



NEWS LETTER

February-April 2026

NDRMO's mission is strengthen resilience and improve preparedness to save lives, protect livelihoods and assets of communities and individuals from the impact of hazards

Established in 2007, with the enactment of DRM Act 2021, NDRMO focus on national disaster resilience through policy, planning & partnerships

NDRMO - News Updates

NDRMO Participates in Pacific Regional Disaster and Emergency Managers Meeting in Fiji



13-17 April 2026, NDRMO Tonga, alongside Tonga Fire and Emergency Services and Tonga Police, participated in the Pacific Regional Disaster and Emergency Managers Meeting (PRDEMM) in Sigatoka, Fiji

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From 13-17 April 2026, National Disaster Risk Management Office (NDRMO) Tonga team, together with Tonga Fire and Emergency Services and Tonga Police attended the Pacific Regional Disaster and Emergency Managers Meeting (PRDEMM) at Warwick Resort & Spa, Sigatoka, Fiji.

Convened by the Pacific Community (SPC), the regional forum brought together disaster management leaders from across the Pacific to strengthen collaboration, enhance preparedness, and build resilience. The meeting provides a valuable platform to share experiences, discuss strategic priorities, and strengthen partnerships across the

region.

Through this engagement, Tonga is share its experiences and learning from regional partners to further strengthen coordination, preparedness, and community-level resilience across the country.



Strengthening community-level preparedness and coordination through engagement with local government

NDRMO Hosts Disaster Risk Reduction Annual Meeting with Town Officers



On 9 April, National Disaster Risk Management Office (NDRMO) successfully held the 1st Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Annual Meeting 2026 with local government representatives at Fanga FWC Hall, brought together town officers and key stakeholders to strengthen coordination and community-level preparedness in Tonga.

The meeting covered key areas including

an overview of disaster risk reduction and hazard awareness, the legal framework for DRR under the Tonga DRM Act and policies, the structure and roles of Village Disaster Risk Management Committees (VDRMCs), Initial Damage Assessment (IDA), disaster coordination mechanisms, briefing on Exercise Taufatahi simulation activities, and plans for community-level implementation and engagement in 2026.

The programme also included a panel discussion with key agencies and interactive sessions to enhance understanding of roles and responsibilities across preparedness, response, and recovery, reinforcing the importance of decentralised DRM and empowering town officers to lead resilience efforts within their communities.

NDRMO Launches National Radio Series to Strengthen Disaster Preparedness

Programmes with key agencies promote hazard awareness & readiness

National Disaster Risk Management Office (NDRMO) has launched a national radio awareness series in collaboration with key government agencies to strengthen public understanding of disaster preparedness and response across Tonga.

The first programme, held on 13 March 2026, featured Tonga Meteorological Services and Tonga Geological Services, focusing on preparedness for major natural hazards including tropical cyclones, earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic activity. The session highlighted the importance of coordinated action and community readiness, with the discussion moderated by NDRMO.

This was followed by a second programme on 8 April 2026 in

partnership with His Majesty's Armed Forces (HMAF), which focused on raising awareness of Exercise Taufatahi (21–24 September 2026). The programme emphasized strengthening national readiness for a potential catastrophic earthquake and tsunami, and improving coordination among national and international partners.

Through this ongoing series, NDRMO continues to promote a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, encouraging communities to stay informed, prepared, and resilient.

The public is encouraged to stay tuned to Radio Tonga for upcoming episodes as part of NDRMO's continued efforts to enhance national preparedness and safety.



Ha'apai Strengthens Tsunami Preparedness with New Evacuation Signboards

Evacuation maps installed across Lifuka and Foa to guide communities during tsunami emergencies



NDRMO acknowledges the Government of the People's Republic of China for funding the signboards and the Pacific Community (SPC) through the BSRP II project for technical support. This effort reflects strong collaboration between government, partners, and communities to enhance



National Disaster Risk Management Office (NDRMO), under MEIDECC, has successfully installed and commissioned ten tsunami evacuation map signboards across vulnerable communities in the Lifuka and Foa Districts, Ha'apai, as part of the Government's 100 Days Priorities.

The initiative began with a courtesy meeting on 9 February 2026 with the Governor of Ha'apai, Dr. Pita Taufatofua, followed by installation works from 12–19 February.

The signboards were officially commissioned on 25 February 2026, marking a key milestone in strengthening disaster preparedness in the island group.

The signboards clearly display evacuation routes and designated safe areas, supporting timely and effective community response during tsunami events. The Governor expressed strong support for the initiative, shows commitment to safeguarding communities.

Strengthening Disaster Preparedness

Tonga Steps Up Preparations for Exercise Taufatahi 2026



NDRMO, together with key response agencies, conducted joint exercises in Tongatapu to advance planning for Exercise Taufatahi, a combined Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise scheduled for September 2026.

