

## Tonga

### Global ETC Teleconference #13

Date: 15/06/2022 Time: 06:00 UTC

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the website:

[www.etcluster.org/emergency/tonga-volcanic-eruptionsunami](http://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](mailto:Pacific.ETC@wfp.org)

## Attendance

Chair	Prakash Muniandy	UAE
Ericsson Response	Lars Ruediger	Germany
Government of Luxembourg	Roland Nurenberg	Luxembourg
ITU	Paul Hamilton	Geneva
Northwest BPO	Joshua Kimbrow	Philippines
OCHA	Lepani Penijamini Vunituraga	Fiji
WFP	John Dovale	Fiji
	Kehinde Adewara	UAE
	Aramais Alojants	UAE
	Omar Namaoui	Algeria
	Clara Aseniero	Italy
	Salma Farouque	Australia
	Oscar Caleman	Thailand

## Agenda

1. Disaster Update
2. Global ETC update
3. Partner updates

**Action point:** ETC Coordinator [John Dovale] to schedule a bilateral meeting between Airlift Airwaves, the ETC in the Pacific, and the Global ETC to further collaborate on the response in Tonga.

## Minutes

### 1. Disaster Update

- The manufacturing of the cable to replace the damaged domestic undersea fibre optic cable severed during the volcanic eruption has been completed. The 100-110 kilometre long cable is expected to be transported to Tonga in one month.
- Reports were received from the Residence Coordinator's Office (RCO) that COVID-19 restrictions on the remote islands of Tonga are now lifted and local transportation has opened up. Therefore, the duration of the quarantine period in Tonga has also been reviewed downward from fifteen to five days.

### 2. Global ETC update

- The ETC in the Pacific continues its planning for the emergency telecommunications response in Tonga, which includes the deployment of High Frequency (HF) radio network, Very High Frequency (VHF) radio network, satellite communications, and Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) solutions.
- The expected delivery timeline for the HF radio equipment from Barrett in Australia to Tonga has been tentatively confirmed for the end of July.
- The UAS solution has been procured and is currently in transit to Fiji. These items will be held in the Pacific Multi-Country Office (MCO) pending the deployment of the technical mission specialist from NORCAP who is expected to arrive in Fiji by the end of June or the first week of July. The technical mission specialist is expected to spend five days in quarantine before commencing the mission assignment.
- The ETC Coordinator in the Pacific is attending the ETC coordination course in Luxembourg between 18 to 26 June. When travelling back to Fiji from Luxembourg, the coordinator will transport two new electronic NOSACO kits to install in an emergency.lu VSAT systems that are already prepositioned in Tonga. The kits are expected to be deployed to the outer islands of Ha'apai and Vava'u by 27 June, assisted by the technical mission specialist.
- The ETC in the Pacific is facing challenges sourcing antennae required for the VHF solution. However, a manufacturer in New Zealand was identified with the capacity to customise the antennas to the requirements for the Tonga deployment. Two weeks estimated delivery schedule has been given and the budget has been provided.
- The purchase order (PO) for VHF equipment requested for deployment to Tonga is currently being finalised.

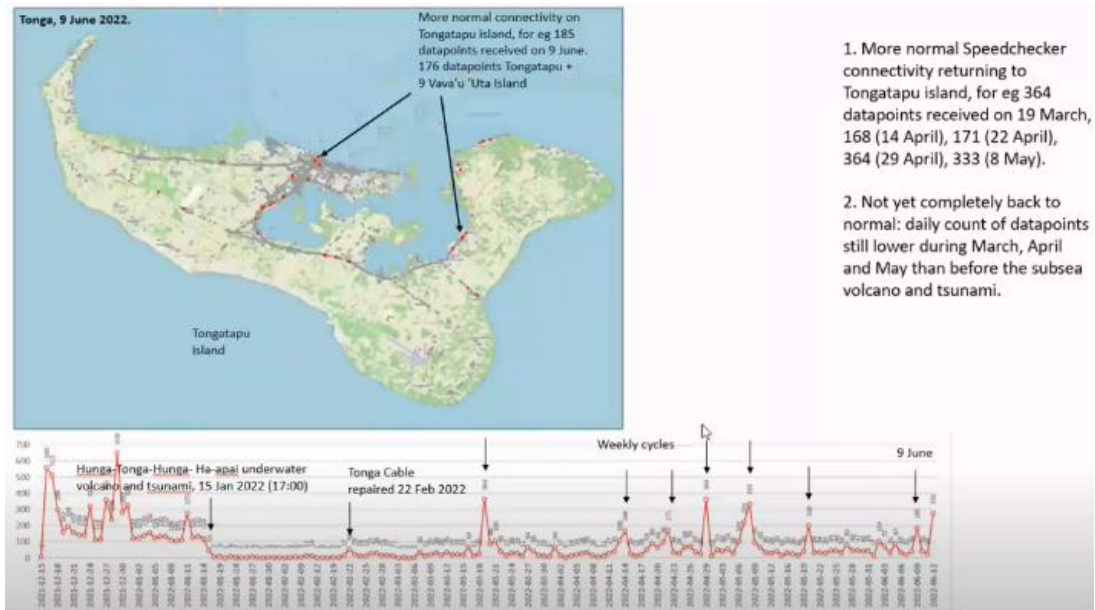
### 3. Partner updates

#### Airlift Airwaves

- **HF solution in Tonga:** Airlift Airwaves is currently on a mission in Tonga to deploy HF radios on the remote northern islands in anticipation of providing alternative means of telecommunications to the Tongan people requesting assistance. A bilateral meeting with the ETC in the Pacific will be set up to collaborate on the response in Tonga.

#### International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- Disaster Connectivity Mapping (DCM):** ITU continues to share insights on the status of connectivity on the main island of Tongatapu by mapping data points detected. Following the repair of the undersea international fibre-optic communications cable on 22 February, Tongatapu has experienced a gradual return of connectivity. However, the availability of national data connectivity services will not return to the levels seen before the volcanic eruption until the second section of undersea domestic fibre cable is repaired. There DCM database continues to receive live inputs twice daily.



#### 4. AOB

- N/A

The next teleconference meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 July 2022.

## 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
SBP	Standby Partner
UAS	Unmanned Aircraft System
VHF	Very High Frequency
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal
WFP	World Food Programme

Minutes: Kehinde Adewara, Global ETC Information Management & Communications Officer