

Fiji ~ Flooding Tropical Depression TD17F-2012 Situation Report No. 4 12 April 2012



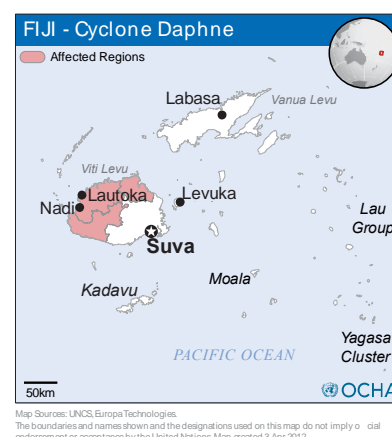
This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA Pacific Office. It covers the period from 7 to 12 April 2012. The next report will be issued on or around 19 April 2012.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/key priorities

- Following widespread flash flooding from 30 March onwards, 1,169 people remain in evacuation centres. Four people died and one boy remains missing. Initial, sector damage assessments amount to USD 40 million.
- The prevention of outbreaks of communicable diseases is a priority, particularly given the extent of flooding, and many communities having no or limited access to safe water supply.
- Given extensive agriculture damages, food security is at risk with almost 13,000 farmers having sustained damages. This raises particular concern for the most vulnerable people, including children, pregnant and lactating mothers, the elderly, disabled, the poor and those that remain in evacuation centres or with host families.

II. Situation Overview

Widespread flash floods starting in the early morning hours of 30 March in particularly the Western Division of Fiji caused damages to infrastructure, schools, homes, businesses and agriculture. At the height of the floods more than 15,000 people sought shelter in more than 150 evacuation centres. As power and electricity supply was disrupted for days, at least 150,000 people have been affected. Four people lost their lives, while one boy remains missing. A State of Natural Disaster was declared for parts of the west of Fiji. Once flood waters had sufficiently receded on 4 April, Government, Fiji Red Cross and NGO teams were quick to access and assess the impact on the population and provide relief. As of today, 1,169 people remained in 25 evacuation centres, as their homes are destroyed or still affected by flood water (see graphs in annex). NDMO continues to coordinate relief to families in evacuation centres, including food rations.



Within 10 days following the floods, electricity has been restored almost completely across the country. Water supply is partly restored, with only partial reticulated supply in all western towns and a clear overview of the supply situation in rural areas lacking this is an area of concern. Water is trucked to areas with disrupted supply. With restoration of services, and people able to access and clean their homes, evacuation centres have rapidly emptying, and all schools that were used as evacuation centers have been vacated.

Government response has been swift and donors were requested to provide specific assistance, including funding for aerial survey, logistics, tools, shelter and health supplies. Pacific Humanitarian Team clusters have been working closely with government lead agencies in areas of Health & Nutrition, Education, Emergency Shelter, Logistics and Protection, providing relief and technical support.

However, with the situation in affected parts of the Western and Central Division returning to normalcy for the majority of people, there remain several concerns. As was already experienced following floods in January, a rise in communicable diseases, particularly typhoid, leptospirosis and dengue, is to be expected. Particularly given the extend of flooding, including areas covered with silt and mud, and continued disruption in urban and rural water supply, there is a high risk of disease outbreak. Communities with no or limited access to safe water supply are considered to be at risk. Given extensive agriculture damages, food security in the next 3 months is under pressure for many, as almost 13,000 farmers have

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sustained damages. This raises particular concern for the most vulnerable people, including children, pregnant and lactating mothers, the elderly, disabled, the poor and those that remain in evacuation centres or with host families. There is an additional concern that the flood events, evacuations and subsequent hardship have caused stress on affected families and individuals.

Current sectoral initial damage assessments amount to more than FJD 71 million (USD 40 million) in key economic sectors.

Sectors	Est. Cost (FJD)
Roads	17,951,438
Water	11,910,000
Works	1,180,000
FEA	4,000,000
Telecom	152,000
Agriculture	17,416,693
Education	3,188,650
Health	606,544
Sugar	10,530,000
Housing	4,359,660
TOTAL	71,294,986

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response



Early Recovery

Lead Agency: United Nations Development Programme

Response: Overall early recovery assessment and planning has not yet started. UNDP is developing a joint UN programme in coordination with the designated inter-ministry government task force, for post-floods livelihoods recovery, with initial funds of USD 100,000. The programme will focus on livelihoods restoration for market vendors through a cash-for-work programme, and some support to agricultural rehabilitation in Rakiraki and to expand to a second location in the Western Division. UNDP is leading on the cash-for-work design and delivery, UNWomen is providing linkages to women market vendors and data and ILO is securing a technical specialist.



