

Fiji • Flooding Tropical Depression TD17F-2012 Situation Report No. 5 25 April 2012



This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA Pacific Office. It covers the period from 13 to 24 April 2012. The next report will be issued on or around 3 May 2012.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/key priorities

- Access to safe water supply and sanitation and prevention of outbreaks of flood related communicable diseases remain key priorities. A peak in leptospirosis cases is expected now.
- Shelter recovery plan to be developed once final assessment data on damaged houses is received.

II. Situation Overview

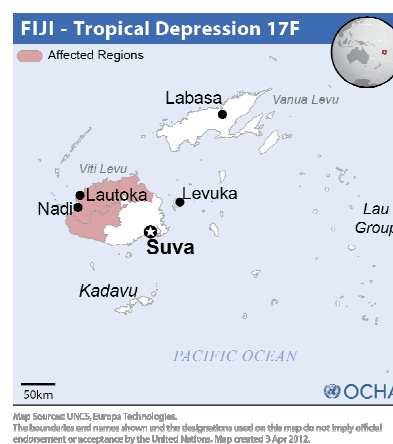
The situation in flood affected parts of the Western and Central Division is returning to normalcy for the majority of people, however, there remain several concerns and priority areas:

- 1) A rise in communicable diseases, particularly typhoid, leptospirosis and dengue, is now to be expected as a peak usually occurs 2-4 weeks after flooding. This is similar to situation experienced in January.
- 2) Access to safe water in rural and urban communities is a priority, as those with no or limited access to safe water are considered to be at higher risk. Rough estimations of disrupted supply of the reticulated water systems in urban centres indicate that as many as 8,400 meters are still disconnected.

Currently 198 (135 adults, 63 children) remain in one evacuation centre. At the height of the flood this number was 15,000 although most returned to their homes after several days (see graph at end of document).

At least 96 houses were destroyed (preliminary assessments), which means a need for alternative shelter/housing for a longer period needs to be addressed. A joint approach of shelter, protection, WASH and early recovery partners is recommended, also with regards to the transition to permanent housing and possible resettlement.

A clear overview of needs in safe water supply, shelter and education needs is still lacking as information flows remain slow. Cabinet has established a Disaster Rehabilitation Taskforce to guide the short to long term recovery and rehabilitation process and programmes. The Pacific Humanitarian Team has developed a Humanitarian Action Plan to assist response and recovery efforts and planning.



III. Humanitarian Needs and Response



Early Recovery

Lead Agency: United Nations Development Programme

Response: Fiji government has established the Disaster Rehabilitation Taskforce, which will organize a systematic approach in the implementation of short to long term rehabilitation process and programmes and also to consider medium to long term strategies for disaster mitigation and preparedness. UNDP as early recovery network coordinator stands ready to provide coordination support for recovery and rehabilitation efforts.



Education

Cluster Lead: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Needs: All schools have resumed classes in flood affected areas with attendance in Ra 94.6%, Ba/Tavua 94%, Lautoka/Yasawa 97%, Nadroga/Navosa 93.8% and Nadi still only 80%. An assessment of infrastructure and social protection has been completed in schools that reported flooding damage and used as evacuation centres, including ECE centres. Total damages sustained to the education sector stand at

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FJD 889,332. Damages occurred to school infrastructure (classrooms, teachers' quarters and boarding facilities), equipment, text and library books and furniture. School stationary packs, uniforms, and food remain prevalent needs for students.

Response: The Ministry of Education anticipates having a completed report by 27 April, when it will be shared with the cluster and donor partners to formally coordinate distribution of aid. The Access to Quality Education Programme (AQEP) will provide support to infrastructure and stationary. Save the Children is distributing school kits and has begun school lunch programs in three Nadi area schools, with plans to expand. UNICEF provided WASH information kits at assessments to flood affected schools, and is working with Fiji National University (FNU) in order to coordinate the distribution of ECE kits. Post Fiji and other organizations are coordinating donations to provide stationery packs to students.

Gaps & Constraints: The Education cluster anticipates being able to meet findings. Psycho-social needs of students and teachers will be shared with the Protection Cluster, in the event of necessary support.



