

Foundation aids 25 families - Fiji Times Online

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LAUTOKA-based NGO Foundation for Integrated Enterprises and Development (FRIEND) Fiji has come to the aid of 25 families from Nakorotubu, Ra, rendered homeless by Severe TC Winston.

Namarai Village disaster management committee chairman Iovane Buka said they were grateful to FRIEND Fiji and their volunteers for helping villagers whose homes were completely destroyed.

"We have 30 houses that were completely destroyed," he said.

"We started rebuilding homes by reusing the wooden frames but the iron roofs and walls were badly damaged and we could not use them again."

He said that was when the NGO stepped in to assist the villagers.

"They visited us about two weeks ago and they had building materials with them.

"We have 25 families who were helped by FRIEND Fiji."

Meanwhile, the villagers were visited by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama last week.

He gave them additional supplies including hygiene kits for women.

Mr Buka said one of the main concerns now for the village was finding a stable income for the villagers.

"Most of us depend on coconuts, seasonal fruits and the sea.

"Our best chance is finding food and money by selling what we catch from the sea. But for that to happen we need a boat. Our village boat was damaged during the cyclone."