Education

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

Response: All schools in the west will have one week holiday instead of the usual two weeks as confirmed by the Ministry of Education. AusAID will provide stationeries to affected students. Students' attendance is yet to be determined, but Divisions have been advised to collect data of students in schools. Education cluster partners have finalised a rapid assessment at flood affected schools and detailed results are forthcoming.

Gaps & Constraints: It is expected that all needs will be met through cluster partners.



Emergency Shelter

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

The information from initial damage assessments conducted by district offices is still being compiled. To date 32 houses have been reported totally damaged in the Lautoka area and 9 in Nadi. ShelterBox have distributed and erected 15 tents in Ba, Nadi and Matavouvou. The Fiji Red Cross (FRCS) has not identified any completely damaged houses yet, but has distributed tarpaulins to 53 families requiring them.



Food Security / Agriculture

Cluster Lead: Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

Needs: The initial damage assessment (excluding sugar cane) by the Department of Agriculture (DOA) amounts to FJD 17.4 million for the whole sector in Western and Central Division, primarily from crop loss (FJD 16 million). The agriculture loss is mainly realised in the Sigatoka valley and its surrounding areas, where 80% of production is affected. In total 12,799 farmers are affected. The flood has significantly affected export crops, particularly eggplant, okra and pawpaw. According to the DOA, the extent of damage to food security has left all the worst hit areas without the basic food source of roots, vegetable and fruits for the next 3 months. Following the January floods, the Sigatoka valley farmers were supplementing the supply of vegetable to the local municipalities, but now a drastic increase in the price of fruits and vegetables is expected in the next 2 months. Damages to livestock were valued at almost FJD 911,000.

Response: The DOA proposes a rehabilitation programme that includes clearing of debris and desilting of farm drains (FJD 369,000), distribution of seedlings for export crops and food security (FJD 190,000),

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veterinary drugs (FJD 116,000), river dredging and infrastructure development (FJD 66,2 million) and work with regional and international organizations to address rehabilitation needs.

ADRA has distributed 524 food ration packs and will distribute another 300 in the coming days.

Table 1: Summary of provincial agricultural damage

PROVINCE/ DISTRICT	NO OF TIKINAS	TOTAL AREA (Ha)	AREA DAMAGED	% DAMAGED	VALUE [FJD]	NO OF FARMERS
Ba	16	1517	574	38	5,995,909	5889
Nadroga/ Navosa	16	1124	963	86	8,838,123	2985
Ra	4	655	369	56	1,380,130	2724
TOTAL	36	3296	1906	58%	16,214,162	11,598
Rewa	4	43	14	32	96,158	267
Tailevu	7	31	14	44	189,697	190
Naitasiri	11	148	39	27	449,912	744
TOTAL	22	222	67	30%	735,767	1,201
Land & Water and Resources Management					466,763	
GRAND TOTAL	58	3518.22	1973.57	56%	17,416,693	12,799

(source: DoA, % flood damage report and rehabilitation program for the Western and part of the Central Division; 28 March - 4 April)



Health and Nutrition

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

Needs: Current health needs to be supported include as a top priority the prevention of communicable diseases, which are expected to increase due to the flooding. Health partners make use of available information, education and communication materials on gender based violence, HIV/AIDs, health and nutrition, STIs and communicable diseases. There is continued need for appropriate technical guidance on disease surveillance, vector control, food/water safety, nutrition, psycho-social and mental health support.

Response: Health facilities continue to function normally with health departments continuing to focus on preventing the spread of communicable diseases that can easily spread after the flood. To address increased needs, the Ministry of Health (MoH) operates teams including a nurse, medical doctor and health inspector and additional personnel from Fiji National University in 6 subdivisions in the Western Division until the State of Natural Disaster ends on 20 April. A nutrition assessment is forthcoming but in the interim nutrition supplements are already provided. MoH, FRCS and partners continue to disseminate appropriate public health messages concerning all major health priorities, in particular diarrhoeal illnesses, leptospirosis, typhoid fever and malnutrition. Provision of medical supplies and equipment needs of the 6 major subdivisions, including Rakiraki, Ba, Tavua, Lautoka, Nadi and Sigatoka are being met through the AusAID funded Fiji Health Sector Support Programme (FHSSP) and two Interagency Emergency Health kits provided by UNICEF. The Fiji Red Cross has distributed hygiene kits (6,308), WASH kits (3,300), community first aid kits (196) and dignity packs supported through UNFPA. Minimum standards for food rations have been established and nutrition supplies including vitamin A, multi-micronutrients will be supplied. WHO staff will join general assessment and Communicable Disease taskforce assessment next week.

