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Information bulletin Samoa and Fiji Tropical Cyclone Evan

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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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>](#)

**This bulletin contains information on the French territory of Wallis and Futuna*



Strong waves caused by Cyclone Evan wash a beach in Queen Elizabeth Drive, in Suva, Fiji. Photo from Reuters

The situation

Samoa

Tropical Cyclone Evan made landfall in Samoa on 13 December as a Category 2 cyclone and was stationary over Samoa for approximately 24 hours as it intensified into a Category 3 storm. The Government of Samoa has declared a State of Emergency for the next 30 days.

The National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) in Samoa was activated on the morning of 13 December to coordinate an emergency response. Samoan Police have confirmed four fatalities and eight people missing at this stage.

Apia, the capital of Samoa, experienced severe damage to a number of communities as a result of flash floods. Flooding was severe particularly in the low lying central business district. Numerous fallen trees obstructed roads and brought down power lines. There has been widespread damage including structural damage to outlying buildings and critical infrastructure.

Electricity had been cut off in large parts of the country, except for critical services such as the hospital, the NEOC and the meteorology centre, which were being powered by standby generators. The majority of Samoa's main island still has no running water or electricity, and utility workers are continuing their efforts to restore services. However, the central business district in Apia is now returning to normal with shops and businesses reopening and power lines being restored.

There has been extensive damage to crops such as bread fruit, taro and banana trees. Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele said destruction of crops could cause food shortages next year.

Current assessments show that 1,059 houses have been damaged and an additional 421 houses completely destroyed. The Government of Samoa reports that the current number of people in evacuation centres (including churches) has risen to 7,739.

The Samoa Red Cross (SRCS), Ministry of Health, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), and Caritas are the main support agencies for the evacuation centres. Needs that are being addressed include clothing, food, clean water, sanitation facilities and temporary lights.

Wallis and Futuna

Cyclone Evan was upgraded to a Category 4 on 15 December, just as it passed on top of Wallis Island - part of the French territory of Wallis and Futuna. There were no reported deaths, although two people were injured. Wallis felt more of a direct impact than Futuna, with damage mostly sustained to roads and buildings. There were also damages reported to the airport, radio and television stations, warehouses and hospital. The government has restored electricity and water services and the hospital is now functioning. Approximately 250 families have been affected as their houses were damaged.

The French Red Cross immediately sent 250 tarps and 20 shelter kits. PIROPS is part of an assessment team with NDMO. The mission left New Caledonia for Wallis on 17 December in a military airplane. French Red Cross continues to work in close coordination with French state and the local authorities.

Fiji

Tropical Cyclone Evan struck Fiji from 16-18 December as a Category 4 storm with winds of more than 240 kilometres. The cyclone passed over the Yasawa and Mamanuca Groups with the eye of the storm coming 28 kilometres from the western coastline of Viti Levu (the main island) near Lautoka and Nadi — two of the most populated cities in Fiji. The storm has since been downgraded to a Category 3 and is no longer a threat to Fiji.

Flooded rivers and downed trees have contributed to the destruction of infrastructure and power outages. Detailed information on impact is still forthcoming, but no deaths have been reported yet. The Government of Fiji had ordered evacuations of low lying areas, and there are now more than 8,400 people in 147 evacuation centres in the Northern, Eastern and Central Divisions. The number of evacuees in the Western Division is still being confirmed.

The Fiji Electric Authority is currently working to restore power, with outages reported in the Western, Northern and Central Divisions. Nadi International Airport remained closed yesterday but international and domestic flights have now resumed.

The Government of Fiji has just announced a Declaration of a State of Natural Disaster for the Northern and Western Divisions and it will be in effect for the next 15 days. This will allow authorities and stakeholders to speed up rehabilitation work in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Evan.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Samoa

Samoa Red Cross Society (SRCS) has six prepositioned depots (two in Savai'i, one in Manono, one in Apolima and three on Upolu) and a nation-wide network of trained volunteers who are currently mobilized. The SRCS is working closely with the Samoan Disaster Advisory Committee (DAC).

SRCS has dispatched a number of teams working with a nationwide multi-agency assessment, and are also conducting door-to-door assessments in the 13 vulnerable villages that SRCS has been working with throughout the year.

