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Information Bulletin

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. The Fiji Red Cross will, however, accept direct assistance to provide support to the affected population.

[<click here to view the map of the affected area, or here for detailed contact information>](#)

Summary

Tropical Cyclone Evan made landfall 16-18 December as a Category 4 storm causing widespread destruction of infrastructure and loss of property. The Government of Fiji declared a State of Natural Disaster for the Northern and Western Divisions. At the beginning of the emergency, there were approximately 10,000 people in more than 150 evacuation centres. The Fiji Red Cross Society (FRCS) has been partnering with the government to conduct assessments and distribute NFIs, WASH kits and hygiene packs. In addition, FRCS has been working with the Ministry of Health to promote hygiene in evacuation centres. With assistance from the French Red Cross, FRCS is providing clean drinking water to several villages. FRCS has thus far reached 15,076 people in 2,832 families.



Fiji Red Cross disaster management officer conducting need assessments in Yasawa. Photo credit: Fiji Red Cross

The situation

A total of 106 people remain in 11 evacuation centres, as five evacuation centres in Nadi District have been reopened. The Government of Fiji is providing reconstruction assistance to those whose dwellings are recognized as having legal tenure. Reports indicate that in the informal settlements, the needs are extensive for both housing assistance and other non-food items.

The current operational focus of the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) is to ensure sufficient provision of basic needs to evacuees, the full restoration of essential services such as water and electricity, the distribution of food rations and other relief supplies to all affected areas, and the finalization of detailed damage assessment reports. FRCS is frequently sharing information with the National Emergency Operation Centre to ensure effective coordination.

A number of cluster coordination groups have been set up to assist with the coordination of the national response. These cluster groups, such as logistics, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health, education and shelter, are made up of both national and regional organizations in Fiji.

The main concern for the WASH cluster is the unmet needs of those in rural communities who do not have access to urban water supplies. The health cluster will continue to focus on repairs to health infrastructure and to ensure that short to long term needs such as disease burdens and nutritional needs are adequately addressed.

The initial damage assessment indicates that 150 schools (118 primary and 32 secondary) have been damaged. The first priority of the education cluster remains the reconstruction and repair of school infrastructure to maximize the number of students able to return to school at the beginning of the term on 21 January. Those schools with a higher student population and lower repair costs will be prioritized for repair under available funding.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

A total of 140 volunteers have been actively involved in the operation and have been working around the clock with government relief teams and other partners to reach more disaster-affected families through the provision of non-food items (NFIs), WASH kits and temporary shelter materials.

While the FRCS relief activities in the northern district are being completed, distributions and continued detail assessments are still ongoing in the western parts of Viti Levu and its nearby surrounding islands.

Information Management

- Red Cross is continuously sharing assessment and distribution information with all stakeholders. As a result of joint planning at the district level, FRCS branches are able to access resources from the government to facilitate ongoing assessments and distributions. In addition, FRCS has provided transportation for joint relief teams to three most affected islands (Yadua near Vanua Levu, Vatulele and Malolo Islands – west of the main Island of Viti Levu).
- Red Cross branches together with government teams and other players are also working together to collate assessment data on damaged and destroyed shelters to facilitate national shelter reconstruction efforts. This activity is being coordinated by the technical adviser provided to the government through IFRC.

Temporary Shelter/Non- Food Items

- FRCS has assisted 662 families (approximately 3,000 people) through the distribution of 1,325 tarpaulins and other temporary shelter materials. The temporary shelter distributions are being coordinated with the government teams.
- Distribution of non-food items from pre-positioned disaster preparedness containers received from other partner NSs are continuing.
- FRCS branches have distributed the following non-food items:

	Cooking Sets	Tarpaulins	Blankets	Blackpacks (relief items)	First aid kits
West	517	1,195	804	1,033	14
North	19	130	139	105	
Total	536	1,325	943	1,138	14

Emergency Shelter Cluster Coordination - IFRC

- There is presently ongoing coordination with the Ministry of Local Government to map damage assessments on all destroyed shelters.
- IFRC and FRCS frequently participate in cluster meetings to ensure effective coordination and reporting of all relief activities in the field.



French Red Cross volunteers training Fiji Red Cross volunteers while producing water in Ba district. Photo Credit: Fiji Red Cross.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Two affected villages (Naruku and Vatusui) in Ba district are being provided with clean water generated using the NOMAD water purification unit deployed there.
- Volunteers and staff are currently being trained on usage and maintenance of NOMAD by the experts from French Red Cross.
- Below is a table listing the WASH items delivered as of 10 January 2013.

	Hygiene Kits	Dignity Kits	WASH Kits	Jerrycans	Water Bottles/litres	NOMAD/litres
West	1,358	388	1,614	67	1,900	69,000
Central	333	64	235			
North			79			
Total	1691	452	1,928	67	1,900	69,000

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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.