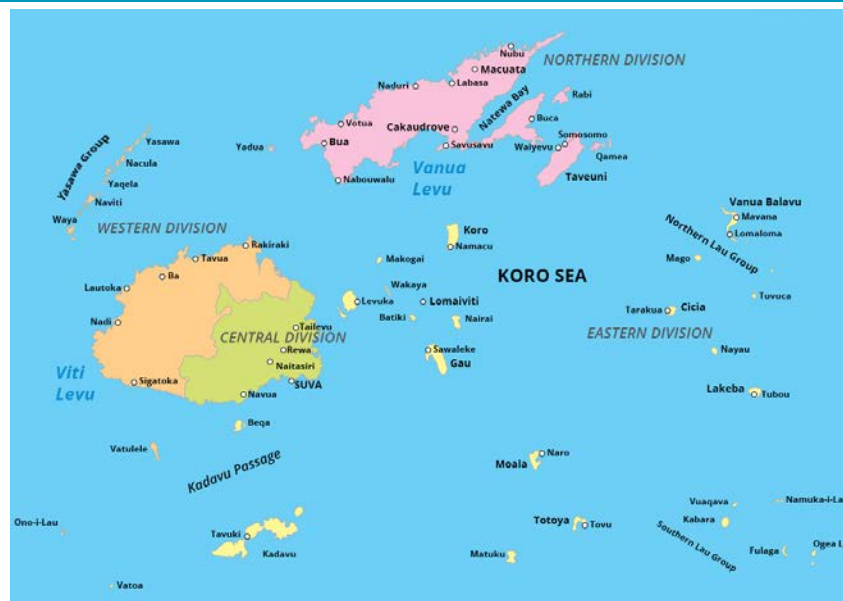


FIJI

Tropical Cyclone Keni

On 10 April, the category 3 Tropical Cyclone Keni moved towards Fiji (Fiji Meteorological Service, 10/04/2018). More than 8,900 people are sheltered in evacuation centres across the country (ECHO, 12/04/2018). Western Division and Kadavu Island (Eastern Division) were the most affected areas. People in affected areas are in urgent need of food and water (Asia Pacific Report, 12/04/2018; Fiji Times, 12/04/2018). There are concerns for people living on Kadavu because of the difficulty in accessing the island and because of challenges with communication following the cyclone.

Cyclone Keni moved south-east away from Fiji on 11 April. Heavy rains may continue to affect several areas of Fiji (The Fiji Times Online, 12/04/2018).



Map Source:
Ministry of Health - Fiji.
Access on 13/02/2018

Key priorities



+8,100 people
in need of food assistance



+8,100 people
in need of water



100%
of schools affected in Kadavu



222
homes damaged in Kadavu

Humanitarian constraints



90 roads closed across the country and Vunisea Jetty in Kadavu was damaged (repair expected by 14 April). Some rural communities are completely inaccessible. Power supply and communication networks need to be restored in some areas.

Limitations

The number of people affected in Kadavu is unknown and total number of people with humanitarian needs overall also remains unclear. Most available information is from local sources. There is no information on the number of people who may have already returned home from shelters or on the scale of damage to homes and infrastructure across the country.

Crisis impact

Tropical Cyclone Keni made first landfall in Viti Levu in Fiji at midnight GMT on 10 April and Kadavu suffered a direct hit soon after (Aljazeera, 11/04/2018). Flash flooding was reported mainly on Viti Levu and nearby islands in the Western Division and Kadavu in the Eastern Division (Phys, 12/04/2018). Cyclone Keni in the Pacific Ocean formed east of Vanuatu, it intensified to hurricane force at the west of Fiji and passed to the southwest of Fiji. (Phys, 12/04/2018). Winds were between 158 and 215 km/h (Xinhuanet, 11/04/2018; The Fiji Times Online, 12/04/2018; Radio NZ, 11/04/2018).

8,935 people are in 202 evacuation centres across the country (ECHO, 12/04/2018), including 948 people in 36 evacuation centres in Eastern Division (Kadavu), 7,804 in 159 evacuation centres in the Western Division and 183 in 7 evacuation centres in the Central Division (National Emergency Operation Centre, 12/04/2018; Fiji Times, 13/04/2018; Fiji Sun, 13/04/2018).

