

Tonga volcanic eruption and tsunami, 15 Jan 2022



Photo credit: Tonga Red Cross

The Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha’apai undersea volcanic eruption was one of the worst eruptions the Pacific has experienced in decades.

The eruption triggered a tsunami that destroyed homes and livelihoods along the coast of Tonga, affecting more than 85,000 people. Homes and critical infrastructure were severely damaged. Red Cross was quickly mobilised to provide humanitarian relief supplies and aid to affected communities. The long-term recovery is ongoing.

New Zealand Red Cross' Disaster Response Alliance partners provided critical support to our response and relief efforts in Tonga.

Partners received priority updates on the event and our response, launched public fundraising and made a real difference to the communities affected.

Over \$325k raised by DRA partners - Countdown, The Warehouse and NZ Post

Our response:



Emergency supplies: blankets, tarpaulins, lanterns, masks, and kitchen sets

Satellite **communications** equipment



Financial assistance to displaced people

International **delegate support** for disaster response financial management



New Zealand Red Cross launched the Pacific Tsunami Appeal to support those affected by the eruption and tsunami in Tonga

- All Disaster Response Alliance (DRA) partners informed within 24 hours of Red Cross involvement in emergency response.
- Tonga eruption and tsunami determined as category 2 event; DRA activation optional. Initial situation report shared.
- DRA partners provided with images, marketing assets and messaging about how funds will help. Partner fundraising activated within days.
- Updates shared on Tonga Red Cross mobilisation and needs.
- Emergency aid supplies dispatched early February.
- Significant media coverage, social media engagement and public interest in Red Cross response. DRA partners received priority mentions in relevant media releases and recognition on social media.
- Countdown raised \$171k through donations and checkout and corporate donation; The Warehouse raised \$148k through in-store and online donations; NZ Post raised \$5.3k through employee giving.
- Additional aid support package to Tonga confirmed to include satellite communications equipment, delegate support and financial assistance.



Our thoughts are with those who have been impacted by the volcano eruption and tsunami in Tonga. If you'd like to help you can contribute to the Pacific Tsunami Appeal by adding a dollar when you shop with us. All proceeds will go to our Disaster Response Alliance partner, [New Zealand Red Cross](https://bit.ly/3ii3SG4) <https://bit.ly/3ii3SG4>



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Aid appeals are getting under way for tsunami-stricken Tonga and already ... with our Disaster Response Alliance partners Countdown and The...
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Thank you Aotearoa for your generosity ❤️❤️❤️
So far we've raised well over a million dollars for the relief effort in Tonga and surrounding Pacific nations through New Zealand Red Cross' Pacific Tsunami Appeal.
New Zealand Red Cross Secretary General Sarah Stuart-Blacks says she's been delighted with the response and is grateful to every donor.
Support for the appeal has been widespread, with donations from more than 7,000 individuals and extensive fundraising efforts from community groups and businesses.
New Zealand Red Cross' Disaster Response Alliance partners Countdown Supermarkets, The Warehouse, and NZ Post have contributed generously to the appeal, with both The Warehouse and Countdown topping up their corporate donations by each gathering more than \$100,000 in donations at checkouts.

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

