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## Information bulletin Samoa: Tropical Cyclone Evan

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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Information bulletin n° 3  
[TC-2012-000201-WSM](#)  
11 January 2013

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This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation.

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

### Summary

Tropical Cyclone Evan made landfall in Samoa on 13 December and the main island, including the capital (Apia), experienced widespread destruction. In total, 1,661 houses were damaged and 12,703 people were affected. In December, 7,739 people were in evacuation centres, although the number decreased to 810 by the beginning of January. The Samoa Red Cross Society (SRCS), through close partnership with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), has been working in 10 evacuation centres providing food, water, non-food items (NFIs), hygiene education and first aid services. The ongoing SRCS recovery operation is targeting more than 10,000 people. New Zealand Red Cross (NZRC) and Australian Red Cross (ARC) have been providing bi-lateral support in several different areas including IT, water and sanitation, logistics and health.

### The situation

On 17 December, a proclamation of State of Emergency was declared by the Head of State in Samoa for 30 days.

On 31 December, the National Emergency Operating Centre (NEOC) reported housing damages as follows:

	Number of houses with damages	Population affected
Minor	422	3,391
Major	546	4,227
Completely destroyed	693	5,085
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,661</b>	<b>12,703</b>

The NEOC reports that the critical issues and outstanding needs are the restoration of electricity, restoration of reticulated water system and sanitation issues in shelter (evacuation centres).

The Police are still investigating the 11 missing persons (including nine missing at sea); and five deaths were confirmed.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Prior to the cyclone, Samoa Red Cross Society (SRCS) had six pre-positioned depots of contingency relief items (two in Savai'i, once in Manono, one in Apolima and three on Upolu) to ensure a rapid response to emergencies. In response to the cyclone, SRCS mobilized its volunteers who were on standby, offering assistance in terms of administering first aid as well as distributing non-food items to the disaster affected population.

SRCS emergency response activities commenced during the evacuation of people during the cyclone and will continue for four to five additional weeks. SRCS volunteers assisted with the evacuation of houses in vulnerable areas, registering the evacuees in the evacuation centres and ensuring the centres are well facilitated and equipped with basic needs items and water.



SRCS volunteers assessing needs of evacuees.  
Photo credit: SRCS

SRCS headquarters was significantly affected by the cyclone, however with the support of NZRC and the arrival of a generator, they now have electricity and telephone communications. Internet connectivity is still limited and only a few staff members have access to email.

Since the cyclone hit, several Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) were mobilized from Red Cross staff, its regular volunteer database and the general public, who offered voluntary assistance in the initial emergency response efforts. This included first aid service and evacuation of affected families from flooded low-lying urban areas of Apia to identified evacuation centres on higher grounds. For security reasons, every displaced person must be registered and properly identified, to support the tracing of missing persons in case of possible relocation.

The number of people assisted in the evacuation centres are follows.

Evacuation centre	Number of evacuees
National University of Samoa (NUS)-	540
Samoa College, Vaivasetai	667
LDS (Mormon church), Magiagi	319
SDA church, Magiagi	38
Leifiifi Primary School	182
Samoa Nurses Association Hall	382
MoH Administration Building	630
SDA church, Lalovaea	120
Gym 1, Tuanaimato	35
Togafuafua Catholic Hall (Caritas)	121

Through close partnership with the NEOC, SRCS assisted with the coordination of displaced people in the urban evacuation sites in Apia, through distribution of food and water provided by the NDMO, thrice daily. SRCS has also assisted evacuees with emergency items such as hygiene kits and blankets.

### **Water, sanitation and hygiene**

Based on assessments, it is evident that water is the most critical and priority need in the evacuation centres and affected areas. The cyclone caused significant damage to most water sources, and Samoa Water Authorities (SWA) had to close their main water supplies, concerned for the health of the affected population. The SRCS water and sanitation teams assisted the Water Sector committee with the installation of two separate water tanks in the evacuation sites, for drinking and sanitation purposes. SWA helps to replenish the daily supply of drinking water, from its Fuluasou hydrants, and FESA supplies



SRCS water sanitation coordinator is explaining to the beneficiaries how to use jerry cans to collect clean and chlorinated water produced by the NOMAD system stored in these tanks. Photo credit: SRCS

river water for sanitation. The SRCS NOMAD water purification system produces 5000L/hour of purified water for evacuees and public consumption. In the rural area, SRCS is also supporting the communities with temporary latrines and purification tablets kits for safe water.

