

# TONGA: Volcanic Eruption

## Situation Report No. 3

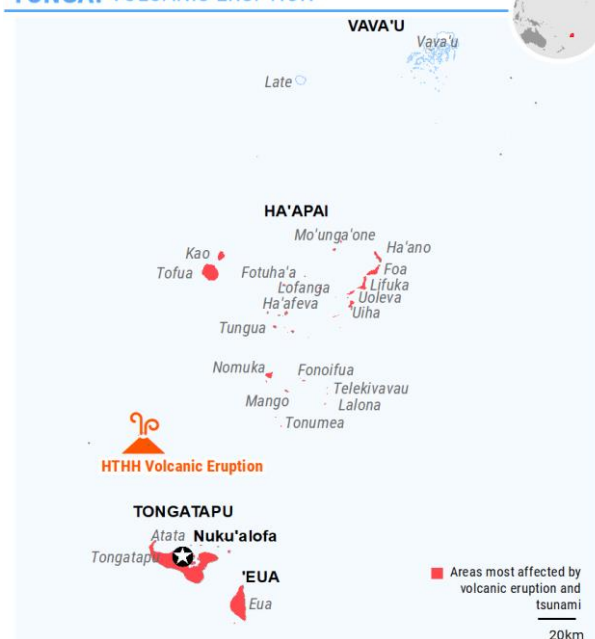
As of 3 February 2022

This report is produced by OCHA Office of the Pacific Islands in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 28 January to 3 February 2022. The next report will be issued on or around 10 February 2022.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Tongan authorities reported the country's first community transmission of COVID-19 on 1 February 2022, triggering a nationwide lockdown effective 2 February 2022, 6 p.m. local time. The lockdown will last for 48 hours and may be extended. At time of writing, there were five cases – all in isolation.
- Health partners, including WHO and UNICEF, and donors are working with Tonga's Ministry of Health to take appropriate measures.
- The lockdown may result in delays in the immediate relief effort although NEMO and partners are determined to continue relief distributions through a contact-less approach.
- International humanitarian aid continued to arrive by air and sea from Australia, China, France, Japan and New Zealand.
- Initial Damages Assessment (IDA) data has been completed and being collected and analyzed by Tonga's National Emergency Management Office (NEMO).
- 28,900 people have received water, sanitation and hygiene assistance throughout the country.
- Some 1,000 people (204 households) have received shelter assistance.
- The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) has supplied about 1.5 tons of maize and a variety of vegetable seeds to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Forests.
- Donors and international organizations have committed some US\$ 27 million in financial assistance plus a considerable amount of in-kind support to the relief effort in Tonga.

#### 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.

**84.8K**

affected people

**2.4K**

internally displaced

**280**

households with houses severely damaged or destroyed

**28.9K**

people reached with WASH assistance

**204**

households on Tongatapu received Shelter assistance

**27M**

US\$ contributed or committed

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 1 February 2022, two COVID-19 cases were identified among port workers at the wharf in Nuku'alofa. Both cases were detected via surveillance testing of 50 frontline workers. Three family members of one of the cases tested positive. All **five cases** are currently in isolation. Contact tracing is ongoing. A **national lockdown** was in effect as of 6pm 2 February. Inter-island transportation is prohibited. The lockdown will be reassessed every 48 hours. The directives given by the Government of Tonga, can be accessed under the following link: [National COVID-19 Lockdown Restrictions Directions | Government of Tonga \(www.gov.to\)](https://www.gov.to)

Tonga has been under a State of Public Health Emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic. It has maintained strict border restrictions since March 2020, reporting only a single positive case of COVID-19 that emerged in quarantine in October 2021. Of the eligible population in Tonga (12 years and above), 97 per cent have received the first dose and 87 per cent the second dose. WHO, UNICEF and other health partners, including donors, are working closely with Tonga's Ministry of Health and planning for bringing additional vaccines, antigen tests and pharmaceuticals into the country. [more on this in the next sitrep]

The lockdown may cause delays in the implementation of the humanitarian response carried out by NEMO and humanitarian partners on the ground. Initial information from NEMO indicates that they are still planning to continue with relief distributions, however, in a contact-less mode. NEMO has also been coordinating the Initial Damage Assessments and drafting of response plans by national clusters and line ministries.