Emergency Shelter

Cluster Convenor: International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Needs: Initial assessment in communities of damage to housing has taken place, but reports are yet to be finalised. A shelter recovery plan will be developed once final damage assessment data has been received. Government, IFRC, Habitat for Humanity, NZAID and AusAID are in the meantime exploring response options for emergency, transitional and permanent shelter. To date the number of totally damaged houses is 96 (Lautoka 39, Sigatoka 42+, Nadi 9, Ba 6), but remains to be confirmed. Currently people whose houses were totally damaged are being housed in evacuation centres or with host families. The only remaining evacuation centre is Nabau Village Hall in Sigatoka and shelters 135 adults and 63 children from 48 households.

Response: FRCS is distributing tarpaulins to assist people to move back into damaged houses. Shelter Box NZ has erected 15 tents, liaising with DISMAC to identify totally damaged houses. NDMO have distributed tarpaulins provided by AusAID, NZAID and JICA. Military personnel have been deployed to Semo village to lead the cleaning and clearing of debris and the Sigatoka Special School compound.

Gaps & Constraints: No clear information exists on numbers of hosted families. Certain communities, also in squatter settlements, are requesting relocation to safer areas due to high vulnerability to repeated flooding. Detailed (vulnerability) assessment is recommended to determine issues around (land) ownership, relocation options, etc. Early safe return of affected people to pre-disaster sites should be promoted and relocation is justified only in terms of environmental or public requirements. Where relocation is unavoidable, planning for sustainable relocation sites should be done according to international standards and should include infrastructure, services and suitable livelihood options. To enhance informed decision making, the incidence and severity of the latest floods and their impact in various locations needs to be documented, and the cost/benefit of flood mitigation measures should be considered.



Food Security / Agriculture

Cluster Lead: Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

Response: Distribution of food rations to 53,000 people in the Western division began on April 23. The Department of Agriculture (DoA) is facilitating and encouraging transport of food produce from other parts of Fiji to markets in Western Division. DoA supplied more than 13,000 seedlings (eggplant, tomato, English cabbage) to farmers who had prepared their fields in advance. Farmers are advised to make use of good weather to further these preparations. The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) is providing flood relief and recovery to communities up to FJD 26,600, including a full time veterinarian who will lead WSPA relief operations in the field with Fiji Animal Health and Production. In collaboration with the Ministry of Primary Industries, Animal Health and Production and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty against Animals (SPCA), WSPA will distribute animal flood relief in worst affected areas surrounding Ba, Lautoka, Nadi and Sigatoka. Veterinary services and food distribution will benefit more than 5,000 cattle and horses and up to 20,000 goats and sheep. WSPA will also be supporting the Nadi branch of SPCA for veterinary supplies and feed for companion animals.



Health and Nutrition

Cluster Lead: World Health Organisation (WHO) & United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Needs: The top priority remains the prevention of communicable diseases. A leptospirosis outbreak has been declared since 27 March (prior to 30 March floods, following January flooding), with now a total 236 confirmed cases since 25 January and rates increasing again in April. The peak can be expected 2-4 weeks after the flooding, which is now. Total leptospirosis deaths this year to date is 20, including six since March 30, in both flooded and non-flooded areas. Transmission takes place through direct contact with contaminated flood water and mud. There is a need for appropriate technical guidance on disease surveillance, vector control, food/water safety, nutrition, psycho-social and mental health support.

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Infrastructure damages to the Health sector as a result of the flood are now estimated at FJD 307,200 for Western Division. The Teci Nursing Station in Yasawa was flooded while the Lautoka, Tavua, Sigatoka, Nadi, Ba and Ra Sub-Divisional Hospitals suffered damages.

Response: Outreach clinics have been established in the Western division and continue to function.

Investigations: Health teams in Sigatoka continue with disease investigation, larval survey, community assessments, distribution of water purification tablets and food quality control. **Vector Control:** FRCS supports Ministry of Health (MoH) with vector control equipment. **Public Messaging:** MoH with support from WHO and UNICEF continues public health messaging on avoidance of high transmission risks and early health seeking behaviour. UNICEF continue to send out messages to support infant nutrition in emergencies via MoH and NFNC weekly newspaper slots, and develop new IEC materials for post-emergency family nutrition & infant feeding. **Monitoring:** The National Taskforce on Outbreak-Prone Diseases continues to monitor the situation closely. **Training:** As a recent survey of clinicians showed that understanding and awareness of these diseases was highly variable, clinical update training sessions have been conducted by WHO and MoH. **Food Condemnation:** Food condemnation continues, including surge support of environmental health staff to Nadi and Sigatoka for another week. **Assessment:** WHO staff joined the environmental health team to assess further needs on the ground. A nutrition assessment focusing on children from 0-59 months, pregnant and lactating women and general household food security is being undertaken, with results available in two weeks. The Protection cluster and Health & Nutrition cluster have begun collaboration on addressing mental health in flood affected communities. This will include mapping current service providers as well as development of information material to be distributed along with relief supplies. **Nutrition:** Nutrition supplies have been ordered and will be distributed as part of the on-going National Micronutrient and Multivitamin Supplementation (NIMS) program of Government, through the health system in the Western Division only.

