



Situation Report 3 – FIJI CYCLONE MICK

Prepared: 1600hrs Tuesday 15th December, 2009

Response and Relief 15th December, 2009

1. INTRODUCTION

Tropical Cyclone Mick which formed over the north of the Fiji group on Sunday 13th December, 2009 passed over the Viti Levu and surrounding islands last evening. At 0900hrs today, TC Mick (Category 2 Tropical Cyclone) was located near 19.5 South and 179.0 East and moving southeast at 20kmph. A gale force warning remains in for some islands in the southern Lau group.

At the height of the storm yesterday, Fiji Red Cross Society National Office and offices in the Western and Northern Divisions continued to liaise with all FRCS's fifteen (15) Branches and concerned DISMAC Emergency Operation Centres respectively.

A summary of the situation are as follows;

- Four (4) reported fatalities (1 female, 3 males)
- Most affected regions are; Yasawa Islands, communities in and around Ba, Tavua, Rakiraki, and areas near the centre of Viti Levu Island including Naitasiri, Navua, Rewa and Korovou.
- Some communities in Bua remain inaccessible due to blocked access roads.
- Joint reports from FRCS branches and other DISMAC teams currently agree at approximately 54 homes being completely destroyed. Some of these destroyed houses are located in various informal settlements in the Suva Nausori corridor, Labasa and near some towns in western Viti Levu. Assessment teams are in the field confirming the exact number of destroyed houses.
- Works to restore access roads, power and water continue in the major districts.
- Initial assessments estimate around 2,110 people directly affected (mostly from the Western Division). Returning field teams will confirm exact number of directly and indirectly affected.
- While there have been no significant damage (to households and critical facilities) reported from the Northern Division, there were some reports of crop damage. There were reports of crops damage as well in the Central and Western Divisions.

2. SUMMARY OF FIJI RED CROSS RESPONSE

- Seventeen (17) Emergency Response Teams are working with other DISMAC teams in the Western, Central and Eastern Divisions completing initial assessments and providing necessary assistance in relation to the provision of temporary shelter, clothing, blankets and water containers and cooking materials (This effort involves 13 FRCS Branches; Sigatoka, Nadi, Lautoka, Ba, Tavua, Rakiraki, Nalawa, Taveuni, Savusavu, Bua, Seaqaqa, Labasa and Suva). All

FRCS disaster assessments and response efforts are in coordination with local authorities (Commissioners, Provincial Administrators and District Officers) who are providing necessary support to relief operating FRCS Branches.

- Over 1,900 disaster affected people have been visited and assisted by FRCS Emergency Response Teams operating nationwide. Follow up visits to (open) evacuation centres continue with necessary assistance (warm clothing and 100 blankets) provided to the most vulnerable.
- Some FRCS Emergency Response Teams in the Central Divisions remain on alert and are working with other DISMAC teams in the area to monitor the rising Rewa River.
- Emergency communications support with FRCS phone operators provided to DISMAC teams working in pocket areas in the Central Division facing communication difficulties.
- FRCS National Office also maintains communication links with the Federation Regional Delegation in Suva and neighboring National Societies in New Zealand and Australia.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Note content of report.
2. Monitor deployed emergency response teams and coordinate with respective District Offices.
3. Coordinate with information from other Emergency Response partners and complete assessments and channel more relief where required.
4. Monitor and coordinate situation development and further flooding risk in the Rewa delta.

END.

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[FRCS will continue to issue numbered SITUATION REPORTS daily or twice a day if necessary depending on the extent of damage and scale of oncoming operations]