



PRESS RELEASE

ADB PROVIDES USD10 MILLION GRANT TO TONGA FOLLOWING DEVASTATING TSUNAMI

15th February, 2022

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a USD10 million (around TOP22.68 million pa'anga) grant to the Government of Tonga on 21 January, 2022 to assist with early recovery and relief efforts and help restore life-sustaining services following the deadly tsunami that hit the country.

The seismic episode occurred on 15 January, 2022 with the eruption of the undersea volcano Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai, some 65 kilometers north of the capital Nuku'alofa, triggering a tsunami which destroyed parts of Tonga and was felt as far away as Alaska, Japan, and South America.

"On behalf of ADB, I would like to express our deepest sympathy to the people and the Government of Tonga for the loss of lives and livelihoods and wish them the very best as they rebound and rebuild after this disaster," said ADB Director General for the Pacific Leah Gutierrez. "The support we are providing will help the Government of Tonga and our development partners to offer timely and coordinated emergency assistance to the many thousands of people affected by the tsunami."

The government has confirmed four casualties, one on the main island of Tongatapu and three in the Ha'apai group. The eruption severed communications with Tonga's islands when the country's communications lifeline—the international fiber optics cable was cut. Following preliminary surveillance flights, the Australian and New Zealand High Commissions in Tonga reported that thick plumes of smoke and ash have spread across the country, tainting water supplies. The flyover images have revealed extreme housing destruction on a number of outer islands. Death remains at four. The tsunami impacted the foreshore on the western and northern side of Tongatapu, where the capital Nuku'alofa is located. Boats and large boulders have washed ashore there and shops and other businesses along the coast have been severely damaged.

The USD10 million quick disbursing grant financing to Tonga is sourced from the third phase of ADB's Pacific Disaster Resilience Program. The ADB-supported program provides timely and predictable financing to quickly help the emergency response and reduce the indirect economic and social costs of physical losses after a disaster. On behalf of the Government of Tonga, the Minister of Finance, Hon Tatafu Moeaki said, "This program of assistance is best placed for Tonga due to the fact that we are one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to natural disasters, and this contingent financing facility is very fast in responding to our needs. We put in our request to the Bank on Friday 21st January and ADB disbursed the funds to us on the same day. This grant will certainly help government with immediate and recovery needs following the devastation caused by the volcanic eruption and the tsunami."

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

TOKONI \$10 MILIONA 'AMELIKA 'A E PANGIKE FAKALAKALAKA 'A 'ESIA KI TONGA HILI 'A E PEAU KULA NA'A NE FAKAHOKO 'A E MAUMAU LAHI KI HE FONUA

15 ó Fepueli, 2022

Na'e tali 'e he Pangike Fakalalakaka 'a 'Esia 'i he 'aho 21 Sanuali 2022 'a e Pa'anga 'Amerika 'e \$10 miliona (US\$10 miliona), fakafuofua ki he Pa'anga Tonga 'e \$22.68 miliona (T\$22.68 miliona), koe tokoni ki he Pule'anga Tonga, ke fakaivia 'a e ngaahi ngaue fakavavevave kotoa pe mo langalanga hake, pea pehe ke lava 'o hoko atu 'a e ngaahi sevesi kotoa pe 'oku fekau'aki mo e mo'ui 'a e kakai, hili 'a e hoko koia 'a e peau kula ki he Fonua moe puna 'a e mo'ungaafi.

Ne hoko 'a e fakatamaki ko eni 'i he 'aho 15 Sanuali 'i he puna 'a e afi mei lalo kilisitahi 'i Hunga Tonga – Hunga Ha'apai, 'i he fakafuofua ki he kilomita 'e 65 mei he Tokelau 'o e Nuku'alofa, 'o hoko ai 'a e peau kula 'a ia na'a ne maumau'i 'a e ngaahi feitu'u lahi 'i Tonga pea na'e 'ilonga 'a e peau ko eni 'i 'Alasika, Siapani pea mo 'Amerika Tonga.

