


Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

Tonga: Volcano and Tsunami



DREF Operation n°	MDRTO002	Glide n°:	VO-2022-000005-TON
For DREF; Date of issue:	19 January 2022	Expected timeframe:	4 months
		Expected end date:	31 May 2022
Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: Orange			
DREF allocated: CHF 430,666			
Total number of people affected:	50,326 people / 8,388 households	Number of people to be assisted	7,549 people / 1,258 households
Provinces affected:	All 5 Tongatapu. Vava'u, Ha'apai, 'Eua, Nius	Provinces/Regions targeted:	5. Tongatapu. Vava'u, Ha'apai, 'Eua, Nius
Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): The Tonga Red Cross Society (TRCS) has a total of 154 emergency response trained (ERT) volunteers, 17 staff and presence in 80 per cent of the country through its community volunteers and three branches.			
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: TRCS is working with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) through the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) in Suva, which supports TRCS in their disaster preparations and responses, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) through their regional office in Suva, Fiji, which supports them in Restoring Family Links and Safer Access.			
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Caritas, Save the Children, Oxfam, Act for Peace, Mainstreaming of Rural Development Initiative (MORDI) (with support from CARE International and CARE Australia), WHO, UNICEF, FAO and UNDP have a local presence with support from their country offices in Suva, Fiji. Habitat for Humanity, IOM, UN Women, UNFPA support partners in-country.			

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

On 20 December 2021, an eruption was observed at Hunga Tonga and Hunga Ha'apai, two sister volcanic islands with an underwater volcano linking them underwater. The volcano is located in an uninhabited area, some 65 km north of Nuku'alofa, Tonga's capital. A 16km high ash cloud formed. Advice was given to people in Tonga to protect water tanks from possible acidic rainfall in both Tonga and Fiji. The volcano was declared dormant on 11 January 2022.

The volcanic activity restarted on 14 January 2022, with volcanic ash, steam and gas erupting 5-20km above sea level. This led to a generation of small tsunami waves of 30cm. A tsunami alert was initiated by Tonga Meteorological Services and then later lifted on the same day.

A major eruption occurred at 17:20 on Saturday 15 January 2022, lasting about eight minutes, rattling windows and sending ash 15km into the air in a 5km plume. The eruption and vibrations were felt in Fiji, 800km away. The Tonga Meteorological Services re-instituted a tsunami alert for all of Tonga in the early evening of Saturday, 15 January.



Satellite images of the Tonga eruption on 15 January.

Tsunami alerts were issued for Fiji, Samoa, and other neighbouring areas. In Tonga, tidal waves were seen to inundate coastal roads and properties at 2.7 feet (0.82m). Significant thunderstorms and lightning were experienced in the evening, and ash cover was reported to be 1-2cm as of 16 January morning. The ash cloud has grown over 12 hours but appears to be dispersing slightly, and the ashfall has currently stopped.

No injuries or deaths are reported as of 16 January 2022, but it has been reported that Tongatapu and 'Eua have been badly affected especially the east coasts. Communication with Tonga has been down since 18:30 on Saturday 15 January. It is presumed that the undersea internet cable to Tonga from Fiji has been damaged, although the responsible cable network has not been reachable for comment. The fibre optic cable was previously severed in 2016 and took two weeks to restore. Satellite phones are currently not working reliably. The Digicel network is on and off again, dependant on the power supply, which is currently unstable. This has made it difficult to gather and receive information on the current situation. A state of emergency was called on 19 January.

Waves were reported to have inundated islands in the Lau group of Fiji – Ketei and Vatoa – two of Fiji's outer islands to the southeast. Families were evacuated, and no damage was reported. Higher waves were experienced in Port Vila, Vanuatu, but no damage was reported, and an all-clear from Vanuatu Meteorological Services was issued. In Samoa, 200 households were evacuated, but the tsunami watch for Samoa was subsequently cancelled. No damage has been reported in Fiji by the end of 16 January, but a tsunami advisory remains due to the ongoing eruptions. There remains the possibility of further undersea eruptions and/or further tsunami waves or ashfall.

The tsunami was also noticed in Japan, where between 20cm-1.20m waves were observed in many parts of coastal areas facing the Pacific Ocean from the night 15-16 January until morning. Many residents of the area evacuated to safer places during the night. Railway and ferry services in some areas were suspended. No major damages were reported by 16 January in Japan, but damages are not yet confirmed. Reportedly, fishing boats at some ports capsized or sunk from the waves. There were reports of the tsunami waves also occurring elsewhere in the Pacific, for instance, in Hawaii, Peru and Chile.

To date, there has been only one confirmed case of COVID-19 in Tonga in October 2021. Tonga has strict border controls in place, and there is a risk that it could impact the timely importation of relief items.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society Response Action

TRCS is headquartered on the island of Tongatapu, where its disaster management unit is based. The TRCS office is flooded, and staff have taken refuge in their homes. Communication is likely to continue being challenging given the phone lines and power remain unstable. TRCS staff have yet to get the satellite phone working due to the high volume of ash in the air.

TRCS has a total of 154 emergency response trained (ERT) volunteers, 17 staff and presence in 80 per cent of the country through its community volunteers and three branches. Trained volunteers will support needs assessments, the delivery of first aid, psychosocial support and relief distribution.

TRCS was established as an auxiliary to the government by an Act of Parliament in 1981. It coordinates with multiple government departments, particularly the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) and the Tonga Meteorological Service, under the Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC), and the Ministry of Health. The government's national disaster plan recognizes TRCS as a provider of relief and assistance in emergency and recovery. The TRCS is represented on the National Emergency Management Committee (NEMC), the leading coordinating body for disasters in Tonga.

