



International Organization for Migration

IOM FLASH APPEAL FIJI: TROPICAL CYCLONE WINSTON



Rapid assessment in Fiji © IOM 2016 (Photo: Joe Lowry)

08 March 2016

350,000

Individuals affected by tropical cyclone Winston

112,800

Individuals in need of shelter assistance

24,000

Houses damaged or destroyed

IOM APPEAL (USD)
(21 February - 21 May 2016)

TOTAL 4,100,200



Shelter and Non-Food Items **3,700,200**



Protection and Safety **400,000**

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 20 and 21 February 2016, Fiji was hit by Tropical Cyclone (TC) Winston. A Category 5 cyclone, TC Winston was the most powerful storm on record in the Southern Hemisphere, weaving a path of destruction across the entire country. With winds measuring up to 320km/h, TC Winston has left hundreds of thousands of Fijians displaced, without water, shelter, food or livelihood. The Government of Fiji estimates almost 350,000 – 40 per cent of Fiji's total population – affected (180,000 men and 170,000 women), including 120,000 children. Initial government reports indicate up to 100 per cent of buildings and subsistence crops have been destroyed on certain islands and damages across the country are estimated to reach a total worth of USD 500 million. On 20 February, in response to TC Winston the Fijian Government declared a state of emergency and formally requested international assistance on 21 February.

As of 4 March, 112,800 people are estimated to be in need of urgent shelter assistance, while 250,000 people are without access to water and sanitation. Both the structure and function of health facilities have also been disrupted at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. In addition, 63 health facilities (38 per cent) in the country have been severely or moderately damaged. The Fijian Government and the humanitarian community have identified the most urgent needs of the affected population in the following sectors: shelter, health, food, water, sanitation and hygiene, education and protection.

The living conditions of the evacuees are of significant public health and protection concern. As of 4 March 2016 initial data reported that

approximately 24,000 houses are damaged or destroyed, leaving more than 54,000 people displaced across almost 1,000 evacuation centres. The majority of evacuations centres (EC) are schools that are not equipped to meet the needs of the displaced population. Furthermore, the Government aims to see students return to classrooms without delay – the Government has yet to provide a clear timeline for the process of EC closure. Consequently, IOM and humanitarian partners are planning to ensure that the evacuees have a safe place to move to once the ECs close.

Furthermore, many people affected by the cyclone are women and children. This has implications in several areas of support, including shelter, protection, security, education and health. Prior to TC Winston, Fiji already faced pervasive and widespread violence against women, rates that are double the global average. The effect of the cyclone is expected to put women and those most vulnerable (including children and the disabled) at even greater risk in terms of their safety and exploitation.

It is therefore critical that ECs are well-managed and protection-focused in their design. IOM along with the rest of the humanitarian community is working closely with the Fijian Government to ensure that protection issues in ECs are addressed and plans are put in place for durable solutions and sustainable return.

The appeal covers a three-month period for which IOM seeks USD 4,100,200 to enable the delivery of humanitarian assistance within the CCCM, Shelter and the Protection and Safety Sectors. This appeal is in line with the Fiji Tropical Cyclone Flash Appeal 2016 published by OCHA and the Government of Fiji on the 4 March 2016, IOM's request represents 10.6 per cent of the total funds requested.

Capacity and Coordination

IOM is present in Fiji with a majority of its staff in Suva. Surge capacity has been initiated, led by IOM's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, focusing on its core areas of expertise, Shelter and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM). IOM has been asked to assist in coordination of the Evacuation Centre Management Group. IOM is also supporting the National Disaster Management Office through the secondment of an IOM CCCM Officer. The additional secondment of an IOM Information Management (IM) Assistant to the Divisional Commissioners Office is also in progress.