It is understood that as of 03 February, Initial Damage Assessments (IDAs) have been concluded and data are currently being analyzed. Findings will then be tabled at the National Emergency Management Committee, after which it will go to Parliament. Because of the current outbreak of local COVID transmission and the subsequent lockdown, it is, however, not fully clear at the moment when data and response plans will be officially released. OCHA is in close contact with NEMO on this issue.

As of 31 January 2022, 2,390 people (2.4 per cent of the country's population) or 465 households remain displaced three weeks after the disaster onset, according to IOM's analysis of data from the IDA. About 750 are male, 780 female, 440 boys and 420 girls. Of the 465 households, 54 per cent are in the main island Tongatapu, 31 per cent in Ha'apai Island group, and 15 per cent in 'Eua. Sixty per cent of the 465 households have their houses severely damaged or destroyed. The total number of displaced people rose by 57 per cent since the last reporting period with progress in field verification of the assessment data.

As concerns the logistics of bringing in relief supplies by sea or air, partners report a congestion at the port (various ships from Australia, France and New Zealand and other nations waiting to offload) and to a lesser extent at the airport; there mainly due to lack of handling staff and storage facilities. The local transmission of COVID has also further complicated procedures and the lockdown is likely to lead to further delays. With the help of rainfall, ash residue along the airport runway have been largely cleared. There have been no further reports of ash disturbance during landing, take-off and taxi operations. Most humanitarian needs are being met, however, access to safe water remains the most pressing issue. Forthcoming IDA data will help to analyze still existing humanitarian needs and identify most needed interventions by humanitarian partners.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) – in collaboration with Massey University of NZ – analyzed ash samples from the volcanic eruption and concluded that a) the ash will not make rainwater tanks acid and that the water will be safe to drink using normal precautions for rainwater harvesting; b) as regards food, small amounts of ingested ash are very unlikely to cause health problems.

The official name of the emergency given by the Government of Tonga is the ***Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai (HTHH) volcanic eruption and Tonga tsunami (HTHH disaster)***. The official death toll stands at four; three direct and one indirect. Two females (aged 49 from Nomuka and aged 51 from Kanokupolu), one male (aged 65) from Mango Island passed away, due to the HTHH disaster; one female (aged 40 from Nomuka), as a result of the related trauma.

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

#### Needs:

- Total estimated people in need of WASH assistance: 50,326 people (8,388 households).
- No changes to WASH needs since the last report, however, the latest Displacement Report from IOM (31 January 2022) has found that 2,390 people (465 households) have been displaced in Tongatapu, Ha'apai and 'Eua. Access to basic WASH services and supplies needed for these families.
- Available field information point to the western side of Tongatapu, Ha'apai and 'Eua as the most affected areas; initial damage assessments are underway in these areas.
- With the country now in lockdown, families affected are in isolation and will need access to basic WASH supplies.

**28.9K**

people reached with  
WASH assistance

**Response:**

- Total estimated people reached with WASH assistance: 28,902 people (4,817 households).
- The Tonga Red Cross Society distributed 149 hygiene kits, 24 water containers and 24 buckets to affected families in Tongatapu and 20 families evacuated from Mango Island, benefitting a total of 894 people. Tonga Red Cross staff and volunteers supported the distribution of 6,780 litres of water to affected families in the first four days after the eruption, benefitting more than 10,000 people.
- Oxfam, working in collaboration with Tonga National Youth Congress, supported 4,668 households in Tongatapu with provision of water supply benefitting more than 20,000 people. Oxfam is also planning to send additional desalination units to Ha'apai and 'Eua.
- UNICEF supplies from Brisbane and Suva arrived in Tonga and are currently under quarantine. UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to work out a rapid distribution scheme to ensure families receive immediate support once supplies are released.
- A UNICEF WASH Coordinator has been recruited in Tonga to work closely with and support the MoH in WASH cluster activities.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Total estimated gap in WASH (total needs minus total response): 21,424 people.
- Still limited or no data is available to identify specific WASH needs in order to define the WASH response plan; once detailed assessment reports are released by NEMO, a detailed WASH Cluster Emergency Response Plan can be developed.
- Monitoring of the number of people affected vs. the number of people reached is limited. Technical staff and logistics capacity are needed to monitor WASH activities and distribution of WASH supplies, manage data, and coordinate with cluster partners and government ministries. Logistics challenges are anticipated.

