



PRESS RELEASE

Rolling Out of Initial Damage Assessment Training to the Outer Island of Ha'apai



Pangai, Ha'apai – November 7, 2023 - Following the successful inauguration of the Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) training in Nuku'alofa last month, the program is expanded to the outer island of Ha'apai, starting today, November 7, 2023. This initiative, designed to further strengthen disaster response, will span three days, each tailored for diverse target audiences. The rollout will commence with the participants from Government and Non-Government, culminating with district and town officers on Wednesday and Thursday, November 9, 2023, split into two distinct groups.

The primary goal of this initiative is to equip participants with the essential knowledge and skills required to conduct effective Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) following disasters or emergencies. Training will encompass a spectrum of topics, from comprehending various types of disaster assessments to the methodologies involved in the assessment process, including Initial Damage Assessment. Additionally, the workshop will acquaint participants with the pertinent queries and skills required for collecting IDA data utilizing technology.

Addressing the opening of the workshop, the Acting Officer in Charge for the Ministry of MEIDECC in Ha'apai emphasized the pivotal role of collecting quality data during the initial response phases. Accurate estimations of disaster-induced damages are instrumental in swift responses to the needs of affected populations, ultimately aiding in life-saving efforts and mitigating suffering.

The extension of IDA training to outer islands serves as a valuable asset to the National Disaster Risk Management Office (NDRMO) and Cluster Leads. It aims to equip island districts' assessment teams for prompt deployment, facilitating the immediate collection of vital information on initial damages following disasters.

The initiative is to build a team of proficient enumerators who will be instrumental in bolstering a cohesive national IDA team dispatched to disaster-affected communities. Their role is crucial in improving inter-agency coordination within emergency response clusters. The National Disaster Risk Management Organization (NDRMO) is committed to collaborating closely with district and town officers, ensuring their comprehensive understanding of the specific data collection requirements during the IDA phase.

This IDA training program is a collaborative effort involving the National Disaster Risk Management Office (NDRMO), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The initiative aims to train more than 200 participants in total across Tonga.

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For more information, or media interviews please contact:

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