



PRESS RELEASE

ADB ANNOUNCES USD0.5 MILLION GRANT TO HELP TONGA IN RELIEF EFFORTS

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced a USD500,000 (1.13 million pa'anga) grant to the Government of Tonga to help restore life-sustaining services following the extensive damage from an undersea volcanic eruption and subsequent tsunami in Tonga and around the Pacific.

Tonga's Minister of Finance and ADB Governor Tatafu Moeaki signed the grant agreement at a virtual signing ceremony on 10 February 2022. Director General for ADB's Pacific Department (PARD) Leah Gutierrez and ADB project team members witnessed the event. The grant comes from ADB's Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund and is in addition to the [USD10 million](#) quick-disbursing contingent grant financing that ADB provided to Tonga on 21 January 2022 for tsunami recovery.

"An estimated 84 percent of Tonga's population was affected by this twin disaster," said ADB Director General for the Pacific Leah Gutierrez. "This grant will help the government with its immediate relief efforts which are focused on the provision of food, nonfood items, including water containers, hygiene kits, and household items, and shelter; and clean-up of the ashfall." The Minister of Finance, Hon Tatafu Moeaki said, "The Government of Tonga is very grateful to receive this assistance from ADB which will help Government to provide much needed aid to those families which were hard hit by the tsunami, especially those from the outer islands of Ha'apai and the western side of Tongatapu, including women and children."

The Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha'apai undersea volcano, located about 65 kilometers north of Tonga's capital Nuku'alofa, erupted on 15 January, 2022 which produced an ash cloud that rose to 30 kilometers and launched an estimated one cubic kilometer of material into the atmosphere. Ashfall has impacted all Tonga's island groups, resulting in buried crops, damaged public infrastructure and houses, and contaminated water supplies. The death toll remains at four. The Government of Tonga declared a state of emergency on 19 January, 2022

The islands of 'Atata, Mango, Fonoifua, and Nomuka experienced extensive damage with all, but the largest buildings destroyed. Residents from these islands were moved to evacuation centers on other islands. There are reports of damage to government buildings, including health centers in 'Eua and Ha'apai. Access to safe drinking water is one of the highest concerns. Transport has been impacted, particularly erosion of coastal roads and some reported damage to outer island ports.

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members—49 from the region.

Ministry of Finance

Fakahā 'e he Pangikē Fakalalakaka 'a 'Esia 'ene tokoni \$0.5 miliona (TOP1.13 miliona) ki he ngaahi fiema'u fakavavevave 'i Tonga

Na'e fakaha 'e he Pangike Fakalalakaka 'a 'Esia (ADB) 'a 'ene tokoni pa'anga \$500,000 (TOP1.13 miliona) ki he Pule'anga Tonga ke tokoni ke toe lava 'o hoko atu 'a e ngaahi ngaue mahu'inga ki he kakai 'o e fonua, hili 'a e ngaahi maumau lahi na'e hoko mei he puna 'a e afi 'i he motu ko Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai, pea pehe ki he peau kula na'e hake 'i ngaahi 'otu motu 'o Tonga pea mo e ngaahi fonua kehe 'i he Pasifiki.

Na'e fakamo'oni ki he aleapau tokoni ko 'eni 'a e 'Eiki Minisita Pa'anga mo e Kovana 'a Tonga ki he Pangike Fakalalakaka 'a 'Esia, Tatafu Moeaki, 'i he 'aho 10 Fepueli 2022. Na'e kau mai foki ki ai 'a e Talekita Seniale 'a e Pangike ki he Pasifiki, Leah Guitierrez, pea pehe ki he kau ngaue felave'i 'a e Pangike. Ko e tokoni ko eni, 'oku fakafou mai ia mei he Pa'anga 'a e ADB 'oku 'iloa ko e Pa'anga 'a 'Esia mo e Pasifiki ki he Ngaahi Tokoni Fakavavevave ki he Ngaahi Fakatamaki. 'Oku tanaki mai 'a e tokoni ko eni ki he Pa'anga 'Amelika fe'unga mo e \$10 miliona (US\$10 miliona) á ia na'e 'osi foaki 'e he ADB he 'aho 21 Sanuali, 2022 ke tokoni ki he langalanga hake 'a e fonua, hili 'a e peau kula.