Coordinated by the Nevada National Guard, His Majesty's Armed Forces, and the National Disaster Risk Management Office (NDRMO), the engagement marked a key milestone in preparations for the capstone exercise. The

face-to-face discussions strengthened collaboration and alignment across agencies.

Exercise Taufatahi is designed to enhance national preparedness and response capacity for a catastrophic tsunami scenario, focusing on improving coordination and interoperability across military, civilian, and regional partners. Developed over a ten-month planning cycle, the exercise will culminate in a three-day live field exercise in Tongatapu, testing six key lines of effort

across the national emergency response system.

NDRMO Tonga would like to extend sincerest thanks to all partners involved for contributing to planning efforts and for providing their time to attend this important engagement.

NDRMO acknowledges the logistical support from BSRP II under SPC for the planning meeting.

NDRMO Contributes to Regional Risk Modelling Planning under PaRTner 2+ Project



From 16-20 February, Ms. Moana Kioa and Ms. 'Ofa Masiwawa represented NDRMO at the PaRTner 2+ Internal Planning Meeting held in Auckland, New Zealand.

The workshop brought together regional partners to review and confirm national and regional workplans under the Pacific Risk Tool for Resilience (PaRTner 2+) project, which supports Pacific Island countries in developing practical risk modelling tools for disaster and climate decision-making. Discussions focused on

strengthening key use cases, including coastal hazard projections, cyclone impact estimation, and drought forecasting tools, as well as improving national exposure datasets and enhancing knowledge transfer across countries.

NDRMO's participation contributes to advancing risk-informed planning in Tonga, supporting improved disaster preparedness, response, and long-term resilience through the application of data-driven tools and decision-support systems.

NDRMO Participates in PaRTner 2+ Regional Meeting in Fiji



From 21-22 April, Mr. Sioli Lolohea, PaRTner Project Coordinator for Tonga, represented NDRMO at a PaRTner 2+ regional meeting in Nadi, Fiji.

The meeting focused on strengthening risk modelling tools and improving national datasets for disaster and climate planning, including applications such as coastal hazards and cyclone impact assessments.

This engagement supports Tonga's efforts to enhance risk-informed decision-making and regional collaboration under the PaRTner 2+ project.

22-27 March 2026

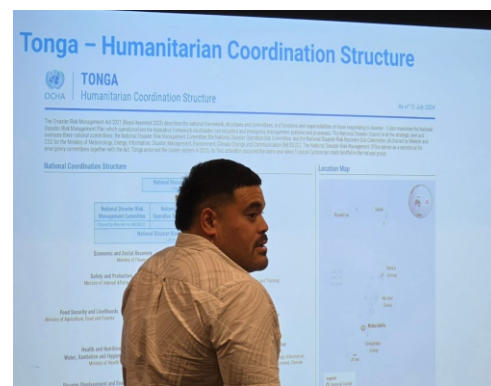
NDRMO Attends UN Civil-Military Coordination Training in Australia



From 22-27 March 2026, Mr. Lazarus 'Ahihoio Vaipulu, Principal Emergency Operations & Response Manager at NDRMO, attended the United Nations Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination Training Course in Canberra, Australia. The training strengthened NDRMO's understanding of UN civil-military coordination principles, particularly in managing the use of foreign military assets during disasters, such as

airdrops and humanitarian logistics support.

This engagement enhances NDRMO's capacity to effectively coordinate international assistance and is especially relevant for planning and coordination of the upcoming Exercise Taufatahi (September 2026). It also supports the Sendai Framework Priority 2 on strengthening disaster risk governance.



Inter-Cluster Coordination Committee Meetings: Tonga Preparedness Amid Fuel Supply Concerns



In response to evolving global developments affecting fuel supply, the Government of Tonga convened a series of coordination meetings in April 2026 to assess preparedness and response measures.

A key meeting held at MEIDECC brought together government agencies and humanitarian clusters to review the Staged Fuel Control Framework and provide updates on fuel status, potential impacts, and response planning. Discussions focused on essential services, food security, economic impacts, and scenario-based

planning to ensure national readiness. A Task Force has been established to monitor the situation and coordinate actions across sectors. Updates from these engagements were provided to the Legislative Assembly on 22 April 2026, reflecting a whole-of-government approach to managing potential fuel-related risks. This coordinated effort highlights Tonga's proactive approach to preparedness and inter-agency collaboration in addressing emerging challenges.

Tonga Participates in BSRP II Project Steering Committee Meeting in Fiji



On 16 April, Tonga participated in the Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific Project - BSRP II 4th Project Steering Committee Meeting, held in Fiji during PRDEMM 2026.

Ms. Melanye Tameifuna and Ms. Melelupe Tulikihakau Fakaongo represented Tonga, contributing to discussions on project progress, work planning, and coordination of disaster risk management activities across the region. The meeting strengthened collaboration with partners and supported ongoing efforts to enhance disaster resilience in Tonga.

