

Tonga: Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha'apai Volcano

Global ETC Teleconference #19

Date: 11/01/2023 Time: 08:00 UTC

All information related to the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) operations can be found on the website: www.etcluster.org/emergency/tonga-volcanic-eruptionsunami

For more information or to be added or deleted from the mailing list please contact:

Pacific.ETC@wfp.org

Attendance

Chair	Omar Namaoui	Algeria
Government of Luxembourg	Roland Nurenburg	Luxembourg
ICRC	Dennis Burcer	Philippines
ITU	Paul Hamilton	Geneva
	Aamir Riaz	Pakistan
NORCAP	Godefroy Asiamuah	Tonga
WFP	John Dovale	Fiji
	Mufaro Masuka	UAE
	Oscar Caleman	Thailand
	Clara Aseniero	Rome
	Aramais Alojants	UAE
	Komi Amedjonekou	Rome

Agenda

1. Disaster update
2. Global ETC update
3. AOB

Action point: N/a

Minutes

1. Disaster/general update

- 14 earthquakes have been experienced in the past 30 days across Tonga. The largest earthquake measured 5.5 in magnitude and occurred in 'Ohonua in 'Eua. Government authorities have urged the public to take special caution.
- Internet Service Provider (ISP) data connectivity services in the outer islands of Tonga are still down until the damaged section of the submarine Tonga Domestic Cable Extension (TDCE) is fully repaired. The estimated date for the domestic fibre cable remediation is April 2023.

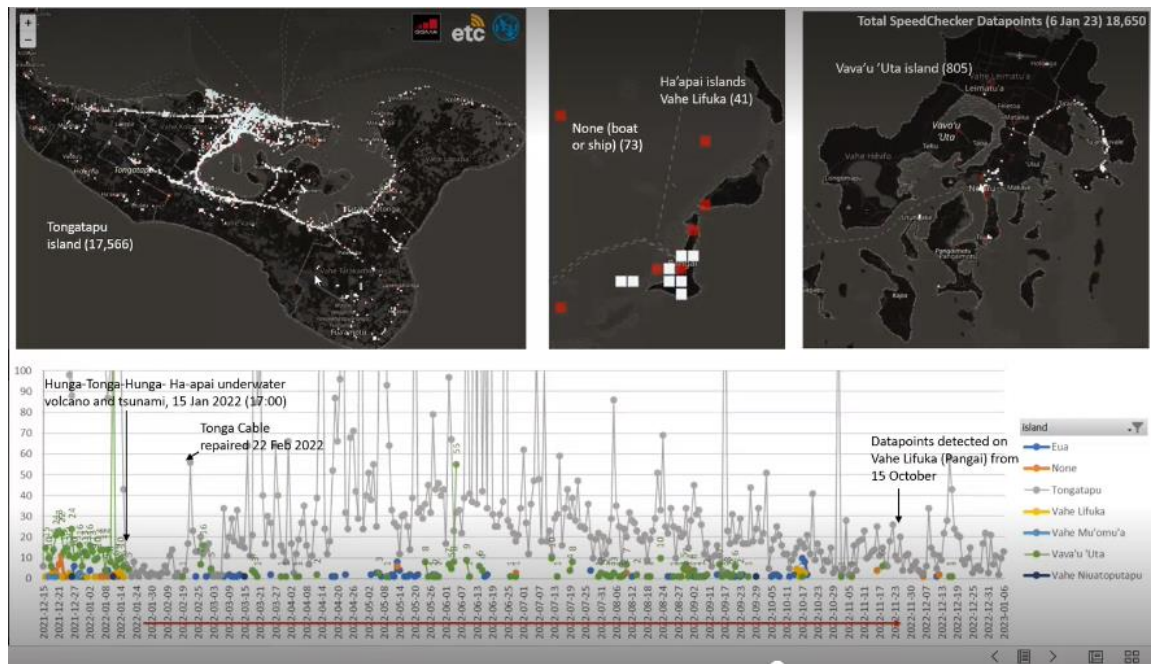
2. Global ETC update

- The ETC is in its final phase of emergency response implementation. 95% of scoped solutions have been delivered.
- The final consignment of the Very High Frequency (VHF) systems—the radio bases and antennae—will be shipped from WFP UAE during the final week of January.
- An expedited work plan has been developed for field deployment and installation of both HF and VHF radio equipment. Equipment will be installed in six locations across the islands. Installation at all locations is scheduled to be completed by the end of March. One HF solutions equipment set-up has already been installed at the Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change, and Communication (MEIDECC) communications centre in Nuku'alofa, Tongatapu. The HF solutions equipment is an integral part of the upcoming HF radio communications training exercise.
- An HF radio communications training is scheduled for 23 January in Tonga. The ETC team, Barrett Communications in Australia and two WFP Pacific Multi Country Office (MCO) counterparts will facilitate the training. Six MEIDECC personnel will be trained. MEIDECC personnel are drawn from Departments of Communication, Meteorology, Coastal Radio Watch Network and the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO). The training session will include preconfiguration and testing of all HF solutions equipment earmarked for installation at the six remote locations. All training sessions will be recorded to generate future video reference tutorials for the course.
- The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) in Fiji has agreed to conduct a series of both analogue and digital select test calls once HF configuration in Tonga is completed.
- The two emergency.lu VSATs in Ha'apai and Vava'u are active. However, both units require a site visit to conduct a repointing exercise as signal fluctuations are being reported by the network operations for emergency. It is suspected that the VSAT base may have slightly shifted due to the seismic events experienced in the past one month. A mission has been scheduled for 16 January to resolve the matter.

3. Partners update

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- **Disaster Connectivity Mapping (DCM):** ITU continues to share insights on the status of connectivity in Tonga by mapping connectivity data points detected across the islands. The DCM database continues to receive live inputs twice, daily.
- Speedchecker data connectivity points detected in December (439) are lower compared to November (512) and October (668). ITU is exploring the cause of the drop in detected connectivity points.



4. AOB

- N/A

The next teleconference meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 February 2023.

Acronyms

DCM	Disaster Connectivity Mapping
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
HF	High Frequency
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
MEIDECC	Tonga Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change, and Communication
NDMO	National Disaster Management Office
NEMO	National Emergency Management Office
TDCE	Tonga Domestic Cable Extension

VHF
VSAT
WFP

Very High Frequency
Very Small Aperture Terminal
World Food Programme

Minutes: Mufaro Masuka, Global ETC Operational Information Management Officer