Currently, TRCS has been supporting the government in doing assessments and distributions, specifically in delivering fresh drinking water and distributing essential household items.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in country

The IFRC Pacific CCD is based in Suva, Fiji providing regional support to Pacific National Societies, including TRCS. The CCD has a disaster risk management (DRM) coordinator, a readiness and response manager, technical support staff in shelter, health, protection, gender and inclusion (PGI), support services in planning, monitoring, evaluations and reporting (PMER), finance and logistics. The ICRC also maintains a regional delegation in Suva. Together with the National Societies, the ICRC promotes international humanitarian law (IHL), raises other humanitarian issues with governments, security forces, academic circles, the media and civil society, and supports Restoring Family Links (RFL).

To date, the Pacific CCD has supported TRCS in response planning, communications and coordination with partners and with media coverage and communications to the public.

National Societies in the Pacific, the IFRC Pacific CCD in Suva and participating National Societies have been in regular communication and on high alert since the major eruption on 15 January 2022. The Pacific CCD has convened a call with partners on 17 January, and Australia Red Cross and New Zealand Red Cross remain ready to support with stocks and surge support as needed.

Overview of other actors' actions in country

Both New Zealand and Australia have a High Commission in Nuku'alofa, alongside the embassies of China and Japan. The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has a post in Nuku'alofa to assist in mobilizing support to the Government of Tonga and has offered to do a surveillance flight to assess the damage and bring in additional support with medics, logisticians, and engineers.

Caritas, Save the Children, Oxfam, Act for Peace, Mainstreaming of Rural Development Initiative (MORDI) (with support from CARE International and CARE Australia), WHO, UNICEF, FAO and UNDP have a local presence with support from their country offices in Suva, Fiji. Habitat for Humanity, IOM, UN Women, UNFPA support partners in-country.

The Tongan government is leading the emergency response. The National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) coordinates efforts and has activated the national and district Emergency Operations Centres (EOC). TRCS coordinates closely with the NDMO and participates in the high-level National Emergency Management Council (NEMC), which the Tongan Prime Minister currently chairs. Red Cross volunteers are being mobilized at the request of the NEMO and have supported joint damage assessments according to its mandated role. The NEMO has made radio announcements encouraging communities at risk to cooperate with Red Cross volunteers and NEMO.

The Government of Tonga has adopted the cluster system to coordinate the response. However, the clusters have yet to be activated as Tongan authorities have yet to request international assistance, other than bilateral requests to the governments of Australia and New Zealand. However, the humanitarian community is supporting the Tonga national sectorial coordination, and all coordination activities are led by a government ministry and co-led by a humanitarian agency.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

The tsunami waves likely caused significant damage. Most homes are located along the coastline and were likely inundated with the strong waves following the undersea volcanic eruption. All four islands were likely deluged due to the eruption's strength. The main island has an estimated 100 families living in informal settlements along the coastline. These are occupied by individuals from the other islands who come to work but have no homes. As such, there is likely significant damage to settlements, buildings and infrastructure.

Preliminary communication indicates that water is likely to be a priority need because of the infrastructure damage and contamination from ashfall. There will also be needs in the hygiene sector resulting from the significant inundations and standing water that will remain in low-lying areas. It will be important to address cleanup and mosquito net provision to mitigate vector-borne diseases and health issues arising from the contaminated standing water and likely waste issues. It will take significant time to repair infrastructure, including lighting, so lantern provision will support protection and reduce safety risks.

The ashfall will have contaminated personal belongings, which presents a risk when people try to recover items and clean up. Basic protection of masks, gloves, boots etc., will be necessary. Protective items will also be wise, given the volcano has been very active during the past month, and another eruption may occur, causing further irritation to eyes, skin and breathing.

Due to the communication challenges and loved ones not being able to contact each other, either in the country or internationally, RFL will be prioritized to comfort those isolated and worried about their loved ones.

Psychological first aid will be required to identify and support the distressed and the needs related to the current situation. Communications to the Kingdom of Tonga is severely diminished as both internet and mobile phone systems are not functioning and may take weeks to repair. Worried citizens from Tonga currently living in the many diaspora communities abroad cannot reach their families in the country to find out if they are safe and well. Conversely, those living in Tonga would benefit from the emotional comfort of linking with their loved ones living abroad. TRCS, with support from ICRC and partners in the region (New Zealand RC and Australian ARC), will assist with Restoring Family Links (RFL) as soon as possible.

Targeting

Based on the scale that the tsunami waves were felt worldwide, it is probable all five islands Tongatapu, Vava'u, Ha'apai, 'Eua, and Nius have been affected. Since most of the population live along the shoreline, it is estimated that 50% are affected by tsunami wave's damage and 100% by ashfall. It is assumed that approximately 50,326 people will be affected / 8,388 households. Based on the current information, TRCS plans to initially support 15% of the most vulnerable, estimated to be 7,549 people / 1,258 households, with support in shelter and essential household items, health, WASH, PGI, and support for RFL and PFA where necessary. Depending on the evolving situation and assessment results, the scope and figures may change.

In the 2016 census, approximately eight per cent of the population self-reported as having a disability. Therefore, the most vulnerable will be targeted for immediate support – people with disabilities, the elderly, single-headed households and young mothers. Assessments will identify any internally displaced people that have become stranded on the main island with no support or ability to return home. This will be considered in future revisions of the response plan.