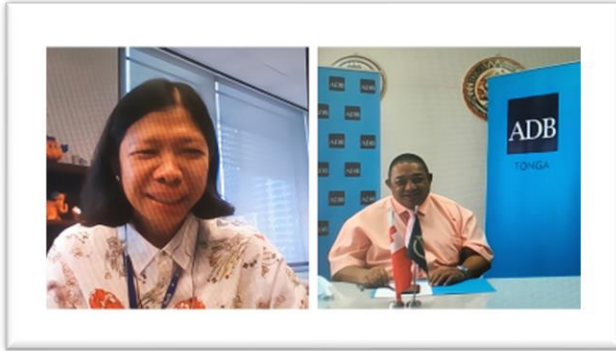
"Na'e fakafuofua ki he peseti é 84 'o e kakai 'o Tonga na'e uesia 'i he fakatamaki ni," ko e fakaha ia 'e he Talekita Seniale 'a e ADB ma'ae Pasifiki, Leah Gutierrez. "Ko e pa'anga ko eni 'e tokoni ia ki he Pule'anga ke fakahoko 'a e ngaahi tokoni fakavavevave, 'o fakatefito ki he me'akai, ngaahi koloa makehe 'o 'ikai koe me'akai, kau ai 'a e tokoni ki he vai, tokoni ki he tu'unga ma'a mo mo'ui lelei, ngaahi fiema'u faka'api, pea pehe ki he ngaahi nofo'anga; pea mo e fakama'a 'o e efu, mei he puna 'a e afi." Na'e pehe foki 'e he Ministaa Pa'anga, Tatafu Moeaki, "'Oku hounga mo'oni ki he Pule'anga Tonga 'a e tokoni ko eni 'a e Pangike ADB, ke tokonia hono fakahoko 'a e fatongia 'o e Pule'anga, hono fakaa'u atu 'a e ngaahi fiema'u vivili 'a si'i kakai na'e uesia 'enau mo'ui 'e he peau kula 'o tautautefio kiate kinautolu mei he 'otu motu Ha'apai pea moe vahenga hihifo 'o Tongatapu 'o kau ai 'a e kakai fefine mo e fanau."

Ko e mo'unga afi 'i Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai, 'oku fakafuofua ia ki he kilomita 'e 65 fakatokelau 'o e kolomu'a, Nuku'alofa, 'a ia na'e puna ai 'a e afi 'i he 'aho 15 Sanuali, 2022 'o ne tukuange mai ai 'a e efu fakafuofua ki he kilomita 'e 30 pea mo e fakafuofua ki he kiupiki kilomita 'e taha ki he 'ataa. Ko e efu ko eni na'e to mai ia ki he 'otu Tonga kotoa, 'o tanumia ai e ngoue, maumau'i e ngaahi koloa fakapule'anga mo e ngaahi nofo'anga, pea mo e uesia ki he ma'u'anga vai. 'Oku kei tu'u ma'u pe 'a e pekia 'i he toko fa, pea kuo 'osi tukumai 'e he Pule'anga 'a 'ene tu'utu'uni 'a ia 'oku fakaha ai 'a e Tu'unga Fakafokifa ke ngaue'aki ki he kotoa 'o e ngaahi 'elia 'o e fonua mo e potu tahi 'o Tonga.

Ne hoko 'a e ngaahi maumau lahi ki he ngaahi 'otu motu 'o 'Atata, Mango, Fonoifua pea mo Nomuka, tukukehe 'a e ngaahi fale lalahi. Ko e kakai 'o e ngaahi 'otu motu ko eni, kuo 'osi fetukutuku mai ki nautolu ki Tongatapu mo e ngaahi motu kehe. 'Oku 'i ai mo e ngaahi maumau ki he ngaahi fale fakapule'anga, kau ai 'a e ngaahi senita ki he mo'ui 'i 'Eua mo Ha'apai. 'Oku 'i ai 'a e hoha'a ke fakapapau'i 'oku hao pe mo malu 'a e ma'u'angavai inu. 'Oku uesia 'a e fefononga'aki, tautefito ki he ngaahi hala he ngaahi matafanga, pea pehe ki he ngaahi maumau 'i he ngaahi uafu 'i he 'otu motu.

'Oku tukupa ai pe 'a e Pangike Fakalalakaka 'a 'Esia ke a'usia 'a e taumu'a ki ha 'Esia mo ha Pasifiki 'oku tu'umalie, 'oku 'ikai li'ekina ha taha, 'oku lava 'o matu'uaki e ngaahi faingata'a, pea ke tolonga mo tu'uloa, pea 'i he taimi tatau pe, ke hokohoko atu 'a e ngaue ke ta'ofi 'a e masiva 'ango'ango 'i he ngaahi fonua. Ko e Pangike ADB na'e fokotu'u ia 'i he 1966, pea 'oku memipa ai 'a e fonua 'e 68 – 'a ia ko e 49 ai mei 'Esia mo e Pasifiki. '

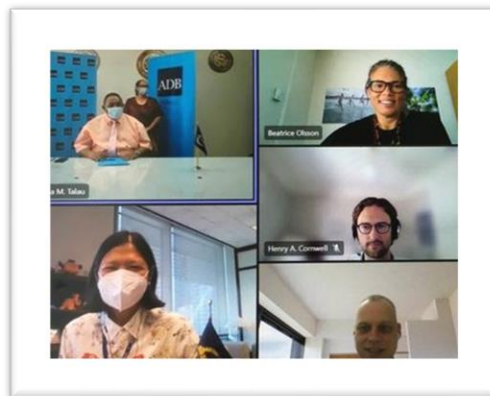
Potungae Pa'anga



Leah Gutierrez, ADB Director General for the Pacific, Hon. Tatafu Moeaki, Minister of Finance



Hon. Tatafu Moeaki, Minister of Finance, Balwyn Faótusia, ADB Senior Country Coordinator Officer, Tonga



ADB Pacific Team