

# NEWSLETTER

## TONGA SAFE AND RESILIENCE SCHOOLS PROJECT

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THE WORLD BANK



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### UPDATES

#### Component 1: Improving Safety and Resilience of Education Facilities

- Sub-Component 1.1: Resilient Infrastructure Investments
- Sub-Component 1.2: Strengthening Education Infrastructure Planning and Maintenance

#### Component 2: Improving Learning and Teaching Conditions in Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary Education

- Sub-Component 2.1 Establishment of a comprehensive EMIS
- Sub-Component 2.2 Upgrading of curricula and assessments
- Sub-Component 2.3: Supporting quality Primary and Secondary Education
- Sub-Component 2.4: Improving Learning and Teaching Conditions

### Innovation at Work:

**ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE; TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH.**



*Photo: 17 June 2025 - The EMIS Team, along with teachers and students, presented their mid-year report in front of the GPS Falehau, Niuatoputapu*

### Tonga Safe and Resilience schools Project

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## Component 1 : Improving Safety and Resilience of Education Facilities

### Sub -Component 1.1: Resilient Infrastructure Investment

#### 1. GMS Kolomotu'a

##### Occupational Health and Safety

##### Contract Award : Hikaione Loumoli Consulting

An Occupation and Safety Induction training was held for Hikaione Loumoli Consulting's construction team before they began constructing GMS Kolomotu'a. The session, which covered the Environmental and Social Management Plan, OHS, Labour Management, and a Code of Conduct, was facilitated by Hikaione Loumoli Environmental Social Safeguard with assistance from the PMU Environmental Social Safeguard and the ES Specialist from the Ministry of Finance's Central Services Unit



**Figure 1:** Hikaione Construction Team together with the Environmental Social Safeguard Officer PMU and Environmental Social Safeguard for the Central Service Unit Ministry of Finance

##### Construction

The contract for this construction work has been awarded to Hikaione Consulting Limited. Construction for Kolomotu'a GMS under Package 2 Lot 2 commenced in May. The scope of work includes the construction of one new staff quarter, one inclusive WASH facility with disability access, and the refurbishment of five existing classrooms. Foundations for the staff quarter and WASH facility have been completed, and classroom retrofitting works are ongoing. The retrofitting and repair of Classroom Block TP 22-B are approximately 80% complete. For Blocks 22I, 22A, 22G, and 22M, the supply and installation of new roof cladding, screw fixings, and flashings have been completed. In Block 22B, works are ongoing, with damaged cladding sheets removed and replacement materials, including trims, flashings, underlays, and fixings, currently being installed. Roof strengthening measures, including cyclone straps, cleats, screws, and additional framing, have also been completed.



**Figure 2 :** Excavation complete; staff quarter concrete pour ready.



**Figure 3&4:** Classroom Block 22B Retrofit

#### 2. GPS 'Eueiki

##### Occupational Health and Safety

##### Contract Award :Masila Construction

A mandatory Safety Induction training was conducted for MASILA Construction Limited, covering the Environmental and Social Management Plan, Occupational Health and Safety (OHS), Labour Management, and Code of Conduct. MASILA facilitated the session with support from the PMU's Environmental and Social Safeguard Officer and the Environmental and Social Specialist from the Ministry of Finance's Central Services Unit.

##### Construction

The construction project at GPS 'Eueiki is progressing steadily. Masila Construction Limited successfully transported materials to the island via the MV 'Onemato and commenced work with site layout and profile installation. The Project Management Unit, led by Building Inspector Ofa Liti and supported by Saipalesi Unu from the Ministry of Education and Training, is providing on-site assistance. Foundations and footings for the new Staff Quarter, WASH facility, and 2-Classroom Block have been completed.



Timber floor and wall framing for all three buildings is now finished, with additional construction works currently ongoing. GPS's Eueiki Retrofitting of existing new classroom blocks, 1 New Staff Quarter, 1 New classroom, and 1 New Wash Facility.



**Figure 5&6 :** *Timber Frame Wall for Classroom and Wash Facility*

#### 4. GPS Nomuka, Maamaloa ECE Maamafo'ou Tokaikolo ECE

**Occupational Health and Safety  
Contract Award : `Ofa Construction**



**Figure 7:** *`Ofa Construction Team, PMU Environmental Social Safeguard, and Environmental Social Specialist Central Service Unit*

`Ofa Construction has completed Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) induction, led by their safeguard, Timote Tuiono, and supported by the PMU and Central Service Unit Safeguard Specialists, before starting construction on GPS Nomuka, Maamaloa ECE, and Maamafoou on Nomuka Island, Ha`apai. The training covers safety procedures, PPE use, tool and equipment operation, working at heights, excavation and electrical safety, incident reporting, and environmental protection to ensure a safe working environment and compliance with World Bank environmental safeguards.