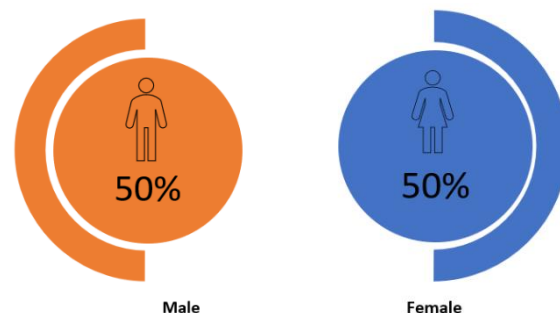
See estimated targeting based on the 2016 population census (OCHA dataset).

Divisions	Population	Population under 4 years	Population 5-19 years	Population 20-24 years	Population 25-59 years	Population 60+
Tongatapu	74,611	9,281	18,769	6,494	33,857	6,210
Vavaú	13,738	1,652	4,054	927	5,691	1,414
Ha'apai	6,125	762	1,682	416	2,660	605
Eua	4,945	664	1,459	323	2,059	440
Niuas	1,232	140	339	74	536	143
Total Population	100,651	12,499	26,303	8,234	44,803	8,812
Total Households	16,775	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total Affected People (50% pop)	50,326	6,250	13,152	4,117	22,402	4,406
Total Affected Households (50% HH)	8,388	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Target 15% of affected people	7,549	937	1,973	618	3,360	661
Target 15% of affected households	1,258	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Age disaggregated data of estimated people/households affected and target people/households reached, based on the 2016 population census.

Divisions	Population	Male Population	Female Population
Tongatapu	74,611	37,135	37,476
Vavaú	13,738	6,866	6,872
Ha'apai	6,125	3,118	3,007
Eua	4,945	2,486	2,459
Niuas	1,232	650	582
Total Population	100,651	50,255	50,396
Total Affected People (50% pop)	50,326	25,128	25,198
Target 15% of Affected People	7,549	3,769	3,780

Percentage of affected males and females targeted for the operation



On the left: Gender disaggregated data of estimated people affected and target people reached in Tonga, based on the 2016 population census.

Scenario planning

Given the Hunga Ha'apai volcano has been active for almost a month now, it is unknown if further eruptions may occur. There is a risk of further tsunami waves and further ashfall. The below scenarios are being used to support planning.

Scenario	Humanitarian consequence	Potential Response
Best case scenario – moderate damage to infrastructure, housing, household items but a minimal loss of life and permanent damage across a small percentage of all the islands in Tonga along the coastlines. No further ashfall	Needs for shelter, water, hygiene, and health support to 25% of the population	Provision of short-term shelter, essential household items, and support for disease prevention through hygiene, water and vector control for one month. Government to support long-term shelter solutions

<p>Most likely scenario – significant damage to housing, infrastructure and personal property. Small rumblings continue, but no major eruptions or tsunami level surge</p>	<p>Needs for shelter, water, hygiene, and health support to 50% of the population</p>	<p>Provision of shelter, essential household items, and support for disease prevention through hygiene, water and vector control, and potential support to livelihoods.</p> <p>Potentially additional DREF allocation.</p>
<p>Worst case scenario - significant damage to housing, infrastructure and personal property. Another major eruption and tsunami level surge may occur again in the coming days/weeks</p>	<p>May set resilience back and mean longer-term shelter, water, hygiene, and health support to 75% of the population</p>	<p>Provision of shelter, essential household items, and support for disease prevention through hygiene, water and vector control, and potential support to livelihoods.</p> <p>Potential revision of DREF and request for additional allocation or launch of an Emergency Appeal</p>
<p>Alternative case scenario - significant damage to housing, infrastructure and personal property. The formation of a Tropical Cyclone that early models had predicted may emerge by 22 January, which could bring additional flooding, wind damage and acid rain if significant precipitation</p>	<p>Could increase the risk to life and further increase damages to shelter, infrastructure and access to water, sanitation and basic needs</p>	<p>Launch of an Emergency Appeal</p>

Operation Risk Assessment

The major risks include:

- **Volcanic eruption continues:** Ash and rocks fall on the islands, damaging structures and contaminating the water supply. Ongoing tsunami waves are experienced, and the TRCS ability to respond in the community is impeded.
- **Infrastructure damage:** Damage to the TRCS office and prepositioned items, as well as communications, roads, vehicles and ports caused by the tsunami, may slow the delivery of key response actions. TRCS will identify a secondary office to work from if the office is not functional.
- **COVID-19:** Due to strict border closures, Tonga has remained COVID free since the pandemic. Its COVID free status may be jeopardized if international aid is deployed, with transmission through international cargo and human resources likely (like the events in the Solomon Islands following the riots in 2021). Key mitigating activities will include epidemic control for volunteers refresher training and ensuring that key COVID safe actions (social distancing, hand washing, mask-wearing) are followed. Standard pre-arrival and arrival COVID testing and quarantining protocols will be followed.
- **Additional hazard impacts:** The Tonga Meteorological Service and the Fiji Meteorological Service have flagged the possibility of a cyclone impacting parts of Tonga in the next seven days. The TRCS and the Pacific CCD will monitor weather sites over the coming days and work closely with the Meteorological Services.
- **Dengue and other waterborne diseases:** The risk of dengue and other waterborne diseases will be high in the days following the tsunami impact, with damage to water supply and water pooling in damaged homes and other infrastructure. TRCS will include key WASH messaging in all health-related community awareness activities.
- **Delays in international shipping:** Replenishment of current prepositioned items or provision of additional materials may take longer than usual due to delays in the international shipping caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Support from New Zealand and Australian governments will be explored, as well as possibilities of using the PHAS – Pacific Humanitarian Air Service.
- **Ongoing damage to telecommunications:** The major telecommunications link to Tonga is provided by an undersea cable. The cable has been damaged in the volcanic eruption, and it is unknown when this will be operational again. A lack of communications infrastructure on the islands could delay the provision of aid to the affected communities. Challenges with satellite phones may continue due to significant ash clouds, as the cellular phone coverage may be on and off due to an unstable power supply.

