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Emergency appeal operation update

Fiji: Tropical Cyclone Winston

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRFJ001	GLIDE n° TC-2016-000014-FJI
Operations update n° 1 12 March 2016	Timeframe covered by this update: 22 February 2016 to 10 March 2016
Operation start date: 22 February 2016	Operation end date: 28 February 2017
Appeal budget: CHF 7 million	Appeal coverage: CHF 585,660 (8%) in hard pledges and CHF 2,420,340 (35%) in hard and soft pledges
Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): CHF 317,459	Number of people assisted so far: 25,000

Summary:

Tropical Cyclone Winston, which swept through Fiji on 20 and 21 February 2016, caused loss of lives and significant damage across its path. The Government of Fiji estimates that almost 350,000 people (180,000 men and 170,000 women) living in the cyclone's path could have been affected. As of 8 March, 43 people had been confirmed dead. All the geographical divisions of Fiji have been affected to different extents. Shortly after Winston made landfall, the Government of Fiji declared a 30-day state of emergency, followed by a request for international assistance. While relief efforts are well underway, they have been hampered by communication and access challenges considering that the affected area is geographically dispersed. Three weeks on, emergency communications are only now being restored.



More than 160 Fiji Red Cross Society volunteers have been mobilized and emergency response teams are in affected communities assessing the damage and delivering supplies. These teams have now been able to reach some of the worst affected communities. Photo: Navneet Narayan/IFRC

According to the latest government figures, 166,000 people are estimated to be in need of food assistance. Longer-term needs are becoming clearer as detailed assessments continue alongside relief efforts. The needs will predominantly be around shelter, water supply, sanitation and food security. To date, the Fiji Red Cross Society (FRCS) has reached over 25,000 directly affected people with essential non-food items (NFIs), including relief shelter materials, blankets and water storage containers. The National Society and its Movement partners have also been instrumental in restoring family links, receiving 40 requests to date and successfully resolving half of them.

The FRCS has mobilized over 160 volunteers and over 30 staff on the ground, and has continued its efforts to assist people in evacuation centres by distributing relief aid. They continue to assess the impact and needs in all affected areas. The FRCS has a broad mandate – from decision making along with the National Disaster Council, to the community level – across the country. The mandate includes supporting humanitarian services of public authorities at both national and local levels to ensure that the immediate, relief and recovery efforts are coordinated and effective.

Contributions, in cash and/or in kind, towards this appeal have so far been received from the Australian Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross/Canadian government, Singapore Red Cross, the European Commission (DG ECHO) and the

Italian Government Bilateral Emergency Fund, among others, contributing directly or through their respective National Societies < [see donor response list](#) >. More pledges from USAID and American Red Cross are in the pipeline or being processed. On behalf of the Fiji Red Cross Society, the IFRC would like to thank these partners for the generous contributions.

A bilateral contribution from the Chinese Embassy has also been made directly to Fiji Red Cross Society, along with in kind bilateral contributions from the New Zealand Red Cross, Australian Red Cross and the French Red Cross.

Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Tropical Cyclone Winston passed north of Vava'u in Tonga (population: 15,000) as a category 4 cyclone on the morning of 19 February 2016, bringing sustained winds to the surrounding islands. Between 20 and 21 February, Category 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone Winston swept through the Fiji Islands with wind gusts of up to 325 km/hr, as estimated by the Joint Typhoon Warning Centre. The cyclone, described as one of the most severe ever to hit the South Pacific, left a trail of destruction in its wake. As of 8 March, 43 people have been confirmed dead, 156 injured and at least two are missing. The Government of Fiji estimates that almost 350,000 people (180,000 men and 170,000 women) living in the cyclone's path could have been affected.

A 30-day State of Natural Disaster was declared by the Government of Fiji. As the situation evolves, more access and restored communications allow highlighting the growing needs. The government estimates that the cost of the damage will top FJD 1 billion (USD 500 million). While a proper post-disaster needs assessment and detailed technical assessment to guide rehabilitation are being planned, the authorities are focusing on the essential services, restoration of critical infrastructures (including the resumption of schools) and the provision of one month's food supplement targeting the most affected communities.