**🚚 Logistics****Response:**

- An airline company that operated a flight to Nuku'alofa has advised that progress has been made to clear ash residue in Nuku'alofa airport and determined that no additional maintenance action was necessary. This means there may be charter options available to provide transport assistance if required.
- *MV Lomaiviti Princess 1*, the ship chartered by the Government of Fiji to deliver humanitarian relief assistance to Tonga berthed on 31 January 2022. Assistance on board include donations from the Tongan community, UNFPA, UNICEF, World Central Kitchen, the European Union, faith-based organizations, and the private sector.

**Constraints:**

- 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.
- There are limited transport options available to humanitarian partners to send relief items.
- Communication and information about logistics operations and support needs on the ground that require the Pacific Logistics Cluster support remains a challenge to obtain. Particular information on warehousing and stock management as well as details on domestic transport requirements, particularly to outer islands, has been requested to authorities, including NEMO.

**📞 Emergency Telecommunications****Response:**

- Three satellite phones dispatched by WFP in Fiji have been received in Tonga, each to be credited with free airtime by Iridium. Following the quarantine period in the government relief supply warehouse, the satellite phones will be released to NEMO, to be used as part of the government response. The ETC will remotely assist NEMO to operationalize the satellite phones and strategize on distribution of the equipment.
- Three portable BGAN terminals for connectivity have been pre-loaded with data provided by *Télécoms Sans Frontières* (TSF) and airlifted to Tonga. The terminals are being held in the government warehouse for quarantine. One BGAN terminal is committed to be deployed for humanitarian coordination purposes by staff in the

**5**

priority island groups  
identified by the Tongan  
government

UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Nuku'alofa while the two remaining terminals will support operations identified by NEMO on the ground. The ETC and TSF are preparing to provide the required remote technical support to national counterparts to set up the terminals.

- The pre-configured VSAT connectivity equipment deployed by the University of the South Pacific (USP) and the ETC has also arrived in-country and is undergoing the quarantine period. When released, the satellite equipment will be set up in the USP campus in Nuku'alofa to provide a common communications area for responders on the ground to communicate internationally.
- Six satellite phones and three SIM cards (to equip the three WFP satellite phones already in Tonga) credited with pre-paid airtime by Iridium have been shipped by the UN's International Telecommunications Unit (ITU) from Geneva, Switzerland, and are now being cleared by Australia's Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in Brisbane for onward transport to Tonga. The equipment will be sent on the next available Australian flight.
- Intelsat and the ITU regional office in the Pacific have collaborated with Wantok, Spark, and the Tongan Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC) to operationalize satellite connectivity equipment at Fua'amotu International Airport to provide data connectivity services to the Tonga Meteorological Services.

### Constraints:

- There are substantial logistical challenges and delays in shipping communications equipment internationally by air or sea to Tonga. Alternatives to pre-position critical immediate response resources at strategic points within the Pacific are being explored.
- Tonga has very strict COVID-19 protocols that need to be adhered to, including a three-day quarantine for incoming communications equipment.

## Protection

### Needs:

- Around 85,000 people, including about 32,350 children, in Tongatapu, 'Eua and Ha'apai have been affected psychologically, and are in need of Protection assistance.
- Persons living with disability require assistive devices. Number of people to be confirmed.
- NEMO, supported by IOM, is collecting and analyzing data related to evacuation centres and displacement. Additional data collection and analysis is continuing, subject to communications and logistics challenges.

