

Elena the CLEVER Girl





Note to caregivers

This book is part of a set of materials for children and caregivers in Fiji to help meet psychosocial needs after a cyclone.

This set of materials was produced with a unique group of participants who came together to produce a gift for the children of Fiji. People from the Ministries of Education, Health, Social Welfare and Information, together with participants from a range of NGOs, the University of the South Pacific and some of the most creative talent in the country developed materials to help children heal and to support their courage and resiliency.

Children's difficult emotions during these difficult times are normal and they should be acknowledged and accepted. These emotions come after a disaster but they are part of everyday life as well.

Our hope is that these materials will help them to feel that they are not alone, that there are many helpers and caregivers to support them. This includes children and adults with disabilities and those from marginalized groups who have a role to play in contributing to positive change in their families and communities.

We hope that you will use these materials in many creative ways. In addition, we know that you will come up with your own excellent ideas to help and support children during and after a natural disaster and in everyday life. We welcome your feedback on the materials and your suggestions for improvements and additional needs of Fijian children.



Elena lived in Delaikuku,
a beautiful village in the hills.



She was a very clever girl
and had many talents and skills.

*One afternoon a cyclone came
and strong winds blew their way.*



*Elena and her family escaped
just as their house was blown away.*

Elena looked all around and saw things
she loved flying bit by bit.



Then, she remembered her uncle's house
with a wooden floor and space below it.

Elena knew that this area below
would make a good hiding place.



She waved to her uncle nearby
and they crawled under to clear the space.

They called out to other families
to come into the new hiding place.



Elena helped her auntie who is blind
find her way into this safe space.

The winds grew even stronger
and many things were blown around.



But they were safe in their hiding place
and prayed as they sat on the ground.

In the morning when the cyclone passed,
they hugged each other tight.



People came out from around the village
and Elena shared their story from that night.

They decorated the place with colourful paintings to celebrate how brave they had been that night. And they learned of other children who saved their families from the cyclone's fright.



What was YOUR brave idea?

This book is an educational resource for children in the aftermath of cyclones
and other natural disasters.
It has been put together to encourage resilience in young children.
We hope you enjoy these material.

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