

TONGA: Volcanic Eruption

Situation Report No. 2

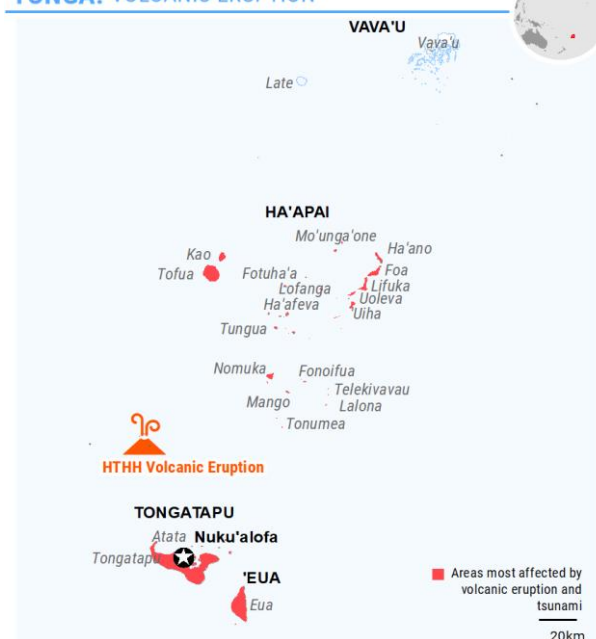
As of 28 January 2022

This report is produced by OCHA Office of the Pacific Islands (OoP) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 26-28 January 2022. The next report will be issued on or around 03 February.

HIGHLIGHTS

- A magnitude 6.2 earthquake struck about 219 km (136.1 miles) west-northwest of Pangai, Tonga, on Thursday 27 January. No reported injuries, death, and damages.
- Across Tongatapu 90% of power has been restored as work continues for full restoration.
- Efforts continue with the clearing of ash debris and coordinating relief distribution to affected communities.
- NEMO and humanitarian partners have established 16 water station areas around Tongatapu.
- The areas of Popua, Patangata, Kanokupolu, and Ahau have been sprayed for vector control and decontamination. Tap water in these areas have been tested. The ground water has been chlorinated for safety.
- 293 houses have been damaged or affected by the volcanic eruption and tsunami according to government figures; the majority in Tongatapu.
- 1,525 people are still displaced according to initial findings by IOM.
- Inter-island communication restoration and cable repair work continues.
- Initial Damage Assessments (IDA) have been mainly concluded. Data are expected in the coming days. Various verification processes are still ongoing.

TONGA: VOLCANIC ERUPTION



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- An earthquake with the magnitude of 6.2 struck about 219 km west-northwest of Pangai on 27 January. No reported injuries or damages. It reminded all again that volcanic activity can still start any moment.
- As communication is gradually being restored, work continues with cable repair and inter-islands communication. The internet connectivity is available, however, limited. Telecommunication providers of Digicel and Tonga Communications Corporation (TCC) have intermittent internet capacity. Furthermore, Digicel is awaiting equipment (in quarantine) to restore some of its services. The repair of the undersea cable will take weeks. Power across Tongatapu has been 90% restored as work continues for full restoration.
- IDA assessments have been mostly concluded and data are now being triangulated and analyzed. According to NEMO they should be available to government entities over the weekend. They will then be presented to the National Emergency Management Committee early next week upon which they should be shared with partners.
- According to government situation reports, 293 houses have been damaged or affected. The majority (174) can be found in Tongatapu, followed by 'Eua (75), Fonoifua and Pangai (16 each) and Mango (12).
- Water is still the main challenge. To support access to safe drinking water NEMO and humanitarian partners have established 16 water station areas around Tongatapu. Additionally, bulk water is being supplied, providing more than 415,000 litres of fresh drinking water for Tongan communities.
- The Fua'amotu International Airport is operational. However, heavy machinery is needed to clear runways in Vava'u and Ha'apai. Domestic travel is currently limited. The cleanup has been completed of the port in Nuku'alofa.
- NEMO and humanitarian partners on the ground have been carrying out relief distributions (NFIs such as kitchen and household kits, hygiene and dignity kits, tarpaulins, tents, shelter tool kits, but also water and food rations) in Tongatapu and in the Ha'apai Island group.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- The Islands of Ha'apai is priority for water distribution, with water filters.
- Needs for water supply are essential and access will be a challenge for families who rely on rainwater tanks as their main water source. Some of the key needs for water supply include clean water, rainwater tanks, collapsible containers, water purification tablets, water filters, water testing kits and desalination plant
- At community level, sanitation needs identified include toilets (portable toilet), garbage bags and rubbish bins for cleaning. Personnel to help with the construction of the emergency latrines.
- This includes WASH & Hygiene Dignity kits and having supplies such as wheelbarrow, shovel to help with community clean up and rainwater tank cleaning and hand sanitizers and gloves.
- No changes to WASH needs since the last report, however, the latest Displacement Report from IOM has found that 1,525 people from 317 households have been displaced in Tongatapu and Ha'apai, so access to basic WASH services and supplies would be needed for these families.