Gaps & Constraints: There is a concern that the subsequent flood events, evacuations and resulting hardship have caused stress on affected families and individuals. To ensure management of post-floods stress, Health & Nutrition and Protection clusters are linking with the Gender Surge Group through UNFPA to identify community based partners and networks. The status of current evacuation centres and those displaced in crowded places without adequate clean water supply and sanitation continue to be of concern, as well as those populations that are still not able to access clean water.



Logistics

Cluster Lead: World Food Programme (WFP)

Needs: The Water Authority Fiji (WAF) is mapping the remaining needs for water tanks and trucking capacities as water trucks, tanks and bladders for distribution and usage of water remain a need.

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Response: The Logistics planning and operations cell has continued to transfer food rations to the Western Division and expedite international air shipments coming in. Overseas donated shipments of food and second hand clothes are expected in the coming days.

Gaps & Constraints: Due to the poor condition of rural roads, larger trucks and vehicles continue to have difficulties accessing remote villages and settlements. Distributions are considerably hampered by difficulty of access. Supplies and food packs have had to be dropped off at the nearest access points due to landslides and/or broken bridges. The Logistics Cell in the NEOC is asking all agencies that are distributing relief items to keep a record of all activities and quantities of items distributed, for reporting purposes. If agencies want to donate relief items to the Fiji government, notification needs to be done to the PS Provincial Development, the NEOC or the Division EOC prior to the arrival of the shipment.



Protection

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

Needs: With the re-opening of schools and on-going closure of evacuation centres, there are concerns regarding conditions in affected areas where evacuees are returning and hence there is a need to monitor that evacuees return to safe locations with adequate shelter, sanitation facilities and access to water. Also where evacuees have not been able to safely return to their homes, conditions in alternative temporary shelters (tents and other structures) need to be continually assessed and similarly there will be a need to monitor schools that have re-opened to ensure appropriate safety and security for school-children. In remaining evacuation centres and flood-affected areas, the most vulnerable will need to be identified (including elderly, people with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women) so that they are able to access appropriate assistance and support, such as dignity kits. There is a need to ensure that psychosocial support is available to assist flood-affected individuals/families to cope and recover.

Response: The Protection Cluster continues to link with response agencies for information-gathering and dissemination around protection. The Cluster is maintaining contact with NDMO and relevant Ministries to offer protection assessment/monitoring support to DISMAC/NDMO and/or sectoral assessment teams on the ground. UNFPA procured 2,200 dignity kits, along with personal hygiene and emergency supplies for distribution through FRCS. Key messages regarding safe return of evacuees and safe relocation to alternative temporary shelter were shared with NDMO and also published through FemLINK's Women's Weather Watch Report on 7 April. Targeted advocacy messages are being prepared for dissemination to relevant actors regarding the value of and need for psychosocial support during and after the emergency. UN Women and UNFPA have approved funding which will support a range of activities, including raising awareness and building first-responder capacity around gender/GBV and protection issues in emergencies.

Gaps & Constraints: In order to ensure that the specific needs of the most vulnerable - according to age and sex - are identified and addressed, the collection of sex and age disaggregated data remains to be emphasized.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

