



Suva, Fiji 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009  
18.00 hrs

## **Fiji Floods**

### **OCHA Situational Report No. 1**

#### **Highlights**

- Heavy rains have caused severe flooding in the North, Central and Western Divisions of Fiji since 8 January.
- A 30-day state of natural disaster was declared in the Western Division on 11 January.
- 6,591 people were recorded as being evacuated and housed in 110 Evacuation Centres as of 11 am on Tuesday 13 January
- 7 Deaths have been recorded as a direct result of the floods.
- The Fiji Interim Government has not requested international assistance, but reviews assessment information tomorrow 14 January.
- Another tropical depression is expected to bring more rainfall by Wednesday night and Thursday, which may extend and compound the current situation.

#### **Situation Overview**

Heavy rain resulting from a tropical depression and falling mainly from 7 to 10 January has caused severe flooding in the North, Central and Western Divisions of Fiji. The affected areas include the major towns of Nadi, Ba, and Labasa. Emergency Operations Centres have been activated in all three Divisions and the Western Division has had a state of natural disaster declared.

A break in the rain for the Western and Central Districts on 11 January has allowed floodwaters to recede in some areas. However, the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) reports that numerous low lying villages and communities remain under water. Further, rain in the Western Division on 12 and 13 January, combined with spring tides, has caused waters to rise again in that region. The Fiji Meteorological Service forecasts that between now and midnight Wednesday 14 January, there will be periods of heavy rain for Labasa (Northern division on the island of Vanua Levu), and Nadi, Lautoka and Ba (Western Division on the main island of Viti Levu), and some rain and thunderstorms for Navua and Nausori (Central division). This rain is expected to compound the flooding that has already taken place and further flash flooding is a risk.

According to the NDMO, throughout Fiji a total of 6,591 people were recorded as being evacuated and housed in 110 Evacuation Centres as of 11 am on Tuesday 13 January.

There have been 7 reported deaths due to drowning (4) and landslides (3): four males and three females of which 4 children that can be directly attributed to the rainfall and flooding. A further death (adult male) has been recorded in the form of a road accident which appears to have been caused by poor visibility as a result of the heavy rain.

As of 8 AM on 13 January the NDMO reported that the water levels in all big rivers were back to normal, but by the end of the day water levels were rising again due to continued rainfall. The northern highway (Kings road) is still closed at Wailotua. Nausori Airport was also left without electricity. At a briefing of international partners on Tuesday 13 January the NDMO reported that with the old bridge that was washed away at Sigatoka, also the attached water and sewerage pipes were destroyed. Nadi and Ba also lack water supply and electricity supply. Government agencies are working around the clock to restore services and supply.

### **Humanitarian Response**

The government has activated its disaster response mechanism and the response activities are coordinated both at the district level and national level. Initial damage assessment has been conducted and is still ongoing in affected areas in order to provide a full overview of the damage caused by the floods. 110 evacuation centres have been established by the government in the affected areas and the division authorities are distributing food parcels to the 6,591 people using the centres. Work to repair roads damaged by floods and landslides is also being undertaken. Water trucks are directed Suva and other towns to Sigatoka and Ba to deliver water by truck to affected people. Restoring power and water supply to hospitals in Nadi, Lautoka and Ba has been listed as a priority.

The Fiji Red Cross Society's Situation Report 2 – Fiji Floods, states that FRCS have deployed relief teams to conduct assessment as well as distributing basic non food items including containers for drinking water, black packs, temporary shelter equipment, cooking sets and blankets to affected communities along the Rewa river. The Fiji Red Cross Society has also provided 100 x 20L clean drinking water containers to five flooded villages and evacuation centres located near the Rewa river.

St John's Ambulance visited two Evacuation Centres in the Rewa Delta area and evacuated one elderly woman for treatment before returning her to the shelter and treating another woman on site for a septic wound.

Save the Children Fiji is conducting assessments on education related needs of affected populations, particularly children and the damage to schools.

Both the NDMO and the Fiji Red Cross Society continue to conduct damage and needs assessment although they are being hampered by access in some areas.

A number of international organizations, including UN and ADB, have offered assistance to the government to participate in multi-sector rapid and in-depth assessments should this be required.

### **Water & Sanitation**

Water shortage in Ba is a serious concern because the main dam and pipeline were affected by the flood. Water tanks are going to be dispatched to Ba to relieve the water shortage problem. Water shortage in Nadi especially in the hospital are also reported from Western Division. Restoration of water and electricity supplies at the hospitals are priority for the government response.

### **Health**

Fiji Red Cross points out that contamination of community water source could increase water born diseases. This was also the main reason for the Western Division to declare a state of natural disaster. Specific health assessment will need to be undertaken in order to understand the health risks and health needs of affected population as a whole including both evacuees and non evacuees.

### Food and Nutrition

Food rations are provided to evacuees staying at evacuation centers while the districts are assessing needs of food rations to non-evacuated but affected population.

### Shelter

According to the NDMO, throughout Fiji a total of 6,591 people were recorded as being evacuated and housed in 110 Evacuation Centres as of 11 am on Tuesday 13 January. The Western Division was housing 4,150 people in 62 centres, the Central Division was housing 2,374 people in 46 centres, and the Northern Division was housing 67 people in 2 centres. A more detailed breakdown is below.