NDRMO Tonga Participates in SATREPS Joint Coordination Committee Meeting in Vanuatu



From 22-24 April 2026, Mr. Aisea Fungavai, Deputy Director of the National Disaster Risk Management Office (NDRMO) Tonga, participated in the SATREPS Joint Coordination Committee Meeting held in Vanuatu.

The meeting brought together government representatives, research institutions, and development partners to review progress



and strengthen coordination under the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) initiative. Discussions focused on advancing research collaboration and practical solutions to address climate change, disaster risk reduction, and resilience building in the Pacific region.

NDRMO Tonga's participation highlights its

continued commitment to strengthening partnerships and leveraging science-based approaches to enhance disaster preparedness, response, and resilience across Tonga. Financial support provided by Pacific Humanitarian Warehousing Programme (PHWP) under SPC.

NDRMO Builds Tsunami Preparedness Through: Regional Training on Tsunami Evacuation Maps & Community Response Plans (TEMPP II)



From 13-17 April 2026, NDRMO senior staff Ms. 'Ofa Masiwawa and Mr. Mafi Toutai Penisoni participated in the PICT Regional Training Workshop on Tsunami Evacuation Maps and Community Response Plans (TEMPP II) held in Nadi, Fiji.

Organised by the International Tsunami Information Center in collaboration with UNESCO-IOC, the training focused on developing evacuation maps, strengthening tsunami response plans and standard operating procedures, and conducting

tsunami exercises.

The programme supports the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme, which aims to improve coastal community preparedness and reduce disaster impacts.

Through this training, NDRMO enhanced its technical capacity in GIS-based evacuation mapping and community response planning, contributing to ongoing national efforts to strengthen tsunami preparedness and early warning systems in Tonga.



Tonga Attends Global Dialogue on Disaster Risk and Climate Changes

NDRMO shared lessons and strengthens partnerships across SIDS to advance disaster risk governance



Mr. Lazarus 'Ahiohio Vaipulu, Principal Emergency Operations & Response Manager at NDRMO, represented Tonga at the FLOWERS Meeting (10–11 March 2026) and Global Synergy Meeting (12–13 March 2026) in Tokyo, Japan, supported by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation.

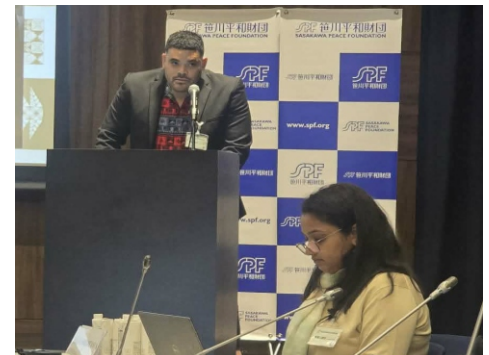
The FLOWERS Meeting brought together Pacific Island countries to discuss shared challenges in the blue economy, disaster

management, and climate change. Tonga contributed insights on national disaster preparedness and response, including lessons from volcanic eruptions and tsunamis, and highlighted the importance of decentralizing disaster risk management to village-level committees.

The Global Synergy Meeting expanded this dialogue by bringing together Small Island Developing States (SIDS) from the Pacific,

Caribbean, and Indian Ocean regions to exchange experiences, strengthen partnerships, and identify solutions to bridge gaps between policy and action.

This engagement supports the Sendai Framework Priority 2 on strengthening disaster risk governance and aligns with NDRMO's ongoing efforts to enhance coordination and resilience. A follow-up meeting is planned for next year to advance this initiative.



NDRMO Activates Esri License to Strengthen Data-Driven Disaster Management



NDRMO GIS team successfully activated an Esri license on 12 February 2026, provided by Eagle Technology. The four-year license is fully funded through the Pacific Humanitarian Warehouse Initiative and secured through negotiations under the SURGE Project led by SPC.

This license will enable the development of a centralized platform for data integration, digitization of key forms, and improved data management. It strengthens NDRMO's capacity for evidence-based planning and response across the disaster management cycle.

This milestone marks a significant step forward for NDRMO's GIS capability, supporting more effective risk-informed decision-making, with technical advisory support from the PaRTneR programme.

Strengthening Emergency Logistics:

Tonga Participates in International Logistics Response Training in Fiji



In the last week of April 2026, Mr. Viliami Tongamana (Inter-Cluster Coordinator) and Mr. Taha'asilamea Sila Ki Vai Manu (Senior

Logistics Officer) from NDRMO Tonga participated in the 35th Logistics Response Training (LRT) conducted by the Global

Logistics Cluster (WFP) and hosted by the Government of Fiji.

The 6-day simulation training provided a realistic emergency response environment, where participants worked under field-like conditions to manage complex logistics operations, coordination, and decision-making during disasters.

The training strengthened emergency logistics management, coordination with partners, and the application of best practices for humanitarian response. It also enhanced leadership and technical skills essential for effective disaster response.

This important training supports NDRMO's ongoing efforts to improve logistics preparedness and ensure timely and coordinated assistance during emergencies.

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