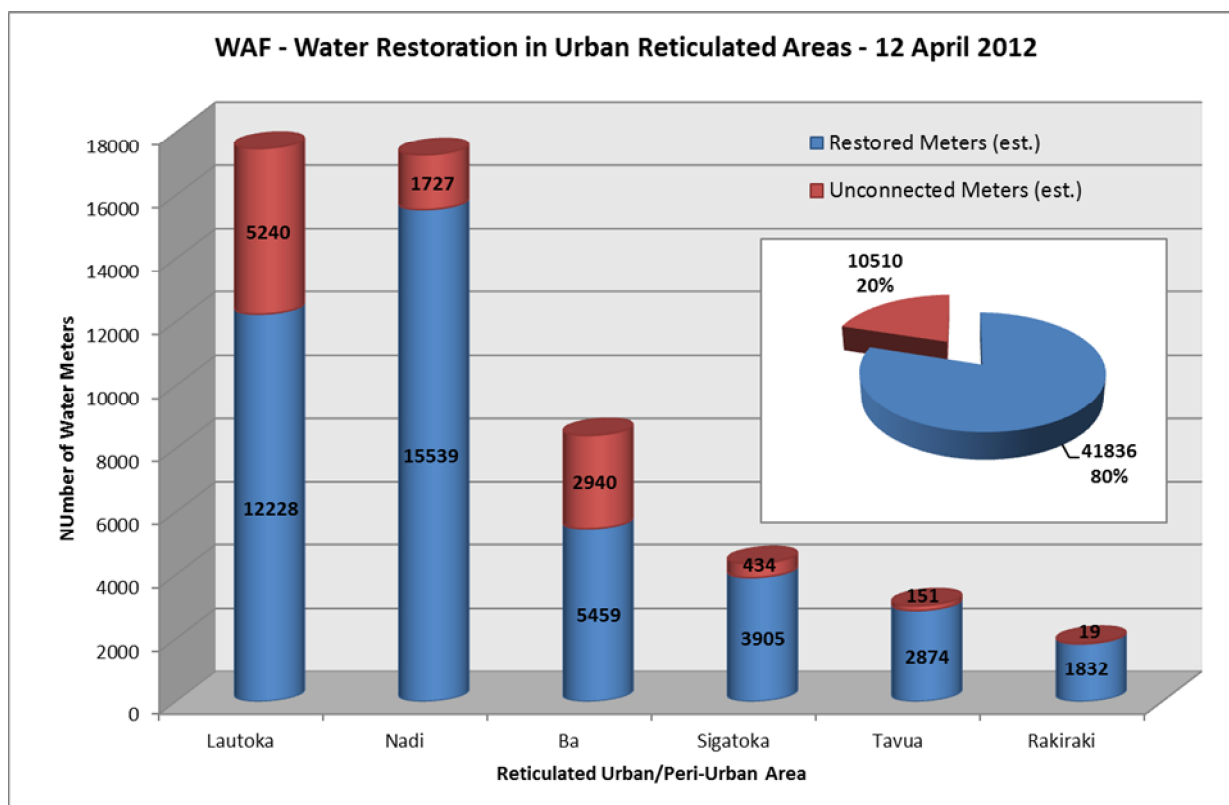
Cluster Lead: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Needs: Water supply remains a top priority for the flood affected population. In urban areas, the Water Authority Fiji (WAF) is prioritizing the restoration of water mains and sources after which the dissemination system up to the end user will be restored. These works are estimated to be completed within the next 2-3 weeks. Water trucking is being conducted in affected areas (with 23 trucks with water tanks) and WAF together with NDMO is trying to ensure sufficient trucking and tank capacity is available. Reticulated supply in Rakiraki and Tavua/Vatukoula is almost completely restored. In the towns of Ba (65%), Lautoka (70%), Nadi (90%) and Sigatoka (90%) still many rely on trucked water, which in total amounts to an estimated 10,000 connections. In rural areas the estimation of affected water sources and their rehabilitation still needs to be undertaken and will be done jointly with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Works.

Response: The WASH Cluster developed a comprehensive strategy jointly with the Ministry of Health, NDMO/DISMAC and cluster partners currently looking into identifying how to implement and fund the strategy. The WASH cluster continues to prioritize access to safe drinking water and sanitation and emphasises hygiene promotion and the prevention of outbreaks. FRCS with support from UNICEF started the distribution of 2,779 WASH kits, containing water purification tablets, water containers and soap. NDMO, MoH and FRCS with support from UNICEF, JICA, Australia and New Zealand have distributed 40 large water tanks and additional bladders, 7,000 water containers, 9,600 sachets of oral rehydration salts (ORS) and purification tablets to affected communities, as well as public communications materials.

Gaps & Constraints: Access to communities by the water trucks is hampered because of the bad state of many rural roads. The water supply at remaining evacuation centres needs to be closely monitored.

