



# FIJI — CYCLONE WINSTON

## IOM EMERGENCY RESPONSE

SITUATION REPORT • 16 March 2016



### Highlights

IOM's consignment of UN-CERF-funded emergency relief arrives in Fiji (George Gigauri © IOM 2016)

- Consignment of 81 metric tonnes of Shelter, NFIs and dignity kits arrives in Fiji to provide assistance to 26,000 people.
- IOM trains 32 Fijian Government Officers as enumerators for the collection of Evacuation Tracking and Monitoring (ETM) data.
- First cycle of ETM has been rolled-out to key provinces in cyclone-affected areas of Fiji.

### Situation Overview

Tropical Cyclone Winston struck the island nation of Fiji on 20 and 21 February 2016 inducing great damage across its path, with winds measuring upward of 320km/h. The Government of Fiji estimates that almost 350,000 people (40 per cent of the total Fijian population including 180,000 men and 170,000 women) could have been affected. The Government of Fiji is leading the emergency response, and a 30-day State of Natural Disaster has been declared, lasting until March 21. The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) is coordinating response efforts, activating National and Divisional Emergency Operations Centres. National Clusters have been tasked with identifying specific needs to address in cooperation with international and national partners.

On 12 March, IOM received a consignment of 81 metric tonnes of aid from its Global Administrative Centre in the Philippines. The consignment, funded by the UN Central Emergency Response Fund, comprises a broad range of relief items to be distributed to over 26,000 affected people. IOM is also providing technical assistance to the Government of Fiji in Evacuation Centre Coordination and Management (ECCM). As part of IOM's ECCM strategy, the Evacuation Tracking and Monitoring (ETM) tool has been rolled-out to 7 Provinces, targeting 320 Evacuation Centres in total. ETM is a system comprised of a variety of tools and processes designed to track and monitor evacuees during the event of a disaster. The ETM will identify cross-sectoral needs, gaps in assistance, and highlight concerns within the evacuation centres (ECs) in order to provide a targeted response reaching the most vulnerable people.

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## IOM RESPONSE



### Shelter and non-food items (NFIs)

Initial government reports indicate that up to 100 per cent of buildings have been destroyed on certain islands, with a total of 24,000 houses either damaged or destroyed across Fiji. People living in provinces that sustained extensive damage to their property have been left with little other option than to take refuge in ECs.

Some ECs are housed in school buildings, and due to the Government's goal of students returning to classrooms as soon as possible, it is critical to rebuild homes immediately. However, concerns remain about the timeline of the closure of the ECs, which can only happen once durable solutions for returnees have been identified and operationalised. Consequently, IOM and humanitarian partners are assisting the Government in creating an enabling environment for sustainable return of affected mobile populations. To support this process, IOM's 81-tonne consignment of relief items for targeted distribution to evacuees, serves a dual purpose of providing life-sustaining shelter assistance and a beneficiary-driven return and reintegration process.



IOM helps to load relief items (Aaron Watts-Jones © IOM 2016)

The **shelter kits include tarpaulins, tools and fixings**. In addition, IOM will be delivering communal tents and solar lanterns and street lights, providing an integrated shelter response. The proposed plan for distribution of these relief items is under development and will consist of a tripartite partnership with government, UN and Non-governmental organizations/civil society. It is expected that the goods will be released for distribution in the coming days.



### Evacuation Centre Coordination and Management (ECCM)

Reports from the Fijian Government conducted in early March indicate that the damage and destruction caused by the cyclone has left more than 54,000 evacuees residing across over 700 ECs. The living conditions of the evacuees are of significant public **health and protection concern**. With the majority of ECs located in school buildings, it has become evident that they are not equipped to meet the multisectoral needs of the evacuated population.

One IOM ECCM/ETM Officer is embedded within the NDMO. As an extension of this close working partnership, the Fiji Bureau of Statistics has designated 32 ETM enumerators already **trained by IOM on data collection** of evacuated populations. To date, the ETM enumerators have been deployed to Bua, Cakaudrove, Koro, Ovalau, Ra, Taveuni and Vanuabalavu Provinces to conduct EC assessments for the first cycle of the ETM process.



IOM delivers training on ETM in Suva (Mark Maulit © IOM 2016)

The medium- and long-term impact of the cyclone is expected to place women and vulnerable groups (including children and the disabled) at greater risk in terms of safety and exploitation. It is therefore critical that ECs are well-managed and protection-focused in their design. The ETM report data will contribute towards this goal by identifying protection concerns and gaps in assistance within the ECs.

**IOM's Emergency Response Operations are supported by:**

