



THE KINGDOM OF TONGA
NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE
NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE

SITUATION REPORT

Event: **Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai Volcanic Eruption & Tonga Tsunami**
Sit Rep No: **12**
Date: **29 January 2022**
Period: **10am Thurs 27 Jan 2022 – 10am Sat 29 Jan 2022**

This situation report released by the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) is to inform operational partners on current situation of the secondary effects of the Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai (HTHH) Volcanic eruption. This Situation report (Sitrep) covers the period stated above. Frequency of reports will depend on availability of new information and evolving operation.

Highlights

- Tonga is currently under a State of Emergency for the HTHH volcanic eruption and Tonga Tsunami until 13 February 2022 and a State of Emergency, since March 2020, for COVID19.
- The curfew remains from 12am to 5am daily.
- The Logistics and Coordination cluster continue to provide support to the affected communities with the prepositioned stock and relief supplies.
- Targeted relief distributions were also delivered to Manuka, Talafo'ou, Navutoka, and Kolonga in Tongatapu and to 'Eua and Ha'apai in response to needs with the support of the Town Officer.
- The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) received 196 calls on Thurs 27 Jan to Sat 29 Jan 2022. The top 3 requests were for (1) water (2) water blasters, (3) relief items.
- Top 3 complaints received: (1) not involved in IDA (2) not received distribution (3) distribution not fairly done.
- NEMO reviews each complaint and verifies the information through the preliminary data collected through the initial damage assessment (IDA) and distribution lists through the initial (and ongoing) relief efforts to find a suitable solution that is inclusive and to endeavour to include all affected families and communities in the relief efforts.

Current situation

- The HTHH volcanic eruption followed by the tsunami warning triggered an immediate evacuation of communities on 15th January 2022, particularly coastal communities.
- The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) was activated on Fri 14th Jan 2022, due to a tsunami marine warning issued by Tonga Meteorological Services (Tonga Met).
- Tonga is under a State of Emergency for the HTHH volcanic eruption triggering tsunami waves, in addition to the State of Public Health Emergency (for the COVID19 global pandemic).
- Communities sought safety during the tsunami and further volcanic eruptions on the night of the 15th January 2022 at evacuation centres (church halls, community halls).
- Relief distribution continues to affected communities in Tongatapu, Ha'apai and 'Eua – water, hygiene kits, food, tents and tarpaulin, kitchen kits, dignity kits.
- The National Emergency Operations Centre continues to coordinate relief efforts while also ensuring data and information is continuously collected to assist with next stages of planning.

Cluster Update – UN And Regional support

- Regional clusters through the UN agencies, continue to offer support through the Cluster Lead agency, despite the current inability to connect directly.
 - UN Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is supporting the government of Tonga in organizing an integrated humanitarian support/assistance from all UN Agencies, Regional Clusters, Donor and Development Partners to support immediate relevant government priorities
 - Emergency Telecommunications Cluster, lead by the Information Department of MEIDECC supported by International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Food Programme(WFP), Regional Coordination Office (RCO) have been provided with satellite phones to support the efforts with direct communication with Vava'u and Niuatoputapu and Niua Fo'ou.
 - The Health, Nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (HNWASH) and Safety and Protection Clusters and member's Tonga Family Health Association have distributed dignity kits and provided much needed psychosocial services to the most affected populations in Tongatapu, with support from United Nations Population Fund (UNPF).
 - HNWASH is also supported by the World Health Organisation (WHO) delivering the immediate medical response in Ha'apai. WHO is also providing technical advice and supporting the environmental health team who conduct water testing, food and hygiene.
 - MORDI Tonga is working closely with NEMO and has provided transport to support relief distribution with food packs, hygiene kits, and kitchen kits to affected communities.
 - The Food Security & Livelihood Cluster is:
 - providing immediate support to restore root crops in the western communities of Tongatapu, through MORDI Tonga with the support from International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD),
 - Supported by Food and Agricultural Organisation of the UN to assess the food security/system needs.
 - The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has an office in Tonga who are providing direct support and analysis on displacement to NEMO.
 - Safety & Protection Cluster are also receiving support from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in designing packages of government/non-government essential services, for priority areas.
 - The UN Children's Fund has shipped relief items for the Health, Nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene on the Australian vessel *HMAS Adelaide*.