Total estimated people in need of WASH assistance:
Approximately

50,326 people from
8,388 households¹

Response:

- WASH supplies have arrived from Brisbane on 27 January 2022 and the Tonga WASH Cluster is expected to distribute 1,000 jerry cans, 1,000 buckets with lid and tap to affected families. This will benefit approximately 5,000 people from 1,000 households. Caritas and Tonga National Youth Council (TNYC) have distributed 20 jerry cans and 100 x ten liters bucket to communities benefiting more than 300 families in Kanokupolu. Oxfam also supported TNYC and MORDI Tonga with the establishment of seven water stations in Matatoa, Houmalelikao, Havelu, Tofoa, Ahau, Ha'atafu and Kalovai, this benefitted more than 700 families. UNICEF is also providing 5 water pumps (diesel operated) to help with cleaning wells and underground water and pumping of water for drinking.
- UNICEF procured 1,000 squatting plates and 100 emergency field latrines which are to be transported from Fiji in the coming days. These sanitation supplies will benefit 1,100 affected families.
- Regarding hygiene, 1,000 WASH & Dignity kits have arrived in Tonga on 27 January 2022, benefitting 1,000 families. The kit contains soap and sanitary pads and other hygiene supplies. In addition to this, UNICEF is providing 2,000 Pacific Household Disaster WASH Response kits benefitting 10,000 people (2,000 households). Support has also been provided to the schools through 50 Pacific School WASH Response Kit and this will be benefitting approximately 2,000 students in 50 schools. About 125 PPEs supplies including rubber gloves and gumboots for health officers and 250 long raincoats will be delivered to Ministry of Health to help with cleaning up of ashes and communities, this will benefit at least 250 health care workers, in addition other equipment including 10 mist blowers for cleaning and disinfecting of health facilities and communities and 50 boxes of liquid soap for hygiene and handwashing.
- Technical Support – Recruitment is ongoing for a local surge support to the Ministry of Health for data collection, coordination, and operations of all WASH activities.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Limited or no data is available now to be able to identify key WASH needs in order to develop a WASH response plan; once detailed assessment reports are released by NEMO, a detailed WASH Cluster Emergency Response Plan can be developed.

¹ Numbers subject to change once damages assessment released by the Government of Tonga.

² Pacific Household Disaster WASH Response Kit include laundry soap, soap bars, sanitary pads, toothpaste, toothbrush for adult and children, tarpaulin, rope, collapsible containers.

³ Pacific School WASH kit include: 40l wastebin, sanitary pads, disinfectant surface cleaner, latex gloves, masks, long ladle scrubbing brush, toilet plunger.

Logistics

Needs:

- There is a need to access regular and updated information on transport options (air and sea) to enable humanitarian partners to provide assistance to 85,000 most affected people.

Response:

- WFP - through the Pacific Logistics Cluster - has established a working group for coordination between supporting Governments and the humanitarian agencies/private sector. The working group is meeting to share information on the logistics option, appropriate channels to transport assistance and prioritization. The working group aims at improving the coordination and capturing information on the assistance already provided to Tonga and existing gaps.
- *HMAS Adelaide* carrying humanitarian cargo berthed in Tonga on 27 January 2022 and successfully unloaded within the permitted timeframe. The humanitarian relief items are consigned to NEMO and its partners and will be collected on 31 January following the 72-hour isolation period as per Tonga's COVID-19 protocols. Four multi-purpose Mobile Storage Units from the shipment will be used by NEMO to support the response activities after the isolation period.
- Two flights carrying relief cargo sent by humanitarian agencies have arrived in Tonga. Additional critical ETC equipment will be landing in Tonga on 29 January 2022.
- The Government of Fiji is shipping a humanitarian vessel transporting relief assistance to Tonga including material sourced by the Tongan community in Fiji. At least three shipping containers filled with shelter, hygiene and sanitation items with the assistance from the United Nations are on the vessel which is scheduled to depart on 29 January 2022 with two days sail time.
- The *Pacific Humanitarian Air Service* is liaising with partners to assess the needs of an air charter flight for humanitarian cargo once airline companies will assess that suitable landing conditions are reached. Other stakeholder is also engaging with the humanitarian community to support with transport options based on needs and access.

