

Habitat for Humanity and FIJI Water Join Forces to Build Safer Communities

In the ongoing effort to rebuild Fiji following the destruction left by Tropical Cyclone Winston, Habitat for Humanity, in partnership with the FIJI Water Foundation, is offering Build Back Safer (BBS) construction training in Ra to builders from 15 communities, along with housing assistance for families severely affected by the storm.

A representative group from each community will participate in the three-day BBS training which covers theory and hands-on instruction of basic construction techniques that include foundations, strong joints, strapping, bracing, roofing and reducing the vulnerability of homes by choosing safe building sites.

“There is an urgent need for rebuilding efforts to ramp up in cyclone affected areas, and this is a priority for the Government,” said HFH Fiji National Director Masi Latianara. “This BBS training will give local residents the tools they need to effectively reconstruct cyclone resistant homes. We are very pleased to partner with FIJI Water and build resilient communities that will withstand the next cyclone.”

“FIJI Water is committed to investing in communities and making a positive difference in the lives of our employees, their families and their neighbors,” said Rokoseru Nabalarua, Chief Executive Officer, Natural Waters of Viti Limited (FIJI Water). “Winston had a devastating impact on Fiji, and we’re proud to be able to work alongside HFH to strengthen homes and provide much-needed peace of mind for area residents.”

The BBS training will result in the construction of a Habitat core house, of which close to 200 performed remarkably well at the height of Winston’s fury in the Rakiraki-Ba-Tavua corridor. The structure will serve as a living model for community members to continue to learn from after the training. Each structure will be accompanied by BBS billboards that reinforce the basic techniques taught in the training.

HFH Fiji is also offering BBS training to more than 80 communities in the Provinces of Ra, Tailevu, Ba, Bua, Cakaudrove, Lomaiviti. The soft start of this massive construction training kicked off on Koro Island in mid-September.

Media Contact:

Mark Carmel

310-694-7438

mark.carmel@wonderful.com