Gaps & Constraints: Water supply needs further strengthening to enable access in affected communities, as intermittent supplies and compromised quality continue to hamper public health safety. Access to water is also needed for general cleaning up of the houses and environment.



MoH mobile clinic, incl. a doctor, nurses, environmental health inspector (photo: Kamal Khatri, WHO)



Logistics

Cluster Lead: World Food Programme (WFP)

Needs: There are no obvious logistics gaps in the implementation of the relief operations.

Response: Distribution of food rations (2-week family packs) began in the west, supplied and distributed by Punjas to 53,000 beneficiaries.

Gaps & Constraints: Due to the poor condition of rural roads, larger trucks and vehicles continue to experience difficulties accessing remote villages and settlements.



Protection

Cluster Leads: UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) & United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR)

Needs: The number of families unable to return to their homes still needs to be assessed, as well as their current residential conditions, and appropriate transitional and permanent shelter options need to be explored. In the remaining evacuation centre, there are concerns regarding the wellbeing of children left unsupervised while parents return to clean up their homes and communities. The WASH situation in re-opened schools is also of concern, particularly in those used as evacuation centres. In addition to psychosocial support to children, many teachers were affected by floods and may also need support. Also monitoring is required of physical and psychosocial wellbeing of children - both in and out of school - in the short and longer term. Concerns include children's access to adequate food; children experiencing distress caused by the disaster; increased risk of violence in the home and at school as people come to terms with their loss and face the challenges of recovery; reluctance of children to talk to teachers or parents about the problems they are facing for fear of burdening adults with further stress; school-children feeling ashamed regarding loss of uniforms/books/ personal belongings; appropriate accommodation for children at boarding schools where dormitories have been damaged and will take several months to repair. There is a need to ensure that psychosocial support is available to assist flood-affected individuals/families to cope and recover.

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Response: Psycho-social support messages (print, radio, television) are being developed by Protection Cluster in collaboration with the Health Cluster in an effort to promote positive, community-based coping and recovery, and to prevent negative strategies in response to distress, such as increased family and community violence in the aftermath of disaster. In addition to cluster networks and non-government partners and key ministries (Health, Education, Social Welfare), existing service-providers with the capacity for outreach to, and referral from, disaster-affected communities, are being identified. Protection Cluster partners conducted a workshop on ‘Protection in Emergencies’ for FemLINK Pacific’s community radio broadcasters and producers with support from UN Women. The workshop focused on the development of radio content to gather and disseminate information on gender and protection issues in disasters

