

A blue graphic element consisting of a stylized arrow pointing to the right, located on the left margin of the page.

Press release

For immediate release: Wednesday, 19 January 2022

UNOPS Statement on the Hunga Tonga volcano eruption and tsunami

Speaking following recent events in Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha‘apai in the Pacific, Nick O'Regan, Director of Implementation Practices and Standards at UNOPS, the United Nations' infrastructure and procurement specialists, said:

“UNOPS stands in solidarity with the people and the government of Tonga, following the volcanic eruption on Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha‘apai and resultant tsunami that has devastated communities across the island nation.

“While the full extent of the damage that has been caused is still unknown, we do know that people’s lives and livelihoods have been put at risk, and an international recovery effort will be needed to help those affected as soon as possible.

“It is a reminder of the urgent need for resilient and sustainable infrastructure, designed so that to the greatest extent possible, people are protected from these hazards, and so they can survive and thrive.

“We need to plan and develop infrastructure that can withstand shocks, and that factors in the interconnected nature of our world, including the relationship of infrastructure and its surrounding environment. It is no exaggeration to say that the eruption and tsunami has been felt far beyond the nation of Tonga and its neighbors. From New Zealand, Japan, the United States, Russia, and the fatal waves that hit Peru.

“UNOPS stands ready to support our partners in these difficult times, from helping respond to the crisis, to building back for a better, more resilient future for all.”

ENDS

A blue graphic element consisting of a series of overlapping triangles pointing to the right, resembling a stylized arrow or a folded piece of paper.

Notes to editors:

To arrange interviews please contact Tom Collins (tomco@unops.org / +45 4533 7708)

About UNOPS

UNOPS mission is to help people build better lives and countries achieve peace and sustainable development. We help the United Nations, governments and other partners to manage projects, and deliver sustainable infrastructure and procurement in an efficient way. With decades of practical infrastructure experience, UNOPS is committed to supporting climate action and tackling the climate emergency.

Read more: www.unops.org