Constraints:

- With the volcanic ash still posing a risk for aircrafts and concerns of COVID-19 affecting restrictions for ships, the airports and seaports in Tonga remain accessible only through military options. This limits the transport options available to the humanitarian partners to send relief items.
- Planning for the most efficient transport option into Tonga remains challenging with the lack of certainty about scheduled air travel.
- Communication and information about logistics operations and support needs on the ground that the cluster could be requested to support with, remains a challenge.
- There is a lack of access to detailed reporting information on cargo that arrives in the country and about authorities responsible for moving and storing the cargo.

Emergency Telecommunications

Needs:

- Re-establishing cable restoration work where damages were found approximately 90km from Tonga indicating significant damage.
- Re-establish communication services to 101,000 people in Tonga (entire population) affected by the volcanic eruption and the tsunami.

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Priority Island groups identified by Tongan government for communications services

Response:

- Although the services of national telecommunications providers are partially restored, challenges remain with the capacity of their networks to support the needs of the response community and the population of Tonga.
- The damage caused to the Tonga undersea communications cable during the eruption on 15 January 2022 is greater than estimated. Repairs to both the international and domestic communications lines are expected to take longer than originally anticipated.
- The ETC is supporting the response by addressing communications gaps for government and responders until national telecommunications providers have fully recovered, and the damaged undersea communications cable is repaired.

Communications solutions deployed will assist the government response and enable the delivery of assistance to the affected population.

- Due to measures put in place by the government of Tonga to prevent any cases of COVID-19 in country, the ETC response will be a 'contactless' operation. Only equipment is being deployed, to be operationalized by national staff with remote technical support from the ETC as required.
- The following communications equipment is en-route to Tonga via assistance provided by the Logistics Cluster in the Pacific:
 - Three small rapidly deployable satellite connectivity terminals (BGANs) to enable immediate access to internet services for assessment teams and responders. The BGANs are pre-loaded with SIM card credit from *Télécoms Sans Frontières* (TSF).
 - VSAT satellite equipment deployed by the University of the South Pacific (USP) to provide connectivity for responders from the USP campus in Nuku'alofa.
 - Nine pre-paid satellite phones to provide voice communications for government staff – three phones from the World Food Programme (WFP) and six from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Iridium is providing free airtime for all nine phones.
- ETC partner Government of Luxembourg is preparing to deploy two pre-configured VSATs optimized for emergency situations to Tonga (via the landing stage in Brisbane), to support the response for three months until national communications services are restored via repairs to the undersea cable. The Tongan authorities will operationalize the equipment using staff resources identified in country and remote technical support coordinated by the ETC.

Constraints:

- There are substantial logistical challenges and delays in shipping communications equipment internationally by air or sea to Tonga.
- Tonga has very strict COVID-19 protocols that need to be adhered to, including a three-day quarantine for incoming communications equipment.

Protection

Needs:

- Needs assessments continue, with communication and transportation challenges making data collection challenging (see gaps and constraints below). Assessments are currently led by Tonga's National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) with support by IOM.
- As of 24 January, the eruption of the volcano and subsequent ash cloud and tsunami has led to the internal displacement of 1,525 people (317 households), approximately 1.5% of the total population of the Kingdom of Tonga. Of those displaced, 1,243 people (237 households, 75%) are in Tongatapu islands and the remaining 282 people (80 households, 25%) are in the Ha'apai Islands (including Mango, Nomuka and Fonoifua, the islands that were most heavily affected by the tsunami). Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are currently dwelling in private cars, houses of friends and relatives and evacuation centres.
- There are an estimated 25,433 young adolescent girls (10-14) and women of reproductive age (15-49 years) in the affected areas (84,776 total affected population). It is expected that a high number of them will require dignity kits and hygiene supplies. More detailed information pending initial damage assessments.
- An estimated 1,273 women and girls may have high, medium or low disability conditions but could be as high as 2,285 (7.6%) women and girls (10-49 years) from 2021 preliminary census data. It is estimated that at least 500 of these women and girls may require specialist dignity kits.
- There are an estimated 1,470 currently pregnant women and 1,960 women with children under 12 months of age that may require additional support (MISP).
- There is a confirmed and significant need for Psychological First Aid and Psychosocial Support for affected children and adults in affected communities.