SRCS provided the following support to 10 evacuation centres:

Evacuation Centre	Evacuees	Water/person/day	W/Tanks
NUS	540	(15L)(540) = 8 100L	2 x5000L
Samoa College	667	(15L)(667) =10 005L	3 x5000L
LDS, Magiagi	319	(15L)(319) = 4 785L	1 x5000L
Leifiifi Pr School	182	(15L)(182) = 2 730L	1 x5000L
Nurses' Hall	382	(15L)(382) = 5 730L	1 x5000L
MOH	630	(15L)(630) = 9 450L	2 x5000L
SDA, Lalovaea	120	(15L)(120) = 1 800L	1 x5000L
Togafuafua Caritas	121	(15L)(121) = 1 815L	1 x5000L
Tafitoala Pr School	320	(15L)(320) = 4 800L	2 x5000L
Storage Tanks @ Lalovaea springs for purification			4x5000L
Storage tanks @ SDA, Lalovaea for ADRA trucking			2x5000L

### Non-food items distribution



Samoa Red Cross volunteers distributing NFIs to an affected family in Savaii. Photo credit: Samoa RC

Approximately 6,000 people across village communities on Upolu, Savaii and Manono islands have been reached by SRCS in their emergency response to Tropical Cyclone Evan. SRCS conducted door-to door assessments and relief distributions, as well as health, water and sanitation activities in the evacuation sites. The ongoing TC Evan recovery operation is targeting more than 10,000 people.

#### Our partners

The ARC and NZRC societies have worked with the SRCS, through bilateral arrangements, since the 2009 tsunami. The ARC has provided support to the SRCS disaster management programme and the community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) project. The NZRC

contributions have benefited a range of the SRCS health, disaster preparedness and organizational development activities. With the onset of the tropical cyclone, SRCS requested additional assistance from these partners.

ARC deployed two delegates specializing in logistics and environmental health (water and sanitation). Both delegates have now returned to Australia having completed their missions. ARC also deployed safety equipment (work boots, gloves, hard hats and high visibility vests) for volunteers and consumables for the NOMAD water unit (filters and spare parts).

NZRC deployed four delegates: logistics, IT and telecommunications, relief, and a team leader, in addition to two national staff, a health advisor and disaster management officer. They all returned to New Zealand, having completed their missions. In addition, a NZRC delegate repaired the SRCS VHF repeaters and two satphones, while 10 handhelds have been loaned for the operation by NZRC. SRCS is currently using the generator donated by NZRC.

SRCS received 2,000 blankets dispatched from the NZRC warehouse in Auckland for distribution and resupply. ARC will cover the costs for these.

In addition to several other pledges by SRCS development partners, SRCS has thus far received the following:

US Embassy	50,000 USD
Westpac Bank	100,000 WST
Johnston and Johnston	4,509 USD
Tonga Red Cross	10,000 Paaga
NZRC	60,000 NZD

On behalf of the SRCS, we would like to thank our partners for their generous support.

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## Contact information

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

- **Samoa Red Cross Society:** Secretary General, Tautala Mauala; office phone: +685 23686; email: [secretary.general@redcross.org.ws](mailto:secretary.general@redcross.org.ws).
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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 Disaster 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.