Proposed Response



Shelter and Non-Food Items

Fiji Cyclone Response: Shelter and NFI Pipeline

The Government of Fiji and humanitarian actors have identified shelter as an immediate priority for the emergency relief phase. The Shelter Cluster has agreed that these immediate relief items will include Shelter Coverage and Fixing kits, along with community toolkits to enable families to rapidly return to their homes and begin to recover. Following the immediate relief phase, a secondary, more robust package will be needed that will include iron roofing sheets, wall and roofing timbers, and other non-food items (NFIs) based on ground assessments that will be determined through the first phase of relief distribution.

In support of the Shelter Cluster, IOM is addressing the emergency shelter/NFI needs of families with damaged/destroyed houses in the 12 priority areas thereby preventing exposure to weather conditions, and in turn directly contributing towards decreased morbidity and mortality. IOM's approach during the life-saving phase of the response aims to address shelter needs through a combination of in-kind, regionally and locally procured materials in addition to the provision of cash assistance, where appropriate. IOM's planned shelter interventions are in line with the overall Government and Shelter Cluster priorities and strategy and will include technical assistance support to the affected population with Shelter Cluster guidance. IOM has already established a Shelter and NFI Pipeline including funding for NGO implementing partners to receive and distribute necessary shelter and NFIs and provide technical assistance to families affected by TC Winston.

IOM's response includes:

- (1) Procurement and distribution of emergency shelter kits and NFIs to families with houses damaged and destroyed;
- (2) Strengthen partnerships with National and International NGOs to allow for more effective distribution and technical assistance awareness campaigns (Build Back Safer);
- (3) Deployment of rapid response teams for targeted distributions at evacuation centres and spontaneous settlements identified by the IOM Evacuation Tracking and Monitoring Tool (ETM) or Protection teams in Fiji, particularly targeting people with specific needs including women, girls and people with disabilities;
- (4) Post distribution monitoring by IOM Officers to ensure that the needs of women, girls and people with disabilities have been addressed, including additional support in shelter provision and set-up;
- (5) Extended assistance packages for people with specific needs - these will include targeted distributions for various groups including: pregnant women (e.g. mosquito nets), people with disabilities (additional tools and cash for work for support), women and children (solar lamps with cell phone chargers), tents, transport and construction/shelter setup assistance as needed.

\$3,700,200

Funding required

Target no. of individuals:

75,000



Support to the Government of Fiji in Evacuation Tracking and Monitoring

Gathering and monitoring real-time data on the impact of the cyclone is critical. The affected populations are dispersed across a variety of islands. The most vulnerable are located in formal and informal evacuation centres (collective centres, host families, etc). At the request of the Government of Fiji, IOM will be supporting the tracking of data on formal and informal EC locations including disaggregated data on displaced populations, origins, provision of services and needs.

\$400,000

Funding required

Target no. of individuals:

60,000

Responding to the request of the Government of Fiji for international assistance, along with other national and international stakeholders IOM is:

- (1) Assisting the Government in leading the ECs Working Group to coordinate actions and partners that target the needs and rights of the evacuated;
- (2) Roll out of the Evacuation Tracking and Monitoring (ETM) to provide key information on vulnerable and displaced individuals and families. The ETM will allow for the provision of verifiable data on population numbers, needs, gaps, and intentions to the Government and partners;
- (3) Strengthen capacity for information management and communication with the evacuated population in line with CCCM global standards;
- (4) Assist the Government in the development of an Evacuation Centres Exit Strategy, supporting sustainable transition and recovery process and durable solutions for returnees

Summary of IOM Projects within the inter-agency Appeal:

CAP Code	Sector	Project Title	Total Requested Amount (USD)
FJI-16/S-NF/92185	Shelter and NFI	Fiji Cyclone Response: Shelter and NFI Pipeline	3,700,200
FJI-16/P-HR-RL92180	Protection and Safety	Support to Government of Fiji in Evacuation Tracking and Monitoring	400,000

All interventions proposed in this appeal are in line with the Fiji Tropical Cyclone Flash Appeal 2016

Total Appeal: \$4,100,200



Three men investigating the destruction of houses in the wake of TC Winston © IOM 2016 (Photo: Joe Lowry)

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