



**A. Background**

An active trough from a low pressure system lies over the Group. Associated cluds, heavy occasional rain, thunderstorms and strong gutsy winds will affect Vava’u, Ha’apai, Tongatapu and ‘Eua groups today, *Weather Bulletin Issued at 6:00am Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2024.* The prolonged heavy rainfall lead flooding in low lying communities in Tongatapu.

Initial Rapid Situation Assessment conducted at 1:00am – 3:00am Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 showed that rising waters have reached the foundation level of residential homes at low lying villages. Two inter-agency teams were deployed at 9:00am to provide a second initial rapid situation assessment overview

**B. Current situation**

**1. Fua’amotu Forecasting Centre – Tonga Meteorological Services**

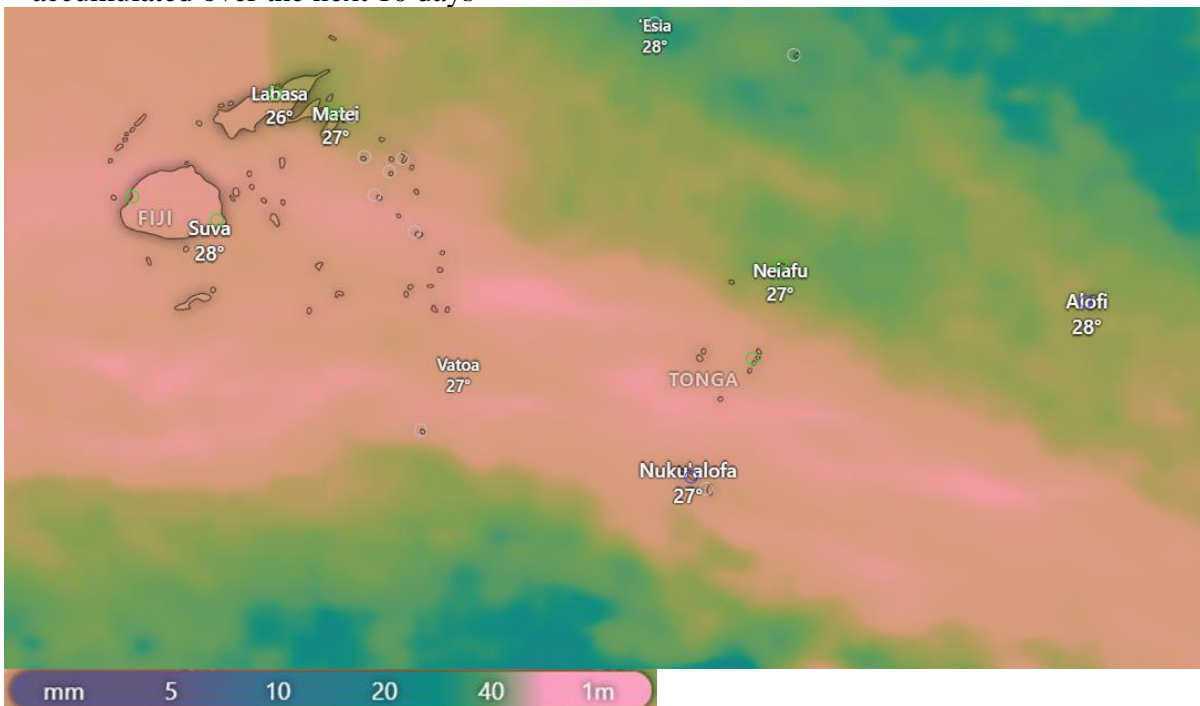
- Rainfall Predictions for periods of Heavy Rain from Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 2024, refer to *Table 1; Rainfall Predictions*

*Table 1: Rainfall Predictions*

	<b>Island</b>	<b>Rainfall Predictions</b>
1.	Tongatapu	- From 7pm Wednesday to 7pm Thursday = Expect 20-30mm - From 10pm Friday to 7pm Sunday = Expect 80-100mm
2.	Nomuka	- From 7pm Wednesday to 7pm Thursday = Expect 40-50mm - From 10pm Friday to 7pm Sunday = Expect 150-180mm
3.	Lifuka	- From 7pm Wednesday to 7pm Thursday = Expect 60-85m - From 10pm Friday to 7pm Sunday = Expect 40-60m
4.	Neiafu	- From 7pm Wednesday to 7pm Thursday = Expect 40-60mm