In preparation for the cyclone, SRCS staff and volunteers assisted with the evacuation of houses, especially in vulnerable areas. SRCS has also undertaken registration for the evacuees. SRCS helped set up evacuation centres and has been working in 10 evacuation centres from the beginning, providing basic needs items (blankets, tarpaulins, lanterns, mosquito nets, primary hygiene and first aid services). After three

days of the operation and putting into place a proper management structure in the evacuation centres, SRCS handed over the management of eight centres (out of 10) to the evacuees themselves. SRCS also activated assistance from their National Health Services medical personnel to assess the health status of the evacuees.

The SRCS water and sanitation team has established 10x5000L water tanks in five evacuation centres. Plans are underway to install five additional tanks to assist the drinking and sanitation needs for the rest of the evacuation centres.

Support of partners

IFRC regional office and zone office are supporting SRCS with information sharing; and are on standby if further needs arise.

SRCS is coordinating with their bi-lateral partners, New Zealand Red Cross (NZRC) and Australian Red Cross (ARC) for more technical human resources support.

NZRC deployed a disaster management advisor to support SRCS management and to assist with the assessment of headquarters needs. Currently, the SRCS headquarters has no power or water. Therefore, a replacement generator is being sourced from New Zealand. Five additional workers from NZRC will travel to Samoa today to provide further support.

At the request of SRCS, ARC is sending in two delegates to provide support. One delegate will focus on logistics and DM from 19-30 December. The other delegate will focus on water and sanitation from 21 December–4 January. ARC will also supply safety equipment for volunteers: rubber boots, high visibility jackets, gloves and helmets.

ARC has already received donations for support to Samoa and is in the process of opening a formal appeal for Tropical Cyclone Evan, covering both Samoa and Fiji.

An initial NZD\$10,000 has been provided from the NZRC Pacific Cyclone Response fund, in addition to contributions from the governments of USA, New Zealand and Australia. At this time, SRCS is not requesting further financial assistance.

Fiji

Fiji Red Cross Society (FRCS) has deployed their Emergency Response Teams to conduct assessments, and relief stocks prepositioned throughout the country are ready to be mobilized.

The FRCS National Office team is coordinating and supporting all branch preparations and are ready to replenish stocks in the disaster preparedness containers if the need arises. FRCS suppliers are ready to restock headquarters' supplies to maintain high stock capacity and in meeting the demand and request from branches.

Satellite phones are stationed at the National Office with HF and VHF Radios to support communications. In addition, satellite phones are in critical areas that will support nearby districts in communications.

The FRCS National Headquarters health team is on standby and is in contact with the Ministry of Health to coordinate health services and create awareness in appropriate areas during the aftermath of TC Evan.

The IFRC Pacific Regional Office is liaising closely with the FRCS and has deployed the IFRC Regional DM Programme Manager to conduct an overview assessment on the effects of Tropical Cyclone Evan and visit the Western Branch Operations.

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.
- **Fiji Red Cross Society:** Director General, Filipe Nainoca; phone: +679 9992484; email: directorgeneral@redcross.com.fj.
- **IFRC Pacific Regional Office:** Regional Disaster Management Coordinator, Ysabeau Rycx; office phone: +679 331 1855; email: ysabeau.rycx@ifrc.org.
- **IFRC Zone:** Operations Coordinator, Christine Strater; office phone: +60 3 9207 5814; mobile phone: +6 012 213 0149; email: christine.strater@ifrc.org.