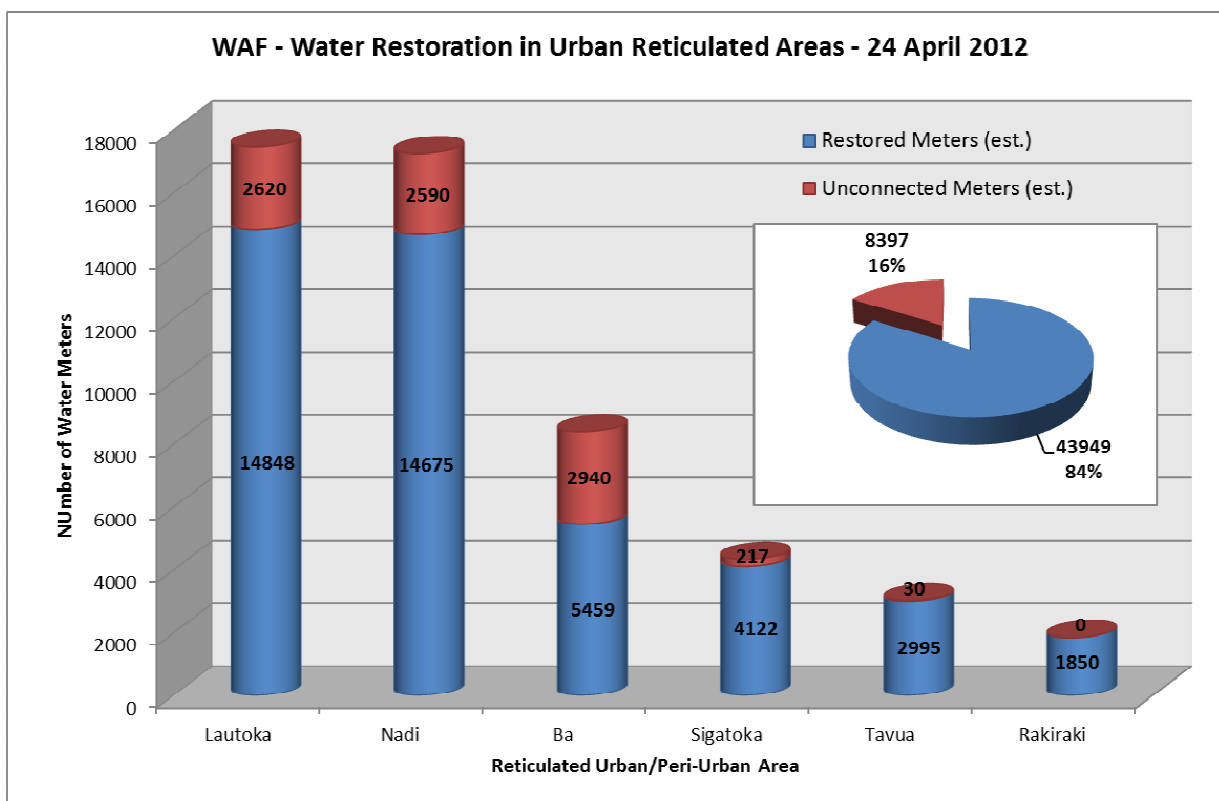
Gaps & Constraints: General awareness and understanding of protection issues in emergencies remains limited and there is a need for increased capacity-building in this area - as part of disaster preparedness - in order to improve identification, monitoring, prevention and response to protection concerns during emergencies.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Cluster Lead: United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

Needs: The number people that need access to safe water and basic sanitation infrastructure is still unknown, which is a key challenge for responders planning their assistance. NDMO and Ministry of Health are working on an overview. Reticulated water supply in the towns of Ba (65%), Lautoka (85%), Nadi (85%) and Sigatoka (95%) remains disrupted and/or partially restored and dependent on trucked water. This amounts to an estimated 8,400 connections. There is still no estimate of the water supply situation in the rural areas. NDMO and MoH are working on an overview of the affected population with disrupted access to water and basic sanitation infrastructure, including urban and rural populations.



Response: Water trucking and prepositioning of tanks at urban and rural communities is the main focus in providing access to safe drinking water. WAF is trucking water with all existing capacities. To complement gaps, NDMO is leading a water trucking operation for the interim water supply to urban/rural populations in need. In addition to UNICEF’s five 5,000 litres water bladders and twenty 10,000 litres water tanks and JICA’s thirty 3,700 litres water tanks and thirty water purifiers, USAID contributed 98 water tanks (48 x 1,100 litres, 7 x 3,100 litres, 25 x 5,000 litres, 18 x 10,000 litres). Aid for Peace contributed funds to rent additional trucks. Water purification tablets with user instructions and messages in local languages and/or water storage containers were distributed to affected populations by MoH and partners FRCS, UNICEF, AusAID and NZAID. The MoH is ensuring the adequate implementation and monitoring of water quality testing. MoH continues to seal off and repair overflowed latrines and latrine replacements at household level. Radio spots on public health messaging (on boiling water, safe food, and protective measures during floods and dengue)

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were technically reviewed and updated by the National Taskforce for the Control of Outbreak-Prone Diseases and started to air on 20 April 2012. UNICEF ensures that for the duration of two weeks, 60 spots per day will be airing on radio stations. It is understood that funds from the USD 1 Million grant from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will be used to support WAF in restoring water supply systems.

Gaps & Constraints: Provision of safe water (water tanks, water purification tablets, water filtration systems, pumps, etc.) remains an urgent priority until urban and rural water supply is fully restored, and water qualities tested and considered safe. UNICEF is looking to identify funding for this, as well as for implementation of basic sanitation projects, in particular aimed at supporting local communities to build, maintain and manage their WASH infrastructure and for training on hygiene promotion to communities.



