

Ray of hope - Fiji Times Online

Roland Koroi

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THE Foundation for Rural Integration Enterprises and Development (FRIEND) has embarked on a campaign to re-roof Ra where a majority of homes were either levelled or damaged by Severe TC Winston.

Initial assessments by the NGO's staff members who were the first to visit a large number of places after the cyclone struck, concluded that the most urgent requirement for those affected by the cyclone was shelter, even if it was temporary.

"We have already supplied 12ft by 18ft roofing irons to 400 households so they could use these as dry roofs," said FRIEND director Sashi Kiran.

"Most people are trying to rebuild using what little they have managed to salvage, but in doing so, they have leaking roofs, which is why we have decided to go ahead with this campaign.

"We have also given out about six chainsaws so people can start clearing the debris and use whatever felled timber to rebuild their homes."

Ms Kiran said she was thankful to those who contributed the items, as well as to her staff members who also raised money to help in the purchasing of roofing irons.

"Most of these people already have the skill.

"What they need to rebuild are the tools and support.

"I urge those looking to help these people to consider providing this assistance if they're in a position to do so," she said.