### Construction

#### **Maamaloa Early Childhood Education (ECE)**

The Maamaloa ECE, starting with the refurbishment and renovation of Block C, is also in progress, along with Block A.



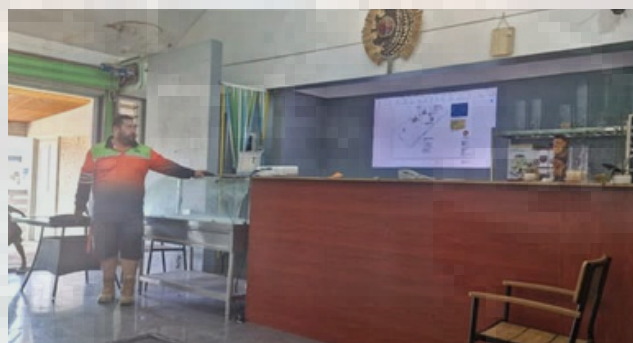
**Figure 7&8:** *Maamaloa ECE Classroom Block A&B Retrofit*

#### 5. GPS Tungua and Fonoi

#### **Occupational Health and Safety**

#### **Contract Award : Luna`eva Construction**

On June 21, 2025, Luna'eva Construction delivered OHS training to construction workers for the GPS Fonoi and GPS Tungua projects. The company's Program Manager and ESHS Officer led the session, supported by PMU Environmental and Social Safeguard Officer and Central Service Unit, Ministry of Finance ESS Specialists.



**Figure 9:** *Project Manager for Luna`eva Construction presents the safety induction requirements*

#### 6. Free Wesleyan Church Tupouto`a College

#### **Occupational Health and Safety**

#### **Contract Award: Vava`u Construction Limited in joint venture with Opas Construction**

Vava`u Construction Limited, in a joint venture with Opas Construction, has completed OHS training delivered by the Contractor Environmental Social Safeguard, supported by the Ministry of Finance's Environmental and Social Safeguard Specialist. The Vava`u team is now fully prepared to begin mobilising the site in Nomuka, Ha`apai Island.





**Figure 10&11:** *Environmental Social Safeguard for Vava'u Construction Joint Venture. Opas delivered the induction of the Occupational Health and Safety*

## Construction

The Vava'u Construction Limited joint venture Opas team has made significant progress, completing the concrete foundation pour for classroom block #3 at the Tupouto'a project site



**Figure 10&11:** *The concrete foundation for the new classroom for Tupouto'a College*

## 2. Risk-Based Schools Design and Supervision DT Global



**Figure 12:** *Weekly virtual meeting with DT Global Team*

Weekly progress meetings with DT Global, the Risk-Based Schools' Design and Supervision firm, continue. The team is progressing on the original priority list while accelerating efforts on the revised Phase 1 list, focusing on retrofit designs. As of May 13, 2025, final drawing reviews for Pea are ongoing, and submissions for Tokomololo and Peteli are expected soon. Revised Group 1A includes 16 schools (11 high-priority: yellow, Lots 1–11; 5 lower-priority: brown, Lots 12–16), excluding Tailulu Ha'apai. Group 1B includes 17 high-priority schools

## Sub -Component 1.2: Strengthening Education Infrastructure Planning and Maintenance



**Figure 13:** *Asset Management Manual Consultation*

An Asset Management consultation was held to introduce the Asset Manual developed by the World Bank. Ten trial schools in Tongatapu participated, and the program was successfully completed. The Asset Management Officer, along with two officers from the Ministry, led the consultation.



**Figure 14:** *Asset Management Officer meeting with Environmental Safety Education Officer to discuss Asset Manual content.*



Component 2: Improving Learning and Teaching Conditions in Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary Education

1. Technical Working Group



Figure 15: May Technical Meeting

Two technical meetings regarding Component 2, "Improving Learning and Teaching Conditions in Early Childhood, Primary, and Secondary Education," were held in May and June. Led by Education Coordinator Pauli Fifita and chaired by the CEO of the Ministry of Education and Training, with divisional directors and the TSRSP Program Manager participating, the meetings covered updates on key initiatives. These included the EMIS rollout to Vava'u and Ha'apai, the development of TILSA for secondary levels 6 and 7, and the completion of textbooks for classes 5 and 6, with planned expansion to classes 1–4 and early childhood education. Discussions also focused on curriculum development, assessment strategies, and priority activities to improve education quality throughout Tonga.



