



Bulletin #10

Fiji Tropical Cyclone Winston

Reporting period (05.08 - 29.09)

Group photo taken at Day 1 Nutrition in Emergencies Training.



12		32		5319		94 %	
# of villages on Koro Island visited by a team of councilors from Empower Pacific.		# of alerts received through Early Warning Alerts System during 12 – 18 September.		# of children examined during the INO nutritional assessment conducted in eight subdivisions.		% completion rate of Early Warning Alert and Response System for EPI Week 37.	

HIGHLIGHTS

- MoH and its partners are actively responding to cases of typhoid, leptospirosis, zika, chikungunya, measles, enteropathogens and influenza occurring in communities across Fiji.
- Integrated Nutrition Outreach for nutrition data collection was completed in eight subdivisions with 5391 children examined.
- SOP and checklist for EWARS alert verification were developed to implement more structured responses.
- Epidemiological Bulletin Early Warning Alert and Response System for EPI Week 37, 12– 18 September was published online: 34 sites reported with 94 % completion rate.
- Empower Pacific co-ordinated follow up visits on Koro Island on 13 - 27 September.
- Planned Communications activities for May-August were completed. Public radio service announcement on 13 key health, WASH and protection messages continues to be broadcasted.

Priorities, Needs, and Gaps

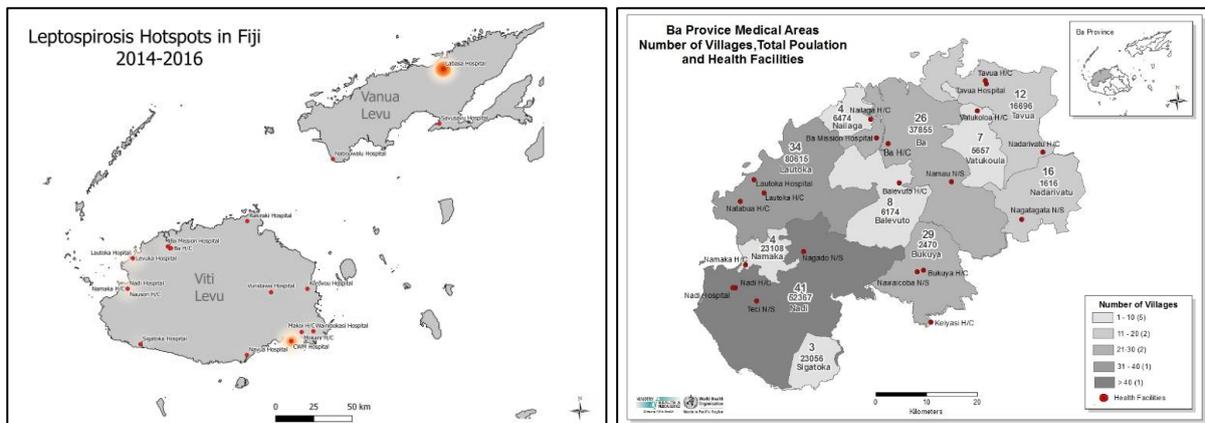
- The reassessment of the health facilities damage is a top priority to facilitate recovery supports.
- Water treatment equipment needs to be provided to the health facilities and communities without the safe water supply.
- Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP), developed by the WHO and the Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crises needs to be implemented in preparation for the next humanitarian crisis.

- As the Fiji Health and Nutrition, Cluster prepares for the next cyclone season; it will be important to strengthen local capacity for MISP implementation during the humanitarian response. It is also essential to ensure coordination mechanisms are in place and resources like the reproductive health kits are available to implement the MISP adequately.

Health and Nutrition Cluster Action

Coordination/Leadership

- FIJI EWARS Refresher Training was conducted on 14-16 September at the FCCDC in Suva:
 - The training was overviewed Fiji EWARS definitions, processes, and procedures and updated and revise recommendations to address gaps and issues identified over last seven months since initial implementation.
 - Facilitator’s presentations and practical exercises reinforced EWARS case definition accuracy; methods and uses of syndromic surveillance data; and interpretation of alerts and trends.
 - Facilitators lead a review and revision of EWARS standard operating procedures and recorded recommendations and action items for strengthening the system through completeness, timeliness, accuracy, and the feedback to public healthcare providers.
- Over last five weeks, WHO has been conducting weekly GIS and Information Management Training workshops at the MoHMS. The training conducted by Dr. John Lowry from University of South Pacific (USP) and Paul Jaskierniak, WHO GIS and IM consultant is designed to address specific GIS and information management questions and needs identified by the participants. The training is conducted using QGIS to develop skills and improve data collection and management practices with an objective of assisting MoHMS and HNC staff in making better use of GIS and AKVO in their projects. Below are two examples of maps produced during last week's session.