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Non-Food Items

Lead Agency: n/a

As of 9 April, the Fiji Red Cross Society (FRCS) has assisted 862 families (out of 2,213 assessed) with relief items, including black packs, cooking sets, water containers, blankets, tarpaulins, hygiene packs and WASH kits. NDMO/DISMAC has coordinated relief to families in evacuation centres donated by many individuals, churches and commercial businesses.



Social Media Monitoring

In the period from 29 March to 11 April, OCHA monitored the Facebook, Google+ and Twitter profiles of 70 individuals and 8 organizations affected by the floods or involved in the distribution of assistance. With 75% of all flood related posts, Facebook is the preferred social network, with 25% for Twitter and almost no traffic on public Google+ pages. Even with a seemingly large following, and a reasonably active Facebook community, most people only posted once or twice about the floods and most posted pictures of flooding near their place of residence. Main findings from the analysis are as follows:

- “ 27% of all messages concerned the Nadi area, with Ba and Sigatoka (Cuvu in particular) at 15% each. The rest covered other parts of Fiji, and the Suva area.
- “ 50% of posts describe damage to buildings or infrastructure, 30% food security and health issues, with the rest dedicated to WASH, Education or Recovery
- “ 20% of posts requested assistance, while 10% reported on the distribution of assistance, which was related to food and health.
- “ There were almost no specific complaints regarding the response. 75% of all posts expressed sadness at the events, while 18% were positive regarding assistance received.
- “ While very little actionable information was posted, 5% of posts concerned direct requests for assistance regarding either logistics for transportation to health facilities due to disrupted road and bridges and requests for food relief.

IV. Coordination

NDMO/DISMAC is coordinating the response from Suva and Lautoka. The Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) is developing, in collaboration with NDMO and government counterparts a Humanitarian Action Plan,

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to facilitate coordination of the humanitarian response by providing an analysis, documenting sector/cluster response plans and identifying gaps and requirements, which will be discussed in coming days.