Division	Town	Evacuation Centre Numbers
Western	Lautoka	499
Western	Ba	526
Western	Rakiraki	30
Western	Nadroga/Navosa	949
Western	Nadi	1462
Western	Tavua	35
Western	Vatukoula	18
Western	Sigatoka	631
Central	Tailevu	218
Central	Naitasiri	698
Central	Wainibuka	94
Central	Nausori	74
Central	Korovou	72
Central	Rewa	1218
Northern	Labasa	67

Some evacuation centers have closed during the past 24 hours.

Food is provided by the government and Red Cross is providing Non food items at these evacuation centers. With the expected rainfall to follow a second tropical depression over the next days, evacuees are encouraged to stay in the evacuation centres at least up until the weekend.

### Camp Coordination

District authorities are monitoring the opening and closure of evacuation centers. The evacuation centers are self managed by each facility and community. If evacuees need to stay at evacuation centres for prolonged period, it may require further needs assessment for evacuees besides food and non food item distribution.

### Protection

Law and order is maintained by the police, but no specific protection related assessment or monitoring is conducted especially at this stage. In case the evacuation situation is prolonged, it may require further protection assessment and monitoring with specific focus on vulnerable groups and specific protection needs.

### Logistics

Access to Nadi town is still restricted and Kings Road at Wailotua is still closed as of 13<sup>th</sup> morning. Access to certain affected areas is still limited due to cut-off roads. Navy and Police are providing logistics support to division and Red Cross teams.

**Telecoms:**

Telephone is not working in certain areas including Ba, Vunidawa, Nadi, Nalawelo, Monasavu, Emori hill, Loma, Kavanagasau, Yako and Matawailevu.

**Early Recovery**

Preliminary results of initial damage assessments by government teams for cost of food rations, and damage to agriculture, housing and roads and bridges are at more than FJD 20 million, see attached overview.

**Education**

Save the Children Fiji is conducting assessments regarding educational needs of affected children and also damage to the schools in the areas most heavily affected including Ba, Nandi, Northern division and Lower Delta (Nausori area). Save the Children is planning to provide educational materials to the affected population such as text books and stationary items.

A number of schools are used as evacuation centers, and if evacuees need to stay there for prolonged period, it could affect the opening of schools, which is planned for the new school year starting on 19 January.

**Cross Cluster/Sector issues**

N/A

**Coordination**

- Response activities are coordinated at division level, with NDMO and national Disaster Council coordinating the response at the national level including coordination with non-governmental actors.
- OCHA held a UN coordination meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January to discuss UN response in case international assistance is requested and supported the NDMO update to international partners.
- Several UN agencies including UNICEF (Water sanitation and health related items ) and UNFPA (reproductive health related items) have relief items which can be deployed upon request.
- UN and other international organizations are ready to participate in multi-sector needs assessments.

**Funding**

- The New Zealand Government donated NZ\$100,000
- The Australian Government pledged a contribution of at least A\$ 150,000 if requested.

**Needs and Gaps**

Access to and restoration of clean water supply is a priority for government at this moment. Given the expected continued rainfall, the continued needs and safety of people in evacuation centers and affected areas in terms of water supply and food may become an urgent need if flooding continues and displacement and disruption of normal life is prolonged.

**Humanitarian Analysis**

The disaster management authorities and Fiji Red Cross Society in Fiji are continuing to assess the damage while prioritizing the affected population's access to water, shelter, food and basic services. Currently the Fiji government manages the situation with available resources and will decide on further required assistance once the assessment information has been fully analyzed. The expected bad weather following a second tropical depression in the coming days may compound to the current situation. International partners stand ready to assist when requested.

**SUMMARY – INTIAL DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS 13/01/2009**

AREAS	RATIONS	AGRICULTURE	Housing	ROADS & BRIDGES	UTILITIES
<b>NORTH</b>					
Cakaudrove		31,562.00		900,000.00	700,000.00
Bua		237,350.00		325,000.00	1,200,000.00
Macuata		107,520.00		1,130,000.00	400,000.00
	<b>tba</b>	<b>376,432.00</b>	<b>15,000.00</b>	<b>2,500,000.00</b>	<b>3,000,000.00</b>
<b>WEST</b>					
Sigatoka	101,100.00		96,000.00	180,000.00	380,000.00
Nadi	220,590.00		128,000.00	720,000.00	230,000.00
Lautoka	111,435.00		111,000.00	400,000.00	160,000.00
Ba	112,230.00		116,500.00	530,000.00	600,000.00
Tavua	73,545.00		58,500.00	600,000.00	70,000.00
Rakiraki	103,500.00		41,500.00	1,200,000.00	70,000.00
Rural Water Supply					100,000.00
Pavement Rehab				2,000,000.00	
	<b>722,400.00</b>	<b>tba</b>	<b>551,500.00</b>	<b>5,630,000.00</b>	<b>1,610,000.00</b>
<b>CENTRAL</b>					
Tailevu		2,071,473.60		13,600.00	
Naitasiri		3,354,960.00		7,600.00	
Namosi				7,000.00	
Rewa		963,600.00		5,000.00	
	<b>Tba</b>	<b>6,390,033.60</b>	<b>tba</b>	<b>33,200.00</b>	<b>Tba</b>
<b>TOTAL (Estimated)</b>	<b>722,400.00</b>	<b>6,766,465.60</b>	<b>566,500.00</b>	<b>8,163,200.00</b>	<b>4,610,000.00</b>

Therefore, as at 1200Hrs, Initial Costs for Damage stand at **FJD\$20,828,565.60**