- Nutrition in Emergencies Training in Suva was conducted on 20-22 September
 - Dieticians and MoHMS nutrition officers from subdivisions and other partner agencies participated in the training to enhance capacities to respond to nutrition crisis. The training was designed to strengthen the quality of health and nutrition contingency plan.
 - The MoHMS is grateful and greatly appreciates UNICEFs technical and funding support.
- Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT), Health and Nutrition Cluster Meeting for Preparedness to Respond, was held at WHO on 29 September, following were discussed:
 - PHT Reform by OCHA
 - Mapping of regional partners to join PHT HNC
 - “Preparedness to Respond” to possible incidents the next cyclone season
 - PHT HNC session at the Pacific Humanitarian Partners (PHP) Annual Conference in October

Sub-cluster Action

Clinical Services

- The clinical services are now under the public health interventions sub-cluster. Post-trauma services have been stood-down.

Nutrition

- Work on a draft of Nutrition in Emergencies Contingency Plan is continuing.
- IMAM roll out training was completed by all divisions: Northern Division (22-26th August)/Western Division (28 Aug – 2nd Sep).
- IMAM Protocols and Nutrition/Disaster Communication Package is being developed
- Report on 2-week Integrated Nutrition Outreach (INO) conducted on 11 - 22 July will be published soon. During the INO, 695 children were seen in Tailevu subdivision. 642 children were provided with MNP, 636 with Vitamin A and 562 with albendazole. Additional INOs were conducted in August and September in the affected subdivisions in the Western Division - Ra, Tavua, Ba and Lautoka/Yasawa Subdivisions and in the Northern Division - Taveuni, Cakaudrove, and Bua Subdivisions. A total of eight teams were engaged in the West for four weeks and four teams in the North for two weeks.
 - The INO involved Nutrition Assessments and Supplementation. The analysis is currently on-going, so far a total of 5319 children were assessed.
 - Health Sisters, Zone Nurses, Dietitians, Community Rehabilitation Assistants and Peer Educators were involved in INO
 - Training for Western Health Services was conducted on 16-18 August, and the fieldwork was conducted on 23 August and 16 September. Training for Northern Health Services was conducted on 31 August, and 1 September and the field work was conducted on 5 - 16 September.
- School-based nutrition programs and monitoring of nutrition status of school children is regularly conducted. The activities involve anthropometric measurements, canteen and garden inspection, nutrition talk, talks during Parent Teacher Association Meeting and counselling to provide parents with nutrition advice for their children.
 - Schools in the Eastern division (Vanuabalavu, Koro and Ovalau) have commenced implementation, schools in Ra will begin soon
- The distribution of Multiple Micronutrient Powder (MNP), Vitamin A, and deworming tablets is ongoing as part of the post-TC Winston nutrition response. Some subdivisions are also regularly distributing those items at MCH clinics and IMCI.
- AKVO Flow app is being used to collecting nutrition
- data in all the subdivisions.
- Nutrition in Emergencies Training was held in Suva on 20 - 22 September.
 - 18 Participants drawn mainly from the MOHMS (managers and service providers) and a few non-government partners including WHO, SPC and Global Compassion
 - Aimed at strengthening nutrition focal points at national and sub-division levels in nutrition emergency preparedness and response planning toward timely and effective protection of the nutritional status of girls, boys, women and communities

Public Health Interventions

- Distribution of Zika materials to Health Centres and ports of entry has been completed with the assistance of Prevention and Control team. The materials were designed to increase the rate of Zika detection.
- SOP and checklist for EWARS alert verification were developed to implement a more structured response to the alerts.
- Proactive follow-ups on typhoid cases from the Western Division was discussed during the Surveillance Technical Working Group. Inputs related to the follow-up were provided by divisional medical officers on 27 September at the NTCOPD meeting.

- Dedicated Zika-core Clinical technical working group was established for Clinical Management to address Zika response services. The working group is meetings regularly.
- Zika Action Plan was updated.
- PCR testing for ZIKA was established in late August with support from WHO.
- Prevention and Control Packs Donated by WHO (Mosquito nets & repellents) were distributed in August to expectant mothers in their first trimester.