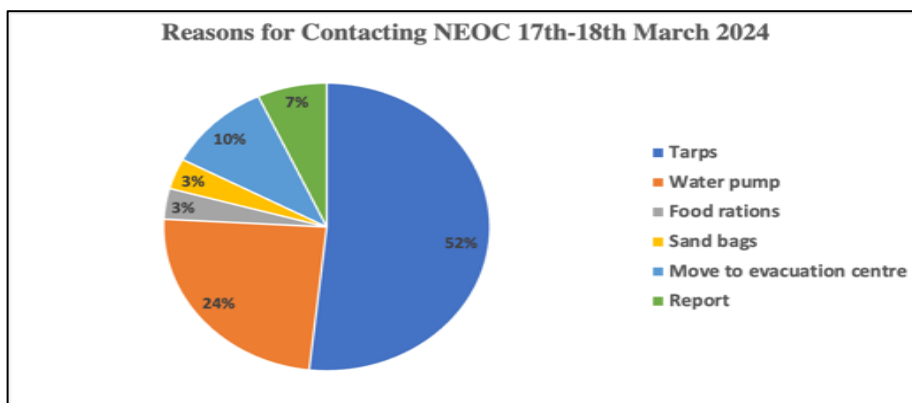
- Next 10 days accumulated rainfall forecast

Tongatapu, ‘Eua and Ha’apai will experience will experience more than 100mm of rainfall accumulated over the next 10 days



## 2. National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC)

- The NEOC is still in operation receiving contacts, verifying information and coordinating response.
- Contacts to EOC were made via, telephone calls, emails and social media
- The NEOC received 29 contacts.
- ‘Eua have submitted report via email 18/3/2024
- Tungua Island reported damaged to TRCS; NEOC is verifying the information received.



### 2.2 ‘Eua Island

- Reported only impacts to roads; agricultural sector welcomes rain.
- Auxiliary bridge beside the Fangumalingi bridge was damaged; Ministry of Infrastructure have managed to fix the bridge for temporary use; *OIC MEIDECC report & Local Governance Report 19/3/2024*
- Newly paved roads in ‘Ohonua affected by heavy runoff, piling gravels along the the runoff section by the road and at low lying areas.



### 2.3 Ha’apai Island

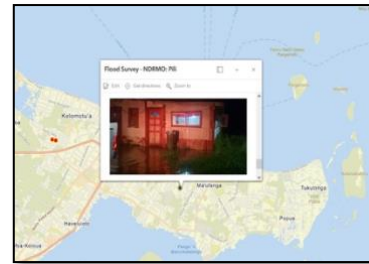
- Tungua Island Report from Tonga Red Cross Society is under is verification as Town Officer is in Lifuka
- Felemea reported that homes were not inundated; however 2 small fishing boats were damaged by gale winds



### 3. Displaced Households

#### 3.1 Evacuation centre

- Only 1 evacuation centre was activated at Pili to house family of six whose home were inundated.
- Tonga Police assisted with the tracking of the location of the family to be evacuated as the number provided to NEOC remained unanswered after initial call for assistance
- TRCS and NDRMO responded providing evacuated family with food and Non-Food Items.
- As of 18/3/2024 the evacuated family were still at the evacuation centre. The family indicated they will return home on Tuesday (19/3/2024) if fine weather remains and flood water have receded.



#### 3.2 Displaced households ot in evacuation centres

##### 3.2.1 Pea

- Two households at Pea evacuated to relatives at Fasi and Folaha, *Local Governance Report 19/3/2-24*
- One household in Pea evacuated to relatives at Te'ekiu, *NEOC Report*
- One household in Pea moved to adjacent building on a higher elevation, *Local Governance Report 19/3/2-24*

### 4. Response

#### 4.1 Water Pumping Operation

- There were five identified areas for water pumping operation; Hala'ovave ('Atenisi), 'Isileli, Fasi-Moe-Afi (Behind British High Commisioners Residence), Ma'ufanga and Popua
- Joint Water Pumping Operation Teams from NDRMO, TFES and Tonga Police commenced work at Hala'ovave and the Fasimoeafi.
- Advisory on radio and NDRMO Social about road closure of operation.
- Operation at Fasimoeafi is completed.
- Operation at Hala'ovave was put on hold at 6:00am in order to open public road for ease of movement and will commence at 12:00pm
- TFES will verify the water pumping operation will continue to Ma'ufanga and Popua.



## 4.2 Clearing of Roads

- The Ministry of Infrastructure responded by clearing public roads that were blocked by fallen trees at the Hala Teputepuitemaka at ‘Alaki – Pelehake and By-Pass Road
- Continue monitoring of inundated roads; cones and signanges are still located in some areas to alert public.



### Further updates

The next Sitrep will be provided when new information have been received.