

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## FIJI: FLOODS

13 April 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

### In Brief

**This Information Bulletin is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.**

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### The Situation

In the early afternoon of Thursday, April 8, a tropical depression with gusts of up to 90km per hour accompanied with heavy rainfall caused numerous landslides and flooding in low-lying areas in the two main islands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.

Disaster officials in Fiji have confirmed ten people have died and another six are missing. Five died on a bus swept into a raging river and two women drowned trying to cross flooded rivers on Fiji's main island of Viti Levu. Four fishermen remain missing at sea in the Yasawa group.

One hundred and thirty homes were destroyed, and major roads and shops were closed due to the flooding. A number of villages and settlements were also left with no means of communication or access to assistance for over 20 hours. Roads have since re-opened, and in most areas the flooding has subsided, while clean-up activities continue in several villages. According to Fiji's National Emergency Operations Centre, about 10,000 people have been directly affected by the storm, through extensive damage to infrastructure, crops and households.



## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

On the evening of Thursday 8 April, just hours after the storm had struck, Fiji Red Cross branch volunteers were in the field providing immediate assistance. The following morning, a team of assessors and first-aiders were deployed from the capital of Suva to determine on-going needs and provide assistance where required.

By Monday, Fiji Red Cross had distributed non-food relief supplies to more than 3,800 beneficiaries, using stocks stored in disaster preparedness containers at branches and in Suva. A summary breakdown of items distributed is given below.

As well as distributing relief supplies, staff and volunteers also treated many minor cuts and wounds caused by the landslides. Most injuries were to the feet of villagers, as sharp objects and broken glass were imbedded in the thick mud.



*Red Cross Volunteers distribute relief items*

The overall operation of the Fiji Red Cross Society was completed on Sunday April 12. Over 200 branch volunteers and staff took part in the relief operation; they assisted over 3,800 beneficiaries with a total of over FJD 80,000 (CHF 60,000) worth of relief items. Although this operation has now been completed, the Fiji Red Cross is currently seeking to replenish its relief stocks in preparation for any future emergencies.

**TABLE 1: BREAKDOWN OF TOTAL RELIEF DISTRIBUTION**

AREAS COVERED	ITEMS DISTRIBUTED	QUANTITY
<b>Ra Province</b> , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Raviravi district</li> <li>▪ Naroko district</li> <li>▪ Rakiraki district and</li> <li>▪ Tokaimalo district</li> <li>▪ Barotu district</li> <li>▪ Dreketi district</li> <li>▪ Wailevu district</li> <li>▪ Nasavusavu district</li> <li>▪ Nasau district</li> </ul> (Over 50 villages & settlements – 2,200 beneficiaries)	Black packs Emergency packs Water Containers Tarpaulins Buckets Blankets Pots Hurricane Lanterns	221 95 57 50 120 12 45 27
<b>Tailevu Province</b> , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nayavu district</li> <li>▪ Naqi district</li> <li>▪ Nailega district</li> <li>▪ Malabi district</li> <li>▪ Nabouva district and</li> <li>▪ Wailotua district</li> </ul> (Over 30 villages & settlements – 1,600 beneficiaries)	Emergency Family Packs 13L Buckets Cooking materials Blankets 20L Water Containers Tarpaulins Mosquito Coils Black Packs	129 25 43 30 160 87 33 180
<b>Total number of beneficiaries: 3, 800</b>		

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.*

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