# 85K

people estimated in need of Protection assistance

### Response:

- Total estimated people reached with Protection assistance is not yet available.
- IOM reported that 2,390 people remain displaced (465 households); more than half in Tongatapu and one third in Ha'apai;
- Gender-based violence (GBV) essential services continue to operate despite challenges. The Tonga Women and Children's Crisis Centre is at the forefront of GBV response providing: mobile counselling, crisis services, a helpline, psychosocial support, prevention messaging and advocacy through three mobile teams covering the most affected areas, including Kanokupolu, Sopo and Patangata.
- The Tonga Women and Children's Crisis Centre is facilitating local and national advocacy to ensure women and girls' needs are visible and addressed. They are documenting women and girl's stories of resilience.
- UNFPA's 1,520 Pacific customised dignity kits that arrived on *HMAS Adelaide* have been released from the 72-hour quarantine and are being prepared for distribution through Tonga Safety & Protection Cluster partners. UNFPA supplies onboard *MV Lomaiviti Princess 1* from Fiji have also arrived in Tonga and are undergoing quarantine.
- UNFPA and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) are supporting Women Friendly Spaces (WFS) with integrated SRH and GBV services, using the two available tents. One WFS for Tongatapu will be managed by the Tonga Family Health Association (IPPF-Sprint) and a second WFS on Nomuka Island will be operated by the Ministry of Health.
- UNICEF deployed 50 recreational kits for child-friendly spaces on *HMAS Adelaide*. These have been transferred to NEMO's warehouse and are available for use. Fifty additional recreational kits were deployed on *MV Lomaiviti Princess 1*.
- Outreach teams (UNFPA, MOH, TFHA) provided psychosocial support (PSS) to affected communities around Tongatapu. They also distributed 249 Pacific customised dignity kits to Kanokupolu village (20 January) and Áhau (26 January). PSS was also provided to evacuees from Mango Island (24 January) and Paatangata (25 January).

- Trained counsellors and PFA response teams are active on Tongatapu, 'Eua and Ha'apai main islands.
- The Family Protection Legal Aid Centre (through the Ministry of Justice) is adapting their legal and protection services for survivors to the current context.
- The Talitha Project is supporting 95 children and youth among families evacuated from 'Atata Island currently at a Church Hall in Kolomatu'a and Hofoa evacuation station. The project provided psychosocial support and dignity kits.
- Shifting the Power Coalition are working with partners to meet protection priorities including safety and protection of women and girls (with a focus on the elderly, disabled and adolescent in evacuation centers). The Talitha Project is integrating creative psychosocial support programmes through their current outreach on Tongatapu.
- The Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) prepared a consignment to support at least 250 persons with disabilities with high support needs; including women with disabilities, young persons, and children. The consignment includes diapers, food, water and Dignity Kits.
- PDF is collaborating with Latter Day Saints Church to provide assistive to affected persons with disabilities. PDF has also collaborated with IFRC to facilitate the provision of assistive devices by Tonga Red Cross, taking into consideration that Tonga Red Cross supports the special school.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Logistics and communication remain a challenge, affecting data collection and supply planning. Data collecting is conducted by boat.
- Some aspects of response planning are delayed as IDA data has not been released.

### Food Security

#### Needs:

- Estimates of people in need are not yet available. 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.
- The Tongan Food Security and Livelihood Cluster Recovery Plan released by MAFF estimates that damages and production losses include TOP38.9 million (\$17 million). The Recovery Plan outlines damage to crops, trees and livestock from the tsunami and volcanic ashfall, as well as immediate disaster response activities and a secondary response plan.

