

EDUCATION SECTOR COORDINATION Fiji Floods, January 2009



Key Organisations Involved

Ministry of Education; EU; AusAID; NZAID; Fiji
Water Trust; Save the Children; NDMO

Impact on Education Sector

- Approximately 50,000 students affected by flooding
- 21 primary schools and 9 secondary schools with considerable infrastructural damage- over 40 schools requiring rehabilitation and repairs
- Over 32 schools used as Evacuation Centres
- Infrastructural Damage & loss of teaching/learning materials
- Delay in start of school year- officially by 2 weeks (but longer for some communities)
- A majority of parents interviewed did not think their children would return by January 26th, due to damage of schools and destruction of materials.

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RESPONSE

Within 4 Weeks

- Fragmented coordination initiated in late January
- An assessment undertaken by Ministry of Education
- Prioritisation and funding mechanism for school rehabilitation and school grants (+ 41 schools)
- Student learning materials provided to approx. 1500 students
- Assistance with school bus fares & meals
- Distribution of safe drinking water to schools

Within 8 Weeks

- Installation of water tanks
- Initiation of school renovation/reconstruction

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Lessons Learned

- Need for greater understanding and agreement of cluster process/interface with existing sectoral coordination mechanisms. Value of 'pre-disaster' relationships with line Ministries.
- Importance of joint rapid assessment tools which go beyond infrastructural focus.
- Availability of "Pacific Specific" emergency education materials. Importance of long-term agreements on country-specific student learning packs.
- Communication- within Gov't and external: "Back to School" Campaign
- Greater attention to recreation and play within temporary shelter/evacuation centres
- Equity principles applied across response activities

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