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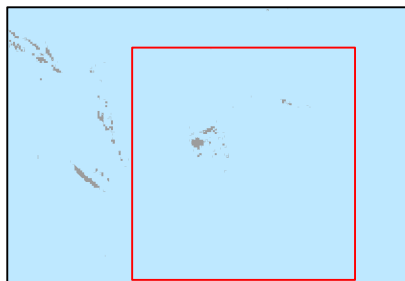
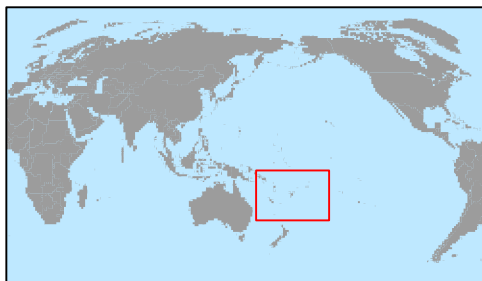
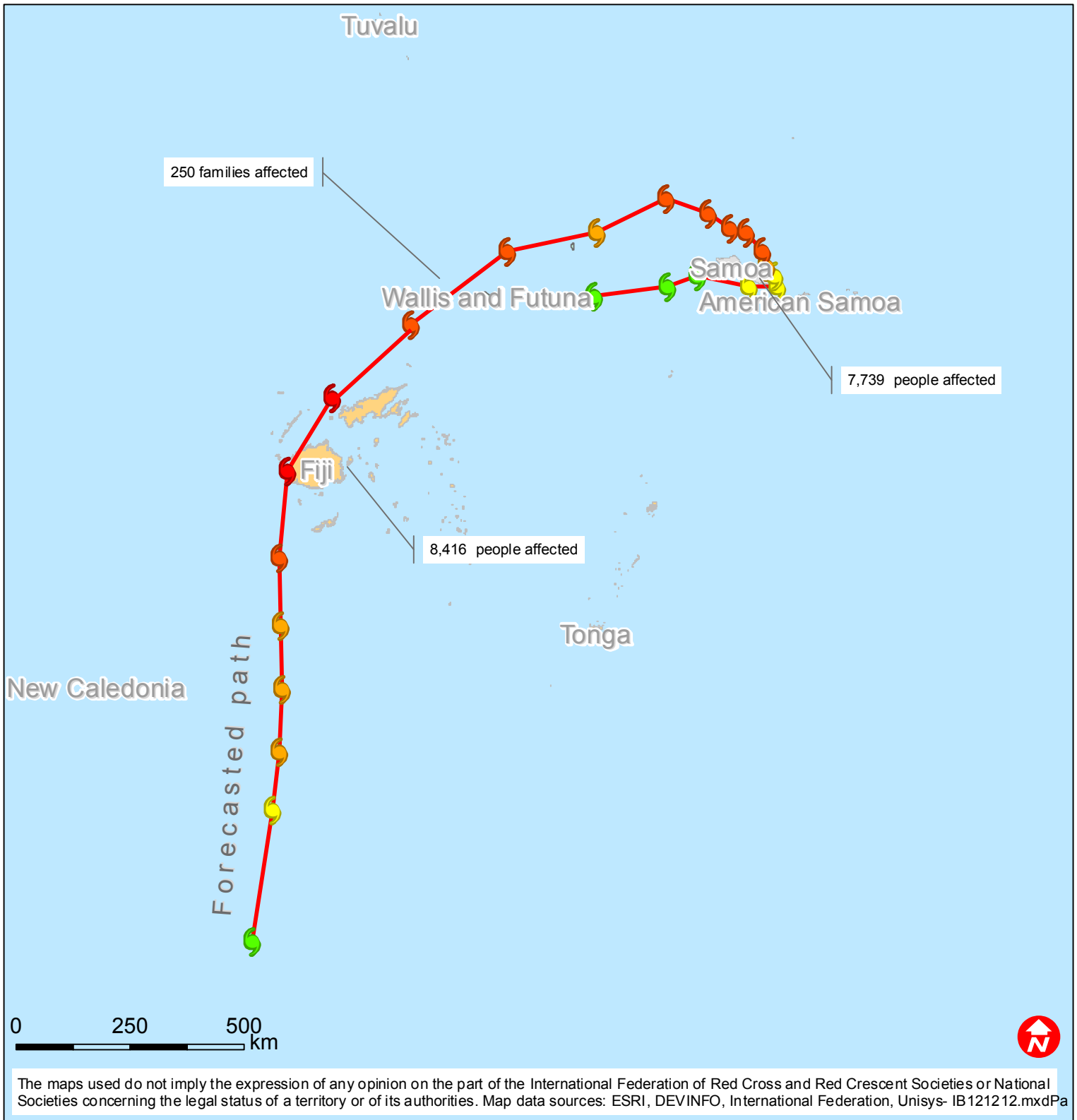


The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.



# Pacific: Tropical Cyclone Evan



- CYCLONE-4
- CYCLONE-3
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- CYCLONE-1
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