Tongatapu (TBU) update

- Map of water distribution and food distribution is attached.

'Eua Update

- The following supplies were provided for distribution in 'Eua

ITEM	QTY	ITEM	QTY
Flour	82	Tuna	10
Sugar	9	Rice	10
Biscuits	6	Corn	4
Noodles	10	Cream Corn	4
Breakfast Crackers	5	Blankets	19
Corned Beef	10	Hygiene Kit	150

Ha'apai Update.

- There are two boats currently visiting and surveying Ha'apai island communities and providing relief supplies, Ngahau Koula and Ngahau Siliva.

International Humanitarian Support

International humanitarian support to the Government of Tonga's response efforts with relief provided in the form of and from, noting that COVID19 protocols still apply with 72 hours quarantine prior to contactless dropoff and release

The Government of Tonga is grateful to the following donor's for providing humanitarian relief supplies for Tonga's communities to support Tonga's recovery efforts. 0

To date, there has been:

Donor	Description
Australia	Provision of humanitarian relief supplies via cargo from: - Six (6) flights - One ocean vessel – <i>HMAS Adelaide</i>
France	Provision of humanitarian relief supplies via cargo from: - Two (2) flights
China	Food packs provided for distribution. Provision of humanitarian relief supplies via cargo from: - Two (2) flights - Two (2) ocean vessels
Japan	Provision of humanitarian relief supplies via cargo from: - Two (2) flights
New Zealand	Provision of humanitarian relief supplies via cargo from: - Three (3) flights - 2 vessels – <i>HMNZS Aotearoa</i> , <i>HMNZS Wellington</i>
United Kingdom	Provision of humanitarian relief supplies via cargo from: - 1 vessel, <i>HMS Spey</i> . - Items also on <i>HMAS Adelaide</i>

- All flights and vessels from Australia, China, France, Japan, NZ and UK with relief supplies continue to arrive with have successfully completed the COVID19 requirement to quarantine the relief supplies for 72 hours and have been released from Fua'amotu.

Background

The Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai (HHTH) volcanic activity commenced on 20 December 2021 and was immediately heightened to red for aviation. Tonga Geological Services monitored the volcanic activity providing public health advice from 20 December 2021 until 2 January 2022. Environmental and public health warnings were provided about the potential of water contamination from the ash fall and potential of acid rain in Ha'apai. Advice included information on potential of fish poisoning due to volcanic fluid polluting the ocean and raising awareness on the hazardous areas surrounding the islands and ensuring the public kept clear of these areas. TGS continued to monitor HHTH and noted that there was no activity from 2nd January to 11th January 2022.

On 14th January 2022 TGS reissued an alert at 7am, following increased volcanic activity as Tongatapu and 'Eua communities were impacted by the smell of sulfur.

On 14th January 2022, Tonga Met issued a Tsunami Marine warning from the National Tsunami Warning Centre at 11.12am directly to the public. The warning was cancelled for Vava'u and Ongo Niua in the evening of Friday 14th Jan 2022 and for the remainder of Tonga on Sat 15th Jan 2022 in the morning.

On Sat 15th Jan 2022, at approx. 5.20pm, HHTH volcano erupted and created a significant impact across the Kingdom of Tonga. A tsunami was triggered with a mass evacuation response immediately declared to attempt to keep Tongan residents safe.

Based on the effects of the volcanic eruption with the ash fall and effects of the tsunami the affected population is approx. 84,776 (84% of population, Tongatapu, Ha'apai, 'Eua); with the impacted population – approx. 99,059 (99% Tongatapu, Ha'apai, 'Eua, Vava'u)¹

Further updates

NEMO will provide the next SitRep at the next meeting or within 24 hours or as the situation may evolve, as determined by NEMC.

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¹ Based on Tonga Statistics Department, Tonga Population Census 2021. Preliminary Result