



MISSION REPORT

Subject: Monitoring mission – FIJI and PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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Participants:

- ECHO: Pop, ECHO Bangkok, Luc, ECHO Islamabad, and Albert, EUD Suva, for Fiji, and Maria, EUD Port Moresby, for PNG
- Partners: ADRA, IFRC and FRCS, and Oxfam in Fiji and IOM (and WFP with Care) in PNG

Places visited & Interlocutors:

See Draft Itinerary ECHO Fiji and PNG July 2016.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / HIGHLIGHTS

Committed partners are doing a good, worthwhile, adequate job.

2. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

WASH - Shelter response to category 5 cyclone Winston of 20 February 2016 – it was impressive to see landscapes completely washed, with stems only remaining, the rest of the tree having yet to recover.

In **Fiji**, villages are composed of family related members, with hardly any fencing anywhere. We were well nicely and warmly received with tea and cakes or lunch – Fijian hospitality.

WASH - Shelter response to El Niño related drought and frost in the Highlands.

Strong different culture in **PNG** with security concerns – less than 8 million inhabitants, very low population density, more than 800 languages and tribes and lots of hatred and fights between them and also sharing in hard times. Little road network in mountainous country but existence of many airports. The Highlands seem very poor with little job opportunity, illustrated by many people barefoot.

(Quite exhausting mission with significant time differences, 7 h between Pakistan and Fiji, 3 more hours with France I had left just a couple of days before, 2 nights in planes + 1 more from France without sleeping on a bed.)

3. ISSUES DISCUSSED, COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Fiji

Albert, EUD Suva, and then completed by Christoph Wagner, Head of Cooperation, briefs us that the European Delegation is planning to avail grants for 10 M EUR for agriculture to the government for emergency response – recovery to cyclone Winston, awaiting the government to supply with some documents, expected in the coming 3 weeks, in the course of August, and 5 M EUR for El Nino with NGOs through a call that is being finalized, either open or directly with partners, also still to be decided, probably available around November.

Albert could witness and we told Christoph that Oxfam mainly but also ADRA and the Red Cross movement are good possible partners in Fiji.

ADRA - ECHO/-XA/2016/91007 - Rapid emergency assistance to the TC Winston affected most vulnerable communities in Fiji - Viti Levu, Vanua Levu and outer islands of Fiji - Shelters, WASH, food and livelihoods – 10 800 individuals – budget: 300 000 EUR - 6 months from 7 March to 6 September 2016.

3 villages visited, quite remote, # 1.5 h drive from Savusavu, Waisa, 15 HH = 68 cap, Natokatau, 20 HH = 77 cap, Nasasaivua, 14 HH = 62 cap.

Distributions were done. Population said they were happy – satisfied with the assistance, cash was particularly appreciated and is preferred over voucher as can also be used to pay for transport. ADRA was first and pretty much the only one.

Result 2 – Water filtration stations were dropped and replaced by spring protection – had been requested and accepted beginning of June.

No public health concern.

Household filters that were prepositioned were distributed by ADRA for every 3 HHs.

When we asked about site selection that ADRA did for **spring protection**, they were not clear. They answered they had to choose 7 sites out of 67. Yet, **the agreement / engagement is for 10 spring protections: will need to be followed up & checked at least at liquidation time.**

Moreover, out of the 3 sites visited, one got selected by ADRA for spring protection and it did not necessarily seem to us the greatest priority but the easiest job, the other 2 sites being more challenging, Nasasaivua having, for example, its spring on the beach, submerged by the ocean during high tide.

ADRA mentioned us **big logistical constraints** to transport water tanks with only one ferry per month; that **may necessitate a NCE, which would seem reasonable and acceptable**, probably for a month; ADRA was to check internally and possibly submit a request.

In Nasasaivua village, a young woman was seen with a dressing on a brow. I tried to discreetly ask Albert what the cause could be; he immediately answered DV, domestic violence.

I shared later with ADRA and they answered they would look into the case the following week as they would go back there; they said they would keep us informed, which they have not done yet.

ADRA has a small team and works with 20 to 25 committed volunteers, who receive 30 Fiji dollars per day # US\$ 15.

They seem to have a real communal / community approach in villages.

They smartly use the KoBoCollect app on smartphones to survey and collect data – data are available immediately, surveys can be designed so that questions cannot be ignored, conditional questions lead to next questions.

IFRC – FRCS (Fijian Red Cross Society) - ECHO/-XA/2016/91020 - Relief and early recovery assistance to families affected by Tropical Cyclone Winston - Ba, Ra, Tavua (Western Division) and Bua and Savusavu (Northern Division) – Shelter – 25 000 individuals – budget: 473 113 EUR – 12 months from 21 February 2016 to 20 February 2017.