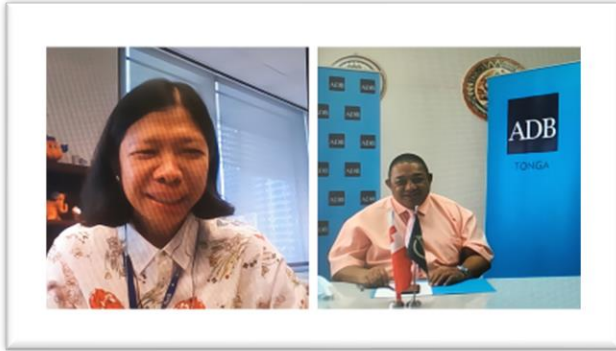
“Oku ou faka'amu ke fakahoko atu 'a 'eku popoaki fie kaunga mamahi ki he Pule'anga Tonga mo hono kakai, koe'uhi koe ngaahi mole 'o kau ai 'a e ngaahi mo'ui pea pehe ki he ma'u'anga mo'ui 'a e tokolahi, pea moe talamonu atu ki he lelei taha, 'i he ngaahi feinga kotoa pe ke toe langalanga hake hili 'a e fakatamaki,” ko e lea ia 'a e Talekita Seniale 'a e Pangike ADB ma'ae e Pasifiki, Leah Gutierrez. “Ko e tokoni ko eni ke poupou ki he Pule'anga Tonga pea moe ngaahi hoa ngaue ki he fakalalakaka, ke tuku atu 'i he taimi vave 'a e ngaahi tokoni ko eni, 'i ha founga 'oku ma'opo'opo mo maau, koe'uhi koe ngaahi fiema'u fakavavevave 'a e kakai 'o e fonua na'e uesia 'e he peau kula.”

Ne fakapapau'i foki 'e he Pule'anga ko e toko fa na'e pekia, taha 'i Tongatapu, pea tolu 'i he 'otu motu Ha'apai. Na'e hoko foki 'a e mapuna 'a e afi ke motuhia ai 'a e fetu'utaki mo Tonga, 'i he motu 'a e keipolo, 'a ia ko e me'angaue fetu'utaki eni 'a e fonua. Hili 'a e fakahoko 'o e ngaahi savea vakapuna hili 'a e fakatamaki, na'e lipooti mai ai 'e he ongo Pule'anga 'Aositelelia mo Nu'usila, na'e tofuhia kotoa 'a e fonua 'i he kohu mo e efu, 'o kau ai mo e ngaahi ma'u'anga vai.

Ko e USD10 miliona (TOP22.8 miliona) ko eni 'oku fakapa'anga ia mei he konga hono tolu 'o e Polokalama 'a e ADB ma'ae Pasifiki ki hono matu'uaki 'o e ngaahi fakatamaki. 'Oku lava 'e he polokalama ni ke fakahoko ai 'a e tokoni vave, mo fakafuofua ha fo'i pa'anga pau, ki he ngaahi tokoni fakavavevave 'oku fiema'u, pea mo fakasi'isi'i 'a e ngaahi fakamole faka'ekonomika mo fakasosiale 'o e ngaahi maumau 'oku hoko he fakatamaki. Na'e pehe 'e he 'Eiki Minisita Pa'anga, “Oku kau eni he polokalama lelei 'aupito kuo fokotu'u 'e he Pangike ADB 'a ia 'oku fe'unga 'aupito mo Tonga, koe'uhi ko 'etau tu'u lavea ngofua ki he fakatamaki fakaenatula, 'oku lava ai 'a e tokoni ko eni ke vave hono tukuange mai 'i he taimi 'oku hoko ai ha fakatamaki fakaenatula. Na'e fakahoko atu 'etau kole ki he Pangike ADB 'i he 'aho Falaite 'aho 21 Sanuali, pea na'e tali 'ehe Pangike 'o tukuange mai 'a e pa'anga tokoni ko eni 'i he 'aho tatau pe. 'E tokoni lahi 'a e pa'anga ko eni ki he fiema'u vivili 'a e kakai na'e uesia 'e he peau kula, pea mo toe langalanga hake 'o e fonua.”

'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 mo 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 Pngaike ADB na'e fokotu'u ia 'i he 1966, pea 'oku memipa ai 'a e fonua 'e 68 – 'a ia ko e 49 mei 'Esia mo e Pasifiki.

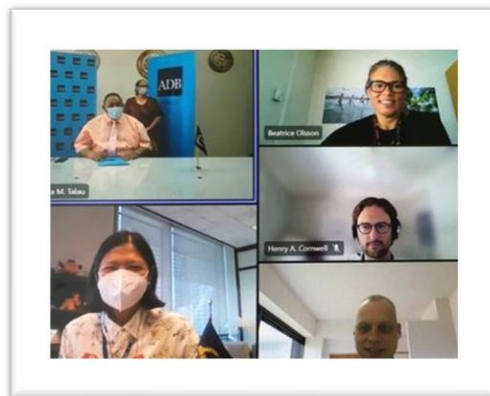
Potungaue Pa'anga



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



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



ADB Pacific Team