**12K**

agricultural households  
estimated to be affected

#### Response:

- Total estimated people reached with Food Security assistance is not yet available.
- The Pacific Community (SPC) has supplied roughly 1.5 tons of maize and a variety of vegetable seeds to MAFF.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Initially noted in Sitrep No.1 of 25 January, 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:

- Data on housing damage are still evolving and are dependent on the official IDA results from NEMO.
- Based on current information, 175 houses have been partially and severely damaged in the districts of Kolofo'ou, Kolomotu'a, Kolovai and Lapaha on the island of Tongatapu.

**204**

households on  
Tongatapu received  
Shelter assistance

#### Response:

- On Tongatapu, 204 households have received shelter assistance from the Emergency Shelter and NFI Cluster and partners; including NEMO, the Tonga Red Cross Society and MORDI Tonga. Shelter relief items distributed include tents, tarpaulins, shelter tool kits, kitchen sets, solar lamps and blankets.
- New Zealand Defence Force flight arrived in Tonga on 1 February 2022, bringing 750 tarpaulins, 420 kitchen sets and 500 solar lamps from the New Zealand Red Cross. These will be distributed by the Tonga Red Cross Society.



**Gaps & Constraints:**

- The Pacific Regional Shelter Cluster does not have visibility on the assessment and distribution data for 'Eua and Ha'apai. The data is expected in the coming days.

**Health & Nutrition****Needs:**

- A high number of the estimated 25,430 young adolescent girls (10-14 years old) and women of reproductive age (15-49 years old) in the affected areas might require dignity kits and hygiene supplies. More detailed information is pending initial damage assessments.
- An estimated 1,470 pregnant women and 1,960 women with children under 12 months of age may require additional support such as sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services.
- Affected children and adults need psychological first aid and psychosocial support.

**25.4K**

adolescent girls and women of reproductive age might need dignity kits

**Response:**

- The cluster – and particularly WHO and UNICEF - is working closely with the Ministry of Health on the current COVID emergency and appropriate measures to be taken; including the import of additional vaccines, swaps and health items in the coming days; [more information on this in the next sitrep.]
- To address the current COVID community transmission, UNICEF provided 15,000 RDT tests due to arrive on 07 February, 2022. UNICEF acknowledges the support of the Governments of Australia and Fiji in the transport of these supplies to Tonga.
- Total estimated people reached with Health and Nutrition assistance is not yet available.
- UNFPA supplies delivered to Tonga by Fiji's *MV Lomaiviti Princess 1* is undergoing a 72-hour quarantine. Shipment includes 500 menstrual hygiene kits for adolescent girls, inter-agency reproductive health kits to support provision of minimum SRH services in emergencies, and personal protective equipment such as masks and sanitizers for outreach workers.
- UNFPA and the International Planned Parenthood Federation are supporting the provision of integrated SRH and Gender-Based Violence services through mobile and static services in affected areas.
- UNICEF deployed Midwifery kits which include drugs and equipment, nutritional screening tools, Basic IEHK kits and tents for temporarily set-up of affected health clinics through the Fiji Government-chartered ship. These are being readied for transfer to the NEMO warehouse and subsequent release to the MoH after their required quarantine.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Data on response coverage are unavailable due to continuing logistical and communication challenges.
- Response planning with local partners is difficult given the COVID-19 lockdown and communication challenges.

**Education****Needs:**

- About 64.3 per cent of schools and Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres in Tongatapu, Ha'apai and 'Eua, representing 66 per cent of the learner population (approximately 22,430 learners) and 1,432 teachers and staff need assistance.
- Three schools in Tongatapu and three schools in Ha'apai have been damaged. Damaged school buildings and ECE centres, staff quarters, and boundary fences need re-construction.
- Students from all evacuated islands, including 35 students from Atataa and 85 students from Mango, are adjusting to a new location where they will attend schools.
- Destroyed teaching and learning/curriculum materials need to be replaced.
- 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.
- Affected children, teachers, and staff, especially from most-affected schools, need psychosocial support (PSS).