Figure 16: Technical Meeting in June

Sub Component 2.1 : Establishment of a comprehensive EMIS

GPS `Eueiki: MET/EMIS Deputy Director Soane Selui and the EMIS Team, including EMIS Software Engineer Paula Latu and two Ministry of Education and Training officers, integrated `Eueiki GPS into the EMIS system. During the visit, comprehensive training was delivered on essential system functions, including academic setup, class and subject configuration, user management, school updates, and mid-report card generation.



Figure 17: EMIS Director and team conduct training in GPS `Eueiki.

Primary school principals attended a training session on EMIS functionalities, focusing on Component 2 in preparation for the Mid-Year Report. The training emphasized accurate data entry for attendance, assessment scores, and comments, which automatically populate student report cards. Principals were reminded to verify data thoroughly to ensure the accuracy and integrity of final reports.



Figure 18: The Government Primary principals meeting with the EMIS team to introduce the mid-year report generated from the EMIS system.

2.1.1 EMIS Team reaches Niuafu`ou and Niuatoputapu Islands

The Ministry of Education and Training's EMIS Team, via the TSRSP Project, has completed the rollout of the Education Management Information System (EMIS). The final phase included training primary and secondary teachers on Niuafu`ou and Niuatoputapu in attendance tracking and assessment data entry.



Figure 19: Introduction of EMIS System to Niuatoputapu Teachers





**Figure 20:** Teachers from Niuafu'ou High School and Primary School participating in the training session.

**Sub -Component 2.2 : Upgrading of curricula and assessments**

From June 18-19, 2025, a workshop on large-scale assessment was held for teachers, following initial sessions with Government Middle School principals in May. The workshops concentrated on item writing and paneling for Classes 5–6, aligning with national assessment standards.

Subject-specific meetings finalized frameworks and assessments. For the Tongan Language Class 5 curriculum, writers created an assessment framework covering vocabulary, comprehension, grammar, and cultural literacy. In mathematics, five writers, with EAU and PMU support, are developing assessments for Classes 5–6 as part of the revised Tonga Large Scale Assessment.

Furthermore, the Curriculum Foundation Team conducted a two-week curriculum writing workshop for Classes 1–3, involving 32 participants (10 project-funded writers and 22 MET representatives). With these workshops complete, the Ministry has significantly advanced curriculum content and strengthened assessment tools to improve learning outcomes across Tonga.



**Figure 21:** Mathematic writers attend the training.



**Figure 21:** Teachers and Writers Workshop

**Sub -Component 2.3: Supporting quality Primary and Secondary Education**

The project team is revising the curriculum, offering staff professional development, and disseminating counseling resources. It also provides science and ICT equipment to middle and secondary schools. The PMU team met with the Ministry's Science and ICT department to discuss procurement specifications.



**Figure 22:** Losalio PMU Procurement Officer meeting with the Ministry of Education's Science and ICT Team

**Sub -Component 2.4: Improving Learning and Teaching Conditions**



**Figure 23:** Discussion of Early Childhood Education (ECE) resources for both outdoor and indoor ..

### Support for Early Childhood Education (ECE)

This initiative aims to enhance Early Childhood Education (ECE) by providing both indoor and outdoor learning resources and equipment. A total of 38 ECE centers, including those linked to government and non-government primary schools, will benefit from this support.



**Figure 24:** *The ECE Director and PMU Team reconvene to discuss and update the status of resources that will support Early Childhood Education throughout Tonga's Government Primary Schools.*

### MID TERM REVIEW WORKSHOP

The PMU team met for a two-day workshop to discuss the Mid-Term Review, which marked the halfway point in the project's implementation. The workshop was successful, providing an opportunity for the team to reflect on progress and identify priorities and actions needed to advance project activities over the remaining 4 to 5 years of implementation.



**Figure 25:** *Project Manager engaging in discussion with the PMU Team during the Mid-Term Review*



**Figure 26:** *PMU Team in the Mid-Term Review*