

## Case Study – Save The Children Fiji

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### **Summary**

Save the Children Fiji have decided to preposition 84 tanks through numerous schools in remote parts of Fiji as a way to improve post-disaster response in the islands after lessons from Cyclone Winston in February 2016.

### **About (Background)**

Save The Children (“STC”) have been creating sustainable and lasting change in the lives of children in Fiji for more than 40 years. As the country’s leading child rights organisation, STC works to ensure children can realise their rights, particularly those children who are in the most vulnerable and marginalised environments.

Currently, STC work from ground level to policy level with direct work in 52 informal settlement communities across Fiji. Created in Fiji in 1972, STC are a non-political organisation that continues to be dedicated to driving positive change for children across the region.

Globally, STC protects the lives of children in more than 120 countries and each year support millions of the hardest to reach and most vulnerable children and young people around the world.

Locally, STC work to create long lasting, sustainable change in the lives of children in Fiji by driving change from the community level to government and policy. STC work directly in more than 50 informal settlement communities across the Northern, Western and Central Divisions of the country and focus on national advocacy work to ensure the rights of children are broadly promoted.

### **The Challenge (or Problem/Objective)**

In Cyclone Winston, water tanks and other access to basic human needs was impossible. The strength of the cyclone winds meant that many water tanks and other infrastructure were simply blown away or damaged beyond repair. In the initial response, it was realised that the recovery was delayed because water storage was unavailable, thus limiting water supplies to bottled or other small receptacles. This meant that the recovery process took far longer than necessary, just through the need to survive. This also meant that villagers were kept out of their community in temporary accommodation for longer than necessary.

### **The Solution**

The objective of this project is to deliver Pak Flat Tanks to each of the communities assisted by STC Fiji, and these to be kept in a cyclone wind proof school building. Pak Flat Tanks are the only realistic way to store water tanks in readiness for such a requirement. In the event of another natural disaster, the Pak Flat Tanks are to be brought out in the aftermath and used by the community until basic water infrastructure can be repaired and put back into action. This will assist communities to stay in place rather than having to move to temporary accommodation, speeding recovery, reducing dislocation and cost.

### **Results**

87 tanks were delivered in December 2016 in a container load, and they were unloaded, with a demonstration over two days conducted by the writer and a trainee doctor, who demonstrated the latest rehydration techniques recommended by The University of Melbourne School of Medicine. Soon after, the tanks were delivered to the various schools, and placed in safe rooms in readiness for any natural disaster.

Attending the demonstration were representatives of STC Fiji, Red Cross, World Food Program, and the Fiji Government.





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