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Mick affects 49,376 people

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CYCLONE Mick cost the country \$20million in damage and affected about 49,376 people in the Central, Western, Eastern and Northern divisions.

This has been revealed in a damage assessment preliminary report by the National Disaster Management Office.

National Disaster Office acting director Pajiliai Dobui said the figure included cost of houses destroyed and damaged, agriculture, livestock, roads, water and schools.

"About 60 tarpaulins were distributed to the provincial administrator Serua and provincial administrator Namosi," he said.

"These tarpaulins are temporary shelters for families who had their homes destroyed or damaged during the cyclone.

"This cyclone was not a strong one and only a few families had their homes completely destroyed.

"Most of the tarpaulins were distributed to assist families who can do small repairs on their homes."

He said the Government would look into the issue of providing houses or shelter for families whose property was completely destroyed.

Of the 60 tarpaulins, 30 would be distributed to Beqa based on the initial damage assessment need.

The tarpaulin distribution is part of 500 tarpaulins donated by the New Zealand Government.

The damage assessment summary shows more than 43,000 people were affected in the Western Division with 1041 houses damaged and valued at \$6500 each.

About \$57,550 in livestock was damaged while the estimated cost of damaged roads in the Western Division is \$555,000.

Another \$160,065 in damage was noted for 24 schools affected by the cyclone.

Despite minimal damage in the Northern Division, 10 per cent of the agriculture sector in the division suffered about \$567,200 in damage.

In the Central Division, about 6051 people were affected with four houses completely destroyed and estimated to cost \$16,000 each.

Another 170 homes were damaged in the Central Division.

In the Eastern Division, 226 people were affected with five homes destroyed and 15 damaged.