OVERVIEW

Following Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha’apai (HTHH) Volcanic eruption on 15 January 2022, international humanitarian support was faced with an additional challenge of keeping Tonga Covid free. Tongan authorities put in place COVID-19 protocols by which all vessels are required to abide. Delivery of relief items are made entirely contactless and cargo has to complete a 72 hours quarantine. Despite strict protocols, Tonga has recorded five COVID-19 community cases. Tonga entered a snap 48 hours lockdown commencing at midnight on 2 February.

FRANCE

This emergency operation is supported by the governments of French Polynesia and New Caledonia and is implemented with the support of the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM). Patrol boat Arago and La Glorieuse on an assistance mission to the Tonga Islands, have completed the unloading at Nuku’alofa of 40 tons of emergency cargo.

UNITED KINGDOM

HMS Spey has supplied aid to Tonga. HMS Spey has remained in Tongan waters and has been supporting a mission to restore the islands’ communications network, working closely with the New Zealand and Australian navies.

AUSTRALIA

HMAS Adelaide - As of 1 February, is still in country and continues to support operations.

Royal Australian Air Force C-17A aircraft - 5 flights arrived in Tonga on 20 and 21 January. The Australian Government’s supplies include shelter materials, hygiene supplies, PPE for people clearing ash and water containers, as well as communication equipment. Equipment also included a skid-steer loader with a sweeper to support runway operations.

JAPAN

3x C-130 Three flights have landed and provided relief items through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Third flight arrived on 29 January providing additional two tons of water and 3.5 tons of canned tuna.

CHINA

Two Naval Ships are currently incoming to supply second batch of aid supplies to Tonga as requested by the Tongan Government. Previous two vessels have supplied aid and departed.

FIJI

Lomaiviti Princess 1 - departed Fiji on 29 January and delivered 11 containers, carrying more than 200 tons of humanitarian supplies.

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