

# Tonga and Pacific Ocean | Volcanic eruption and tsunami

The **Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai** underwater volcano started erupting on 20 December 2021.

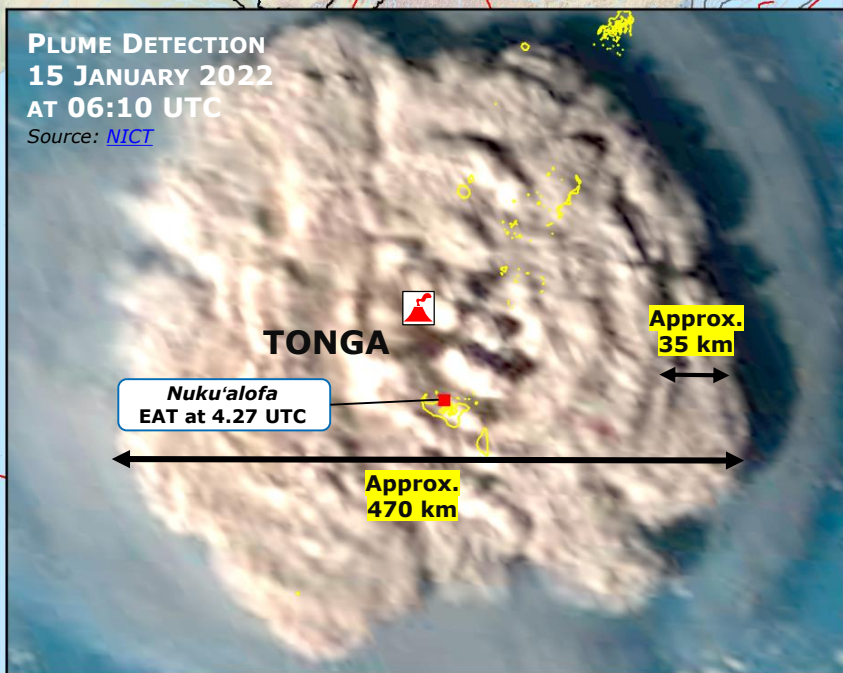
On 13 January 2022, a new intense explosive phase began, leading to a large eruption on **15 January at 4.15 UTC (17.15 local time)**, which triggered tsunami waves that have been reported in several countries of the Pacific Ocean, particularly Tonga, Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, USA, Mexico, Peru and Chile.

The eruption generated an ash plume 19.2 km high, and the ashfall reached Tonga (particularly Tongatapu Island) and the islands of Vatoa and Ono-i-Lau in Fiji. The activity of the volcano is still ongoing.

As of 17 January, **two people** are reportedly **missing in Tonga**, although the estimation of casualties or damage is not yet detailed, as communication routes have been disrupted. **Two fatalities** occurred in **Peru**, while in **Japan**, national authorities reported several evacuations and **two injured people**.

The Copernicus Emergency Mapping Service [EMSR558](#) was activated on 15 January for Nuku'alofa and Lifuka Islands of Tonga.

Source: JRC-DG ECHO, UN-OCHA, INDECI, EDMA



## MORPHOLOGY CHANGE DETECTION

