



EVACUATION TRACKING & MONITORING (ETM)

TC Winston Response in Fiji

Evacuation Tracking and Monitoring (ETM) is an information management tool developed by IOM upon the request of the National Government of Fiji to determine the locations where evacuated populations are temporarily settled and their prevailing needs and conditions. The ETM is designed to inform the planning of assistance for these vulnerable populations.

Cycle # 1 (9-23 March 2016)

1 April 2016

OVERVIEW

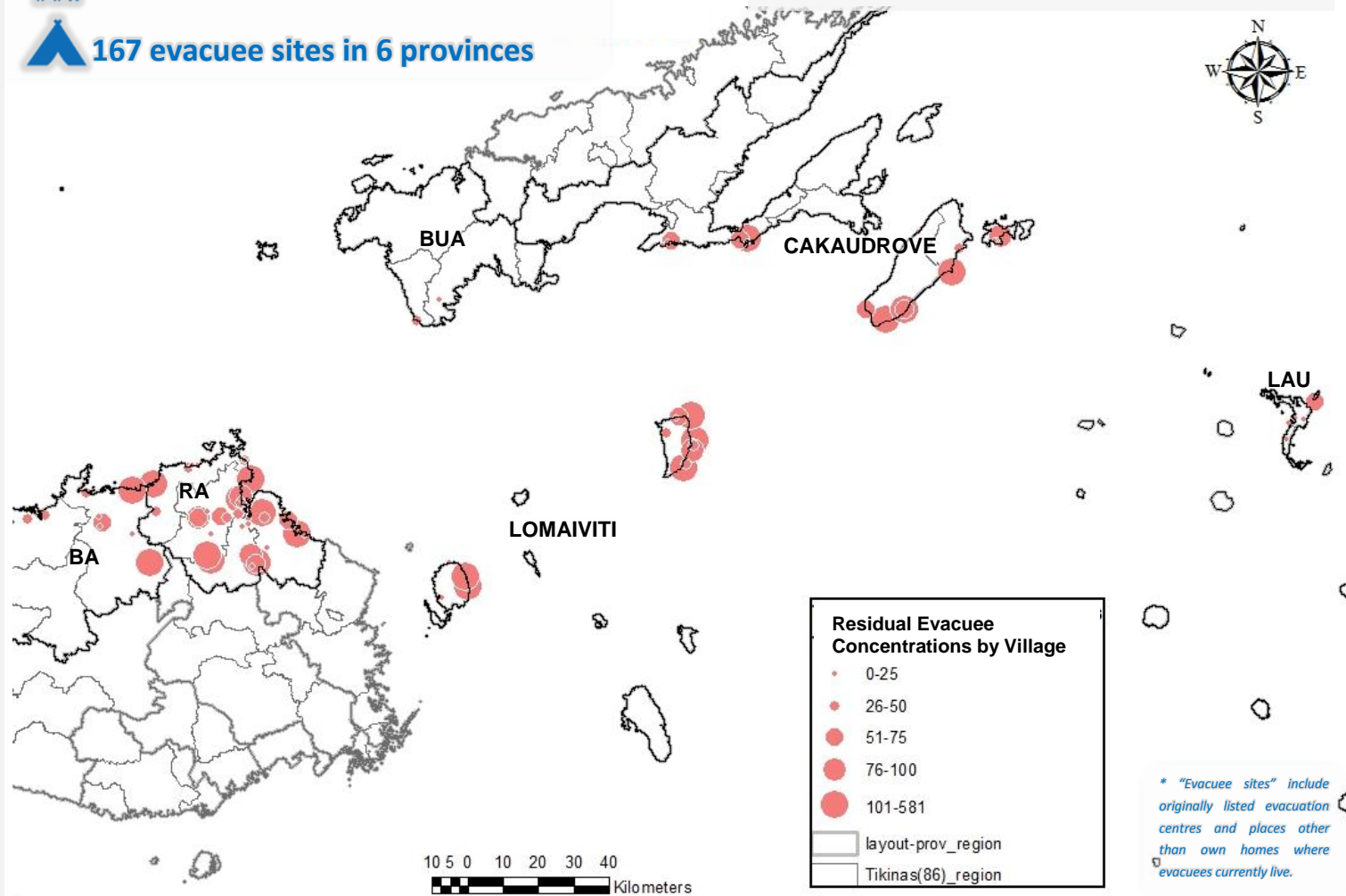
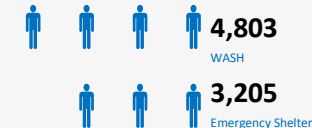
Following the devastation brought about by Tropical Cyclone Winston, initial reports from the Fiji Government in early March indicated that more than 54,000 evacuees had taken refuge from TC Winston and in its aftermath in more than 700 evacuation centres, many of which were schools. By 26 March 2016, official government figures recorded 361 evacuees in 26 evacuation centres. As no comprehensive survey had been undertaken on the conditions within the officially listed evacuation centres and in other places besides their houses to which evacuees moved after leaving the official evacuation centres, IOM was requested by the Government of Fiji to conduct tracking and monitoring to capture that information. For the purposes of this survey tool, these alternative accommodations along with the official evacuation centres will be called "evacuee sites" or simply "sites".