As the cyclone came from the west, most people reported to be in need of shelter are on the island of Viti Levu in the Western Division. The impact of the cyclone was severely felt on the island of Kadavu however data is limited (Aljazeera, 11/04/2018). Houses, roads, infrastructure and crops have been damaged on Kadavu island (ECHO, 12/04/2018; Fiji Sun, 13/04/2018). The greatest concern about Kadavu is the lack of access to the population. Communication was interrupted before a comprehensive overview of the impact and needs on the island could be conveyed to the capital, Nadi (Fiji Sun, 11/04/2018). The Vunisea jetty in Kadavu was damaged, this will inhibit arrivals of people and materials by boat until the jetty is repaired (expected by 14 April) (Fiji Times, 13/04/2018; Fiji Sun, 13/04/2018). All 75 villages on Kadavu were affected and local media reports that over 8,100 people on the island (around 75% of the population) are in urgent need of food and water (Asia Pacific Report, 12/04/2018; Fiji Times, 12/04/2018). Kadavu has a population of 10,897 (Fiji Sun, 13/04/2018).

Many roads in Fiji remain closed following the cyclone making some villages inaccessible by road. Communication and power supply have been disrupted (Fiji Sun, 13/04/2018).

Cyclone Keni followed Cyclone Josie, which made landfall on 31 March affecting 3,000 people in the divisions of North, Western and Central Fiji (Phys, 10/04/2018; ECHO, 03/04/2018; The Fiji Times, 12/04/2018). 40 evacuation centres sheltered over 2,300 people (ECHO, 05/04/2018; Radio NZ, 06/04/2018; Xinhuanet, 11/04/2018). Viti Levu Island, north of Kadavu Island, was most affected by Cyclone Josie (ABC Net, 03/04/2018). After the two cyclones, 8 people were confirmed dead (Radio NZ, 13/04/2018).

Rainfall greater than 200 mm (7.9 inches) was recorded over the southwestern and northern sides of Viti Levu from 4 to 11 April. The highest rainfall, more than 430 mm (16.9 inches), was recorded over the waters southwest of Viti Levu in the same period (Phys, 12/04/2018; Eurek Alert, 12/04/2018).

Cyclone Keni moved southeast away from Fiji on 11 April. However heavy rains may continue to affect several areas of Fiji and the river levels are high (ECHO, 12/04/2018; The Fiji Times Online, 12/04/2018). Some areas of the country may continue to be affected by floods in the coming days, including the possibility of flash flooding.

Food: Local media sources report that over 8,100 people are in need of food assistance in Kadavu (Asia Pacific Evacuation Report, 12/04/2018; Fiji Times, 12/04/2018). Local media sources also report that an unknown number of people have food supplies for just two days (Fiji Times, 12/04/2018). Local media report that food gardens, all yaqona (Pacific kava) crops and other plantations that usually provide food for the population in Kadavu were destroyed (ABC News, 11/04/2018; Asia Pacific Report, 12/04/2018). The cash crop production and trade has been almost entirely dependent on the yaqona crops in Kadavu (Research Gate, 04/2016).

WASH: Some areas affected are without water supply (The Fiji Times Online, 12/04/2018; Radio NZ, 12/04/2018). Local media sources report that over 8,100 people are in need of water in Kadavu (Asia Pacific Report, 12/04/2018; Fiji Times, 12/04/2018). As of 13 April, damaged water structures have not been restored in Kadavu. In the Western Division, all water cart trucks have been suspended due to high flood levels. The sewage system also remains in need of repair in the Western Division (National Emergency Operation Centre, 12/04/2018).

