

**Information Bulletin n° 1**  
**FL 2012-000009-FJI**  
**27 January 2012**

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.

### The situation

Heavy rains over the western and northern parts of Fiji on 24 January have caused floods resulting in six deaths. There are also reports of localized landslides. Six areas in the western division of Fiji have been declared a natural disaster zone as of 25 January 2012. The water level has decreased but rain fall is continuous. On 25 January, flood water rose overnight affecting most of the population in Viti Levu.

As of 26 January the government reports over 74 evacuation centres are operational and are sheltering over 3,400 people who have been displaced.



Photo: Fiji Red Cross staff pack cooking sets for distribution in the 2012 January floods in Viti Levu.

Total number of evacuees recorded as of this morning – 3,463 persons (Source: Fiji NDMO).

	DISTRICT	EC'S	SCHOOL	ADULTS	CHILDREN	TOTAL
1	BA	14	8	231	164	395
2	LAUTOKA	20	6	482	426	908
3	NADI	28	8	746	591	1,337
4	NADROGA	5	0	24	44	68
5	RA	3	1	39	23	62
6	TAVUA	7	5	381	312	693
7	KOROVOU	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	77	28	1,903	1,560	3,463

High tides might cause further flooding in Ba and Nadi and other coastal low-lying areas. The Fiji Government has declared a state of emergency at this point of time.

Access to affected areas remains a challenge as a number of roads and bridges are not passable in Nadi, Ba and other affected areas.

Restoration of damaged/down infrastructure as per NDMO update on 26 January 2012:

- FEA - 11% restoration of electric
- 90% water restored
- 53% roads
- Telecoms not affected

Assessment overviews in some communities visited by the Fiji Red Cross found that water supply from taps are still muddy and are unsafe to drink. There is also food shortage in evacuation centres.

Current assessments on the damage by the government are still ongoing. In the mean time the government has warned villagers in low-lying areas to move to higher ground.

The weather is slowly getting better and access to road will improve.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Fiji Red Cross has activated its divisional emergency operation centre with all emergency response team members from its seven branches, namely Sigatoka, Nadi, Lautoka, Ba, Tavua and Rakiraki Branch active.

Activities implemented by the Fiji Red Cross include visiting evacuation centres where they have been providing first aid, health education and health care to the people affected by the floods. Community leaders were briefed on preventive measures and precautions on how to deal with contaminated water supplies and provided with information (issued by the Ministry of Health) on how to present simple community messages such as how to boil water before drinking, to protect people from getting sick due to contaminated water. Affected people are being advised to remain at the evacuation centre until their homes have been fully cleared from any possible health risks.

The teams on the ground have visited and assisted in 18 evacuation centres, visited 2 squatter settlements and assisted 186 families.

Distribution has been as per table below:

Location	Black Pack	Cooking Set	Tarpaulin	Dignity Kit	Blankets
Nadi	74	18	2	6	11
Sigatoka	14	5		1	37
Lautoka					
Ba					
Tavua	257	5	3		38
Rakiraki					
Nalawa					
N.O.					
Truck					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>86</b>

Fiji Red Cross emergency response teams are currently evaluating damage to water supply and potential disease outbreaks and the impacts these have on relief distribution.

Fiji Red Cross has also partnered closely with Fiji Water to distribute over 96 cases of bottled water to affected communities.

Fiji Red Cross requested the provision of Dignity Kits from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for Fiji Red Cross distribution efforts.

Fiji Red Cross is coordinating closely with IFRC regional office and their Pacific Red Cross partners to support their efforts in the response.