**22.4K**

estimated learners need Education assistance

**Response:**

- Total estimated people reached with Education assistance is not yet available.
- 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, early childhood development (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.
- Supply clearance and distribution is currently on hold due to COVID-19 lockdown. This includes boats carrying supplies to Ha'apai that had already left before the COVID-19 community transmission and were then directed to return to the Tongatapu wharf. The Education in Emergencies supplies distribution will also be delayed due to the COVID-19 restrictions. 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).
- Majority of schools which only re-opened on 31 January 2022, have been closed again as of 2 February 2022 due to the threat of community spread of COVID 19 and related lockdown.

**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.
- Damage assessment data are currently being gathered and entered manually, which might delay the analysis and reporting of relevant information to guide the response.
- 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.

**GENERAL COORDINATION**

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

As Tonga has adopted the cluster approach, the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) is closely coordinating with respective national clusters and line ministries. OCHA – as the Secretariat of the PHT – is liaising with its national counterpart NEMO.

**List of national clusters and government lead agencies and corresponding Pacific Humanitarian Team Clusters**

<b>Government of Tonga Clusters</b>	<b>Pacific Humanitarian Team Regional Clusters</b>
<b>Economic and Social Recovery:</b> Ministry of Finance	<b>Early Recovery:</b> UNDP
<b>Education:</b> Ministry of Education and Training	<b>Education:</b> UNICEF and Save the Children
<b>Emergency Telecommunications:</b> Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications	<b>Emergency Telecommunications:</b> WFP
<b>Food Security and Livelihoods:</b> Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests	<b>Food Security:</b> FAO and WFP
<b>Health, Nutrition and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:</b> Ministry of Health	<b>Health and Nutrition:</b> WHO and UNICEF
	<b>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:</b> UNICEF
<b>Logistics and Coordination:</b> National Emergency Management Office	<b>Logistics:</b> WFP
<b>Safety and Protection:</b> Ministry of Internal Affairs	<b>Protection:</b> UN Women, UNFPA and UNICEF

**Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items:**

National Emergency Management Office

**Shelter:** IFRC**Responsible for emergency management, operations and recovery\*:** National Emergency Management Office**Coordination\*:** OCHA

\* Not a cluster.

The UN Resident Coordinator is leading discussions on a senior government level. He recently discussed response and recovery activities as well coordination issues with Tonga's Minister for Foreign Affairs as well as with the Secretary-General of the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat.

In addition to supporting the authorities with assessments and response planning, PHT clusters are also collaborating closely on service delivery. A group convened by the Pacific Logistics Cluster is coordinating cargo (air and sea transportation) between supporting governments, humanitarian agencies and the private sector.

The Joint Incident Management Team Logistics Pillar for COVID-19 has been re-activated. Chaired by WFP, it facilitates the coordination of logistics efforts between the Tonga emergency and COVID-19 emergency response throughout the Pacific Region.

The Civil Society Forum of Tonga (CSFT) coordinates humanitarian and recovery activities of national NGOs on the ground. These local responders are complementing national efforts across multiple sectors, including WASH, health, psychosocial support, education, protection, shelter and non-food items, food, and livelihoods. CSFT is supported by its umbrella organization, the Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO).

OCHA also coordinates relief and recovery assistance with the FRANZ Alliance which released a [joint statement](#) of solidarity with Tonga on 1 February 2022, outlining their coordinated effort to assist the Tongan response.

## FUNDING AND DONOR ACTIVITIES

In addition to providing in-kind contributions and deploying defense assets in support of the response led by the Tongan authorities, **donors and international organizations** have contributed or committed **more than US\$27 million** in financial assistance to the relief, early recovery and reconstruction efforts so far: Asian Development Bank (US\$10 million), World Bank (US\$8 million), USA (US\$2.6 million), Australia (AU\$3 million or US\$2.1 million), New Zealand (NZ\$3 million or US\$2.1 million), Japan (US\$1 million), European Commission (EUR 200,000 or US\$228,000), India (US\$200,000), China (US\$100,000), Norway (US\$50,000), Canada (US\$31,000), and others.

