







## Bulletin #9

### Fiji Tropical Cyclone Winston

Reporting period (14.06 - 04.08)

Empower Pacific counselor providing one-to-one counseling to an elderly individual on Koro Island



<b>583</b> 	<b>34</b> 	<b>150</b> 	<b>100 %</b> 
# people in Koro who received Mental Health and Psychosocial support from MoHMS and Empower Pacific	# alerts received weekly through Early Warning Alerts System during 25 July – 31 July	# of children who went through Nutrition Assessment using AKVO in Tailevu Subdivision	% completion rate of Early Warning Alert and Response System for Epi Week 30

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 4 Family Health Outreach teams carried out 2 week Integrated Nutrition Outreach in Tailevu Subdivision from 11 to 22 July, covering 34 villages and settlements, and completed its activities in Ba, Tavua and Nadi
- National Clean-up campaign, "Fight the Bite" commenced on 2 May was successfully completed.
- Epidemiological Bulletin Early Warning Alert and Response System for EPI Week 30, 25 - 31 July was published online: 34 sites were reported with 100 % completion rate.
- The MoHMS team performed Psychological First Aid Training & Awareness on Koro Island between 30 May and 3 June.

### Priorities, Needs, and Gaps

#### Priorities:

- Follow-up on the outreach activities on Koro Island and other remote areas still in need of recovery assistance.
- Reconstruction of damaged health facilities.

#### Needs and Gaps:

- Public Health Interventions:
  - Need for EWARS to implement more structured response to the alerts.
  - Need for proactive follow up on typhoid cases from the Western Division.
  - Need for urgent technical working group meeting for Clinical Management to address Zika response services.

- According to the IOM's finding, Evacuation Tracking and Monitoring Cycle 2 (Community Assessment Surveys covering all of the TC Winston affected areas),
  - *Potential Food and Nutrition Hazards*
    - 7,515 households or an estimated 15,754 persons facing food insecurity and a level of dependence on food distributions or irregular food sources.
    - Some 8,372 households or 18,306 individuals are subsisting on famine foods.
  - *Potential Health Hazard*
    - Diarrhea, body pains, coughs and weakness or tiredness affecting 214 communities.

## Health and Nutrition Cluster Action

### Coordination/Leadership

- **GIS Needs Assessment** was conducted by MoHMS to identify how and for what purpose project collects data, how they use it, and communicate information to stakeholders, to inform GIS applications development.
- **Health & Nutrition cluster support for Koro Island:**
  - Family Health Outreach team conducted mobile clinic on Koro Island between 11 May and 24 June, visiting a total of 24 sites
  - MoHMS confirmed there were no significant health issues as of 1 July.
  - An Early Warning Alert and Response System (EWARS) sentinel established on Koro Island in Mid-March has reported following:
    - Increase in Influenza-like illness cases from mid-May to end of May
    - Increase in Watery Diarrhea cases in mid- April
    - No increase in Influenza like illness or Watery Diarrhea in June
  - Anti-mosquito spraying team from MoHMS has completed most of its planned activities on the island, covering 90% of sites. Health awareness sessions to explain anti-mosquito spraying activities and to promote proper waste management.
  - To mitigate psychological stress on the island, MoHMS and Empower Pacific have provided MH/PSS support.
- **HNC Performance Assessment meeting** was conducted by the MoHMS on 1 July to discuss the Review Process and Performance Review Survey with attendees from MoHMS, UNICEF, MNC Sub cluster leads and WHO.
  - The survey was sent out to HNC members on 24 July. The survey explored what went well, challenges and recommendations. So far the response rate is 60%.
  - Overall, responses to questions addressing coordination, strategic direction and planning, advocacy, information management, service delivery and finance were positive. Monitoring and evaluation and preparedness got negative responses, highlighting need for improvement.

### Sub-cluster Action

#### Nutrition

- Integrated Nutrition Outreach (INO) conducted\_training between 6 and 7 July, with the participants consisted of 13 Nursing Staff and 4 Dieticians.
- 4 Teams conducted 2-week INO between 11 and 22 July, covering 34 villages and settlements in Tailevu Subdivision. Draft report for Tailevu INO is due in mid August.
- AKVOFLOW for data collection started with the Nutrition outreach in the Tailevu sub-division.