Summary of current response

Coordination and partnerships

In response to Tropical Cyclone (TC) Winston, the Fiji Red Cross Society (FRCS) has taken a principal lead role for the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement response. The FRCS complements the overall humanitarian effort through assessments and distribution of essential non-food items such as emergency shelter, cooking items, clothing, blankets, WASH and dignity supplies with relevant training and awareness in accordance with its mandate.

The FRCS also has the lead in the planning process, supported by International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). Logistically, a number of in-kind goods have been supplied by New Zealand Red Cross and Australian Red Cross as well as from the Australian and New Zealand governments. The IFRC is responsible for providing the bulk of the distribution goods not provided in-kind and is assisting FRCS with local procurement.

From across the Pacific region there has been support from other Pacific National Societies including Cook Islands Red Cross, Samoa Red Cross, Solomon Islands Red Cross and Tonga Red Cross. The Solomon Islands Red Cross has deployed its regional disaster response team (RDRT) to assist the operation with logistics tasks. The Australian Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross and French Red Cross have provided support to FRCS with technical specialists as well as in-country delegates to support the operation. The IFRC has mobilized and deployed surge capacity for logistics as well as additional surge capacity from the Vanuatu TC Pam operation. Altogether, the Movement has deployed 10 additional international delegates since the beginning of the operation. In the coming days, further RDRT and surge members will be deployed, including those specializing in WASH, procurement and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER).

A week before TC Winston, WFP hosted a regional logistics workshop which was concluded a day before TC Winston made landfall, leaving participants from some six Pacific National Societies as well as IFRC regional logistics coordinator stranded in Fiji. Since the participants were already in-country, they provided much-needed support to FRCS in the immediate response and assessments following TC Winston.

The IFRC Pacific country cluster support team (CCST) has been supporting FRCS since TC Winston was projected to affect Fiji. The support provided includes issuing DMIS update [n° 1](#) and [n° 2](#), preparing and submitting a Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) request upon which an [allocation](#) was made on 22 February, and preparing an [Emergency Appeal](#) launched on 29 February. Furthermore, IFRC participated in a Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) meeting on the morning of 20 February.

Immediately after the cyclone's impact, FRCS participated in National Disaster Council meetings, chaired by Fiji's Prime Minister. FRCS and IFRC have since been present in coordination meetings including those of the PHT, cluster

leads, clusters and sub-cluster working groups. FRCS and the IFRC system have been instrumental in providing updates identifying the 3w's – who does what, where - across the Fiji archipelago. FRCS remains in close coordination with government and non-government coordination mechanisms, sharing daily and consolidated reports, which are highlighted in both the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) and UNOCHA situation reports.

IFRC's Pacific CCST has embedded two of its staff with FRCS to support with international offers of assistance and to support the National Society's Director General. The CCST's disaster management team is also supporting FRCS to set up information management systems while other staff are supporting in their respective technical capacities.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) regional delegation in Suva has been working closely with the FRCS, supporting them on Restoring Family Links (RFL) for those in Fiji and internationally, who have been separated as a result of TC Winston. The IFRC has also worked closely with ICRC throughout the operation to date, ensuring good coordination in response to, for example, civil military relations. In addition, ICRC is supporting IFRC with communication functions.

Shelter cluster coordination

IFRC has deployed a shelter coordination team (SCT) as part of its commitment to be co-convenor of the Shelter Cluster. This follows formal activation of the Fiji Shelter Cluster on 26 February. The team arrived within 48 hours of the activation notice and is exclusively dedicated to the task of Cluster coordination, independent of FRCS/IFRC operations. The expected outcome is that the shelter response of humanitarian actors is strengthened through enhanced leadership, coordination and accountability. The SCT consists of a cluster coordinator, a technical coordinator and an information manager and is supporting the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment to coordinate the shelter and housing response. As well as the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment, the SCT is now working closely with other government ministries, FRCS, and civil society organizations to obtain initial damage assessment, agree priority areas for humanitarian intervention, and develop consistent technical guidelines for cluster partners involved in shelter interventions.