Response:

- IOM is supporting NEMO in the collection and analysis of data related to evacuation centers and displacement. Additional data collection and analysis is continuing, subject to communications and logistics challenges are ongoing.
- On 26 January the 1,520 UNFPA customized dignity kits arrived on *HMAS Adelaide* (undergoing 72 hours quarantine) supporting the 252 dignity kits and 2 tents that were prepositioned in Tonga.

- On 27 January, a UNFPA consignment for the Fiji cargo ship was delivered to Vodafone arena (ETD 29 January 2022) with 100 Women with Disability Dignity kits (WWDDK), First Aid kits (250 pieces), surgical masks and hand sanitizer, 500 Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) kits with MHM booklets, two tents, and PPE for distribution partners (masks and hand sanitizer).
- UNFPA is continuing to support the multi-disciplinary team with MoH and Tonga Family Health Association to provide psychosocial support (PSS) and dignity kit distribution around Tongatapu.
- UNFPA in partnership with MoH and IPPF-Tonga Family Health Association have deployed Women Friendly Spaces (WFS) with integrated SRH and GBV services in Tongatapu and Nomuka that should be in service shortly.
- UNFPA and UNICEF have released a series of guidance notes on the contents and distribution of dignity and hygiene management kits available online <https://sites.google.com/unfpa.org/pacific-gbv-sc/home>.
- IPPF have mobilised funding support through the DFAT SPRINT program – a \$90,000 AUD emergency response grant has been approved. Tonga Family Health Association (TFHA) will be leading the response to attend to Sexual and Reproductive Health, maternal health & Gender Based Violence (GBV) needs - their team includes a GBV counsellor and a psychologist from the Ministry of Health to provide psychosocial support.
- TFHA have conducted mobile clinic outreach to Mango camp at Lonolongo (evacuated Mango Island residents brought to Tongatapu), Patangata, and 'Ahau & Sopa. GBV sessions were provided.
- CARE Australia has a dedicated Tonga Appeal running.
- PHPC Coordination teams are in close contact with the Coordinator of Tonga Safety and Protection Cluster. They are ascertaining priorities, needs, gaps and requests. Protection partners are all working to fill those immediate requests. TA has been offered to the coordinator and a local IM will be recruited.
- ADRA, in collaboration with Tonga SDA, is looking to provide Psychological First Aid and Multipurpose Cash Transfers.
- WHO: Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) needs in the affected areas are high and Ministry of Health and Ministry of Internal Affairs team, and NGOs are providing MHPSS support to the affected areas
- Radio talk show by WHO & the Ministry of Health on MHPSS has been aired.
- IFRC launched an Appeal for immediate response in Tonga and for longer-term recovery. Protection and gender inclusion has been mainstreamed across the response. They are also targeting highly vulnerable groups within WASH and shelter activities.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Data collection remains a challenge due to continuing communication outages. As a result, data collection is conducted by boat and NEMO with support of IOM and cluster partners.
- Logistics and communication continue to remain a challenge. This is impacting supply planning.
- Some aspects of response planning are delayed as IDA data have not been released yet.

Food Security

Needs:

- Official request from the Government of Tonga was received on 26 January 2022 to support 4,241 individuals sheltering in churches and schools with food assistance.

12,000

Agricultural households estimated to be affected

Response:

- The NEMC has approved funding for: decreasing price for deep sea fishing to TOP (Tongan Pa'anga) 5,-- per kg (approx. USD2,20) for palu for a month, similar for tuna fishing vessels. Rehabilitation of farming aquaculture is underway, especially for Mokohonu (sea cucumber) and Kanahe (fish).
- USD 54,000 Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities Needs Assessment revolving funding has been committed by FAO.
- WFP has completed the last mobile Vulnerability Analysis Mapping survey for Tonga to complement the Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) results conducted by Tongan Food Security and Livelihood Cluster (FSLC). WFP will also support the analysis of the Initial Damages Assessment official data.
- WFP is working with partners to assess the impact to markets, nutrition, food security and livelihoods to inform response/recovery programming in support of the Tonga FSLC.
- WFP is working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests (MAFF) to confirm specific needs and the way forward to address food assistance needs.

