLONE-3
- CYCLONE-4
- CYCLONE-5