Working in close collaboration with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and the Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics (FIBoS), 32 enumerators trained by IOM conducted Evacuation Tracking and Monitoring (ETM) on 9-23 March 2016. The ETM enumerators were deployed to Ba, Ra, Bua, Lomaiviti, Ra, Cakaudrove and Lau Provinces and were able to survey 309 evacuee sites interviewing key informants such as village leaders and private individuals seeing to the needs of the evacuees as well as knowledgeable evacuated persons themselves.

Fast Figures as of 23 March 2016

- 7,062 residual evacuees
- 1,593 evacuated households
- 167 evacuee sites in 6 provinces

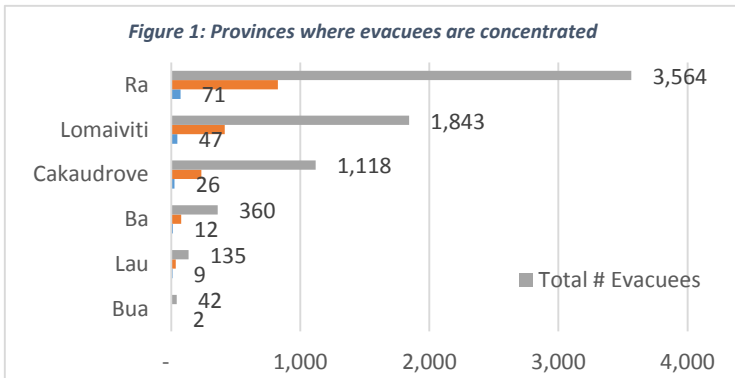
Estimated number of evacuees needing assistance



THEMATIC ANALYSIS

General Evacuation Pattern

In the areas where the ETM enumerators were deployed, 309 evacuee sites were located. These include both officially listed evacuation centers which were mostly schools, religious facilities and other community structures as well as spontaneous evacuation sites where people were able to find refuge during the storm or sometime after the storm when authorities began to restore public structures to their former functionality. One hundred sixty seven of these sites were found to be occupied by a total of 7,062 evacuees. The evacuees were concentrated in six provinces (Ba, Ra, Lomaiviti, Bua, Cakaudrove and Lau) but the highest concentrations were found in Ra, Lomaiviti and Cakaudrove.



Interestingly, population movements were limited within home villages so that traditional community support systems remained intact despite the destruction of physical facilities. This pattern will likely be vital in the recovery of the evacuated population and has been termed *Intra-Communal Evacuation (ICE)*.

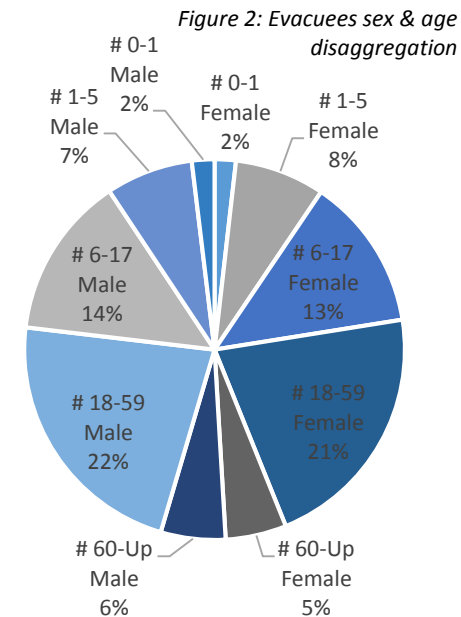
Population Demographics and Groups with Special Needs

Among the evacuees in the surveyed sites, there is roughly a 51:49 male to female ratio with 4% infants, 15% toddlers, 27% school-aged children, 43% adults and 11% elderly.

The following groups with special needs were represented in the surveyed sites as follows:

<i>Pregnant Women</i>	<i>Lactating Mothers</i>	<i>PWD - Physical</i>
64	194	62
<i>PWD - Mental</i>	<i>Persons with Chronic Illness</i>	<i>Elderly Persons</i>
30	53	777

Ethnicity among the evacuees in the surveyed sites is overwhelmingly I-taukei. There is a possibility that Indo-fijians, Rotumans and those of other races have homogenously congregated in less accessible areas. Succeeding cycles of the ETM will seek them out.



Evacuee Management

Fifty six percent (56%) of the sites were planned or pre-identified in this context meaning they are the usual facilities used for evacuation. Forty four percent (44%) were reported as sites where the evacuees self-settled including open lots and houses of relatives and friends.