Environmental Health Unit

- To support the establishment of water quality monitoring, WHO and UNICEF donated four portable water testing laboratories (Potalab) and seven kits (Potatest). Selected EHOs were trained in the use of the Pota Lab and Pota Test to monitor drinking water quality.
- EHOs' regular inspections of vector control, food handling, and environmental hazard areas are on-going with an objective of raising awareness on:
 - Hand washing, boiling drinking water, proper storage and household treatment of drinking water
 - Elimination of mosquito breeding grounds and safe solid and wastewater management
 - Correct food handling practices to avoid foodborne illnesses.

Medical Supplies & Resources

- Delivery of 17 Vestfrost fridges from UNICEF to the facilities in Vanua Levu and Viti Levu is currently being conducted. It is planned to be completely in late October. Training on the users of the fridges is planned soon after.
- 74 Solar fridges from UNICEF have arrived in Fiji, and the process of installing them has begun.
- Space at the central FPBS warehouse remains an issue; unsolicited donations continue to take up valuable space designated for new containers. FPBS is seeking funding to procure new containers.
- The donation policy for medicines is currently being reviewed before its circulation to all the Health Managers as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is designed to control unsolicited donations.
- The Humanitarian Response SCM SOP is still in the drafting process; it is expected to be finalised before the upcoming Hurricane Season in Fiji.
- Direct Relief continues to send donated medicines and medical supplies to MoHMS.

Communications

- A total of 12,800 radio public service announcement on 13 important health, WASH, and protection messages have been broadcast on 11 stations in the three languages, providing over 130 hours airtime between 24 February and 31 August.
- Second 3-day FBC Roadshow supporting MoHMS's health messages and clinical outreach in the North and one along Queens Road focused on hygiene, safe motherhood and screening (one more to follow along Kings Road with a focus on disaster preparedness and recovery) has been successfully concluded. The goal was to screen 300 people during the two-day roadshow, 646 people were screened.
- Efforts aimed at revamping pre and post disaster messages, re-launching 'Fight the Bite' campaign, and securing more airtime with media outlets are continuing.
- MoHMS is grateful for continuous support from internal and external partners.
- Ms. Evelyn Mani has left MoHMS. MoHMS and HNC members are grateful for her hard work for the HnNC and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Psychosocial Support & Mental Health

- MhGAP in partnership with WHO conducted training of trainers on 3 - 6 October. The initiative is aimed at increasing the capacity of the PSSMH staff.
- Yasawa Psychological First Aid Training and Talanoas was conducted in August.

- Plans for targeted outreach to Koro in August was put on hold due to the sudden passing away of the project officer. Empower Pacific is currently coordinating follow-up visits on Koro Island.
- A team of counsellors from Empower Pacific visited 12 villages in Koro Island on 13-27 September.
- During their visit, the team paid a courtesy call to the Great Chief Roko, after which he visited all the Turanga on Koro Island to brief the villages about Empower Pacific's work. More than hundred people attended team's counselling sessions. The most common causes of current psychological stress as identified by the Empower Pacific staff are the termination of food rations and delays in the arrival of building materials.

Highlighted Initiative

Safe drinking water for rural communities in Fiji

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as part of their support of the MoHMS effort of improving water quality monitoring in Fiji have donated to the MoHMS four portable water testing laboratories (Potalab) and seven kits (Potatest) during a 'Handover of Equipment' ceremony at the MoHMS Dinem House on 16 September. WHO and UNICEF also provided the MoHMS with technical guidance on the development of Fiji's water quality surveillance system. These contributions are aimed at meeting international microbiological and chemical standards of water safety and quality and to assist MoHMS at implementing Fiji's National Drinking Water Quality Standards. The equipment will assist the MoHMS's Environmental Health Unit to monitor water quality in rural and urban areas. Both the Potalab and the Potatest systems will be distributed to Divisional Environmental Health Offices and selected sub-divisional offices. The test kits will ensure improved sensitivity, accuracy, and reliability of routine water quality surveillance as well as rapid testing of water supplies in times of an emergency.



Staff of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, WHO and UNICEF with newly donated Potalab and Potatest water testing kits, 16 September 2016

For more detailed information:

http://www.wpro.who.int/southpacific/mediacentre/releases/2016/safe_drinking_water_fiji/en/

Funding Status of Action Plan

The [Flash Appeal](#) for TC Winston Response is 56% funded. The Health and Nutrition Cluster is 44% funded (US\$ 2,556,122). The UN's [Central Emergency Response Fund](#) (CERF) allocation for Fiji is US\$8,022,382 to its life-saving projects.

More Information

See Health and Nutrition Cluster Webpage: http://www.health.gov.fj/?page_id=5254

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