B. Operational strategy

Overall Operational objective:

This operation aims to respond to the immediate needs of 7,549 people (1,258 households) affected by the volcanic eruption and tsunami. The operation will include provision for assessments, emergency shelter and essential household items, health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support and considerations for PGI, psychological first aid, and RFL. The TRCS will undertake a rapid assessment to inform the specific targeting and the development of a revised detailed response plan for further DREF allocations or an Emergency Appeal. The operational objectives will be accomplished through the following summarised activities:

Sectoral response activities

The activities in this emergency plan of action are expected to be implemented by 31 May 2022. The proposed operational strategy will reach 7,549 people affected and address basic shelter (including household items), WASH, and Health needs. The total number of people targeted is approximately 1,258 households, with a family size of six. This target has been calculated based on the number of people the National Society has the current stocks and capacity to assist. It will be revised once other stakeholders' response is clear and additional information is gathered on the government and other partners response plans.

Needs assessment

- Trained staff and volunteers will be deployed from each of the four branches to support the assessment.
- Volunteers will assist in identifying affected people, developing beneficiaries list and preparing data and information analysis reports.
- Psychological first aid will be supported for the staff, volunteers, and communities.

Shelter

- Key shelter items, including tarpaulins, shelter tool kits, kitchen sets, lights, and blankets, will be distributed to affected populations. Basic awareness on building back safer will be provided to accompany the distribution of shelter assistance.

WASH and health

- WASH and health community outreach will be done through face to face awareness, social media and traditional media channels (television, radio). This will include health effects of volcanic ash, safe water management, Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV), vector and waterborne disease and COVID awareness.
- Psychosocial needs of the affected population will be addressed through the provision of Psychological First Aid by TRCS responders.
- Distribution of mosquito nets to affected populations.
- Distribution of hygiene, along with hygiene education and messaging.
- Respiratory masks will be procured and distributed to support those with respiratory issues and for all to wear when doing cleanup.
- Access to safe drinking water will be supported by distributing water from the government and water containers.
- Provision of tools and materials to repair current structures and do cleanup.

Protection and Gender Inclusion

- Needs assessments will consider specific vulnerabilities and needs based on gender, disability, age or other characteristics. Disaggregated data will be collected where possible.
- All staff and volunteers will be briefed on PGI minimum standards and protection referral pathways, and key referral contact information will be made available.
- Procurement and distribution of dignity kits.
- The operation will abide by Minimum standards for emergencies in each technical sector.

RFL

- Tonga Red Cross staff and volunteers will receive two-minute, on-the-spot satellite phone calls or collect Safe and Well messages. These measures enable Tongans affected by the tsunami devastation to connect with their relatives living abroad and assure them of their well-being. Also, our global movement network of Family Links, where the Tongan diaspora lives, will offer the Anxious for News service, where relatives can initiate contact with their family members in Tonga to seek assurance that they are safe.
- The ICRC will provide technical, financial and communication support required for the TRCS staff and volunteers to carry out this important work to connect families and loved ones.

Operations Support

- Conduct ongoing monitoring and finance visits.
- Provide logistics management support for distribution and staff and volunteer movement
- Provide key communications and information management support, including preparation of information updaters, situation reports and social media updates
- Represent TRCS on key clusters, including Shelter, Logistics, WASH, Health
- Provide shelter cluster coordination support (if requested by the national shelter cluster lead)
- Conduct a 'lessons learned workshop' for participating staff and volunteers at the end of the DREF operation.

The operation will be underpinned by:

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

- Integration of CEA will be done in various sectors, ensuring communities are involved in needs assessments, programme planning, implementation and evaluation.
- Regular communication activities will be conducted, ensuring that people are being kept informed of operational plans/ progress and have information to make suggestions about the operation via the TRCS community feedback mechanism established.
- The operation will abide by CEA minimum actions.
- The CEA activities will be carried out via consultations with communities and a hotline will be established as a feedback mechanism.
- The TRCS will determine what others are doing with CEA (Government, Civil Protection/Defence, Military, UN, INGOs, local NGOs) and build on best practices suitable to the context.

PMER

The TRCS will oversee all monitoring and reporting for this operation. This will be led by the TRCS disaster management coordinator, with the support of the IFRC Pacific CCD. Reporting on the emergency plan of action will be carried out according to IFRC minimum requirements.

Monitoring visits to the affected communities and interviews with beneficiaries, volunteers and others participating in the response will be conducted to assess progress at regular intervals and guide any required adjustments to the proposed response. At the end of the operation, a lessons-learned workshop will be carried out by TRCS staff, with volunteers and relevant stakeholders. The IFRC CCD Suva PMER officer will be supporting TRCS, and if needed, PMER surge support will be explored.

Where possible throughout the operation, there will be an emphasis on quality programming and institutional capacity development of TRCS staff, specifically in information management, logistics and reporting, based on lessons from TC Gita.

All activities will be monitored closely, and a review of any operational risks will be dealt with carefully by the IFRC Pacific CCD. Post-distribution monitoring will verify the utility of items and supports provided.

Human Resources

IFRC will request surge support for finance management and PMER from its partners (ARC and NZRC) if needed to ensure an accountable operation.

Logistics

Logistics activities will be delivered to effectively manage the supply chain, including procurement, customs clearance, storage and transport to distribution sites following the operation's requirements and aligned to IFRC's logistics standards, processes and procedures.

