Situation Overview

It has been eight weeks since the volcanic eruption and tsunami event in Tonga. During this time an outbreak of Omicron variant of COVID-19 has also impacted the country, further complicating logistics response efforts. The country is currently under lockdown until 26 March. The National Clusters are leading the response and the Government of Tonga (GoT) reports that relief is being distributed to all affected households including those in isolation. Following the release of its report on initial damage assessments, the GoT also released a recovery plan based on the assessment results.

The foreign governments are drawing down logistics support to the Volcano response operations this month.

The international submarine cable severed by the eruption is now fully restored and faster communication and internet services have been re-established in the main island. Assessment and repair of the domestic submarine cable continues and is expected to be completed in late 2022. Connectivity is available at reduced capacity to the outer islands.

Coordination

- The National Logistics Cluster led by NEMO is coordinating the logistics efforts. Since the restoration of the submarine cable, PLC has been communicating with the National Cluster Coordinator to determine gaps and needs for the response. PLC is currently looking to assist NEMO with the provision of additional MSU and generators, a locally appointed Warehouse and Supply Chain Manager and support for locally contracted inter-island transport service provision.
- PLC conducted a rapid logistics lessons learnt (LLL) workshop with partners to identify what worked well, what did not work well and what could be done better next time about the response operations for Tonga. The need for a designated information site for contact information and logistic service provider information and cargo updates was a strong priority need identified and the cluster will implement this immediately. Other recommendations will be added to a capacity strengthening plan to be more widely discussed with NDMO’s and partners.
- The Pacific Regional Logistics Cluster is now transitioning coordination meetings to include a brief update on Tonga response but also moving into logistics preparedness activity development.

Air cargo

- A PHAS cargo flight was conducted on 5 March transporting items from NGOs and UN agencies.

https://logcluster.org/ops/pacific
Situation Update, 22 March 2022

TONGA VOLCANIC ERUPTION & TSUNAMI

- The final Australian Defence Force (ADF) airbridge flight from Brisbane to Nuku’alofa flew on 18 March. Both ADF sea vessels HMAS Adelaide and HMAS Canberra have also returned to Australia after completing their missions to support inter-island transport in Tonga.
- The GoT has organised repatriation flights in partnership with the governments of Fiji, New Zealand and Australia. The flights will be conducted from each of the three countries on 30 March, 20 April, 11 May and 1 June.
- Requests for cargo uplift are still to be directed to WFP Aviation officer, Matt Donoghue for consideration if no suitable commercial options are available.

Sea cargo

Commercial shipping operations are now through Swires, ONE, Matsons, and Kyowa. Schedules are viewable on the following links:
- [https://info.swireshipping.com/shipping-schedules/oceania/](https://info.swireshipping.com/shipping-schedules/oceania/)
- [https://www.matson.com/matnav/services/south_pacific_Schedules.html](https://www.matson.com/matnav/services/south_pacific_Schedules.html)

Contacts

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