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Tonga Safe Resilient Schools Project (TSRSP) Newsletter

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**COMPONENT 1: Improving Safety
and Resilience of Education
Facilities.**



Photo taken by `Ofa Liti at Ha'apai Tsunami Schools

**COMPONENT 2: Establishment of
EMIS and Improved Quality of
Curricula and Assessments.**



Photo 2: Site visit inspection of preschools

COMPONENT 1 : Improving Safety and Resilience of Education Facilities.

Sub- Component 1.1 RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

TSUNAMI SCHOOLS

Government Middle School (GMS) Kolomotu`a



Figure 1 : New Wash Facility



Figure 2: New Staff Quarter



Construction works at Government Middle School Kolomotua are currently ongoing. The finishing of the new staff quarter is in progress, and the roof installation for the new wash facility is in progress.

The retrofitted 1x6 classroom block has been fully completed, along with the existing wash facility. With these milestones achieved, the construction team is now focusing on completing the wash facility and finalizing the staff quarter.

All works are being carried out by Hikaione Loumoli Consulting Services under the Tonga Safe and Resilient Schools Project.

TSUNAMI SCHOOLS Ha`apai

Government Middle School Nomuka



Figure 3 : New Classroom



Figure 4: New wash Facility

Construction works at Government Middle School Nomuka, Nomuka, Ha`apai are progressing steadily. The 1x2 classroom block is under construction, with wall installation currently ongoing. At the same time, work on the new wash facility is also advancing.

All works are being carried out by 'Ofa Construction Limited, the contracted construction company for this project.

GPS Tungua



Figure 5 : New Classroom and New Staff Quarter

Construction works at Tungua, undertaken by Luna 'Eva and Sons Company, are currently progressing. The team is completing the installation of the roof framing system in preparation for roofing, while work on the installation of the exterior cladding components is also ongoing.



GPS Fonoi



Figure 6 : New Classroom

Construction works at GPS Fonoi are currently ongoing. The exterior cladding for the new staff quarters is still being installed, while work on the classroom continues. Progress on the new WASH Facility is advancing, with timber piles and floor framing now in place. Installation of the timber frame is also ongoing.

All construction activities are being carried out by Luna'eva and Sons Company.



Figure 7 : New Staff Quarter



Figure 8 : New Wash Facility

Tupouto`a College



Figure 9 : 2 x New Staff Quarters



Figure 10: New Classrooms

Construction at Tupouto'a College is ongoing, comprising two staff quarters and classroom facilities. Work is currently progressing on one of the staff quarters.

All buildings are being constructed by Kaila Joint Venture Vava'u Construction Limited, the contracted construction company.

Maamaloa Early Childhood Education

The Maamaloa Early Childhood and Primary WASH Facility is nearing completion, with approximately 90% of the work finished. The remaining tasks include painting and finalizing the septic tank. The retrofitting of the classroom has been completed. The remaining work focuses on completing the WASH facility. The project is being implemented by 'Ofa Construction Limited.



Figure 11: New Wash Facility



Maamafo'ou Early Childhood Education



The Maamafo'ou Early Childhood Education, Nomuka, Ha'apai construction project has made significant progress. The building and access ramp have been installed, and the work is now approximately 80% complete. All construction activities are being carried out by 'Ofa Construction Limited.



Figure 13 : New Wash Facility



Figure 12. New Classroom

RISKED BASED SCHOOLS

The PMU and Kramer Asia Pacific are holding their weekly meeting at the MET Conference Room to check in on progress for the Tonga Safe Resilient Schools Project, and overall, things are steadily moving forward. Package 1 is already wrapped up, with the tender process and all bidding completed. The Niua Package is now out on the market, and the team is working through revisions to the RFB for resubmission. Updated design reports for Tu'aliku, Fu'amotu, Hala'ovave, and Fatai were submitted and cost estimates for these schools are close to being finalized. Design options are still being reviewed, and building permit work for Packages 2 and 3 continues to progress.

This week's discussion is also centered on procurement. Package 2, covering the Niuas schools, is already in the market, with the pre-tender meeting set for December 4 and bidding scheduled to close on January 15, 2026. The team is making sure lessons learned from the earlier tsunami school packages are included in the new pre-bid documents. For the current RFQ, final clarification responses are being prepared, and the PMU will give Kramer Asia Pacific three weeks to complete the evaluation report.

Safeguards work is ongoing as well. Screening documents for Package 3 are being reviewed before they're sent to the World Bank Environmental Specialist and Social Safeguard Specialist. The team is also pulling together a clear set of qualification requirements for Safeguards Officers. The meeting is held weekly to provide updates on the risk-based progress of the schools, track and monitor the status of the designs.