Recently within the shelter cluster, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) was tasked to form a sub-cluster working group focused on providing coordination, in line with the government, and setting standards for assisting evacuees out of evacuation centres. Most of the evacuation centres are schools and it is a priority that effort is made to enable children to return to their studies so as to restore a crucial part of normal lives. The number of evacuation centres has reduced from 1,022 at the beginning of March to 476 as of 11 March, with an estimated 14,799 evacuees still in the facilities. Many families have either returned to the original site of their homes or are temporarily sheltering in other communal facilities or staying with host families. Many evacuees have been provided with tents and other emergency shelter solutions.

Operational progress

Before TC Winston, FRCS - with support from the Australian Red Cross and the New Zealand Red Cross, had been implementing programmes focused on disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation (CCA), community based health and first aid (CBHFA) and participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST). FRCS has also ongoing programmes with partners such as UNICEF and UN Women, and partnerships with IFRC and USAID. These efforts have contributed to a skilled volunteer base available for emergency response.

The FRCS has 15 branches, a headquarters located in Suva, 33 staff members and 314 volunteers, of whom 160 have been mobilized for this operation. Aside from the FRCS's volunteers being the first responders in this response, 24 emergency response team (ERT) trained volunteers in the Northern Division and 27 in the Western Division.

National clusters have been activated for the response, with the government taking lead in overall response. FRCS and the Movement partners, including IFRC and ICRC, are actively contributing to the cluster system. Furthermore, the French, Australian and New Zealand military have contributed significantly to the relief effort under the FRANZ partnership. Military transport assets, storage capacity as well as water treatment capacity has been brought in.

Communications

The communications response over the past two weeks has covered three areas: media relations, 'stories' for Red Cross Red Crescent channels, and strengthening communication capacities within Fiji Red Cross.

For media, field visits have been coordinated with journalists from ABC TV (Australia's national broadcaster), New Zealand TV, and the wire service Agence France-Presse (AFP). Some 55 interviews have been conducted with international media, primarily radio programmes.

For Red Cross channels, information and stories were gathered during an early field trip to Rakiraki, one of the towns extensively damaged by the cyclone. This was used to develop four web stories, profiling relief, volunteers, RFL, and shelter. Photos and a short video were also used on social media. A further micro-documentary is under development.

A series of collages (or 'memes') were developed in collaboration with a local designer to profile the work of FRCS volunteers through social media. Key messages were updated.

Logistics

FRCS had prepositioned stock for 2,100 families in 21 containers across its branches. The National Society started immediate distributions using the prepositioned stock. Since then, the National Society has received an additional 64 metric tonnes of IFRC standard non-food relief items (NFIs), including tarpaulins, shelter tool kits, blankets and kitchen sets, from New Zealand Red Cross, Australian Red Cross and French Cross. A charter flight carrying additional 57 metric tonnes of standard relief items from IFRC's regional logistics unit (RLU) warehouse in Kuala Lumpur also arrived at Nadi airport.

As a part of the partnership between Airbus Foundation and IFRC, helicopters have been made available for a total of 10 hours for assessments and distributions. Using the helicopters, FRCS conducted assessments in five remote locations from 1 to 4 March thus determining the extent of needs in islands which had been inaccessible for days.

Professional logistics support is being provided by the surge logistics capacity (logistics coordinator from the IFRC RLU in Kuala Lumpur), a logistics RDRT from Solomon Islands and a second logistics surge capacity seconded from Australian Red Cross. The operation has requested for a procurement RDRT, who will assist the National Society with local procurement in accordance to IFRC standards and processes. An RDRT procurement support has been identified and is due to arrive on 10 March. An essential part of the surge role, not only in logistics but across all technical areas, is to build capacity of FRCS counterparts.

A mobilization table was released on 2 March and all the requested items have been shipped by air to Nadi airport, making a full complement of the NFIs for the relief phase and early recovery. Part of the items dispatched from Kuala Lumpur can still be pledged in as in-kind donation (IKD) as they were packaged to be sent to complement the ongoing distributions and to ease receipt on ground. The process of replenishing the NFIs dispatched from the pre-positioned stocks will start soon.

IFRC's RLU in Kuala Lumpur will continue to provide the technical support and guidance to FRCS and IFRC CCST.

Progress towards outcomes

Quality programming

Outcome 1: Continuous and detailed assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation		
Outputs	Activities planned	Progress to date
Output 1.1: Needs assessments are conducted and response plans updated according to findings	Mobilize 160 FRCS staff and volunteers for assessments	In progress
	Deploy regional tools to support assessments	In progress
	Procure electronic tablets and review assessment templates	Completed
	Following an analysis of the response plan and beneficiary needs, mobilize assessment team mobilise assessment team to conduct gender and diversity-sensitive early recovery assessments and draft an early and longer term recovery strategy.	In progress
Output 1.2: Additional assistance is considered where appropriate and incorporated into the plan	Ensure that any adjustments to initial plans are informed by continuous assessment of needs, beneficiary feedback and monitoring of relief services provided to date	In progress
Output 1.3: Mechanisms are in place to facilitate two-way communication with and ensure transparency and accountability to disaster-affected people.	Provide appropriate information, including on the scope and content of projects, to disaster-affected people	In progress
	Ensure that affected people can deliver feedback on the programmes and report any complaints, in confidence and that such are actioned by FRCS and partners	In progress

Progress

Each FRCS branch in affected areas has deployed assessment and distribution teams consisting of trained first aiders, shelter kit trainers and psychosocial support volunteers. The volunteer teams are led by trained ERT-trained personnel. FRCS uses a pre-determined initial damage assessment (IDA) format that is in line with Fiji national IDA standards. The assessment form is being rolled out jointly through smart phones which support rapid data collection and analysis in the field. This rapid mobile-based survey technology was introduced to FRC in 2015 where 15 RAMP users were trained. The NZRC delegate who provided the training has returned to Fiji for this operation to assist FRCS in setting up appropriate systems. FRCS has set up a comprehensive data capture system, within its EOC, which is supporting the analysis of assessment forms. However, due to the wide geographical spread of the disaster, retrieval has been slow. The RAMP platform will provide FRCS with succinct data (via satellite), in real time from locations that have sustained damage to communications infrastructure, as well as remote outer islands. Copies of the FRCS situation reports are shared with UNOCHA and government counterparts at the NEOC and NDMO.

Shelter and settlements

Outcome 2: The immediate shelter and settlement needs of the target population are met		
Outputs	Activities planned	Progress to date
Output 2.1: Essential household items are provided to the target population	Coordinate with shelter cluster (NGOs, Government agencies and NDMO) over gender and diversity sensitive assessment tools and align with cluster agreed and sphere standards	Ongoing
	Mobilize 80 volunteers and provide gender and diversity balanced volunteer teams with orientation on distribution protocols	In progress
	Distribute non-food relief items to 7,700 households	In progress
	Conduct post-distribution process and impact monitoring, including beneficiary satisfaction surveys	Not started yet
Output 2.2: Emergency shelter assistance is provided to the target population	Train 40 volunteers (20 men and 20 women) including volunteers who can work with special needs groups (transgender, disabled, elderly, female-headed households) in emergency shelter toolkit training	In progress
	Select and register households that will receive emergency shelter assistance, including one page child protection risk mitigation strategy	In progress
	Mobilize trained volunteers to distribute tarpaulins and shelter toolkits to 4,450 households	In progress
	Provide technical advice to ensure that assisted households have correctly installed the tarpaulins provided and proper usage of the shelter toolkits, and seek real time feedback from community or additional items or appropriateness of items.	In progress
Output 2.3: The target population has attained durable shelter solutions	Train local construction teams on construction methods to the agreed standard, including promoting leadership of under-represented people in the construction sector	Not started
	Identify modality for providing shelter materials	Not started
	Local builder support for 1,000 households to rebuild transitional shelters	Not started
	Provide ongoing technical advice to ensure that transitional shelters have been correctly installed	Not started
	Conduct beneficiary monitoring on the impact and use of skills acquired and the usefulness of shelter solutions	Not started

	provided, including in sex-segregated discussion groups and whole of community discussion groups	
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Relief actions

Immediately after the cyclone, on 21 February 2016 FRCS commenced initial disaster assessments and relief distributions using stock prepositioned in 22 containers and warehouses across its branches. As of 10 March 2016, some 59,420 people (11,884 households) had been covered through initial needs assessments, with 25,380 people (5,076 households) having been reached with relief items and emergency shelter materials across 15 islands. Due to the availability of stock, not all families received the full complement of relief items, these families will receive further items in follow-up distributions. These include the provinces of Rewa, Nadroga, Ba, Ra, Tailevu, Naitasiri, Lomaiviti, Bua, Cakaudrove, Macuata and Lau.

A more detailed list of distributed items to date is shown below:

DIVISION	Tarpaulins	10 L Jerry cans	Blankets	Black Packs	Dignity Kit	Hygiene kits	Kitchen Set	Baby Kits	Plastic bucket	Shelter T/kit
Central	1,508	1,387	1,585	925	1,689	970	670	-	164	281
Northern	403	317	261	1,053	152	354	233	35	-	-
Western	1,884	432	738	1,614	387	869	385	67	-	-
Eastern	898	-	740	543	-	-	271	-	-	-
Total	4,693	2,136	3,324	4,135	2,228	2,193	1,559	102	164	281

Emergency shelter

In coordination with the shelter cluster and based on initial assessments, FRCS has initiated shelter kit training and distribution of emergency shelter materials (tarpaulins and shelter tool kits) and other household items.

Prior to TC Winston, FRCS had prepositioned NFI stock for 2,100 households in all its disaster preparedness containers and warehouses. An identified NFI gap of 5,600 is quickly being mobilized utilizing both international and national procurement channels. FRCS and IFRC are currently in discussion with [ShelterBox](#) regarding potential collaboration on shelter solutions for affected communities.

Shelter kit training has already started in one of the most affected villages, in the Western division (Viti Levu Island) where 41 community members and 15 FRCS volunteers (four women, 11 men). Feedback from the volunteers and community members indicate that the training was useful and easy for the community to understand. The trained volunteers feel confident that they can pass on knowledge to the community.



Following a shelter kit training in Nokonoko village, Nalawa on 4 March, a woman from the affected community receives shelter support from FRCS. Photo: Leeanne Marshall/IFRC.

FRCS plan to distribute shelter tool kits following the shelter tool kit training, when volunteers have been trained and can support communities to explore the use of salvaged materials to retrofit damaged houses. FRCS plan to hold shelter toolkit training in affected branches, in the coming days these areas will be prioritized. The distribution rationale will be based on assessments of affected houses ranked 1 to 4: 1 being minor damage and 4 being completely destroyed. Households ranked 2 and 3 will receive two tarpaulins and one shelter toolkit each; while households ranked 4 will receive three tarpaulins and one shelter toolkit each.

Mobilization of shelter recovery team, including a technical delegate, is already underway with the preparation of term of reference and position descriptions. This is being done to ensure a smooth transition into the recovery process. The scoping and design of FRCS shelter recovery activities is set to commence soon.

In addition, initial assessment has been carried out by volunteers of the returnees and their surroundings for further needs including water, sanitation, health and PSS needs. This data will be processed and needs addressed in the coming days.

Emergency health

Outcome 3: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced		
Outputs	Activities planned	Progress to date
Output 3.1: Psychosocial support provided to the target population	Coordinate with Health and Protection Cluster (NGOs, Government agencies and NDMO) to assist in detailed assessment to determine level of psychosocial first aid/psychosocial support needs	Ongoing – attending all meetings, 3w updates
	Deploy psychosocial support delegate to coordinate activities	Completed – PSS delegate in country
	Design psychosocial support messaging; communication methods/ mode of delivery; referral processes, and debriefing for volunteers.	In progress
	FRCS staff and volunteers affected by TC Winston receive psychosocial support.	In progress
	Produced IEC materials on psychosocial support for volunteers (mainstreaming GBV and CP messages).	In progress
	Provide training on psychosocial support for 60 FRCS staff/volunteers and mobilize them in the targeted areas.	In progress
	Establish a clear referral pathway for survivors of GBV and ensure it functions and is known to volunteers and communities	In progress
	Mainstream messages on gender based violence (and child protection) into assessments and outreach activities	In progress
	Undertake outreach in the community for psychosocial support and gender based violence	In progress
	FRCS volunteers refer people with other vulnerabilities to the appropriate agency for more comprehensive support	Not started yet
	Monitor the impacts of psychosocial support provided and produce case studies.	Not started yet – monitoring framework in design
Output 3.2: Target population is provided with community-based disease prevention, epidemic preparedness and health promotion measures	Provide training for 80 FRCS staff/volunteers on ECV (including Zika tool) vector control and mobilize them in the targeted areas.	Not started yet
	Undertake awareness-raising and clean up campaigns in target communities.	Not started yet
	Provide volunteers with mosquito repellent.	In progress
	Monitor the impacts of vector control.	Not started yet

Progress: A psychosocial support (PSS) delegate arrived in country on 27 February and has begun adapting psychosocial information, education and communication (IEC) materials for the Fijian context, together with a FRCS counterpart and first aid teams. A two-page summary of psychosocial messages will be translated into the vernacular to complement psychological first aid facilitator guides and slide notes which are also being developed.

Eight staff and volunteers (all women) from FRCS branches in Suva, Lautoka, Rakiraki, Taveuni and Labasa have received psychosocial first aid (PFA) training conducted by the PSS delegate. It is envisaged that these trained personnel will lead the implementation of PFA training to volunteers in their own branches.

The FRCS, with support of IFRC, participates in coordination meetings, including those of the protection cluster, psychosocial sub-cluster and evacuation centre working group. As a result, 4,000 leaflets on gender-based violence, child protection issues and PSS were produced prior to the cyclone. These leaflets were produced in collaboration with UN Women and UNICEF. The leaflets will be distributed by PSS and health teams, including alongside hygiene kits. Furthermore FRCS and IFRC have been in contact with the Pacific Disability Forum, and a meeting has been arranged to discuss psychosocial needs of people living with disabilities and how FRCS may be able to better meet these needs.

FRCS field team leaders are also coordinating with the Ministry of Health and WHO to undertake critical 'event based surveillance' whilst visiting communities. Team leaders will phone hotlines if they detect public health issues in a community. This early warning system provides the MOH and WHO with information from communities about potential public health risks, including outbreaks or clusters of diseases, unusual events, unexpected deaths, especially in children, or anything that might cause disease such as unsafe food or water, sick/dying animals.

Areas such as Ra, Tavua, Ba are known hotspots for typhoid and leptospirosis outbreaks. Furthermore, reports indicate that open defecation is occurring due to damaged toilets, which increases the risk of diseases. FRCS teams will keep a close eye on the situation in such 'high-risk' areas so that potential public health issues are addressed in a timely manner.

Cluster partners recognize the links that FRCS has with communities and have requested the National Society to help disseminate health messages at community level. For example, there has also been a request for all agencies to support appropriate infant and young child feeding in the current emergency including continuation of breastfeeding, exclusively up to six months; and complementary feeding over six months.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Outcome 4: Risk of waterborne, water-related and vector-borne diseases in target communities are reduced		
Outputs	Activities planned	Progress to date
Output 4.1: Access to safe water by target population in affected communities increased	Deploy a WASH RDRT to support WASH related activities	In progress
	In coordination with national WASH cluster, assist in specific assessment to determine level of support needs	Ongoing – meetings attended by health-in-emergencies delegate
	Conduct joint secondary assessments, design approach and procure materials.	In progress
	Deploy Nomad to two (2) target communities (Ba and Tavua and surrounding districts) for a duration of three (3) months	Not started
	Installation of 100 of rain water harvesting systems and water tanks.	Not started yet
Output 4.2: Access to adequate sanitation facilities by target population in affected communities increased	Conduct joint and coordinated secondary assessments, design approach and procure materials	Not started yet
	Conduct rapid assessment into whether Menstrual Hygiene Management needs are being met by FRCS or another agency and develop plan to provide materials for use.	In progress – hygiene and dignity kits aligned with WASH Cluster minimum standards
	Mobilize 60 community volunteers, ensuring gender and diversity balance	In progress
	Train community volunteers in HP and sanitation to promote recycling and work alongside Red Cross	Not started yet

	volunteers and other WASH actors	
	Implementation of rehabilitation of community sanitation facilities in priority locations including hygiene promotion and community messaging in coordination with WASH partners and Government	Not started yet
	Conduct gender and diversity sensitive beneficiary satisfaction surveys following provision of relief WASH services and rain water harvesting	Not started yet
Output 4.3: knowledge, attitudes and practices on safe water, sanitation and hygiene by target population increased	Reproduction of awareness materials and communication methods/ mode of delivery	Not started yet
	Conduct community-based hygiene promotion activities in affected communities, in coordination with other sectors and partners	Not started yet
	Conduct beneficiary satisfaction surveys on hygiene promotion activities, including on menstrual hygiene matters	Not started yet

Progress: FRCS is coordinating with the Fiji Water Authority regarding needs for deployment of water purification units (NOMADs). The National Society has one (1) NOMAD with a UV light filter at its headquarters, ready to be deployed where necessary.

Food security

Outcome 6: Reduced food insecurity among affected households		
Outputs	Activities planned	Progress to date
Output 6.1: Productive assets/inputs for primary production provided in accordance with the seasonal calendar, via in-kind distribution, cash grants or vouchers	Undertake two (2) feasibility studies on livelihoods and CTP, including assessment of male and female needs and diversity factors affecting livelihood recovery.	Not started yet
	Deploy technical expertise to develop the intervention.	Not started yet
	Train gender balanced community recovery committees	Not started yet
	Undertake gender and diversity considered household livelihood restoration activities.	Not started yet
	Monitor activities and undertake gender and diversity sensitive beneficiary satisfaction surveys.	Not started yet

Progress: Activities under this outcome have not yet started.

Restoring family links (RFL)

Outcome 7: Restoring family links (RFL) service is enhanced within the NS to respond to RFL needs of affected people and their families		
Output	Activities planned	Progress to date
Output 7.1: People in affected areas and relatives outside these areas have access to appropriate means of communication to re-establish and maintain contact with family members	FRCS teams will facilitate communication for people in affected areas to re-establish contact with their families	In progress
	Active tracing is considered in support to persons who have not succeeded in re-establishing contact with loved ones in and outside Fiji.	In progress
	National Societies staff and volunteers' knowledge and skills in	Ongoing

providing RFL service are improved

Progress: FRCS has appointed a Restoring Family Links (RFL) focal point who has been receiving support from RFL delegates deployed through ICRC in order to help people re-establish contact with loved ones after TC Winston. The NDMO designated the FRCS as the national focal point for RFL on the second day of the response operation. A dedicated web page was launched by the ICRC where people could either register themselves as "Alive and Well" or register the family member(s) they are looking for.

A hotline was established by the FRCS to facilitate the service. Red Cross volunteers have passed on RFL messages when undertaking assessment and distribution missions. The RFL service has been widely promoted through a live interview with Fiji One Television, through social and print media and by broadcasting messages in local languages on FemLink Radio (via ActionAid).

FRCS has already received 40 tracing requests over the past two weeks, while three people registered themselves as alive. FRCS has provided one Safe/Well call and has already successfully closed 20 cases until March 6. FRCS and IFRC are taking advantage of cluster meetings to raise awareness of the RFL service provided by the Movement.

Disaster preparedness and risk reduction

Outcome 8: Communities' resilience to disasters is protected and increased		
Outputs	Activities planned	Progress to date
Output 8.1: Legal frameworks for DRR, preparedness and response are strengthened	Support efforts aimed at strengthening the national legal and policy framework for international disaster assistance and to strengthen risk reduction approaches in national and local frameworks	In progress
	Dialogue with government on community infrastructure needs and potential collaborative actions to enhance resilience for vulnerable groups	In progress
	Facilitate a lessons learned meeting with Government counterparts	Not started yet
Output 8.2: Communities' resilience to disasters is protected and increased	Gender and diversity sensitive participatory risk and needs assessments undertaken (including in sex and age separated groups)	Not started yet
	Community/school-based disaster risk reduction and response planning supported, tailored to the needs of the community (such as strengthened early warning systems, risk mapping, evacuation plans developed), considering changing vulnerability and risk patterns	Not started yet
	Monitoring of community preparedness and risk reduction activities, including adjustments done to help adapt to changing conditions.	Not started yet

Progress: These activities have not started yet.

Transition to recovery programming

Outcome 9: A clear and comprehensive domestic plan covering the short- and long-term needs is developed by the National Society		
Outputs	Activities planned	Progress to date
Output 9.1: The National Society's branches	Assess the damage to branch offices and undertake repairs.	In progress

has the resources required to deliver the operation	Identify accommodation alternatives for branches without offices	In progress
	Procure IT, mobile phones and connect branches with broadband.	In progress
Output 9.2: The National Society's headquarters has the resources required to deliver the operation	Set up EOC at FRC headquarters.	In progress
	Procure laptops, mobile phone and broadband connection	In progress
	Recruit staff to support the operation.	In progress

Progress: To facilitate sound data analysis of assessment data and communications with FRCS branches, field teams and national partner agencies (including the NEOC), work on constructing an EOC at the FRCS headquarters in Suva has started. To support the upgrading of FRCS IT capacity, two IT specialists are assisting with retrofitting the EOC for IT and telecoms capabilities. Assessments will soon start for the National Society branches that either require repair or upgrade in order to undertake an efficient and effective operation.

Overall challenges and constraints

- Communications and access challenges across the archipelago have hampered the relief effort.
- Logistics arrangement for relief items and personnel continues to influence the efficiency and effectiveness of the response as inter-island transportation is costly and infrequent. In the coming weeks, this challenge is expected to intensify with increased demands from the NDMO and the various clusters.
- While there has been some promising funding received towards the appeal thus far, greater advocacy is required for donors and partners to support both direct and operational costs. Donors and partners are encouraged to consider that some key personnel are required to be in place to ensure an effective implementation and monitoring of the operation, including upholding quality and accountability. Continuous technical support by IFRC is also much needed to support the enhancement of FRCS's capacity. Consequently, as the needs of the operation evolve, changes to the human resources – and their profiles – may be revised in line with operational and technical support needs.
- Further in-depth assessments are ongoing as relief effort rolls out. IFRC and FRCS continue to participate in cluster coordination meetings. Information shared during these meetings will be cross-referenced against the FRCS assessment findings. These will further contribute to the revision of plan of action. Post distribution follow-up visits are being planned, with opportunities to include communication and RFL activities.

Recovery assessments and trainings

In order to plan for the next phase of the operation in Fiji, both for Red Cross activities as well as how these fit in with what other implementers are planning, a number of recovery and longer term needs assessments will be undertaken. These include scoping assessments for cash and recovery focused activities. The findings will provide guidance to the planning process to ensure coordinated and coherent actions by all humanitarian actors in Fiji.

Contact information

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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 (NGO's) 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**.
