



1 Cyclone Winston damage uploaded from field reconnaissance. 2 Koro Island devastation February 2016, UNDF oblique image. 3 Damage maps were compiled and uploaded.

CYCLONE WINSTON PRO BONO RAPID DISASTER MAPPING

Tonkin + Taylor for United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)

Project Location: Fiji



Since 2004, rapid damage assessment has been a routine part of Tonkin + Taylor's initial major natural disaster event response in New Zealand, so that damage recovery efforts can be appropriately triaged and the worst damage identified and attended to first. It also provides a factual basis upon which rapid response organisations can base their decisions. In February 2016, our world-leading learnings and technologies, fine-tuned during our work for the Earthquake Commission (EQC) following the Canterbury Earthquake Sequence, were applied pro bono to help triage the international humanitarian aid response in Cyclone Winston-ravaged Fiji.

Disaster relief organisations such as UNOCHA, UNICEF and Save the Children, as well as NGOs and Government agencies, were provided with Tonkin + Taylor's bespoke online "click and see" rapid disaster mapping portal hosted on our robust, Auckland-based server. NZDF, RAAF and World Bank oblique aerial reconnaissance images, as well as on-ground images provided by our own natural disaster specialist, were used to help facilitate rapid, efficient relief efforts.

The then Minister of Defence, Minister for EQC and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gerry Brownlee, described Tonkin + Taylor's rapid disaster mapping as "a first for any Pacific island nation struck by a natural disaster..." Rapid disaster mapping is now recognised as the gold standard for the collation, analysis and dissemination of data following natural disasters. It has since been deployed on behalf of EQC to map land damage resulting from the 2016 Kaikōura earthquake and, more recently, in Tonga, following Cyclone Gita

Judging & Copyright Statement

This project is an entrant in the 2018 INNOVATE NZ Awards of Excellence competition. The winners will be celebrated at our Awards Gala Dinner on Friday, 3rd August 2018 in Hamilton.

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