- A Response Plan is expected to be submitted by the FSLC to the Government of Tonga on 31 January. FAO is supporting the MAFF in developing a list of indicative responses activities.
- The Ministry of Fisheries (MoF) is currently implementing their Immediate Response Plan covering the period until the end of February. This includes ensuring sufficient fish from safe sources (longline tuna and deepwater snapper fisheries) are available to the public for consumption. The Ministry is also preparing a Recovery Response Plan to be submitted soon for Cabinet approval. The Ministry of Fisheries has also relayed to FAO priority areas of immediate support needed for fisheries.
- FAO has allocated USD 300,000 of SFERA funding from Belgium for immediate support to Tonga's MAFF and MoF to respond to the damages to the agriculture and fishery sectors following the volcanic eruption and tsunami.

Gaps & Constraints:

- A complete overview of agriculture-related impacts of the volcanic eruption and tsunami is still pending, along with full details of priority needs.

Shelter

Needs:

- Reports of 75 houses damaged or destroyed in 'Eua, including commercial buildings in Tufuvai.
- Initial Damage Assessment data for the Ha'apai province are being verified by NEMO. An IDA Team left for Ha'apai on 24 January 2022)

Response:

- Relief provisions by NEMO and MORDI to 'Eua consisted of 66 Rotary Emergency Response Kits; 136 food rations; 47 tarpaulins and eight sets of clothing to 348 people (56 households).
- The following emergency items were being distributed by Tonga Red Cross Society, MORDI, and Tonga National Youth Congress (TNYC): tents, tarpaulins, hygiene kits, and kitchen kits.
- Furthermore, distributions of tents, tarpaulins, tool kits, kitchen sets, solar lamps and blankets in affected districts of Tongatapu (figures to be confirmed).
- *HMAS Adelaide* berthed in Tonga on 26 January with the following cargo (currently under quarantine):
 - 1,000 tarps from CARE International which will be distributed by Talitha, a local NGO;
 - 1,092 solar lamps, 1,305 tarps and 164 shelter toolkits from the Australian Red Cross which will be distributed by the Tonga Red Cross Society.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Communication with national cluster lead has been established but remains limited due to communication systems limitations.

Health & Nutrition

Needs:

- Hygiene and Sexual and Reproductive Health needs of an estimated 25,433 adolescent girls and women of reproductive age (10-49 years old) in the affected areas. An estimated 1,273(7.6%) women and girls may have high, medium, and low disability conditions from 2021 preliminary census status.
- Estimated 1,470 currently pregnant women and 1,960 women with children below 12 months of age.

600

Safe delivery kits
delivered to
Ministry of Health

Response:

- Mango Island evacuees all received a health screening upon arrival.
- Tongatapu (Vaiola) Hospital, health centres and clinics and 'Eua (Niu'eiki) Hospital operational though with layers of volcanic ash on premises, water tanks and rooftops.

- In Ha'apai, Princess Fusipala Hospital (in Pangai) was used as an evacuation centre and remains operational; Niu'ui Hospital (in Hihifo) had minor damage but is operational.
- In Ha'apai Islands, Ha'afeva Health Centre is operational due to HMAF support with clean up, Nomuka Health Centre is not operational.
- UNFPA is supporting MoH and Tonga Family Health Association in delivering the Minimum Initial Service Package for Sexual and Reproductive Health in Crisis.
- Provision of life saving Reproductive Health (RH) supplies (600 safe delivery kits) to MoH to ensure safer births for pregnant women.
- Provision of essential RH commodities to support Tonga Family Health Association to reach women of reproductive age with essential services.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Communications with field partners remain limited due to communication systems limitations.

Education

Needs

- 64.3% of schools and Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres (those in Tongatapu, Ha'apai and 'Eua), representing 66% of the learner population (approximately 22,430 learners) and 1,432 teachers and staff need assistance.
- 2-3 schools in Tongatapu and an unknown number in other islands have been damaged.
- Students from all evacuated islands are adjusting to a new location and will attend schools in their new location.
- Re-construction of damaged school buildings, staff quarters, and boundary fences for damaged schools and ECE centres.
- Replacement and provision of teaching and learning / curriculum materials destroyed.
- Face masks (N95 for ash) for the full population of teachers (2,400) and school children (33,959) are urgently needed.
- WASH supplies, including soap/liquid detergent, hand sanitizers, and water bottles as well as adequate sanitation material and equipment for cleaning/disinfecting of schools are urgently needed.
- There is a confirmed need for Psycho-social Support (PSS) for affected children, teachers, and staff; especially from most-affected schools.
- Hot school meals needed especially for children evacuated from outer islands to Tongatapu.

64.3% of schools are considered most affected with an estimated **66%** of the learner population in need of assistance.