Part of a theoretically much greater project but for which IFRC has only received some 67 % of its budget request.

Help for Homes Initiative developed by the Government of Fiji for 70 M FJD (Fijian dollars) (# US\$ 35 M), targeting Fijian HH affected by TC Winston earning less than 50,000 FJD a year. 3 packages:

- Partial roofing damage – HH received/s 1500 FJD
- Serious roofing damage – HH received/s 3000 FJD
- Complete destroyed houses – HH received/s 7000 FJD

Electronic cards were issued at the start of May, affected HHs placed orders for construction materials before the deadline at the end of June.

23 000 HHs received money from the government for 88 M FJD out of 31 000 HHs that got damages and will receive out of the total budget of 180 M FJD. The government will add another 20 M FJD in an extra batch after the current one.

Visit of Naboutolu village near Rakiraki # 2 h drive from Suva on Tuesday 26 July 2016. Out of 44 houses, 40 were destroyed; population = 216 cap.

Construction of the first demonstration house - out of 10 on ECHO funds, out of 50 theoretically for the whole greater project but the available funds should not enable more than 36 or 37 - ongoing for disabled Sam with 2-compartment septic tank + soak away pit, the latter also receiving the effluents from the kitchen, design approved by the Central Board of Health and sized for 9-15 persons. It started the previous Friday 22 July, with numerous people from the community benefiting from the concrete training supervised by architect Joe Rabuku (email address joeraviarabuku@yahoo.com, ph +679 9320209), newly hired the previous week for a one year contract, who has settled in the village full time in a tent with a computer and a small generator. Good ambiance with women preparing drink and food.



Significant delay for material delivery, which is still not fully available. After failure to deliver from supplier, IFRC eventually used their own trucks to transport materials from Suva.

Next cyclone season expected in Fiji in November.

Village blessed for water with generous springs supplying a total of 4 villages by gravity with a significant overflow, supply much greater than consumption. Possible protection with fencing the spring area, nothing more as the area is large, to avoid to disrupt the numerous spring resurgences, to keep animals and humans away. Rainwater collection only for demonstration purpose.

Two other houses were under construction without improvements, non-continuous posts and roof pitch angle of 10 degrees rather than the recommended 30 to 40.

Slow progress mainly because of the **logistical limitations** with a **high demand** and an offer that has a hard time to avail.

The **cost of the living area of the demonstration house designed by IFRC / FRCS is estimated 7400 to 8000 FJD**. The cost for the whole demonstration house, including a veranda, spaces for washroom and kitchen and also a 2000 l plastic tank for rainwater collection, is estimated 16 500 FJD.

Albert wondered about the actual resistance to category 5 cyclone and IFRC answered that the new demonstration houses should resist to category 4.

IFRC say themselves interested in feedback.

A next mission towards the end of the project is advised to try to gauge better the actual impact given the significant share of training with mouth to ear effect expected.

Oxfam - ECHO/-XA/2016/91016 - Fiji Tropical Cyclone Winston response: WASH in 25 villages – 5 000 individuals – budget: 226 887 EUR – 6 months from 1 April to 30 September 2016.

3 villages visited in the Ra province, Narikoso, 51 HH = 269 cap, Verevere, 45 HH = 165 cap, Nayavutoka, 39 HH = 248 cap.

In spite of some turnover in human resources with first some emergency staff deployed from abroad and now regular national staff recently hired for a year, Oxfam showed good commitment and proximity to communities: they do a very good job!

Good community profiles provided giving good info on sites and communities.

Some possible improvements and advice said:

- **Anchor tanks** to avoid them to be washed by violent winds or other cyclones;
- **Protect PVC pipe everywhere from UV** (ultraviolet) radiation;
- Watch / **advise so that no soap, detergent or, worse, chlorine get into the septic tank systems** to avoid disrupting the digestion process that is supposed to take place and blocking the soak away pit;
- In Narikoso village, an Indian community is served for its water from the same spring but they were not considered at all by the project; Oxfam was kindly advised to check whether the WASH situation is also adequate for that community;
- As requested by the population, as much as possible, also cover the WASH needs of the new settlements close to villages.

Requests given by the population for support for:

- House reconstruction – we then advised them to approach the Red Cross family for building back better training and tools that can be lent;
- Reforestation – trees and especially coconut used to be their main livelihood;
- In Verevere village, Ra province, a generator that used to power the village hall where children used to play and study and the whole village.

Those requests were then also shared with the EU Delegation.

Meeting with UNOCHA – Peter Grzic, Humanitarian Affairs Officer

NDMOs in the Pacific are busy and loaded with trainings, workshops, simulations with partners most of the non-cyclone season whereas they can be very small teams.

