Tonga | Volcanic eruption and tsunami

Situation overview

Source: UN OCHA as of 18 Jan, 19 Jan

- 3 Confirmed fatalities as of 19 Jan
- ~90 Sheltered people (Eua Island)
- 84,000 Affected people
- >150 Destroyed/damaged houses

A request for assistance has been opened on 18 January in the framework of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) based on the public statement from the Office of the Speaker of Tonga Parliament. The same day France offered a water purification module, two smaller water purification units, jerry cans, hygiene kits, shelter toolkits and tarpaulins. The offers are pending approval.

DG ECHO has allocated EUR 200,000 to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to support its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). The ERCC activated Copernicus EMS in rapid mapping mode (EMSR558) to provide satellite imagery for damage assessment of the affected area. Humanitarian partners of UN OCHA, reported that the entire population of Tonga (100,209 persons as per 2021 Census) have been impacted by the ash emitted by the volcano and the tsunami.

Volcano (GDACS Red alert)

Satellite mapping activation
- Source: Copernicus EMSR558, UNOSAT-UNITAR, International Charter activation 744

Damage detection
- Destroyed building
- Damaged/possibly damaged building*
- Built-up area

Analysis extent

*Presence of damage proxies and proximity with destroyed/damaged asset
**Estimated soundwaves propagation of the explosion

Figures below the name of the islands represent the population (Sources: Tonga Statistics Department, 2021, Tonga Household Listing 2021).