Non-Food Items

Lead Agency: n/a

Needs: FRCS identified need for beddings for families whose house have been completely destroyed and more clean up items, such as wheel barrows, brooms and buckets.

Response: Distribution of relief items continues in affected areas through the coordinated effort of government and non-government agencies. Particularly the FRCS is continuing assessment and distributions in Sigatoka, Nadi, Lautoka and Ba. FRCS in partnership with AusAID and UNICEF, are in the process of procuring items for dignity kits and clean up kits to be supplied with current items distributed by FRCS. FRCS has now assessed 6,824 families and assisted 3,977 in 70 villages, 170 settlements and 30 evacuation centres or a total of 20,890 people.

IV. Coordination

The Fiji government has established a Disaster Rehabilitation Taskforce, which had a first meeting on 20 April. The purpose of the taskforce is to organize a systematic approach in the implementation of short to long term rehabilitation process and programmes and also to consider medium to long term strategies for disaster mitigation and preparedness. The Taskforce is chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Provincial Development & National Disaster Management and has membership of Permanent Secretaries of all key Ministries. The Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) has developed, in collaboration with NDMO and government counterparts a Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP), to facilitate coordination of the humanitarian response by providing an analysis, documenting sector/cluster response plans and identifying gaps and requirements. The HAP has been presented to the Taskforce. UNDP as early recovery network coordinator stands ready to provide coordination support for recovery and rehabilitation efforts.

V. Funding

- The New Zealand government provided a further NZ\$1 million for recovery and reconstruction work, bringing New Zealand's total flood support to NZ\$2.25 million.
- The government of China has pledged FJD 357,000.
- The government of India has pledged FJD 357,000 as well.
- ADB is finalizing a grant agreement with the Fiji Government of USD 1 million from the Asia-Pacific Disaster response Fund.

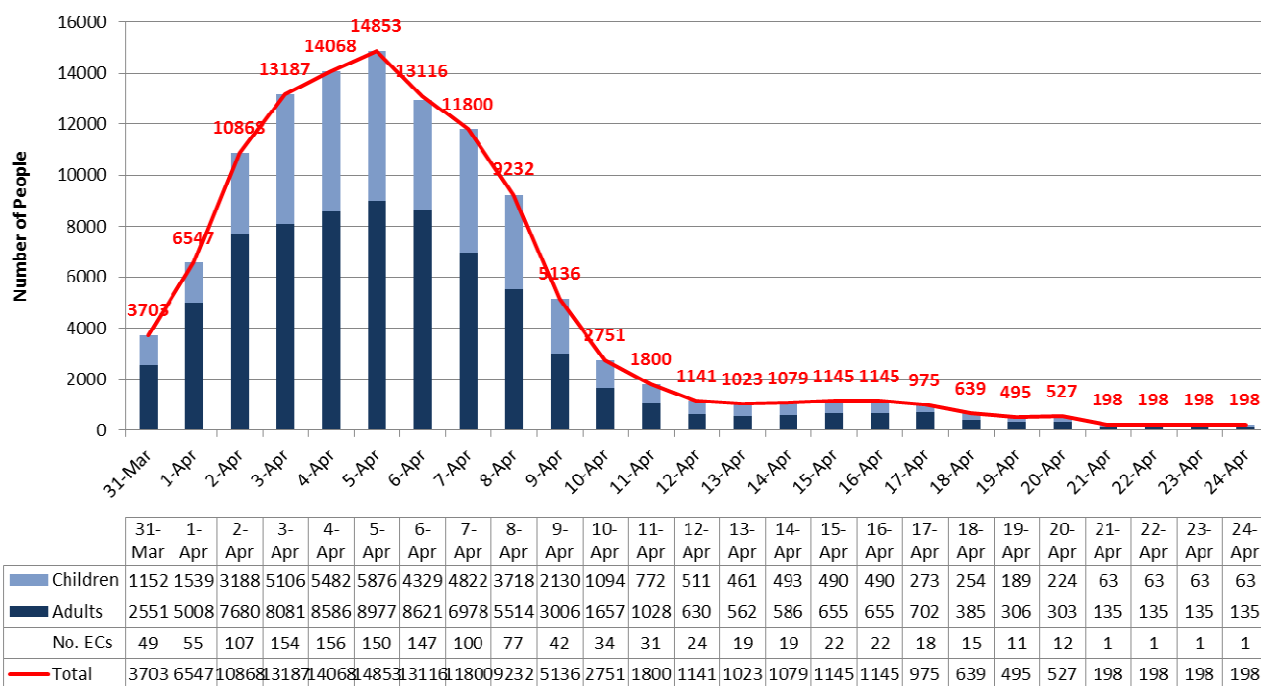
All humanitarian partners including donors and recipient agencies are encouraged to inform FTS of cash and in-kind contributions by sending an e-mail to: fts@un.org.

