



OCHA

# KINGDOM OF TONGA

## Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai Volcanic Eruption Humanitarian Snapshot

As of 04 February 2022

The Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai volcano, about 30 kilometers southeast of Tonga's Fonuafo'ou island, first erupted on Friday 14 January and a second time on **Saturday 15 January around 5:26 p.m.** local time. The eruptions sent a **plume of ash, gas and steam** 20 kilometers into the air and created a **tsunami** across the Pacific Ocean, with waves up to 15 meters high. Nuku'alofa, Tonga's capital, was covered with a five to ten centimetre-thick layer of volcanic ash and dust.

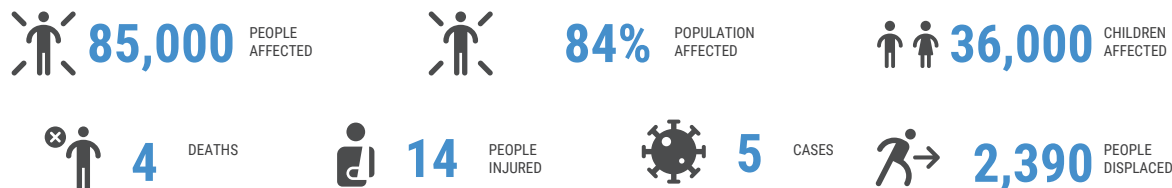
The eruption was likely one of the biggest recorded anywhere in the past 30 years. The Government of Tonga issued a **State of Emergency** commencing from 16 January to 13 February 2022.

Initial damage assessments and humanitarian response were hindered by a plume of ash blanketing the islands, and the island country's connection to the global internet, an undersea cable, was severed, stopping all communication, which still remains an acute challenge.

Tonga has been under a State of Public Health Emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic. It has maintained strict border restrictions since March 2020. The Tongan authorities reported the country's first community transmission of COVID-19 on 1 February, triggering a nationwide snap 48 hours lockdown effective 2 February, 6 p.m. local time. COVID testing and close contact tracing revealed a further five more positive cases.

### HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

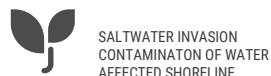
As per the 2021 Census, Tonga has a population of **100,209**. **74%** of whom reside on the main island, **Tongatapu**.



### HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND PRIORITIES



### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

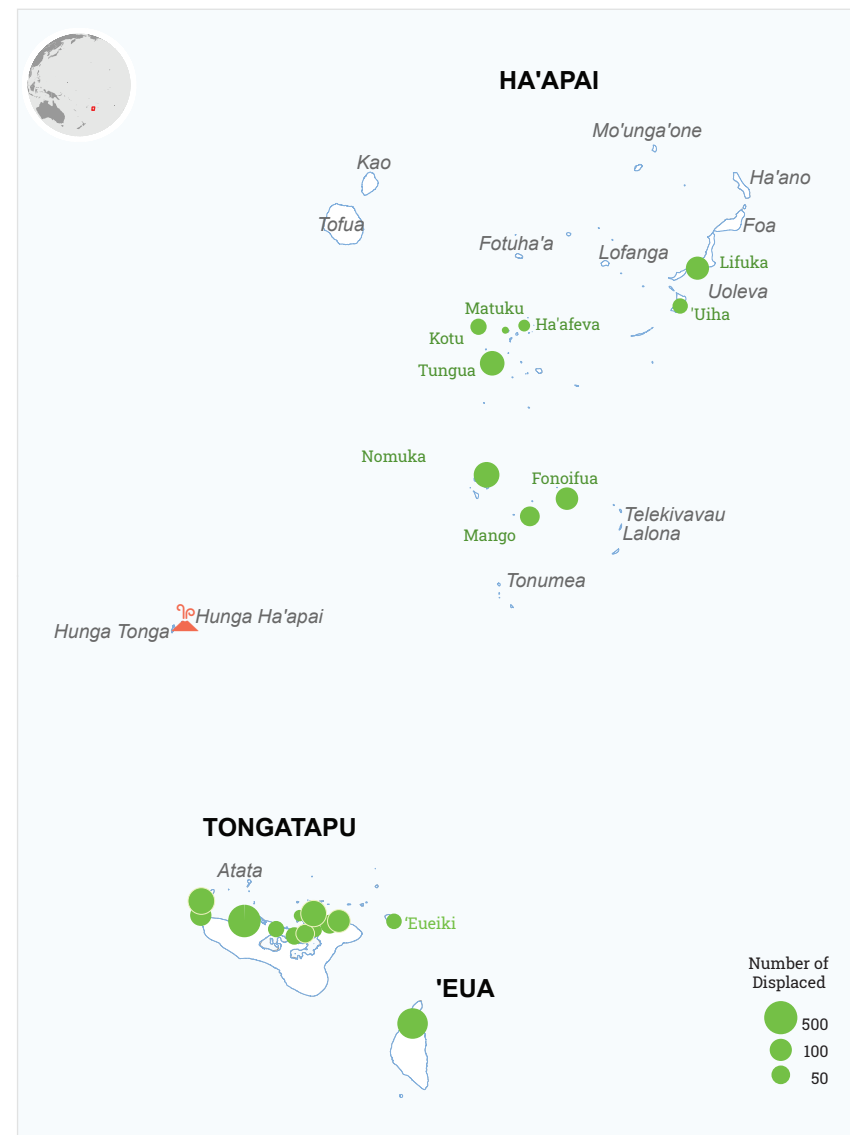


### DAMAGES TO INFRASTRUCTURE

Based on information from preliminary assessment reports. Assessments are still in progress to determine full extent of damage.



The Space Charter was activated on 15 January 2022. Based on the initial analysis of satellite images, extensive damage to structures has been reported in affected areas of Mango, Fonoifua, Nomuka, Atata Island, 'Eua and Tongatapu. Detail Report - <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/5be5d28e6fe740ae9ea8d940f6ef112b/>



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

**Creation date:** 04 Feb 2022 **Sources:** Tonga Statistics Department, UNOSAT Damage Assessments 17-21 Jan 2022, Government of Tonga - Media Release, UNOCHA Situation reports, IOM IDA Displacement Report 31 Jan 2022.

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