**Papua New Guinea** announced on 31 January a two-phased relief and reconstruction assistance of Papua New Guinea Kina (PGK) 10 million (US\$2.8 million) for the Tongan Government. The first phase will focus on relief supplies such as water, tents and food (PGK5 million) while the second phase will target rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction (PGK5 million). As a member of the Pacific Islands Forum, PNG aims to complement regional relief efforts being predominantly led by Australia and New Zealand.

The **New Zealand Red Cross Pacific Tsunami Appeal** has so far raised NZ\$730,000 (US\$484,000) to support Tonga. **American Samoa's** humanitarian relief drive has also raised more than US\$90,000 as of 31 January, according to the media.

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](mailto:fts@un.org)

### Donor Activities

Flights and vessels continued to arrive in Tonga with additional humanitarian aid supplies. **New Zealand's** HMNZS *Canterbury* arrived on 27 January 2022 and off-loaded humanitarian relief supplies such as milk powder, tarpaulins, ladders, water pumps and personal protective equipment (PPE). The vessel also took over water production from HMNZS *Aotearoa*, which departed Tonga on 28 January 2022 after delivering relief supplies and 415,000 litres of water. HMNZS *Wellington* returned to Nuku'alofa after transiting to Niuaupoutapu, to the north, where specialist Navy hydrography and dive teams checked shipping channels and harbour entrances. New Zealand had a fourth flight scheduled 01 February, carrying



medical supplies including PPE, blankets, tarpaulins, water bladders, and mosquito nets from the NZ Red Cross for the Tongan Red Cross Society.

**UK's** *HMS Spey* remained in Tongan waters after delivering relief supplies such as bottled water, sanitary products and medical supplies to Nuku'alofa last week. As of 28 January ,2022 it is supporting a mission to restore communication networks in close collaboration with the New Zealand and Australian navies.

**France's** patrol vessels *FNS La Glorieuse* and *FNS Arago* have completed the unloading of 40 tons of emergency cargo at Nuku'alofa.

On 27 January 2022, **China** delivered relief supplies worth Chinese yuan (CNY) 1 million (\$157,900) with two vessels that set sail from Fiji on 24 January. Supplies included water, food, generators, water pumps, chain saws, PPE and medical supplies, some raised by the Chinese private sector in Fiji. An additional 30 tons of relief supplies were delivered from China by two military aircrafts on 28 January. On 31 January, China sent two navy vessels, carrying 1,400 tons of relief supplies, including mobile homes and tractors.

The third batch of **Japan's** emergency relief supplies reached Tonga on 29 January 2022. An Air Self-Defense Force aircraft carried 2 tons of water and 3.5 tons of canned food from Japan. An upgraded water supply system was also handed over to the Tongatapu's Vaini Village Water Committee No.1 on 28 January 2022 as a part of an existing development programme. **Fiji's** *MV Lomaiviti Princess 1* off-loaded 11 containers of relief supplies donated by the Tongan community, UNFPA, UNICEF, World Central Kitchen, the European Union, faith-based organizations, and the private sector. The vessel returned to Suva on 3 February 2022.

#### Background on the crisis

A large eruption of the Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai underwater volcano occurred 65km north of Nuku'alofa, the capital of the Kingdom of Tonga, on 15 January 2022, 5:26 p.m. local time. A well-functioning early warning system and successful preparedness activities, including a mass evacuation, saved lives. Only three people have been confirmed dead and 14 people injured. The Government reports that an estimated 84,800 people (84 per cent of the total population of 101,000 people) have been affected by the ashfall and the tsunami rising up to 15m. Initial assessment data indicate that at least 293 houses have been damaged or destroyed, the majority in the main island Tongatapu (174 houses). The Tongan authorities quickly mounted a relief operation with the support of humanitarian partners. Water, food, hygiene kits, tents and other relief supplies are being delivered across the affected islands while power and connectivity are being restored. International delivery of relief has been contactless following local COVID-19 protocols.

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