- From the Family Health Outreach and the 2-week INO in Tailevu, a total of 3311 children received Vitamin A and infant and young child feeding counselling; 3140 received multiple micronutrient powder (MNP) to address anemia; 3030 have been dewormed.
- Through a National Training of Trainers in Suva from June 20- 24, 36 health workers were trained in the integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM),. 16 health workers from the Central Division were trained in IMAM as a roll out training.
- Additional INOs will be conducted in August and September in the affected subdivisions in the Western and Northern Divisions. A total of 8 Teams will be engaged in the West for a period of 4 weeks and 4 Teams in the North for a period of 2 weeks.

### **Public Health Interventions**

- National Clean-up campaign commenced on 2 May with the theme, "Fight the Bite" was successfully concluded.
- Distribution of Zika materials to Health Centres and ports of entry has been completed with the assistance of Prevention and Control team.

### **Family Health**

- Family Health Outreach team have completed activities in the Tailevu, Ba, Tavua and Nadi Highlands with support from donor partners (i.e UNICEF & UNFPA) and Divisional Managers & Sub-divisional Teams. Disaster preparedness & mitigation activities were part of outreach activities and distribution of multipurpose transistor radios, donated by UNFPA to women in affected areas
- Family Health Outreach Team performed mobile clinic on Koro Island between 11 May and 24 June, visiting a total of 24 sites (villages, settlements and schools). Following were provided:
  - Maternal health service
  - Reproductive health, child health/new born health, adolescent health services
  - MYF awareness talks, School Visits, and Dental Services
- 74 solar direct drive and 17 ice-lined refrigerators which were procured through donation of Government of Australia have arrived to Fiji by the end of July. Also, UNICEF has procured 15 solar power packs to provide power to selected health care facilities without electric grid access.
- Cold chain specialist was deployed to Fiji in July for 5 months to provide technical support to MoHMS for installation and to build national capacities on the maintenance of cold chain equipment and effective vaccine management practices.

### **Communications**

- A total of 12,599 radio public service announcement on 13 key health, WASH and protection messages have been broadcast on 11 stations in the 3 vernaculars providing over 123 hours airtime between 24 February and 17 May.
- More than 92,000 individual IEC materials were dispersed to partners to date over and 46,000 have been distributed to over 37,000 direct beneficiaries in priority areas.
- A total of 285,386 SMS on "Fight the Bite" and hand washing were sent to 142,697 Vodafone and Digicel subscribers in 27 priority Tikinas.
- A 3-day Roadshow supporting MoHMS on key health messages and clinical outreach in the North (2 more to follow) have been successfully concluded
- The Ministry of Health & Medical Services is grateful for support provided by UNICEF, WHO, FHSSP and its others partners with the Communications Sub Cluster activities.

### **Psychosocial Support & Mental Health**

- On 30<sup>th</sup> May-3<sup>rd</sup> of June, the MoHMS team performed PFA and Psychological first aid training & Awareness on Koro Island. They visited local schools and church and held Talanoa sessions/PFA.
- MoHMS plans to visit Koro again in August to assess remaining needs and to provide further PFA and mhGAP training for Nurses and Doctors

## Highlighted Initiative

### Mental Health and Psychosocial Support on Koro Island

Koro Island is one of the most severely affected areas by the TC Winston. Between 30 May and 3 June the MoHMS team has visited 3 schools (covering 9 out of 14 villages on the island) and Nasau Methodist Church. They held Talanoa sessions/PFA attended by 405 people out of 3440 Koro population. The Talanoa sessions included Psychological First Aid (PFA) workshops at Nasau Health Centre and training for 30 Medical Staff and Village Health Workers.

Some Key Outcomes of Talanoa sessions/PFA workshop included:

- Participants shared their experience of what they have gone through during the cyclone with an objective of learning from their experiences
- Children were counselled on how to relieve their fears and how to improve their personal hygiene.
- The communities were counselled on how to move forward with their lives.



#### Empower Pacific conducting group counselling on Koro Island

Empower Pacific, one of the agencies assisting MoHMS on Koro Island provided one-on-one and group counselling to 178 clients. Empower Pacific counsellors were deployed as part of the TC Winston Disaster Risk Management incorporating Psychosocial Support project funded by DFAT through FCDP & UN Women.

## Funding Status of Action Plan

The [Flash Appeal](#) for TC Winston Response is 51% funded. The Health and Nutrition Cluster is 53% funded (US\$ 3,077,193). The Australian, Canadian, Swedish and US governments, as well as the UN's [Central Emergency Response Fund](#) (CERF), have contributed US\$12.5 million to its life-saving projects.

## More Information

See Health and Nutrition Cluster Webpage: [http://www.health.gov.fj/?page\\_id=5254](http://www.health.gov.fj/?page_id=5254)

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