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## Contact information

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

- **National Society:** Acting Director General; Christopher Ho; +679 331 4133; +679 999 2505; email:operations@redcross.com.fj
  - **IFRC regional office:** Ysabeau Rycx; office phone: email: Ysabeau.rycx@ifrc.org
  - **IFRC Zone:** Operations coordinator: Rose Dew; email: rose.dew@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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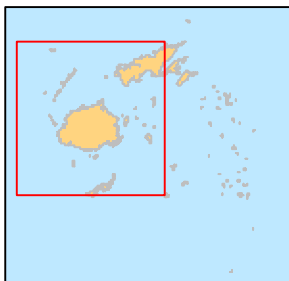
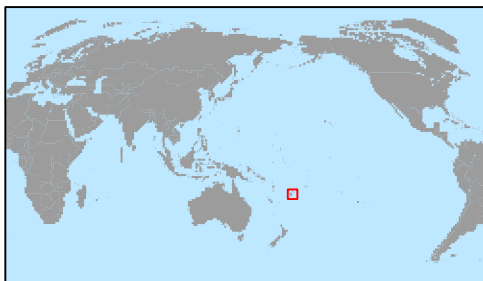
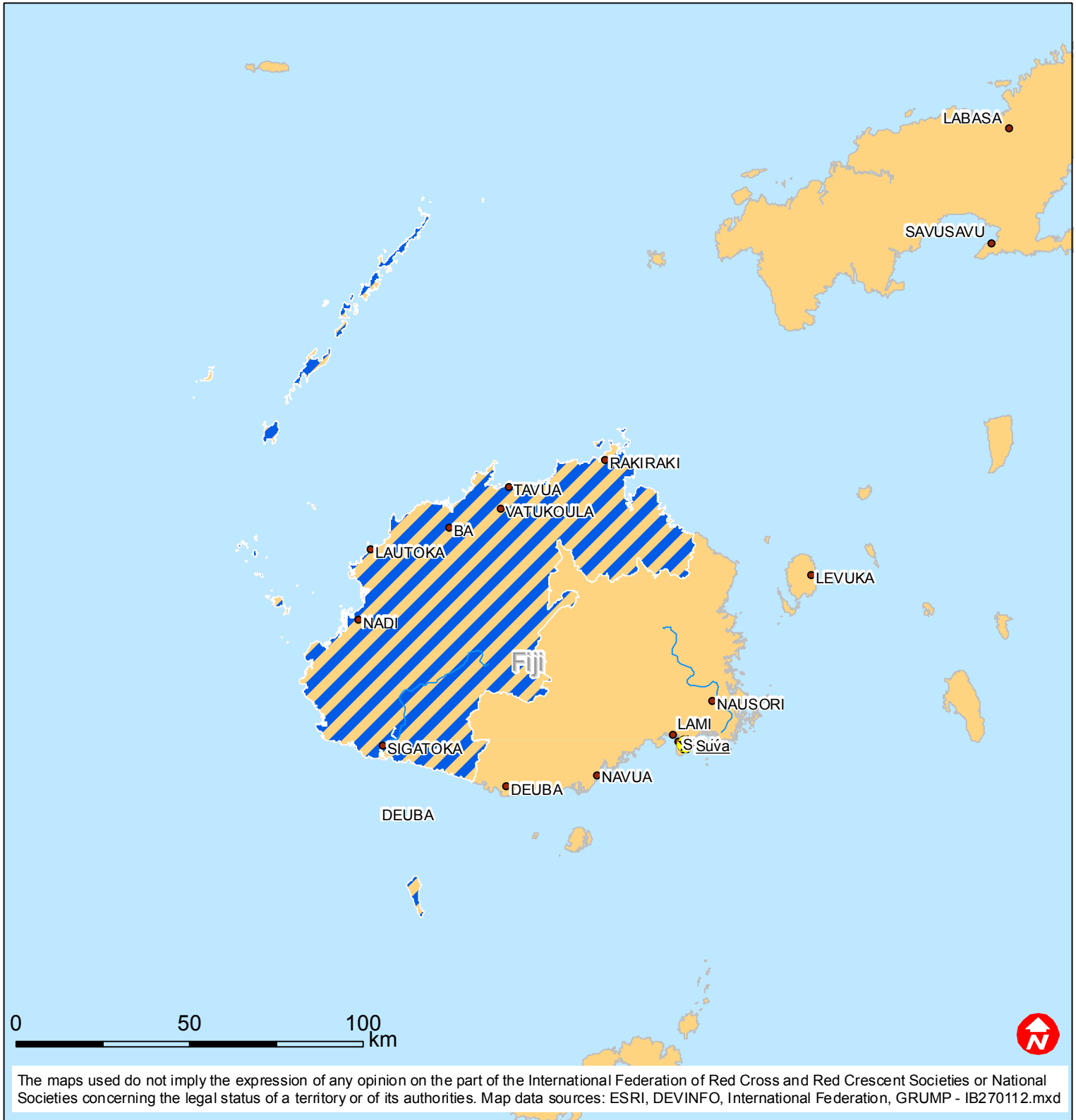



The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

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.



# Fiji: Floods



 Western division