VI. Contact

For more information please contact: Peter Muller, OCHA Pacific, Regional Disaster Response Advisor, coordination@ochapacific.org, (+679) 999 1664. Or visit www.phtpacific.org or <http://ochaonline.un.org>
The following MapLink shows the affected areas and distributions of rations and Shelter Box and active EC:
<http://g.co/maps/8eifg>

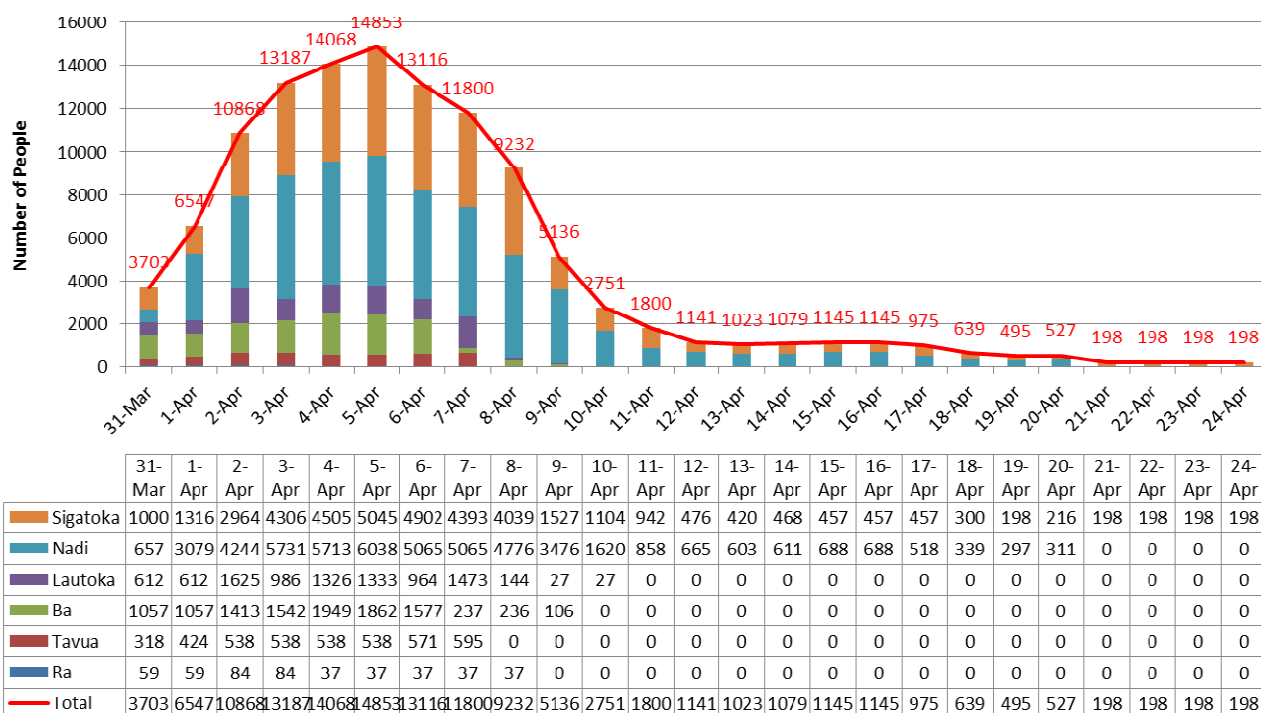
Picasa Photos shows the aerial and other photos of damaged areas mapped on google earth:
<https://picasaweb.google.com/lh/albumMap?uname=OCHAacific&aid=5728084456983546369#map>

Number of Adults & Children in Evacuation Centres



Details by Date

Number of People In Evacuation Centres by District



Details By Date