TRCS have prepositioned relief supplies in 14 sites across the country. For this operation, the prepositioned relief items in all branches will be distributed to affected populations and funding from DREF will serve to replenish these. Additional relief items will also be procured as needed, and this plan may be revised if the scope of the response is extended. An EA is also being considered, which could accommodate any in-kind contributions.

IFRC will provide technical support, while logistics Surge will be sought from partners (ARC and NZRC), and peer to peer support opportunities will be explored.

Information Technologies (IT)

Once national telecommunications have been re-established, all volunteers will have accessible mobile telecommunications in the field. This will ensure they are contactable and can contact relevant emergency numbers and IFRC and TRCS staff for support if needed. TRCS has three satellite phones and some VHF radios, located at TRCS headquarters on Tongatapu. IT capacity has recently been strengthened by purchasing laptops for headquarters and branch staff from ARC and satellite phones from NZRC.

Communications

Communications and media coverage are essential for maintaining and building public, government, and donor support, both locally and internationally, particularly with Tongan diaspora communities worldwide.

IFRC will support TRCS to communicate with external audiences on the impact of the volcano and tsunami and the Red Cross humanitarian response to generate visibility and support for the ongoing humanitarian needs. Close collaboration between the IFRC CCD office and Tonga Red Cross Society ensures a coherent and coordinated communications approach.

Commonly agreed key messages and talking points will be produced, together with written and audio-visual content that could be used for infographics and relevant social media/ digital products. Messages and content will highlight the situation and the Red Cross actions on the ground. Communications content will be actively promoted via various channels and IFRC online communications and shared widely with interested National Societies.

The IFRC will provide communications support in this initial stage of the response. Additional surge will be sought for the longer term if needed.

Security

There are no significant security issues or threats for TRCS and IFRC staff. However, the operation will minimize community security concerns by adopting a 'do no harm' approach, in line with IFRC Code of Conduct, Child Protection Policy and relevant local COVID-19 protocols. The National Society's security framework will be applicable for the duration of the operation to their staff and volunteers. For personnel under IFRC security's responsibility, including surge support deployed, the existing IFRC security plans will be applicable. All IFRC must, and Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers are encouraged to complete the IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses. Staff and volunteers will be briefed on the security situation and reactions in an emergency before deployment to the operational area. Any field missions undertaken by IFRC personnel will follow the current IFRC travel approval process, current health advisories and business continuity plan (BCP) guidance regarding COVID-19.

Operational learnings

The TRCS disaster management coordinator (DMC) will lead this operation, with technical support from the IFRC Pacific CCD and the regional office. Key TRCS staff will support the operation, including logistics, health, communications/information management, and finance. The TRCS has three branch offices on the islands of Ha'apai, Eua and Vaa'u. Each branch has one officer in charge (OIC) and a small team of volunteers. Specific attention and support will be provided in finance, volunteer, information, and PMER.

TRCS has prepositioned relief supplies in 14 sites across the country – five sites in Tongatapu; five sites in Ha'apai; one in 'Eua Island; one in Vava'u Island, and two sites in the far northern Nuias islands. The TRCS volunteers have been trained in basic logistics processes to facilitate and track the transport of prepositioned in-kind items to distribution sites. TRCS prepositioned stocks could serve the needs of up to 1,200 households across the country, but shipping and transport constraints mean that not all stocks are easily transported between locations. The main inter-island transport routes are from Tongatapu island (where the capital is situated) to other parts of the country via sea and air with regular schedules to most locations twice a week (except only once a month to the far northern Nuias).

The National Society has experience managing an emergency response from the 2018 TC Gita and 2014 Tropical Cyclone Ian (TC Ian) responses. The TRCS provides regular first aid training and disaster awareness throughout the country and has an organizational disaster plan and an annual plan of action. In 2021, TRCS underwent a Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) review and is currently incorporating key capacity strengthening activities into its annual plan. The National Society operates a school and services for the disabled and hearing impaired. It has approximately 300 members, primarily youth, and about 17 staff, including its services to the disabled. During the TC Gita response, the school premises was used as a makeshift Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) until the school resumed operations. This may be applied again in this emergency.

C. Detailed Operational Plan



Shelter

People targeted: 7,549

Male: 3,769

Female: 3,780

Requirements (CHF): 184,623

Needs analysis: Needs analysis will be completed in the coming days through joint assessments with the government. TRCS will prioritize the most vulnerable. A revised response plan will be developed if the needs are greater than what has been initially estimated here. Unconfirmed reports indicate comprehensive damage of buildings and homes along the coast, especially the east coast of Tongatapu and 'Eua.

Risk analysis: see above risk analysis, but risks include the inability for volunteers to get to communities, poor communication to branches to determine affectation, and potentially future eruptions which would delay assessments and distributions and potentially cause further damage.

Population to be assisted: those most affected will be targeted with this first support round. The most vulnerable include those with disabilities, the elderly, single-headed households, young mothers. Assessments will identify any internally displaced people who have gotten stranded on the main island with no support or ability to return home. This will be considered in future revisions of the response plan.