Figure 13: Risked Based Weekly Meeting 10 November and 18 November 2025

Sub-component 1.2: Strengthening Education Infrastructure Planning and Maintenance



The Asset Management Officers Team successfully presented the Asset Strategic Management Manual to the Ministry, which will serve as a key tool for effective asset management. The Project Manager emphasized the importance of the Ministry's active participation and input throughout the process, noting that a standardized manual and reporting system will greatly enhance the Ministry's operations. This initiative has already drawn the attention of donors, who have expressed their willingness to support the Ministry in further strengthening its asset management capacity.



Figure:14: Asset Management Meeting to discuss the schools Infrastructure Manual

COMPONENT 2: Establishment of EMIS and Improved Quality of Curricula and Assessments.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

The technical meeting for Component 2 was chaired by CEO Isikeli Oko, with all deputy directors in attendance. The discussion focused on key areas of ongoing work, including implementation plans for EMIS, the Curriculum Revision for Classes 1–6, and the Assessment Improvement activities, ensuring everyone was aligned on timelines and next steps.

The team also reviewed the Terms of Reference for the Curriculum Revision for Classes 9–13, clarifying roles, expected deliverables, and the process ahead. Updates on Components 2.2 and 2.3 were presented, giving everyone a clear picture of current progress and the actions needed to keep momentum.

Overall, the meeting emphasized coordination and clarity of responsibilities as work under Component 2 continues to move forward.

Subcomponent 2.1: Establishment of a Comprehensive Education Management Information System

The EMIS team is actively enhancing the system, including adding new asset-management features. They visit non-government schools to provide training and collect data. So far, the team has visited Apifo'ou College, Beulah College, Lavengamalie College, Tupou Tertiary Institute, Ahopanilolo, and St. Joseph, with the Wesleyan Church schools scheduled for their next visits.

Sub Component 2.2 : Upgrading Assessment and Curriculum

Classroom assessment is ongoing using the revised curriculum, alongside the Tonga Large-Scale Assessment (TILSA). Feedback from pilot schools is currently under review. TILSA covers 105 primary schools across Tongatapu, Vava'u, Ha'apai, 'Eua, and the Niuas. The assessment analyzes the design booklets for English, Science, Maths, and Tonga subjects, while the high-stakes component evaluates both internal and external assessments and examines the overall impact of the assessments.

Sub Component 2.3 Supporting Quality Primary and Secondary Education

The ICT and science corner, along with all the equipment, has already gone through the bidding process, and it's now in the evaluation stage. The indoor setup is fully bid out, while the outdoor setup is still being reviewed.

Both middle schools and high schools will get internet access, but only the high schools will receive air-conditioning. The ICT setup will mainly benefit the high schools, and the 32 middle schools will also get internet support as part of the project. The team was able to visit the schools to confirm the locations for both the air-conditioning units and the internet setup.

The counselling and communication campaign is ongoing, with the truancy team developing the program and the Education Assistant providing support.

Sub-component 2.4 – Improving Learning and Teaching Conditions



Figure 16: Tepola Siale (PMU) with the Vava'u team.



Photo 3: GPS Feletoa

A site visit was recently completed, where the team, together with the Ministry's ECE Team, carried out site-verification checks in Ha'apai, Vava'u, and 'Eua. Joining the trip were the Education Assistant, Procurement Officer, and Asset Officer from the PMU team. The goal was to assess site conditions and confirm the installation requirements for the new Early Childhood Education (ECE) indoor and outdoor materials before procurement begins.



Photo 4: :GPS Faleloa

The verification covered both indoor learning spaces and the outdoor playground areas where the new materials will be installed. The outdoor checks were especially important to make sure the sites meet environmental and social standards.

The visit included several schools across the outer islands. In Vava'u, the team inspected GMS Neiafu, GMS Liviela, GMS Leimatu'a, GMS Feletoa, GMS Ha'alaufuli, GMS Tu'anekeviale, GMS Pangaimotu, GMS Tefisi, and GMS Longomapu. In Ha'apai, they reviewed the outdoor areas at GPS Faleloa, GPS Fotua, and GPS Tongaleleka Hihifo. For 'Eua, the schools visited were GMS Angaha and GPS Houma.



Figure 17: Team Ha'apai with Deputy Director ECE Maile Ongosia and the team.

On 27 November, a business seminar was held at the Tanoa Hotel, hosted by the Central Services Unit of the Ministry of Finance. The guest of honor was Hon. Taniela Fusimalohi, Minister for Infrastructure, while Natalia Latu, the World Bank Liaison Officer, gave the opening remarks. The TSRSP was represented by Procurement Officer Mosese Fatukala, and the team actively participated in the panel discussion. They shared an overview of the project, highlighting the procurement plan, safeguard requirements, and the wider plans covering both procurement and engineering.



Figure 18: Group photo of all participants, including contractors and members of the project management team.