As discussed above, the intra-communal nature of the evacuation has preserved the communities' social structures. Therefore responsibility over the evacuees remains with the village headman and the rest of the village leadership. Some standard practices in site management therefore are easily accomplished such as rudimentary evacuee registration (conducted in 72% of the sites) and evacuation site care and maintenance. The emergency however is an opportunity to promote more thorough site management hinged on greater consciousness of any special needs of certain segments of the evacuated populations such as women, children, elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with chronic illnesses, etc. These special needs may be pre-existing or they may have arisen from or have been aggravated by the circumstance of being evacuated. Nonetheless they remain to be needs which require attention.

Safety & Protection

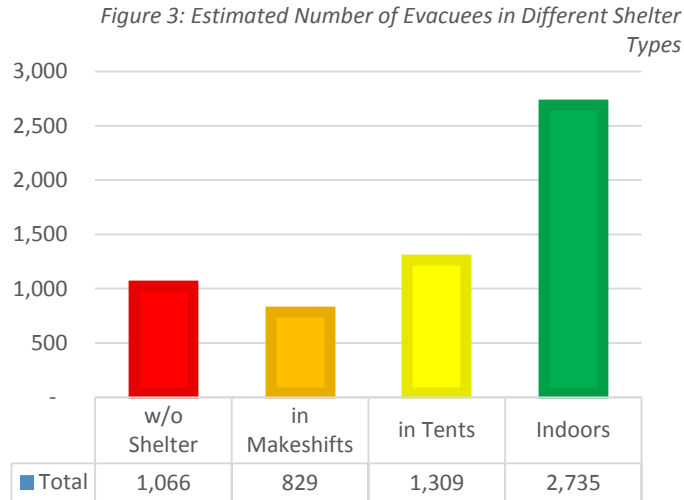
The majority of evacuation sites surveyed were in rural areas. As such, the evacuees have a very traditional understanding of safety and protection. Women and children are therefore seen as the most vulnerable groups and are afforded additional security such as being entitled to stay at the most central portion of any covered living space at night while the men form a human barrier around them, often sleeping out in the open, etc. This and similar practices for them suffice as protective measures.

Consequently, they see no need for "official" security personnel stationed or roving around the village's evacuation sites. Sixty two percent (62%) of the sites had no on-site security. Similarly, there is little consciousness about gender based violence much less the need to set-up referral systems for such cases. Sixty nine percent (69%) of sites had no such mechanism in place. In addition, inadequate lighting in common areas was observed. In 59% of the sites, there was not enough lighting fixtures, the lighting fixtures were not safe ones like solar or electric or both. In addition, 23% had no lighting at all.

Shelter

Figure 3 shows numbers of evacuees in different shelter conditions

An estimated 2,735 evacuees are residing indoors. However, 1,066 are without shelter, 829 are in makeshift shelters and 1,309 are in tents. Taken all together, this translates to approximately 3,205 evacuees in need of improved on-site shelter.



WASH

This cycle of the ETM attempted to describe water access through measuring the distance from living spaces to water sources. The survey discovered that 153 or almost all the sites had water sources on-site and 146 had the sources within 20 meters of the evacuees' living spaces. Further ETM surveys or expert assessments by the WASH cluster may reveal further the sufficiency of the water available from these sources and the quality of water they yield. The survey asked respondents for the number of functioning toilets in each evacuation site. A total of 384 functional toilets were found in all of the surveyed sites. Considering the total number of evacuees in the surveyed sites, the average toilet to person ratio is 1:18 which within the Sphere standard of 1:20. However, some 4,803 evacuees endure having to share each toilet with more than twenty and up to 449 people. Furthermore, 93 sites out of the total 167 do not have gender segregated toilets and bathing areas.

Food & Nutrition

The survey looked at food distribution frequencies for each site and found out that the majority of sites had food distributions as programmed by the authorities. Only three sites – Navunidawa Settlement in Namuaimada Village, Rakiraki, Ra; Dreketi Community Hall in Wainikeli, Cakaudrove and Salialevu Village Hall also in Cakaudrove – in total hosting 100 evacuees had not received any food rations since the cyclone hit. Thirteen sites hosting 343 evacuees had irregular food distributions. Further assessment may be conducted in order to determine whether food scarcity exists in these sites. The rest of the sites had food ration frequencies and quantities consistent with established government food distribution plans.

Education

Access to education seems to be among the social support structures which were preserved despite the destruction of physical facilities through the intra-communal nature of the evacuation. The ETM enumerators found that one hundred and forty one sites had such services available to evacuee children. school-aged children in the form of the schools-in-a-box distributed by the Education cluster to affected areas. However, only 883 or 46% of 6-17 year-olds in some 55 sites are taking advantage of the available education facilities. Further inquiry is necessary to determine the reason behind this finding.

Health

112 sites had evacuees suffering from some form of health complaint such as physical injury, diarrhea or high fever and malaise. There is currently no survey information on the access to health services at these sites.

Communication

The evacuees are naturally eager to go back home. Therefore, shelter assistance is overwhelmingly their main area of interest (reported in 114 of the sites). Further consultation and focus group discussions may be organized to better understand the evacuees' information needs.

IOM's Emergency Response Operations are funded by:



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