



ANGLICAN MISSIONS: RESPONSE TO TROPICAL CYCLONE GITA: TONGA 2018

Background

Tropical Cyclone Gita struck a number of Pacific Island countries in February, particularly Tonga. The Category 5 Cyclone was the most severe storm to hit Tonga in over 60 years, causing 2 fatalities, 41 injuries and destroying at least 171 houses. Many areas were left without power and many structures lost roofing. Economic damage to Tonga, including impacts on agriculture and tourism, is estimated to be 38% of GDP.



Damage caused by TC Gita: 12/2/18. Source RNZI

Older structures suffered the greatest damage, including the Tongan Parliament building that was built more than 100 years ago and which was destroyed.

Emergency Appeal

Anglican Missions launched an emergency appeal on 14 February having consulted with a number of key partners including the Red Cross, New Zealand NGO's that were responding, and our main counterparts in Australia, the Anglican Board of Missions and Anglican Overseas Aid.



Tongan Parliament Building flattened. Source: RNZI

As a result of many extremely generous donations, including a contribution of AU\$10,000 from the Anglican Board of Mission in Australia, over \$90,000 has been raised. This is an exceptional response to a significant event.

Anglican Missions worked closely with the Tongan Anglican Church as to how best this funding might be used. By this stage, immediate needs were already being met, so the Tongan Church decided that repairing damaged buildings, helping local communities get back on their feet and supporting churches to be better prepared for future events would be the most effective way that New Zealand could assist. The Tongan Church therefore asked for building materials (including roofing iron), tools,

chainsaws, portable generators, water related equipment (including gutters and pumps) and pre-positioned supplies to help ensure that Anglican churches, which are often used as evacuation centres, are better prepared and able to respond to future events (important given the likelihood of more weather-related disasters as a result of climate change).

Response details

Anglican Missions purchased two 20' shipping containers which were positioned for several weeks at **Stratex (NZ) Ltd** in Penrose and then for ten days in the carpark at **St Georges Anglican Church in Papatoetoe** while supplies were sourced and loaded.

The two full containers were picked up last week and are due to arrive in the capital, Nuku'alofa, on Friday 6 July. Having cleared customs, one container will be moved to **St. Pauls Church** in **Nuku'alofa** and the other to **All Saints Anglican Church** in **Fasi**.



Shipping containers with Anglican Missions logo: April 2018

Both containers will be lifted onto permanent foundations and used to store prepositioned relief supplies. One will also be fitted out as a small joinery and carpentry workshop to help develop building skills of local communities.

A Tongan builder from Auckland will help to set up this container and provide training. A strategy is also being developed around how items will be stored, who can release them and in what situations.

Fr. Lui Tuilotolava, Senior Dispatcher at Stratex (NZ) Ltd, loading the containers.

and one for St Andrews Church in Vava'u) and for disaster risk reduction activities which will include further training for young Anglican leaders.

Funds have also been set aside to purchase and install three water tanks (2 for Ha'apai

Reporting

Anglican Missions will continue to report on this project as the containers are unloaded and set up for permanent use. Please check our website from time to time for details.

Container Contents

The following table provides a summary of items purchased as well as goods donated by churches and families in Auckland. Please note that we had a spare corner in one of the containers and were aware that TearFund needed to get some relief supplies across, so we offered the space to them.

Michael Hartfield – Operations and Projects Officer, Anglican Missions. 5 July 2018

ANGLICAN MISSIONS: TROPICAL CYCLONE GITA RESPONSE: TONGA - CONTAINER CONTENTS

CATEGORY	ITEM	SPECS	QTY
Powered equipment	Commercial chainsaw sets	22" chain bar, 2 chain, ropes, 2x pair gloves, 2x visors, 3x muffs, lubes, tools, fuel canister	4
	Back-up portable generators	Honda EG5500CX pull start petrol and 2x oil	4
	Shredder	Hansa C7 70mm Brush Chipper with safety equipment (incl. towing kit)	1
Building materials	Timber	(90X45) SG8 H1.2 KD	1248
	Roofing iron	762mm wide. 0.4 PM	720
	Roofing Nails	75mm 2kg per pack	12
	Portland Cement	40kg Dry Mix	60
	Nails	5kg 4 inch galv.	5
	Ply wood	12mm	20
	Flat head nails	5kg 4 inch galv.	5
Tools	Builders kits	Bag, 20oz fibreglass hammer, tape measure, wrecking bar, chisel, 75mm/90mm nails, Stanley knife, pliers, builders string, handsaw, square, leather gloves	8
	Skill saw		5
	Apron		5
	Hammer		5
	Hand Saw		5
	Chisel set		5
	Square		5
	Screw Drivers		5
	Drop Saw		2
	Grinders	1 x small; 1 x big	2
	Tin snip cutters		4
	Sledge Hammer		2
	Crow bars		3
	Drills		3
	Drill bits		2
Big Crow bar		2	
Water related	Water Tank	10,000 litre (2 for Ha'apai; 1 x St Andrews). Purchase in country.	3
	Aquatabs	50 pack	50

	Collapsible water container	10ltr	50
	Collapsible water container	20ltr	30
	Downpipes	80mm x 3m	20
	Down pipe brackets		40
	95 degree bends		20
	Gutters	Marley stormcloud 5m	20
	Joiners for gutters		20
	Brackets for gutters		40
	Internal conners		5
	External conners		5
	Droppers junctions		10
	PVC Glue		5
	Nails	Flat head	1
	Water pump	Honda WX15TU 1.6kWn at 700rpm.	1
Pre-positioned supplies	Batteries	AA Alkaline 20 pack	10
	Batteries	AAA Alkaline 20 pack	10
	Family Hygiene kits		40
	Head lamp	3W pro-focus	30
	Solar lantern		30
	Tarpaulin	3.6 x 3.6 120gsm	10
	Tarpaulin	3.6 x 3.0 120gsm	100
Miscellaneous	All items <u>donated</u> by parishes and individuals	Assorted clothes (bails)	5
		Fridge, washing machine	2
		Builders paper (rolls)	7
		Assorted timber for building repairs	20
		Assorted tools (boxes)	5
		Cement (pallets)	2
		Scaffolding holder	1
		Blankets	
		Pre-positioned supplies (boxes dry food)	2
		Storage drums	9