Programme standards/benchmarks: *relevant standards in Sphere*

P&B Output Code	Shelter Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions	# household reached with shelter assistance and % that report their basic needs covered. (Target 85%)															
	Shelter Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families.	# of people/HH provided with emergency shelter, materials and/or tools and essential household items to meet their household needs for minimum living conditions. (7,549 people)															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP005	Assessment of shelter needs, capacities and gaps	x	x														
AP005	Coordination with government and other stakeholders	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X								
AP005	Distribution of the shelter and household items to the affected population (can be two separate activities)			x	x	x	x										
AP005	Monitoring of the use of distributed shelter and household items					x	x										

AP005	Evaluation of the shelter support provided								X	X									
AP005	Procurement of essential household items for replenishment																		
P&B Output Code	Shelter Output 1.2: Technical support, guidance and awareness raising in safe shelter design and settlement planning and improved building techniques are provided to affected households	<i># households provided with technical support and guidance, appropriate to the type of support they receive (Target 1,258)</i>																	
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
AP006	Provide technical support on build back safer guidance, awareness-raising activities developed and rolled-out		x	x	x	x													
AP006	Identify and mobilize volunteers for shelter intervention	x																	
AP006	Monitor adoption of technical guidance			x	x	x	x	x	x										
AP006	Evaluate adoption of technical guidance						x	x	x										



Health

People targeted: 7,549

Male: 3,769

Female: 3,780

Requirements (CHF): 8,051

Needs analysis: The main concerns are vector-borne diseases, so the response will focus on preventing these through the distribution of mosquito nets. The additional need is a. The main effects are eye, skin and breathing problems. There is a need to ensure communities are aware of the risks and are empowered with knowledge and tools to mitigate these health risks. Education and messaging on the health effects distribution of PPE (in particular masks and goggles) will be needed to support this. The coastal areas affected by the tidal wave inundations will have an increased risk of water and vectorborne disease outbreaks due to increased breeding sites and affected water supplies. Volcanic ash contamination or structural damage to the water supply will affect access to safe water. Psychosocial considerations of the affected population will be important to consider. Damage, loss of homes and food sources, injury, and uncertainty of future eruptions or events can be distressing. Support through psychological first aid will aim to address these needs through building the staff and volunteer capacity to offer PFA while doing assessments and distributions

Risk analysis: See risk analysis above. Access to the affected population due to damage and the risk of further eruptions, ash fall and tsunamis/tidal waves remains. The risk of International personnel arriving in the country to support the disaster response brings with it the inherent risk of COVID entering. Strick protocols will be needed to ensure the this risk is mitigated.

Population to be assisted: Targeting for health will be similar to shelter - those most affected will be targeted with this first round of support. The most vulnerable include those with disabilities, the elderly, single-headed households, young mothers. Assessments will identify any internally displaced people who have gotten stranded on the main island with no support or ability to return home. This will be considered in future revisions of the response plan.

Programme standards/benchmarks: relevant Sphere standards will be applied

P&B Output Code	Health Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced	# of people reached by NS with services to reduce relevant health risk factors (target: 7,549 people)															
	Health Output 1.1: The health situation and immediate risks are assessed using agreed guidelines	# of masks provided to affected people (Target: 7,000)															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP022	In coordination with health authorities, determine appropriate awareness materials to support health messaging	x	x	x													
AP084	Distribution of masks to staff, volunteers and targeted households		x	x	x												
P&B Output Code	Health Outcome 2: The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment	% of people who required first aid services that received it (100)															
	Health Output 2.1: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities.	# of first aid kits provided to volunteers when out in the communities (30)															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP022	Procurement of 30 First Aid kits to staff and volunteers who are undertaking initial assessments so support assistance with basic injuries		x	x	x												
P&B Output Code	Health Outcome 4: Transmission of diseases of epidemic potential is reduced	# of people reached by NS with services to reduce relevant health risk factors (target: 7,549 people)															
	Health Output 4.1: Community-based disease control and health promotion is provided to the target population	# of IEC materials used for awareness raising (1,258)															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP021	Health messaging on risk and prevention of food and water borne diseases, including health and hygiene promotion.		x	x	x	x	x										
AP021	Reproduce and distribute IEC materials on community-based disease prevention, epidemic preparedness, health and hygiene promotion, complemented by the use of social media		x	x	x	x	x										
P&B Output	Health Output 4.2: Vector-borne diseases are prevented	# of people reached with vector control activities (Target: 7,549)															

Code	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP021	Distribution of mosquito nets and associated messaging on prevention of vector borne disease		x	x	x	x											
AP021	Disease mitigation and awareness messaging undertaken (modality to be determined) and will include awareness on harm reduction from volcanic ash		x	x	x	x											
AP021	Identify additional vector control activities required in collaboration with partners	x	x	x	x												
P&B Output Code	Health Output 4.6: Improved knowledge about public health issues among target population.	<i># of people reached with harm reduction messaging on ashfall (Target 7,549)</i>															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP021	Staff and volunteers provide advice & IEC materials to affected households on health effects of ashfall and simultaneously refresh on COVID-19 – disease, public health and prevention measures.		x	x	x												
P&B Output Code	Health Outcome 6: The psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened	<i># of people reached through PFA (70)</i>															
	Health Output 6.1: Psychological First aid is provided to the target population as well as to RCRC volunteers and staff	<i># of people reached through PFA (70)</i>															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP023	Identification of and training for volunteers in psychosocial support		x	x	x	x	x										
AP023	Assessment of PFA needs and resources available in the community		x	x	x	x	x										
AP023	Provide PFA to people affected by the crisis/disaster		x	x	x	x	x										
AP023	Provide PFA to staff and volunteers		x	x	x	x	x										



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People targeted: 7,549

Male: 3,769

Female: 3,780

Requirements (CHF): 80,845

Needs analysis: Access to clean drinking water has been identified as the biggest need. TRCS will coordinate with the authorities to best determine how they can support efforts in this area. The New Zealand government has pledged to support water access. Another main concern is hygiene, given the standing and contamination of water. In coastal areas affected by the tidal wave inundations, damage to latrines may also have occurred, so the need for support to repair or create temporary facilities may exist.