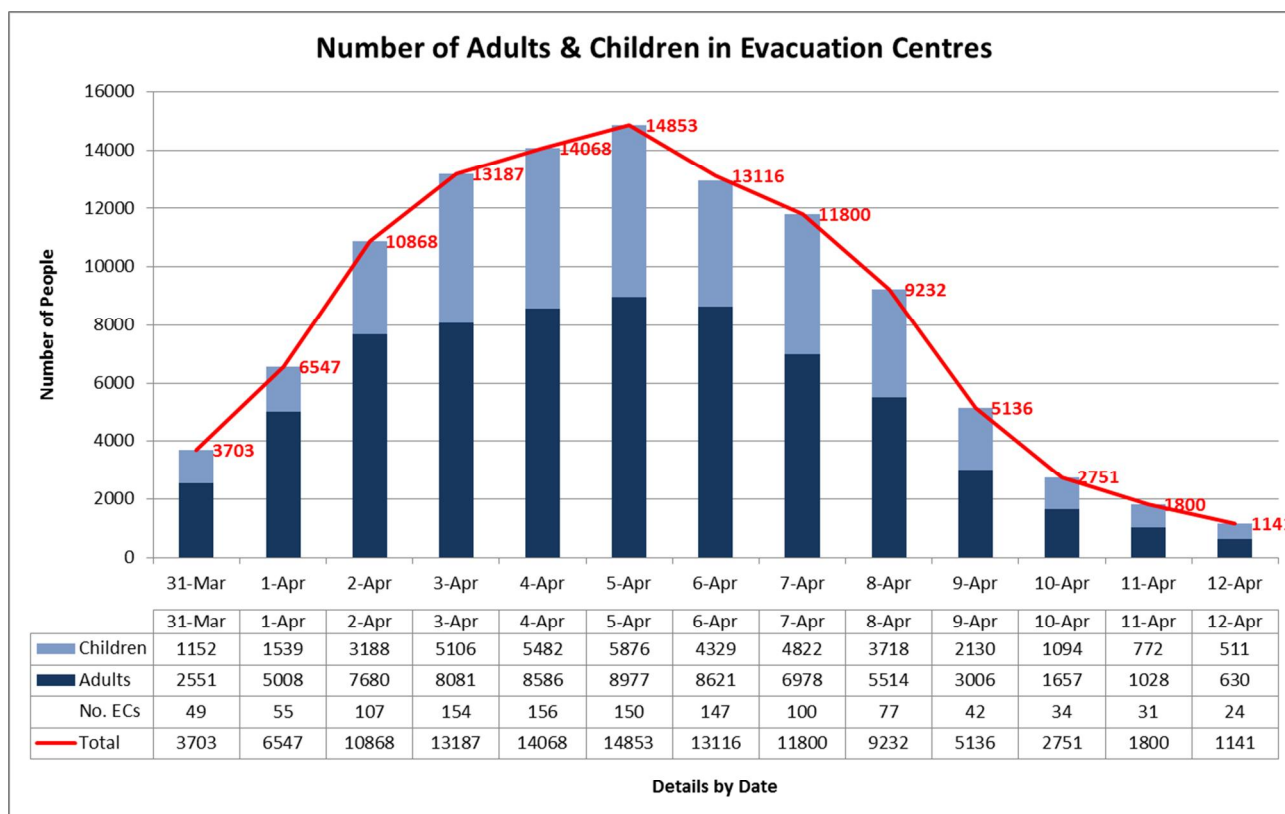
V. Funding

- The New Zealand government provided NZ\$ 1,25 million to Fiji Red Cross, NDMO, Rotary and New Zealand NGOs working with local partners
- AusAID pledged support of up to A\$ 1 million for aerial surveys and emergency supplies for NDMO, Act for Peace, FRCS and UNICEF
- United States Government provided USD 150,000 for Rotary Fiji and FRCS.
- European Union has provided Euro 200,000 to ADRA.
- JICA donated relief items with a value of FJD 412,556 to NDMO.
- UNFPA provided USD 50,000 for dignity kits.

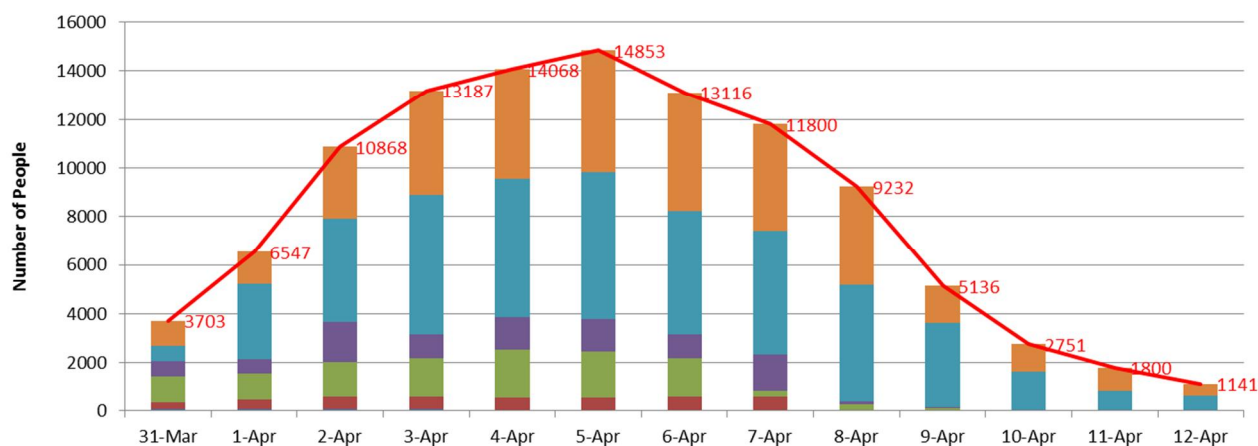
All humanitarian partners including donors and recipient agencies are encouraged to inform FTS of cash and in-kind contributions by sending an e-mail to: fts@un.org.

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>



Number of People In Evacuation Centres by District



	31-Mar	1-Apr	2-Apr	3-Apr	4-Apr	5-Apr	6-Apr	7-Apr	8-Apr	9-Apr	10-Apr	11-Apr	12-Apr
Sigatoka	1000	1316	2964	4306	4505	5045	4902	4393	4039	1527	1104	942	476
Nadi	657	3079	4244	5731	5713	6038	5065	5065	4776	3476	1620	858	665
Lautoka	612	612	1625	986	1326	1333	964	1473	144	27	27	0	0
Ba	1057	1057	1413	1542	1949	1862	1577	237	236	106	0	0	0
Tavua	318	424	538	538	538	538	571	595	0	0	0	0	0
Ra	59	59	84	84	37	37	37	37	37	0	0	0	0
Total	3703	6547	10868	13187	14068	14853	13116	11800	9232	5136	2751	1800	1141

Details By Date