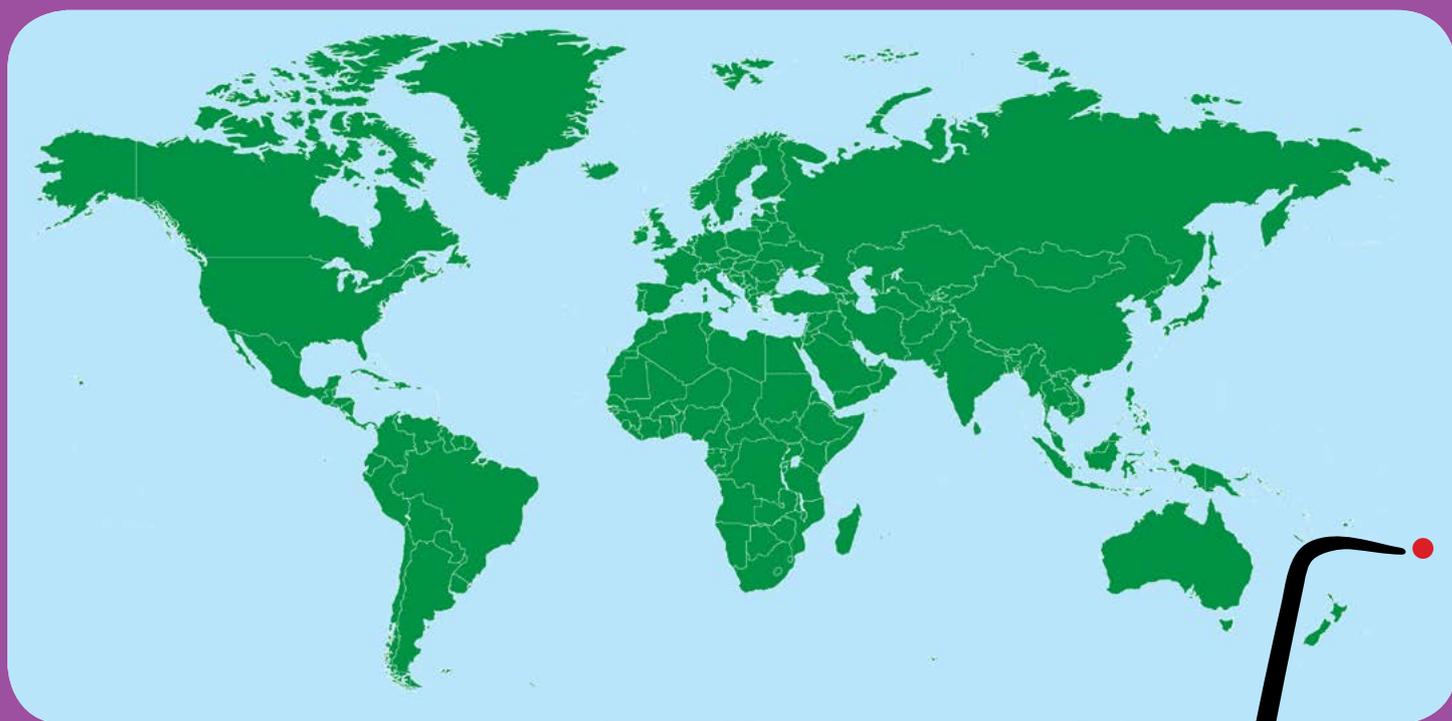


# CARITAS IN TONGA

Y3-4 LESSON PACK



**Recovering from:**  
Cyclone Gita (2018)

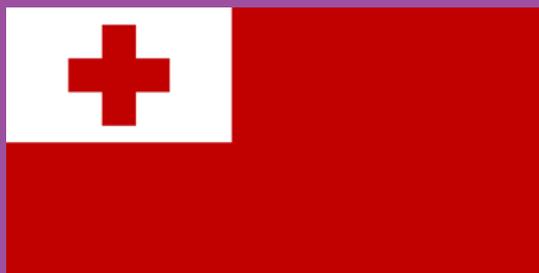
**Population:** 110,000

**Languages:** Tongan and English

**Capital:** Nuku'alofa

**Currency:** Tongan pa'anga

**Unique feature:**  
Only Monarchy  
in the Pacific



Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand has partnered with **Caritas Tonga** to support local Tongan families access resources; ranging from basics, such as water, to emergency supplies needed after experiencing disasters – such as Cyclone Gita.

## CARITAS IN TONGA CARITAS I TONGA

### HISTORY

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand has worked with Caritas Tonga since 1999. In that time the work has included water projects, emergency distribution, rebuilding projects, tree-planting for climate resilience, microbusiness support, disaster preparedness training and management, and research and advocacy on the environment (including climate change). When Cyclone Gita hit the islands of Tonga in 2018 Caritas responded to help those in need.



PHOTO: ANDY ROBINSON



### CURRENT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The recovery effort after Cyclone Gita involved a lot of hard work. Caritas Tonga helped 2,411 families (about 11,335 people) and managed to distribute hundreds of hygiene kits, water containers, kitchen sets, blankets, buckets, tarpaulins and a million litres of purified water.

Being prepared is very important in places like Tonga where cyclones and storms happen regularly. Before (and after) Cyclone Gita, specialists helped families to reduce the damage felt by such a disaster by building homes in a special way. Hundreds of boxes filled with emergency items are also kept in a warehouse ready for when a disaster strikes. This was the case before Cyclone Gita, which enabled teams to meet needs so quickly. And now after Cyclone Gita, these supplies have been re-stocked and wait in case of another emergency.

Apifo'ou College, one of the oldest schools in Tonga, suffered a lot of damage when Cyclone Gita arrived. Buildings were damaged, resources were ruined, and their toilet block was destroyed. Support from New Zealand Catholic primary schools, the NZCPPA and Caritas through Mufti Mania in 2018, helped raise more than \$27,000 that helped rebuild the toilet block and provide additional repairs.

### COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

Everyone on our planet has the right to have their basic needs met. The most basic of these needs include food, water, health, safety, clothing and shelter.

After Cyclone Gita, families who were impacted the most lost access to some of these basic needs.

Through emergency response, these needs were met quickly. Tongan families were provided tarpaulins if they had lost the roof to their home. Then for many, repairs followed to ensure that adequate shelter was restored. For many who had no access to water, they were given water containers (shown above).

### QUICK STATS

- ✓ **11,335** people helped by Caritas Tonga after Cyclone Gita
- ✓ **1 million** litres of purified water provided after Cyclone Gita
- ✓ Supplies have been re-stocked in the NEMO Warehouse to provide for **1,000** families if there is another emergency
- ✓ An emergency kitchen set has more than **30** individual items

## STORIES AND RELEVANT RESOURCES

### HE PŪRĀKAU ME ĒTAHI RAUEMI HĀNGAI



#### Story A: Apifo'ou College

The worst affected school in the country after Cyclone Gita was Apifo'ou College. In July 2018, New Zealand Catholic primary schools joined together during Mufti Mania and raised more than \$27,000 for Apifo'ou College to help the school rebuild the toilets and regain resources to help student learning.

#### Story B: Getting Prepared

In the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) warehouse, Caritas Tonga keeps boxes of supplies for when the next emergency event happens. These items are like gold for those that have lost everything.

Kitchen sets (shown) include pots, pans, bowls, plates, cutlery and cutting knives. Hygiene kits include soap, toothpaste, toilet paper, washing powder and towels. Other items that are ready for distribution include blankets, tarpaulins, water containers, buckets and tool kits.



#### Story C: Standing Firm

Cyclone resistant family houses built before 2017 through a Caritas Tonga/Habitat for Humanity housing programme came through Cyclone Gita with hardly any damage.

Viliami and 'Ilaise Moala with their two children were among eight households who had benefited from a 'pilot build' programme. Viliami does fruit-picking in Australia from May to December every year and runs a taxi service when he's home in Tonga. 'Ilaise weaves fine mats and sells them to relatives in the United States. Through these income sources, they've almost managed to pay back the loan they took out to pay for their share of the house.

The three-week construction was led by the family along with volunteer builders (including Caritas staff and its director Amelia Ma'afu). The house also sits about a foot higher than most other houses in low-lying Popua which is prone to flooding during king (super-high) tides or heavy rain.

When Gita hit, the Moala's took refuge in the hall next door just to be safe, along with eleven other families. However, their house remained secure, apart from water coming through ventilation gaps between the walls and roof.

## LESSON OUTLINE ANGA AKORANGA

### LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will...

1. Realise the importance of being prepared in case of an emergency situation
2. Develop an emergency plan and have supplies organised at home and at school in case of an emergency

#### SETTING THE SCENE

Natural disasters appear to be more frequent these days. Extreme weather events are happening somewhere in the world almost every day (when you look at the statistics and follow the news!). Tonga experienced Cyclone Gita in 2018 and Caritas responded to needs across the islands.



#### KARAKIA

Based on recent disasters happening around the world, take time to pray for everyone who has been affected: those who have lost loved ones, those who have suffered damage to their property, those who have been shaken by what they went through, those who have been responding to the emergency, and the leaders who are finding ways to bring hope and resolution.

#### VIEW

Watch a short news [video](#) just days after February 12th showing damage caused by Cyclone Gita.

#### VIEW

Read **Story A: Apifo'ou College** and watch the [Thank you from Apifo'ou College](#) video to see the positive impact of New Zealand schools through Mufti Mania in 2018.

#### REFLECTION

Mother Teresa once said, *'We cannot all do great things. But we can do small things with great love.'*

Ask students to connect the meaning of her words with what happened with thousands of students throughout New Zealand helping Apifo'ou College.

#### DISCUSSION

Share some of the highlights and outcomes from the **Caritas in Tonga** page to help students understand the impact Caritas support made after Cyclone Gita.

One of the greatest strengths to the response by Caritas Tonga was the large number of items already available for distribution in the NEMO warehouse. Ask students to predict what would be found in a kitchen set or a hygiene set. Share **Story B: Getting Prepared** with the class to reveal what is included in the sets. Were there any surprises?

#### DISCUSSION

We may not have a warehouse of pre-stocked emergency supplies but how can we be ready in case of a future emergency?

#### ACTIVITY

Play the **Build a Kit** game from <https://www.ready.gov/kids/games/data/bak-english/index.html> to work through what items are important to have as emergency supplies. Other games can be found at [www.getready.govt.nz](http://www.getready.govt.nz).



#### READ

Read **Story C: Standing Firm** with students to provide a positive story about the Moala family house that withstood Cyclone Gita.

#### DISCUSSION

Like the Moala's example of being prepared for a storm, how can we also prepare our initial response to events such as an earthquake, flood, fire or tsunami? If you need to, take time to talk through the school's emergency plans and practise any class drills (e.g. drop, cover, hold).

#### ACTIVITY

Use **Worksheet 9: Organising Supplies** to help students develop an emergency plan and get supplies organised at home and school in case of a future emergency. Share plans and supply checklists and decide on who may need to bring various items before the end of the term. Where will emergency supplies be kept?

#### ACTION

Students should work through their plans with their families and ensure that everyone understands the planned response before a future emergency event.

## WORKSHEET 9 WHĀRANGI MAHI 9

### Organising Supplies

When it comes to emergencies it is important to be prepared in advance. Have you got a plan in place at school and at home if a disaster occurs in the future?

Take time to put in place a plan now before it is too late. