

# Information bulletin



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Fiji: Cyclone Daman

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10 December 2007

**This bulletin is being issued for information only. Based on an initial assessment of the situation and needs, 69 people have been affected, but the Fiji Red Cross Society has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.**

[<click here for map and here for detailed contact information>](#)

### The Situation

Tropical cyclone Daman, which developed over the north-east of the Fiji group of islands on 5 December 2007, caused initial concerns for the north-western and some central and eastern parts. As the cyclone intensified into a Category 4 by 7 December with wind speeds of up to 250 km/hr, there were serious concerns on its potential impact on Vanua Levu, the second largest island in Fiji.

However, the cyclone changed course during the night and in the early morning of 8 December hit Cikobia, a small Fijian island of four villages with a population of 119. Up to 69 people were reportedly affected, with no fatalities recorded. Further reports indicated damage to an estimated 13 houses, a school hall and classroom, the water system and crops in the two worst-hit villages of Nalele and Vuninuku. A Fijian Red Cross relief mission arrived on 10 December and found that all water sources in the four villages have been contaminated with salt water. Water has now been identified as a critical need.

The cyclone has since then been downgraded to a tropical depression and has tracked in a southerly direction, between the Lau group of islands in Fiji and Tonga. A strong wind warning is still in force for central and southern part Lau.

### Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Fiji Red Cross Society (FRCS) responded swiftly by activating monitoring teams around the country & establishing divisional coordination teams at its centres in Labasa & Lautoka. Emergency response teams were earlier alerted on 7 December by the divisional service centres (north and west) of the impending arrival of Cyclone Daman. They were put on standby for rapid deployment to support branches in affected areas.

On 8 December, after the cyclone hit Cikobia, the FRCS mobilized its resources and pre-positioned stocks for immediate dispatch to the most vulnerable among the affected. Unfortunately, poor weather hampered immediate aerial relief missions to the affected area until 10 December. An aerial reconnaissance mission was undertaken on 9 December, following which the Central Control Group which is made up of the FRCS, Fiji Military, Police Force and the Fiji government's National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) met to finalise arrangements to send immediate relief supplies and assessment teams to Cikobia Island.

On 10 December, a chartered helicopter with the FRCS divisional service centre coordinator and a government representative arrived in Cikobia with relief supplies drawn from the FRCS's pre-positioned disaster container at the Labasa branch. The relief items included:

- 40 'black packs', each consisting of plastic sheeting for temporary shelter, clothes for a family of six (two adults and four children), towels, mini first aid kits, soaps and blankets;
- 10 cooking sets; and
- 20 water containers.

An initial assessment of the situation showed that all water sources in the villages have been contaminated by salt water and water is a critical need. The FRCS is now working with Fiji Water to send drinking water as soon as possible.

At the time of reporting, a government vessel (MV Iloilovatu) has left Suva for Cikobia with additional relief supplies and a team of 25 DISMAC officials, including a FRCS Emergency Response Team of five members from Suva and Savusavu. The additional relief supplies include:

- 10 temporary shelter frames (galvanized steel);
- 20 kitchen sets;
- 10 shelter packs;
- 20 drums kerosene (20L);
- 50 plastic sheeting (tarpaulins);
- 200 blankets; and
- 30 water containers

The FRCS Emergency Response Team will carry out detailed assessments, distribute relief supplies and set up temporary shelters on the island. They will also set up communications capability (portable VHF repeater system) to assist teams with their work while on the island.

After Cyclone Daman hit the country, the National Disaster Management Office activated the National Emergency Operations Centre. The Fiji government is also sending food rations and other relief items like generators and a water tank.

Since the start of the relief effort, the FRCS has maintained close and regular coordination with the government of Fiji, in particular the National Emergency Operations Centre. The FRCS has also maintained close communication links with the Federation's regional delegation in Suva, neighboring national societies such as Australian Red Cross (ARC) and New Zealand Red Cross (NZRC), as well as aid agencies. The Federation's disaster management information system (DMIS) was also consistently updated to ensure the latest information was shared within the Red Cross Movement.

Currently, relief items are deemed to be sufficient to cover the immediate needs in Cikobia; however, restocking support may be required, based on the detailed assessments of the ERT. The Federation's regional delegation and the Disaster Management Unit as well as Regional Logistic Unit in Kuala Lumpur, have offered further support and assistance if needed, together with partner national societies such as the NZRC and ARC.

The experience of the relief effort so far has shown the importance and value of the pre-positioned disaster container (at the Labasa branch) in getting immediate and prompt relief to people affected by disasters in a region where access and transport is a major challenge. Supported by various partner national societies such as the Japanese Red Cross, ARC and other non-governmental organizations, as well as resources from national appeals by the FRCS, the strategically positioned stocks close to disaster-prone areas have shown a very positive impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of a relief operation.

## How we work

*All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

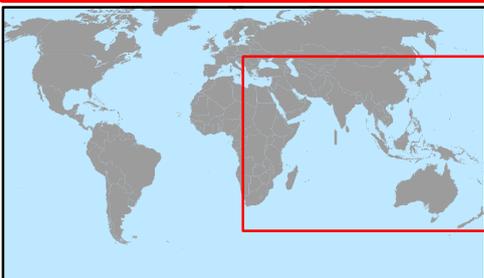
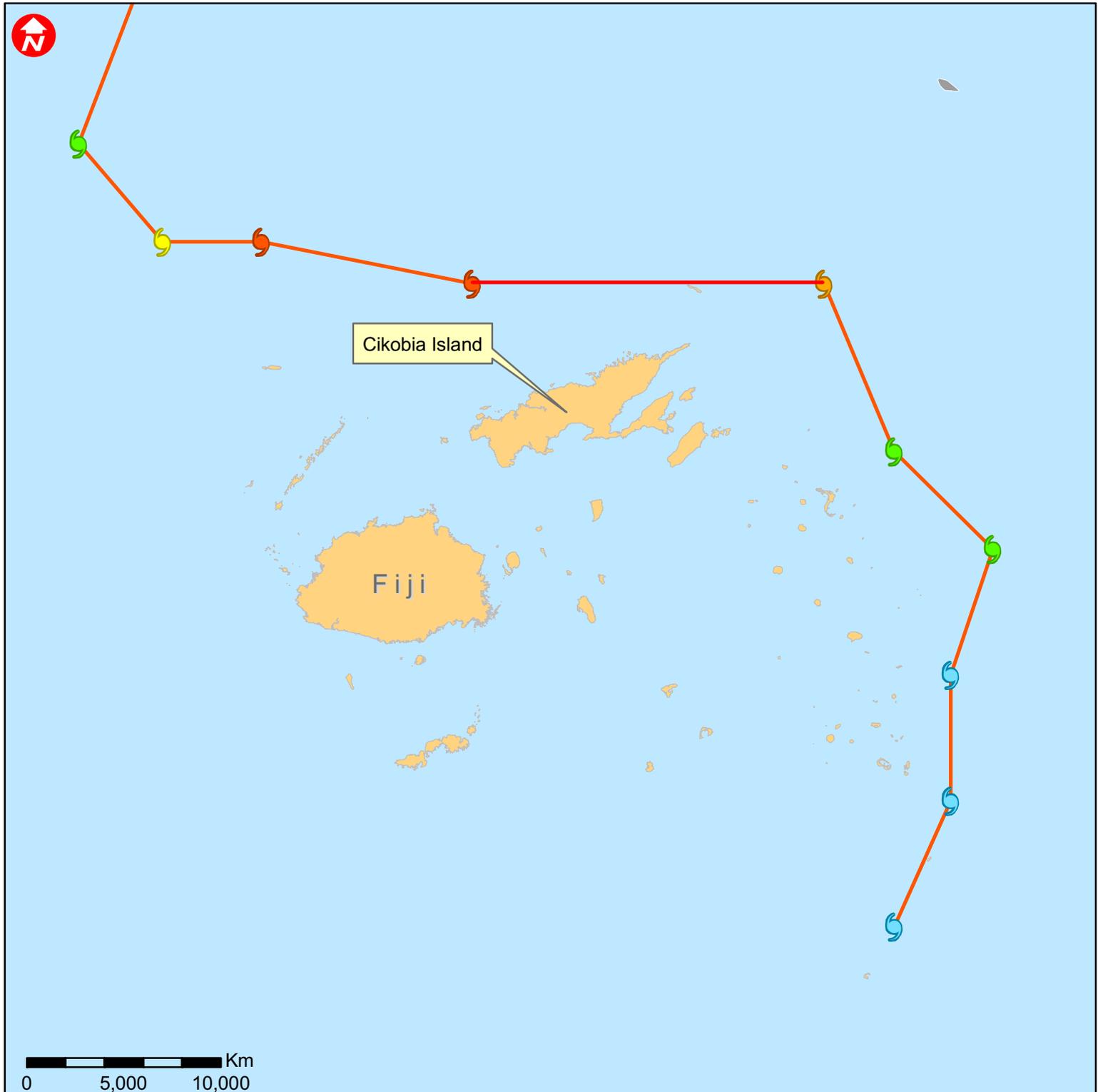
**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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- Asia Pacific Zone office in Malaysia: Disaster management unit: Mr. Latifur Rahman (Regional disaster management delegate), email: [latifur.rahman@ifrc.org](mailto:latifur.rahman@ifrc.org); phone: + 60 3 2161 0892, mobile: +60 12 975 0144; Regional logistics unit: Mr. Ilir Caushaj (Regional logistics coordinator), [ilir.caushaj@ifrc.org](mailto:ilir.caushaj@ifrc.org), mobile: +60 12 628 2707, fax: +60 3 2168 8573, or Mr. Jeremy Francis (Regional logistics delegate), [jeremy.francis@ifrc.org](mailto:jeremy.francis@ifrc.org), mobile: +60 12 298 9752, fax: +60 3 2168 8573.
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[<Map below. Click here to return to the title page>](#)



# Fiji: Cyclone Daman



-  CYCLONE-3
-  CYCLONE-2
-  CYCLONE-1
-  TROPICAL STORM
-  TROPICAL DEPRESSION
-  Daman's track