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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° 2  
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27 December 2012

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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:** Typhoon Cyclone Evan made landfall in Samoa on 13 December as a Category 2 storm and was stationary over Samoa for approximately 24 hours before intensifying into a Category 3 storm. Samoa, particularly its capital Apia, experienced massive damage as structural buildings and food crops were destroyed, and electricity was cut off in large parts of the area.

Prior to this, Samoa Red Cross Society (SRCS) had six pre-positioned depots of contingency relief items (two in Savai'i, one in Manono, one in Apolima and three on Upolu) to ensure a rapid response to emergencies. In response to the cyclone, Samoa Red Cross Society (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 also had its volunteers assist 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 as well as access to water.

SRCS also participated with the government in forming assessment teams to Upolu Island and actively coordinated with other governmental and bi-lateral partners in coordinating other types of support to meet the specific needs of the affected population.

### The situation

Almost two weeks after Tropical Cyclone Evan made landfall in Samoa, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has indicated that the country's economy will be as hard hit as it was by the tsunami in 2009. Within the tourism industry alone, estimated damages reach US 6.6 million to date.

According to the latest situation report from UN OCHA<sup>1</sup>, there remains up to 5,500 people in evacuation centres both in Apia and outside of the capital. While conditions in Apia are manageable, there is reported shortage of water and storage, power and sanitation facilities. However, incidences of water/food-borne disease are currently low for now. Information from outside of Apia is limited, with evacuation centres relying on local provisions at time of reporting.

Governments including those of New Zealand, the United States of America, and Japan are supporting the Samoan government bilaterally in relief and recovery efforts.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### *First response and assessments*

At the onset of the disaster, SRCS established its emergency operations centre at SRCS headquarters and immediately dispatched five rescue teams who undertook essential first aid. In this time, SRCS transported seven moderately injured people as well as one newborn and mother to the hospital.

The National Society also assisted police and emergency services with security issues, particularly to address electricity power lines which were down, and transported approximately 1,000 people to evacuation centres. At the request of the government, SRCS led three of the five official government assessment teams and provided staff to the remaining two teams to conduct assessments over three and a half days, assessing all the communities on Upolu island. SRCS was able to integrate at an early stage its response to other agencies/sectors, particularly the national disaster management office (NDMO), through their liaison officer.

From 17 – 24 December, SRCS-specific assessment teams were established to revisit the most affected areas in Apia to meet the more specific needs of the affected population. These teams operated on an alternating assessment/distribution system so that relief items were delivered by the same personnel who had undertaken the assessment the previous day. This system continues to operate up to the present day.

### *Water, sanitation and hygiene*

SRCS supplied two 5,000 litre water tanks to each of the eight evacuation centres in Apia in the early stages of the emergency. One is the sole source of drinking water for the centres as the reticulated town supply system became inoperative. A further 16 units of 5,000-litre tanks are in the supply chain and will be delivered to appropriate sites in the next seven days.

On 17 December, the Nomad water purification plant arrived from Savai'i Island and became operational. The plant's purification capacity is 5,000 litres per hour but due to the distribution method at the time, the system was delivering approximately 12,000 litres per day (4 trips @ 3,000 litres) to the evacuation centres.

On 24 December, an approved<sup>2</sup> standpipe has been located with a good flow which means that water access for distribution will no longer be a problem. As a result, the National Society has shifted its attention to a water trucking/delivery exercise, with the 'Nomad' maintained as a backup. SRCS and Adventist Development and Relief Agency ADRA have a truck each with a 5,000-litre capacity and are working together to coordinate the supply of drinking water to the eight evacuation centres.

The sanitation situation at most of the evacuation centres is critical. Without 'grey' water to flush toilets there has been a backup of sewerage. The supply of this water is the responsibility of the Samoa Fire Authority. There are a very small number of temporary toilets at the evacuation centres and the local supply company has the responsibility for emptying and cleaning these.

SRCS distributed hygiene kits to 470 families in the eight evacuation centres. Linked with this distribution, SRCS gave two hygiene promotion presentations (one to the adults and one to the children) at each centre by the National Society's trained first aid instructors. It is hoped that with the improved distribution of drinking water to the centres, combined with the hygiene kits and strong hygiene messages that the emerging health issues will be brought under control.

### *Non-food items distribution*

SRCS has prepositioned stock of emergency/disaster response items throughout Samoa. The bulk of these stocks are housed in shipping containers at two sites in Apia. SRCS was well stocked prior to this event.

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<sup>2</sup> Water testing by the ministry of health

Formal logistics tracking and documentation systems have been used and as per 24 December, the following items have been distributed to beneficiaries:

Items	Distributed	Stock level after distribution	Comments
Tarpaulins	389	941	
Water containers (20l)	775	604	
Buckets	341	203	
Kitchen sets	276	478	
Blankets	2,149	418	2,000 in transit (NZRC)
Hygiene kits	1,056	556	
Newborn kits	69	0	60 presently being worked on
Mosquito nets	832	518	
Shelter tool kits	1	671	
Hurricane lanterns	338	tbc	
First aid kits	20	180	
Bottled water	735 crates	465	12 bottles/crate (supply is ongoing)

As can be seen, no stock items are at critically low levels. All items apart from collapsible water containers and mosquito nets are available locally and there are no reported 'runs' on any of these local items. A re-appraisal of the stock situation will be undertaken shortly with a view to replenishment.