RedR Australia are involved in training in the Pacific.

The Fiji NDMO was sidelined by the military and, then, UNOCHA, which supported NDMO, could not do much. The Fiji military were supported mainly by Australia and New Zealand and, to a lesser extent, France and India.

After cyclone Winston, there has been no real assessment except lately by IOM in 500 sites, which are most of the affected ones, but it cannot be shared and it is not accessible.

Papua New Guinea (PNG)

IOM - ECHO/-XA/BUD/2015/91018 - Resilient Environmentally-appropriate Building through Upgrading Indigenous and Local Techniques in Vanuatu and Building Water and Agricultural Resilience in Papua New Guinea (REBUILT -WAT) - Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea - DRR/DP/ Shelter /WASH - 15 months (18.05.15 - 17.08.16).

IOM are wrapping up their program, WASH associated with resilient agriculture, in time quite satisfactorily, continuing their peace building activities on other funds, then assuring a presence and follow up.

IOM and program manager Mr Wonesai Sithole (Zimbabwean) are **close to the communities, have a right nice approach** and are listened to.

Jim, (69 year-old Australian) WASH, was availed by RedR Australia; his salary seems to be paid from Australia Aid funding.

IOM developed quite some good documentation, support and training material, most of it available on HOPE with the uploading of their interim report on 28/04/2016.

2 pump minders for each pump were trained by the contractor on 5 sites.

Also illustrating their good acceptance, IOM got free space for office from provincial authority in Kandep, Enga Province, after the latter moved locations.

Seemingly everywhere in PNG, the population reminded to us that they do not have the slightest trust in the government after numerous promises remained with no effect.

Drilling of 15 boreholes fitted with manual pumps in 3 provinces – **new technique to get water in the Highlands**, used to harvesting rainwater or collecting water from surface streams

By church organization Foursquare Gospel ministry: not top of the art technically but **adapted**, non-profit and they were able to settle human / social issues, including after receiving threats. Other drilling companies are very expensive, used to working on oil and gas.

Another very big advantage of the church organization is that **they make the manual pumps in their own workshop**, then guaranteeing after sale service, repair as necessary and availability of spare parts.

Some weaknesses were identified and shared with the partners, who said they would take corrective measures especially in the future:

- Have a flat hard stone cast in concrete platform at water fall point to protect the slab;
- No means to measure water level within a borehole and depth; recommendation: **get a dipper / dip meter**;
- Animal troughs inside the water point fencing: **have the fencing moved so that troughs are outside the water points** and have drainage out of trough kept clean and taken care of;
- Borehole logs were consistently incorrect: according to those, pumps would have been out of water -> **correct the borehole logs with the right information and add - ideally scaled - drawing / sketch**;
- Pipe used for casing was said to be waste type: make sure the **right borehole type pipe is used**;
- Water gets tested long after it is collected, like 6 h and more, after which biological analysis is not reliable; no equipment or competency to conduct analysis; recommendation: **get a DelAgua type test kit and conduct biological water quality test within 1 h of collection**;
- **Absence of plug** to protect the boreholes with gravel pack on their whole lengths: danger of infiltration – pollution, all the more as cracks were observed on the platform slab around the pump head.

Additional boreholes will be drilled on UNICEF funds.

WFP with Care: good, big logistics; luckily, there is an experienced project manager, Steven, with Care. Security threats, Care are discontinuing, Steven does not want to join WFP.

WFP had several expatriates med-evac'ed in little time because of dengue fever; they are not allowed to go back to PNG.

EU Delegation PNG – meeting with Adrien Mourgues, Deputy Head of Cooperation, and Brian Nakrakundi, Human Rights and Energy Sector Program Manager.

The EU Delegation PNG has had big WASH projects that were urban with the Water PNG authority and will be rural with UNICEF – for the latter, QSG (Quality) done and process to start in November for 23 M EUR for 5 years.

The other funds go mainly to rural development with roads, houses for farming + rural entrepreneurship and energy.

Meeting with the UN – acting Resident Coordinator, Olushola Ismail, UNICEF representative, Gerard Ng, Disaster Risk Management UN RC office, and Khusrav Sharifov, DRM UNDP.

The UN showed a lot of appreciation and thankful to ECHO; then, they expect advocacy for Early recovery from us in the regional offices.

UNICEF are going to get data from Oil Search company, drill logs and even abandoned boreholes.

UNDP shared a concept note, Building Resilience of El Niño Impacted Communities in PNG, for a budget US\$ 1.46 M for 12 months.

PNG has a strong bad reputation to be dangerous, which may be exaggerated but also nourished as some benefit of it: security companies are omnipresent and one of the main ones belongs to the Prime minister.