Response

- UNICEF and Save the Children Australia are providing education supplies to the Ministry of Education and Training (MET), including temporary learning spaces in the form of tents, ECD kits, Recreation kits, WASH in schools kits, liquid detergents for handwashing, water bottles, and cleaning material to assist with disinfecting and cleaning of school premises. These will be targeted as needed within the 180 most-affected schools with a combined population of 22,430 learners and 1,432 teachers and staff.
- Other planned support includes providing PSS to identified groups within the school communities (learners and staff).
- Assistance with ongoing damage assessments (analyzing and reporting on information gathered) is being provided as MET is busy gathering damage assessment data from affected islands; starting from 25 January 2022.
- As MET is targeting to prepare schools for a safe re-opening by 31 January 2022, authorities in Ha'apai are requesting to delay re-opening by one week.
- UNICEF plans to embed an Education in Emergencies (EiE) consultant in a coordinator support role in the MET to support the Tonga Education Cluster and all related programming. Terms of Reference are being developed.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Lack of immediate information pertaining to affected schools and communities constrains the response planned as some of the affected outer islands are very remote and challenging to reach.
- Communication is gradually improving, but still fractured within the islands and with the outside world.

- COVID-19 border restrictions are impacting the response as technical support to MET cannot be embedded from outside to support the emergency response in the education sector.
- Damage assessment data are currently being gathered and entered manually which might delay the analysis and reporting of relevant information to guide the response.

GENERAL COORDINATION

The overall humanitarian response is being led by the Government of Tonga. The government lead agency is the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO).

As Tonga had adopted the cluster approach, the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) and other humanitarian partners on the ground are coordinating closely with NEMO as well as with respective national clusters and line ministries.

The overarching coordination platform at the strategic level for the United Nations, international inter-governmental organizations (INGOs), and the IFRC remains the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT). The PHT ensures streamlined and coordinated support to the nationally-led Tonga response, provides and facilitates surge support as required upon a government request and supports with resource mobilization.

The Fiji Resident Coordinator (responsible for Tonga) is leading discussions on senior government level.

OCHA's primary partner in coordination is NEMO on the country-level and the PHT in Suva. OCHA also coordinates relief and recovery assistance through regular participation in FRANZ coordination meetings. FRANZ partners include the governments of Australia, France, and New Zealand.

Efficient coordination has proved a challenge because of the impact of the volcanic eruption and the subsequent tsunami on communication systems which are only gradually restored. A further complication is that humanitarian actors had a small footprint in the country before the emergency and due to strict COVID protocols it is currently not possible to bring humanitarian experts into the country. All deliveries of relief supplies have to be done "contact-less". The emergency has affected the entire nation, including remote areas and outlying island which are difficult to reach.

As communications are gradually restored, IDA assessments are being concluded, it is expected that a clearer picture on humanitarian needs will emerge next week when data have been analyzed and response plans drafted by relevant government partners.

FUNDING

- To date, **Australia** has delivered to Tonga more than 40 tonnes of emergency relief supplies, mainly on HMAS *Adelaide*, including shelter materials, water and sanitation supplies, equipment to restore communications and personal protective equipment for people clearing ash.
- **New Zealand** had a third flight on 27 January with relief items carrying food, water purifiers, medical supplies as well as communication equipment. The HMNZS Canterbury arrived in Tonga on 26 January with water pumps, tarpaulins and milk powder among other relief items.
- **China** has put together supplies worth one million yuan (USD158,183). The emergency supplies include drinking water, emergency food, generators, water pumps and chainsaws, and have been shipped from Suva to Tonga on January 24. Upon the request of Tonga, the Chinese military will dispatch air force transport aircraft and naval vessels to deliver disaster relief materials.
- The **Fiji** Government is mobilizing support for Tonga through provisions of relief supplies and humanitarian assistance. A scheduled vessel is to depart Fiji for Tonga on 30 Jan.

- On 25 January, the **United States** announced an additional USD 2.5m in humanitarian assistance. This will provide critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies and supporting disease preventions. This is in partnership with IFRC and the Tonga Red Cross Society. Furthermore, the United States also helped the relief effort with its vessel, the USS Sampson, providing humanitarian relief items and carrying out helicopter reconnaissance flights over remote islands.
- **France** sent the Patrol boat *La Glorieuse* which arrived in Tonga on 27 January bringing relief items such as jerry cans, shelter tool kits, tents, hygiene kits and drinking water amongst other commodities. Another ship, the *Arago* is expected on 29 January.
- All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org

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