



**OUR HOME,
OUR PEOPLE**

“Before Winston, there was an abundant supply of coconut, I had lots of pigs, and honey boxes. Now after Winston, I am really struggling to provide for my family.”

When catastrophic winds hit the village of Nabukadra, the roof of Raivolita 'Rai' Tabusoro's home was ripped from its structures. Rai and his family survived but like many in Ra Province, their house and possessions disappeared during Cyclone Winston and the subsequent storm surges. Seven of Rai's pigs died and all of his honey boxes disappeared, losses that have significantly impacted his ability to generate an income to this day. Though struggling, Rai is determined to provide for his family and show leadership within his community.

On average 25,700 Fijians are pushed into hardship due to tropical cyclones and floods each year. This number is set to rise to 32,400 by 2050 in a high emissions scenario.

www.ourhomeourpeople.com

Our Home, Our People is a storytelling project produced by the Fijian Government, in partnership with the World Bank, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery and the ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program.

Encompassing a 360° virtual reality video and an interactive website, *Our Home, Our People* explores climate change vulnerability and resilience in Fiji through the stories four people, including Rai. Their memories, hopes, fears and resilience reveal to audiences how rising sea levels and extreme weather impact Fijian people today, and what support is required in the future.

Our Home, Our People was launched at the UN's climate change conference (COP23) in Bonn, Germany alongside Fijian Government's Climate Vulnerability Assessment 2017. Action on climate change is crucial. Immerse yourself in *Our Home, Our People* and join our call for immediate global investment in adaptation to reduce climate vulnerability for Fiji and other small island states.





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“This is our way of life in Fiji. We live for love, working together and live for development wherever we go. We cannot be passive.”

Rupeni Vatugata, 75, and his wife live along the northern coast of Fiji's largest island, Viti Levu. Rupeni's house was one of six that remained standing in his village, Namarai, after Tropical Cyclone Winston made landfall in February 2016. Thirty houses were destroyed. A deep passion for community, supported through provision of building materials by the Fijian Government, helped Rupeni to lead a group of volunteer carpenters and labourers to so far rebuild 13 homes for families in Namarai and nearby areas. He has no plans to stop.

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Cyclone Winston cost Fiji FJ\$2 billion (US\$993 million) and impacted 62% of the population. The proportion of Category 4 and 5 tropical cyclones in the Pacific region likely to increase by 2080-2100.





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“Winston showed me in Fiji that people care for each other, there is peace and harmony between each other.”

Asmita Kamal, 24, teaches at Bayly Memorial School in Ra Province, Viti Levu. During her first term of teaching, Tropical Cyclone Winston hit. The Category 5 storm lifted the roof from Bayly Memorial School and completely destroyed Asmita's family home while she was inside, hiding under the kitchen table with her elderly grandmother. Asmita was moved by the generosity and support people from all over Fiji offered her family and her school in the wake of Cyclone Winston. Though fearful at the thought of experiencing a storm of such magnitude again, she now knows Fijian people will be able to come together and help each other.

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A minimum investment of FJ \$9.3 billion (US\$4.5 billion) is needed over the next 10 years to reduce climate vulnerability and increase resilience.



A young girl with dark curly hair is sitting in the front of a white boat on a large, calm body of water. She is wearing a colorful, patterned tank top and black shorts. She is looking towards the camera with a neutral expression. The background features rolling green hills under a cloudy, overcast sky. The water is a deep teal color with gentle ripples.

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“If the weather changes all of a sudden it can reach up to here [knee height] and past this house. I don’t know what to do if this house is destroyed. I don’t know where we will go.”

Catalina*, 11, lives in a small village called Vunisavisavi on Vanua Levu, Fiji’s second largest island. Evidence of climate change and rising sea levels is difficult to miss when visiting Catalina’s village. The soil is unusually soft. Crab holes dot the entire village area. Along the shoreline, remnants of houses remain and a large, uprooted Banyan tree sits on its side, long since lost its footing due to coastal erosion. Catalina herself has noticed there are fewer turtles to see underwater and less fish to catch, so she and her mother try to catch only what they need. During extreme high tides, seawater inundates her community.

*name has been changed

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Average and extreme sea levels around Fiji are projected to increase significantly this century.

Most global models suggest an increase of 17-38 cm by 2065 and 26-82 cm by 2100.