Risk analysis: The ingestion of or washing the skin with volcanic ash contaminated water will negatively affect the population. The affected people will require assistance to access clean water, which TRCS will complement with WASH messaging, and water storage containers. COVID-19 remains a threat, so access to water for sanitation and hygiene is a priority.

Population to be assisted: The same targeting for other sectors will be applied – those most affected will be targeted with this first round of support. The most vulnerable include those with disabilities, the elderly, single-headed households, young mothers. Assessments will identify any internally displaced people who have gotten stranded on the main island with no support or ability to return home and will be considered in future revisions of the response plan.

Programme standards/benchmarks: relevant Sphere standards will apply.

P&B Output Code	WASH Outcome1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities	# of households provided with safe water services that meet agreed standards according to specific operational and programmatic context (Target: 1,258)															
	WASH Output 1.1: Continuous assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation is carried out in targeted communities	# of people provided with safe water (according to WHO standards) (Target: 7,549)															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP026	Assess the need and availability of household water filtration systems		x	x													
AP026	In coordination with government and other partners, assess the water, sanitation and hygiene situation in targeted communities	x	x	x	x	x											
P&B Output Code	WASH Output 1.3: Adequate sanitation which meets Sphere standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population	# of people provided with excreta disposal facilities (Target: 7,549)															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

AP028	Assess damage to latrines in targeted communities and whether repair or temporary latrine construction is required		x	x	x	x											
AP028	Support affected households with tools or equipment to sufficiently repair their latrines for continued use			x	x	x	x										
P&B Output Code	WASH Output 1.4: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population	<i># of people reached with awareness materials (Target: 7,548)</i>															
	Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP030	Design/Print IEC materials and engage community on design and acceptability of water and sanitation facilities.	x	x														
AP030	Distribute IEC materials and conduct hygiene awareness			x	x	x											
AP030	Assess progress and evaluate results.						x	x	x								
P&B Output Code	WASH Output 1.5: Hygiene-related goods (NFIs) which meet Sphere standards and training on how to use those goods is provided to the target population	<i># of households provided with a set of essential hygiene items (Target:1,258)</i>															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP026	Distribute jerry cans buuckets to affected households		x	x	x	x											
AP030	Determine the specific hygiene needs, e.g. menstrual hygiene, disability kits, dignity kits, baby kits, etc.	x	x														
AP030	Distribute hygiene kits of one per family for one month and menstrual hygiene management (MHM) kits.		x	x	x	x											
AP030	Determine whether additional distributions are required and whether changes should be made						x	x	x								
AP030	Monitor the use of hygiene kits, water containers, water treatment products, and user satisfaction through household surveys.								x	x	x	x					



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People targeted: 7,549

Male: 3,769

Female: 3,780

Requirements: None. Costs for PGI to beneficiaries integrated into the above sectors

Needs analysis: Gender, diversity and vulnerability considerations will be integrated into the needs assessment. Special consideration may need to be given to persons with disabilities, the elderly, women and children. Considerations will ensure that they are safe in terms of their shelter, water access, sanitation, health and basic needs and not further exposed to any harm. Access to referral pathways information for health or protection will be provided where needed. Protection messaging and psychological first aid support will also be disseminated when doing distributions and support will be given to those requiring special assistance with their tarp installation where needed.

Risk analysis: it is anticipated there will continue to be power disruptions; lanterns will be provided for safety. Referral pathways will be utilized given the limited capacity of TRCS to take on new areas of work in the immediate phase of this response.

Population to be assisted: According to the 2016 population census, 8% of the population lives with a disability or requires special support. This equates to approximately 602 of the targeted 7,549 people expected to be reached with overall support. TRCS will strive to ensure support is provided to that group and referrals to additional supports from other organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities.

Program standards/benchmarks: The TRCS will endeavour to meet the IFRC minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion in emergencies

P&B Output Code	Protection, Gender & Inclusion Outcome 1: Communities become more peaceful, safe and inclusive through meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.	<i>The operation demonstrates evidence of addressing specific PGI needs. For example, through the distribution of specific kits (Target: Yes)</i>															
	Protection, Gender & Inclusion Output 1.1: Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.	<i>The operation meet minimum standards for PGI in emergencies. (Target: Yes)</i>															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP031	Conduct an assessment of specific needs of the affected population based on criteria selected from the minimum standards for PGI in emergencies.	x	x														
AP031	Support sectoral teams to include measures to address vulnerabilities specific to gender and diversity factors (including people with disabilities) in their planning			x	x	x	x										

AP031	Hold basic ½ day training with IFRC and NS staff and volunteers on the Minimum Standards (or integrate a session on Minimum Standards in standard/sectorial trainings).	x	x															
AP031	Support sectoral teams to ensure collection and analysis of sex-age and disability-disaggregated data (see guidance in Minimum Standards)	x	x															

Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF): 173,994

P&B Output Code	S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform	<i># of NS staff and volunteers insured (Target:70)</i>																
	Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected	<i># of staff provided with adequate visibility and PPE (Target 70)</i>																
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
AP040	Ensure that volunteers are insured (covered by NS operational plan 2022)	x																
AP040	Ensure volunteers are properly trained and briefed on their role	x	x	x	x													
P&B Output Code	Output S4.1.3: Financial resources are safeguarded; quality financial and administrative support is provided contributing to efficient operations and ensuring effective use of assets; timely quality financial reporting to stakeholders	<i>Surge finance, logistics and PMER/IM are provided by the Red Cross Movement (Target; Yes)</i>																
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
	AP064	Provide adequate surge support for finance, PMER, IM and logistics.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	

