

Tonga: Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha'apai Volcano

Global ETC Teleconference #18

Date: 23/11/2022 Time: 06:00 UTC

All information related to 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:

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Attendance

Chair	Omar Namaoui	Algeria
Government of Luxembourg ITU	Gilles Hoffmann Paul Hamilton Aamir Riaz	Luxembourg Geneva Pakistan
Ericsson Response NORCAP WFP	Lars Ruediger Godefroy Asiamuah John Dovale Mufaro Masuka Oscar Caleman Clara Aseniero Aramais Alojants	Germany Tonga Fiji UAE Thailand Rome UAE

Agenda

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

Action point: N/a

Minutes

1. Disaster/general update

- A 7.9 magnitude earthquake originating near the town of Neiafu, on the island of Vava'u, hit Tonga on 11 November. Following the earthquake, a tsunami alert was declared by the government authorities. The alert has now been downgraded, with authorities urging 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.

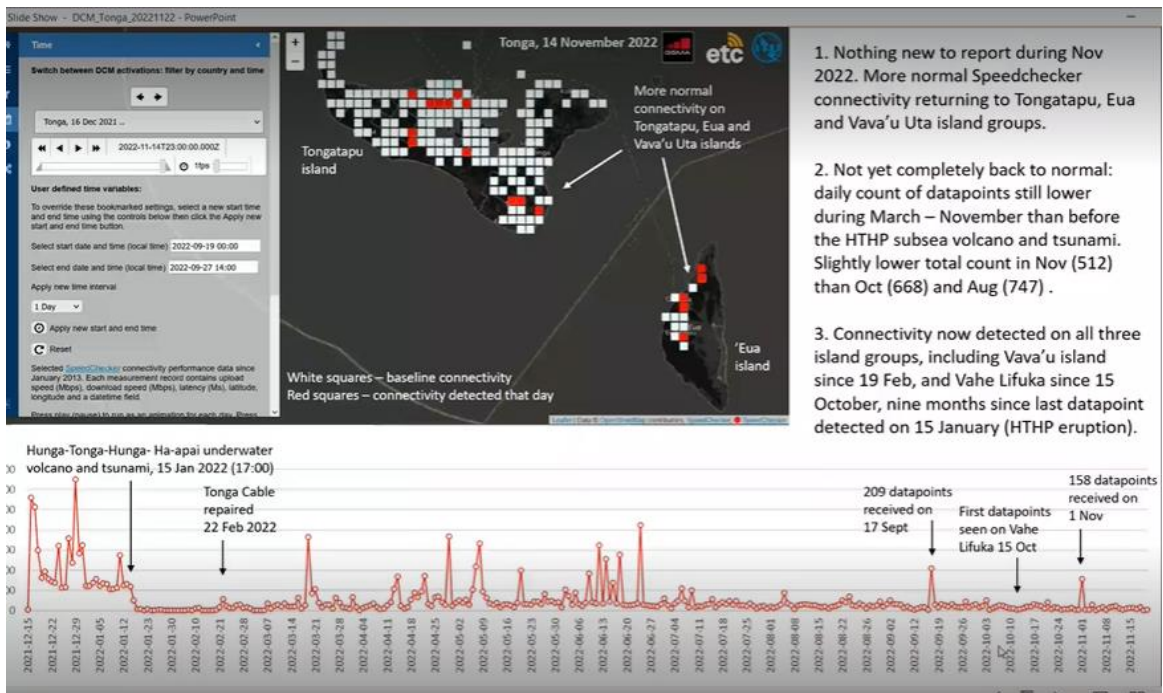
2. Global ETC update

- The two emergency.lu VSATs are fully functional, except for a minor downtime experienced on 18 November, which has been rectified. The VSATs supply internet **connectivity services** in the two Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change, and Communication (MEIDECC) Emergency Operations Centres (EOC). Technical maintenance of the units is assigned to two trained MEIDECC staff. The staff now have a direct technical backstop support link to both the ETC Pacific team and the support platform to partners in Luxembourg.
- Inspection of the **High Frequency (HF) equipment** supplied by Barrett Communications in Australia was completed by the ETC/MEIDECC team. Some of the equipment was deployed to the five locations on 21 November. Plans to deployed the final consignment of the equipment is being finalized.
- **Laptops and HF accessories** to be deployed to the five locations have also been received. Once all equipment has been deployed, an installation schedule will be created by the ETC/MEIDECC team.
- The ETC received a **donor visit** from USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) on 21 November. A meeting to discuss ETC activities, achievements and challenges was held. The USAID/BHA donor team proceeded to Ha'apai.
- The ETC Tonga **user satisfaction survey** took place from 1 to 23 November. ETC services and activities in Tonga scored 93% in the user satisfaction survey.
- The final consignment of the **Very High Frequency (VHF) systems**, namely the radio bases and antennae, has been shipped from WFP UAE. The ETC/MEIDECC team has requested the airway bill from the WFP UAE office, so as to track the shipment.

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. The DCM database continues to receive live inputs twice daily.



1. Nothing new to report during Nov 2022. More normal Speedchecker connectivity returning to Tongatapu, Eua and Vava'u Uta island groups.
2. Not yet completely back to normal: daily count of datapoints still lower during March – November than before the HTHP subsea volcano and tsunami. Slightly lower total count in Nov (512) than Oct (668) and Aug (747) .
3. Connectivity now detected on all three island groups, including Vava'u island since 19 Feb, and Vahe Lifuka since 15 October, nine months since last datapoint detected on 15 January (HTHP eruption).

- Near normal Speedchecker data connectivity points have returned to Tongatapu, 'Eua and Vavau's Uta island groups, as well as Vahe Lifuka island in Ha'apai, which was reconnected on 15 October. This is exactly nine months since last datapoint detected on 15 January, before the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai (HTHH) eruption.
- However, November statistics shows a lower connectivity datapoint (512) count compared to October (668) and August (747).
- Following the completion of the disaster report on damage to data connectivity communications following the HTHH eruption, MEIDECC and ITU are now preparing the National Emergency Telecommunication Plans (NETP). The first stage is to create a list of all stakeholders. This has been initiated.

4. AOB

- N/A

The next teleconference meeting will be held on Wednesday 11 January 2023.

Acronyms

DCM	Disaster Connectivity Mapping
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
EOC	Emergency Operations Centres
HF	High Frequency
ICT	Information Communication Technology
ITU	International Telecommunication Union

MEIDECC	Tonga Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change, and Communication
NEMO	National Emergency Management Office
SBP	Standby Partner
TDCE	Tonga Domestic Cable Extension
HTHH	Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha'apai
VHF	Very High Frequency
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal
WFP	World Food Programme

Minutes: Mufaro Masuka, Global ETC Operational Information Management Officer