



RECOVERING FROM CYCLONE WINSTON

After wreaking havoc in the Tongan islands of Vava'u and Ha'apai on Friday, 19 February, Tropical Cyclone Winston made landfall in Fiji on Saturday, 20 February and raged throughout the night as a category 5 storm.

It is the strongest cyclone ever to have appeared in the Southern Hemisphere and many communities around Fiji were devastated. In the worst affected areas, 100 per cent of crops were destroyed. Whole villages were flattened on the island of Koro.

More than 350,000 people have been affected and are in need of assistance, and 44 people lost their lives.

Caritas is continuing to work with our partners on the ground in Fiji to respond to the needs of many communities, including providing food, shelter (tents and tarpaulins) and comfort through psycho-social counselling.

With thousands of houses destroyed by the cyclone, Caritas is also working with communities to repair homes and help people better prepare for future emergencies.

350,000

People affected by Cyclone Winston



325 KM/HR

Gusts recorded during the storm



32,000

Homes destroyed by the cyclone



\$270,000+

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Above: Retrieving the family belongings from their damaged house.

Left: A family stand in what is left of their home following Cyclone Winston.



GROWING RESILIENCE IN RURAL FIJI

For 43 years the Marist-run Tutu Rural Training Centre (RTC) on Taveuni Island, Northern Province, Fiji has been helping empower young men by providing them with the skills to make a sustainable living for themselves and their families.

Aiming to build on an already successful programme by helping the Tutu RTC to become more self-reliant, Caritas has been working alongside the centre developing a three-year project which will begin later this year after being delayed by the effects of Cyclone Winston.

In the wake of the massive storm, Caritas has supported the RTC recovery to a point where the project is ready to begin by providing seeds and farming equipment, replacing computers, helping clear roads, and repairing buildings.

Among the courses to be supported is the four-year Young Farmers' course, which has been particularly successful and is highly contested. During the course students study for five-week blocks at the centre and then return home for five weeks to put the study into practice, with visits from tutors.

As part of the Tutu RTC programme, students are taught sustainable crop growing techniques for both home consumption and sale, as well as how to market and sell their cash crops. Vegetables and fruit for feeding the family include, yams, taro, breadfruit and papaya, while crops like kava are valuable and marketable. Short courses are also run for married couples and women.

An important aspect of the training at Tutu RTC is teaching climate resilient techniques for growing

crops, which were put to the test during Cyclone Winston.

The innovative breadfruit production techniques are an example of such adaptations. Bark is stripped from a fruiting branch and when it begins to grow roots, they cut it off and plant it in the soil. This technique produces mature trees that grow low to the ground and are therefore more resilient to storms. Breadfruit are a good food security crop as they are nutritious and versatile.

Another indicator of Tutu's success is that their first crops to be harvested following Cyclone Winston will be selling at market this month ahead of any other local producers.



Tutu RTC student Wani Filipe of Moliyagaiwala village on Vanua Levu ties beans to stakes.



Top: Supervisor, Father Petero Matairatu has a very hands-on approach at Tutu RTC.

Middle: Wani Filipe and his wife Gleno on their farm.

Bottom: A building damaged by Cyclone Winston at Tutu RTC.

"The mission (of Tutu RTC) is to create a place, a presence, an atmosphere where the people are empowered to take charge of their lives in this rapidly changing world."

- Lani Tatini, Financial Administrator for Tutu RTC

Your commitment as a One World Partner enables us to continue our recovery and development work in Fiji.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



The Catholic Agency for Justice,
Peace & Development

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