DOWN BY THE RIVER

ASSESSMENTS

TC WINSTON
- Category 5, affected 82% of Fiji
- 41 people died, 30,000 homes destroyed
- Gender was part of the large response
- Some vulnerable groups not addressed

REPORT

STORY SESSIONS

PRIORITY THEMES
- Livelihoods and early recovery
- Housing, shelter and WASH
- Violence, harassment and trauma
- Strengths of informal networks

25 RECOMMENDATIONS
- Policy and practice
- Community-focused
- Further research

WHAT'S NEXT?

ELSEWHERE...
- Pre-emergency vulnerability
- Discrimination during response
- Limited LGBTI* inclusion in policy + practice

DISCUSSION
- There's no one 'LGBTIQ*' solution
- Go beyond tokenism
TC WINSTON

- Category 5, affected 60% of Fijians
- 44 people died; 30,000 homes destroyed
- Oxfam was part of the large response
- Some vulnerable groups not addressed
Based on the same 51 percent increase change between 2002 (15 percent prevalence at the household level in now 70 percent).

Fiji Women Crisis Centre 2013: Women’s Health and Domestic Violence Awareness and the ELSP Chapter.

Fiji Gender Based Violence Sub-Cluster Key Advocacy Note: April 9, 2016.

124 No information was available on issues related to sexual orientation.
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Session 2

Session 3
“When I was a kid at school, sometimes kids would just come and slam my head. They told me I was different and they didn’t accept me. I told them this is who I am. Teachers would talk to other students, but not gays and transgenders. We got bullied and had to fight going to school or going back. One of my friends was beaten by a teacher. I was in class 8. I told him we are better off leaving school, and looking after ourselves.

So we went into the bush, took some cartons, and survived for a week stealing food and clothes. That’s when we moved to the town on the old island. We used to sleep in the hairdressers, after some time, I got to cut hair. I was there for 2 years. . . . I worked in a hairdresser, and that is how I supported myself in primary school. I was 10. . . . When I came here [a different island in Fiji], I worked in a factory, and I was renting. The house didn’t accept me and I had to move out. I found another place and then they told me to leave. Now I stay with another LGBTQ person, and they treat me like family. I saved my money . . . I have spend most of my money here paying rent. After Winston, my job at the factory ended. I got fired from another job as a shopkeeper. They said I gave things to my gay friends. I was working when Winston came, and I had to go and hide in the toilet. After Winston people said that gays brought Winston. That we are all sinners, they tried to punch me. I repeated this to a friend of mine who is a policeman, but they told him nothing could be done. Where I was renting the roof came off and I had nothing left. The people who helped me were other gays. They said to come here for dinner or breakfast, they gave me clothes. No one else helped.”
PRIORITY THEMES

- Livelihoods and early recovery
- Housing, shelter and WASH
- Violence, harassment and trauma
- Strengths of informal networks
“Trying to get the house back to normal, trying to get the kids back to school. It was a real struggle, there was some help other children were accessing, but because we are LBT women, we can’t really tap into that.”

“Still today we are moving from place to place...
PRIORITY THEMES

• Livelihoods and early recovery
• Housing, shelter and WASH
• Violence, harassment and trauma
• Strengths of informal networks
“Still today we are moving from place to place looking for a fixed place to stay and live like a normal lesbian couple. If the housing assistance by the government was granted to people like us, we would have already built a house for ourselves.”
PRIORITY THEMES

- Livelihoods and early recovery
- Housing, shelter and WASH
- Violence, harassment and trauma
- Strengths of informal networks
“Last year a brother - cousin was drunk and started yelling and shouting at me to stop dressing like this, he started beating me. I ran under the bridge and I was crying and crying. I asked god why he made me like this.”
PRIORITY THEMES

- Livelihoods and early recovery
- Housing, shelter and WASH
- Violence, harassment and trauma
- Strengths of informal networks
“After Cyclone Winston I went to my friends house who is a trans women, the wall of her bedroom was gone and her clothes gone. We have to share clothes and things. I don’t know if I would be here if we were not friends.”
Elsewhere ...

- Pre-emergency vulnerability
- Discrimination during response
- Limited SGM inclusion in policy + practice
DISCUSSION

- There’s no one ‘LGBTIQ+’ solution
- Go beyond tokenism
“If I had to go to an evacuation centre they would see me as a gay man, they would be like gays are the cause of this disaster. I would rather not have a shower for a month than have a shower there. I would rather be with friends.”

“An LGBT evacuation centre would be an option that would make us feel better, but might bring negative attitudes on us. If we get food and shelter - people might ask why the sinners, that bring bad things to Fiji.”

“The night after the cyclone we were all evacuated, and we all stayed there for a week. I chose to go to the school evacuation site because all my LGBTQ sisters were in there.”

“If people knew I was a lesbian, I would prefer to stay in the men’s shelter.”

“I would probably go to other LGBTQ family members where I feel like I belong, rather than strangers I don’t know as a lesbian. This life is just a no-no. You just get all sorts of negativity, and bad words, and sarcastic looks.”
DISCUSSION

- There's no one 'LGBTIQ+' solution
- Go beyond tokenism
**IMMEDIATE ACTIONS SHELTER CLUSTER CAN TAKE:**

1. **Make sure to have men and women in your teams.**
2. **Talk to women and girls, as well as vulnerable community members, including the elderly and people with disabilities, and LGBTQI members.**
3. **Mitigate GBV and sexual exploitation and abuse.**
4. **Coordinate with gender and protection advocates on the ground (through the Safety and Protection Cluster led by Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation with support from UN Women and UNicef).**
5. **Include in all your distributions information about where to get help with child protection and gender based violence (the Safety and Protection Cluster can help).**
6. **Promote the SG’s guidance on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and the Code of Conduct to ALL Shelter members.**

- How will selection criteria be developed? Is the community involved in identifying women, girls, boys and men with specific needs by sex and age with shelter construction needs and ensure these needs are prioritised and met?
- Is the distribution site, and process accessible to the elderly, to those with limited mobility and disability?
5. Include in all your **distributions information** about where to get help with child protection and gender based violence (the Safety and Protection Cluster can help).

6. **Promote the SG’s guidance on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and the Code of Conduct to ALL Shelter members.**

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<th>Question</th>
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<td>Is the distribution site, and process accessible to the elderly, to those with limited mobility and disability?</td>
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<td><strong>Is the site safe and accessible for women and girls?</strong></td>
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<td>Have you checked that the distribution time is safe for women and children to travel to the distribution point and return home without exposure to further risk of harm (including sexual exploitation and abuse)?</td>
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<td>Are you making sure to have men and women involved in distribution teams?</td>
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<td>Are you ensuring that vulnerable people, eg people with disabilities have equal access to assistance and the ability to transport them?</td>
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<td>Are you ensuring to register all members of households? So as to not exclude other adult family members or unaccompanied minors?</td>
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<td><strong>Safety and dignity</strong></td>
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<td>Are you coordinating with WASH and protection actors to explore the need for NFI kits to include hygiene materials for women and girls?</td>
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<td>Are you identifying the most vulnerable for priority assistance? (Person with disabilities, female headed and child headed households, elderly without other adults and care takers etc.)</td>
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25 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Policy and practice
- Community-focused
- Further research
WHAT'S NEXT?