Education: Some schools in Western Division and all schools in Kadavu remain closed, since they are being used as evacuation centres or they were damaged (Radio NZ, 11/04/2018, Xinhuanet, 11/04/2018, Solomon Times Online, 12/04/2018, Fiji Sun, 11/04/2018). Teachers living in affected areas by flooding are evaluating conditions before reporting to work (Fiji Times Online, 12/04/2018; The Fiji Times Online, 12/04/2018). There is a need for desks and chairs as infrastructure and equipment has been damaged (The Fiji Times Online, 12/04/2018). Schools in Northern and Central Division are open, except in Labasa area (Northern Division) where schools remains closed due to water disruption (National Emergency Operation Centre, 12/04/2018).

Shelter: The initial damage assessment at Kadavu found that 179 houses are partly damaged and 43 are completely destroyed in 20 villages. 948 people are sheltered in 36 evacuation centres across 14 villages in the island. In the Western Division, there are 159 active evacuation centres with 7,804 people. There are nine evacuation centres that are active in the Central Division with 183 people (National Emergency Operation Centre, 12/04/2018; The Fiji Times Online, 12/04/2018).

Health: Health teams are using disinfectant spray at schools used as evacuation centres and in flood affected areas in order to prevent the spread of communicable diseases such as diarrhoea, leptospirosis, typhoid and dengue (The Fiji Times Online, 12/04/2018; National Emergency Operation Centre, 12/04/2018). An outbreak of dengue fever was declared in the Western Division on February 2018 (Fiji Sun, 21/02/2018).

Impact on critical infrastructure

Officials have been unable to visit some villages in Kadavu by boat to carry out an assessment of needs in Kadavu, because damage to the Vunisea Jetty has prevented boat transport (Fiji Roads Authority, 12/02/2018; Fiji Times, 12/04/2018). The Jetty in Kadavu is estimated to be operational again by 14 April (National Emergency Operation Centre, 12/04/2018; Fiji Sun, 13/04/2018).

A total of at least 90 roads are known to be damaged throughout the country due to the cyclone. 50 roads remain closed in the Western Division, 17 in the Eastern Division and 23 in the Central Division (Fiji Sun, 13/04/2018). At some locations on Nabukelevu-I-Ra Road and Namara Road in Kadavu, the roads remain closed (Fiji Roads Authority 12/02/2018; National Emergency Operation Centre, 12/04/2018). The Nasivi Irish crossing in Vatukoula (Viti Levu Island) was damaged. Around 7,000 people use this crossing daily. Power supply and communication networks need to be restored in some areas. (The Fiji Times Online, 12/04/2018).

In the Northern Division ferry services have been affected (Solomon Times Online 12/04/2018).

Humanitarian and operational constraints

Fiji is a country with many islands that can take days to reach by boat from Viti Levu where the capital Nadi is located. Some villages in Kadavu are without access by boat or by road. Moreover, road closures across Fiji, as a result of damage and flooding, is making humanitarian access difficult.

Weather Update: A flooding remains in place and heavy rains may continue to affect several parts of Fiji (ECHO, 12/04/2018; National Emergency Operation Centre, 12/04/2018). The risk of flooding is higher in low-lying areas.

Response capacity

Local and national response capacity

Government departments and ministries are working to provide relief supplies to areas affected by Cyclone Keni (Fiji Sun, 12/04/2018; Fiji Times, 12/04/2018). National Fire Authority and military staff are clearing debris (Fiji Times Online, 12/04/2018) while the Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) is monitoring the situation of the roads (Fiji Roads Authority, 10/04/2018). Fiji Police Force is providing security at Evacuation Centres (Fiji Times, 12/04/2018). The Fiji Red Cross is operating in the region, including on Kadavu (Fiji Village, 12/04/2018; Solomon Times Online, 12/04/2018).

International response capacity

Australian and New Zealand Government are assisting the relief and response operations (Fiji Times Online, 12/04/2018; Radio NZ, 13/04/2018).

Information gaps and needs

There is no communication with some of the affected areas and information is limited.

There is also a lack of information on:

- Total number of people with humanitarian needs in Fiji.
- Number of people who may have already returned home from evacuation centres.
- Scale of damage to homes and infrastructure across the country.
- Needs of people who are not in evacuation centres.
- The degree to which education has been impacted.
- Response of actors within Fiji including I/NGOs and UN.