P&B Output Code	Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.	<i># of NS staff and volunteers insured (Target:70)</i>																
	Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.	<i># of lessons learned completed (Target 1)</i>																
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
AP0	Complete lessons learned review															x	x	

D. Funding Requirements

Discussions will be had with Partner National Societies for possible in-kind relief item contributions and surge support for operations management. PMER, finance, logistics and surge. Additional NS costs and response costs will be determined based on the assessments to be completed and a revised plan submitted.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies		<i>all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)</i>
DREF OPERATION		
MDRTO002 - TONGA - VOLCANO AND TSUNAMI		19/1/2022
<u>Budget by Resource</u>		
Budget Group		Budget <input type="text"/>
Shelter - Relief		74,907
Clothing & Textiles		6,021
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene		63,403
Medical & First Aid		1,890
Utensils & Tools		55,726
Other Supplies & Services		30,240
Relief items, Construction, Supplies		232,187
Distribution & Monitoring		18,900
Transport & Vehicles Costs		11,340
Logistics Services		5,670
Logistics, Transport & Storage		35,910
National Society Staff		4,200
Volunteers		69,384
Personnel		73,584
Workshops & Training		7,350
Workshops & Training		7,350
Travel		6,300
Information & Public Relations		2,100
Office Costs		1,050
Communications		2,310
Other General Expenses		43,591
General Expenditure		55,351
DIRECT COSTS		404,381
INDIRECT COSTS		26,285
TOTAL BUDGET		430,666

Reference documents

Click here for:

- [IFRC Appeals and updates](#)

For further information, specifically related to this operation, please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.

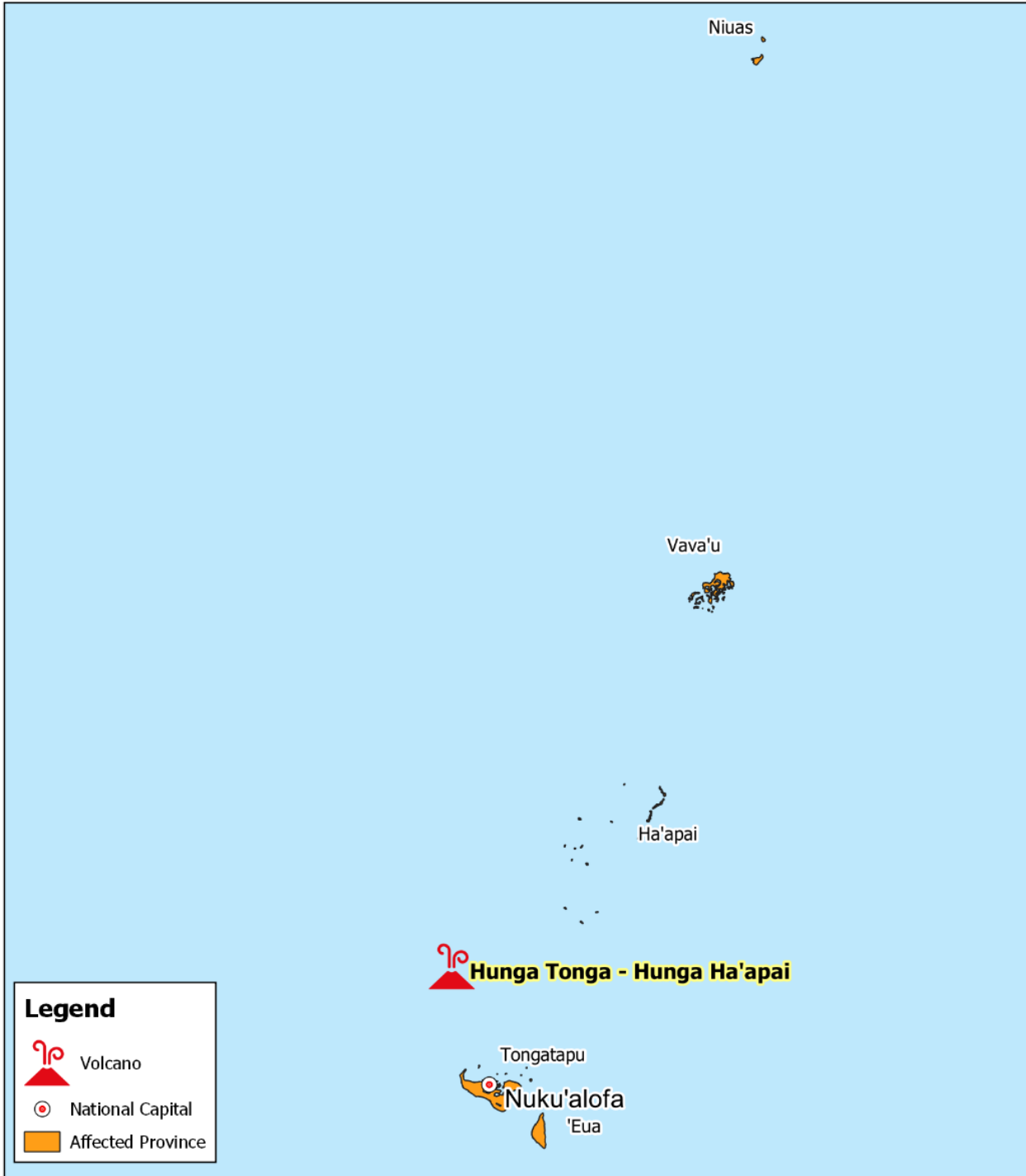


Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace.**



Tonga: Volcano Tsunami Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

16 January 2022



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of territory or its authorities. Map data sources: OCHA, OSM Contributors, ICRC, IFRC.

0 50 100 km