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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)
- **IFRC Pacific Regional Office:** Regional Disaster Management Coordinator, Ysabeau Rycx; office phone: +679 331 1855; email: [ysabeau.rycx@ifrc.org](mailto:ysabeau.rycx@ifrc.org)
- **IFRC Zone:** Operations Coordinator, Mathew Shraeder; office phone: +60 3 9207 5814; mobile phone: +6 019 620 0758; email: [mathew.shraeder@ifrc.org](mailto:mathew.shraeder@ifrc.org).

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1. **Map** below
2. **Return** to the title page

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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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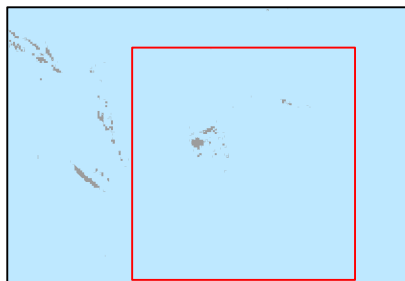
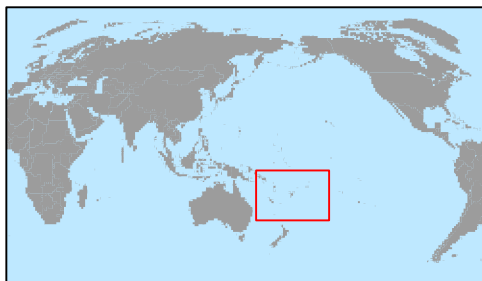
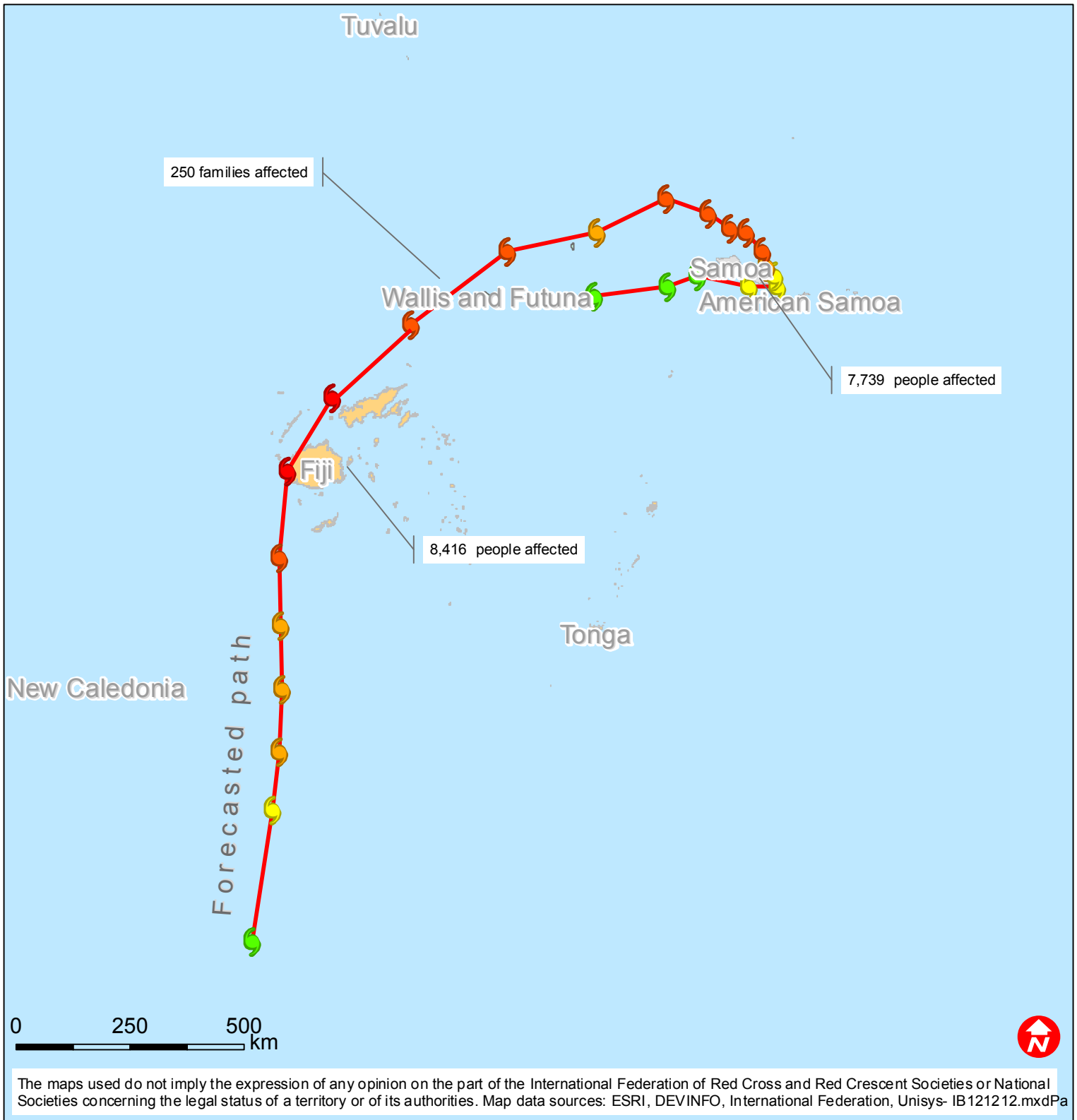








The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

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



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-  CYCLONE-3
-  CYCLONE-2
-  CYCLONE-1
-  TROPICAL STORM
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