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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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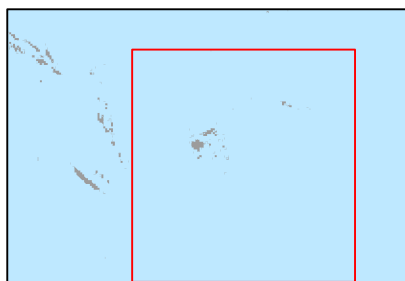
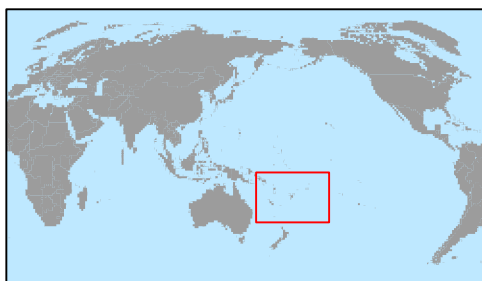
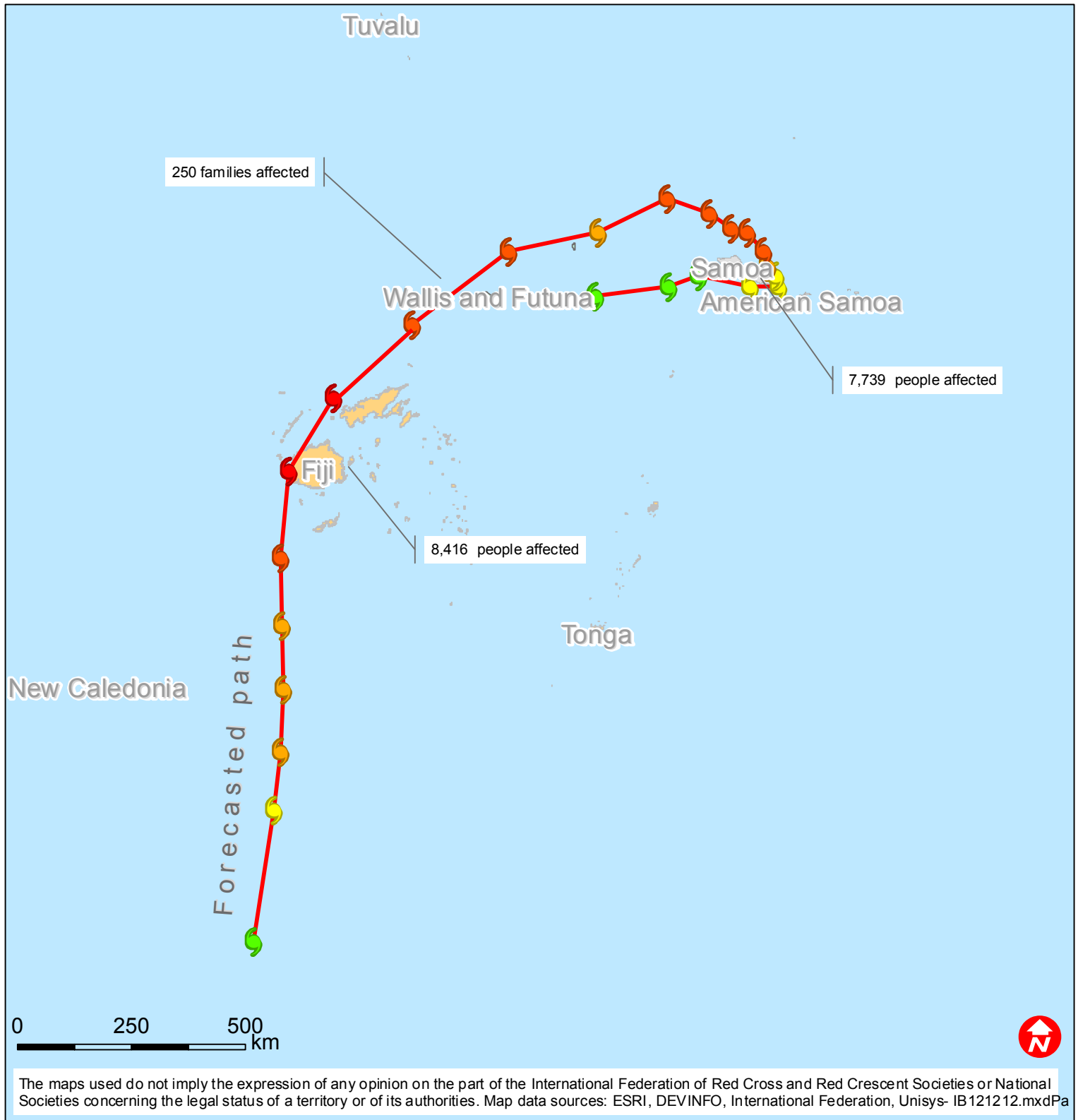


The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

- 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
- CYCLONE-2
- CYCLONE-1
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