



DISASTER
RELIEF

CASE REPORT
Fiji-Cyclone
December 1973

Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523

Foreign Disaster Case Reports are publications of the Office of the Foreign Disaster Relief Coordinator, Agency for International Development. This office has responsibility for coordinating U.S. Government foreign disaster relief responses and for the further coordination of such activities with those of the U.S. private and international disaster relief communities.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Coordinator acknowledges assistance received in the preparation of this and other case reports from the many public and private organizations in the United States and abroad engaged in foreign disaster relief.

FIJI

Cyclone "Lottie"—December 1973

Parts of Fiji were ravaged December 9 and 10, 1973, by Cyclone Lottie which appeared unexpectedly off the southwest coast and whipped across the island of Kadavu and the southern Lau Group. Property damage on Kadavu was widespread. A third of the villages on the northern coast and 60 percent of the villages on the southern coast were destroyed. Five thousand inhabitants were rendered homeless.

The major tragedy was the loss at sea of the principal inter-island passenger-cargo ship, the Uluilakeba, between the islands of Vatoa and Ogea. Fifty-four of the 74 passengers and 21 crew members, including two American tourists, were declared missing and presumed lost. A smaller government-owned vessel, the Makogai, was also lost. Five of the crew of 23 died. The loss of these two vessels seriously limited Fiji's vital inter-island shipping capability. The Prime Minister's Hurricane Relief Committee, established in 1972 in connection with Hurricane Bebe, coordinated assessment and assistance activities.

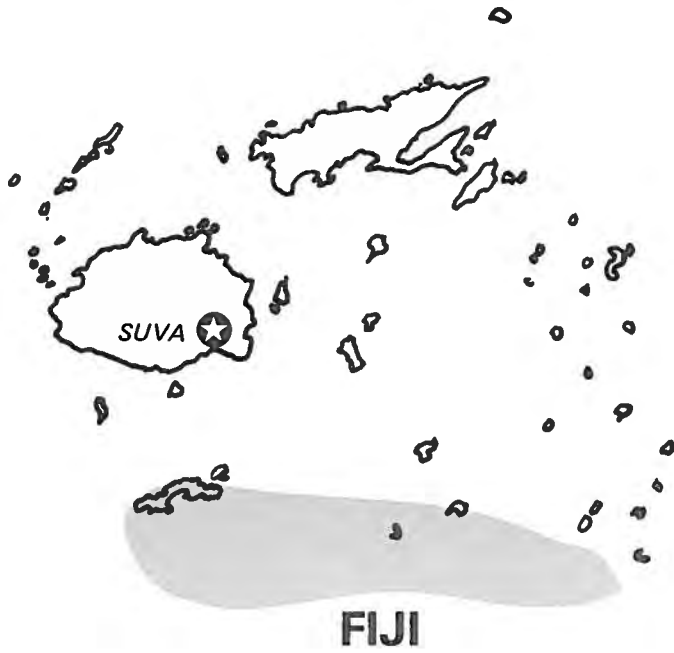
Extensive damage was caused by high winds to houses and trees and by salt spray and tidal waves to root crops and water supplies. Relief supply problems were exacerbated by the loss of the Uluilakeba.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT:

The Chargé d'Affaires in Suva, Walter V. Hall, presented a check for \$1,300 to the Prime Minister as a relief contribution. Tents donated the previous year following Hurricane Bebe and Cyclone Juliette were again used. No further assistance was requested by the Government of Fiji.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY OTHER NATIONS:

Donations in cash and in kind were provided by the Governments of Australia, Great Britain, India, and New Zealand. The nature and value of assistance was not reported.



DN-AAA-29
ARC No. 3615 A265
404/75