

People told to rethink livelihood options

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Ra villagers unload cartons of water and building tools at Namarai. Picture: REINAL CHAND

MANY people in the province of Ra who have been affected by Severe TC Winston will need to rethink their livelihood options.

One of the worst hit during the onslaught of the Category 5 storm, the Ra Province was one of the poorest in the country, having recorded the highest number of those living below the poverty line.

"Actually TC Winston will potentially have major effect on poverty now with all crops and livelihoods gone, people have no source of income," said Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises N Development (FRIEND) director Sashi Kiran.

The NGO has been working with a large number of people in different areas of the province, urging them to use their skill and talents to lift themselves out of poverty.

Many had been doing well, after resorting to farming and other means, using their available resources.

"For those whose families are assisting, they have started rebuilding but for those who are labourers and there is no help available, their backs are broken," she said.

"Many have lost their homes, all their belongings, all their schooling needs. Food rations will take them through a few weeks but they need to rebuild their homes and this costs money," Ms Kiran said.

She said people needed a regular income which meant rethinking livelihood options with the limited resources left behind after Severe TC Winston.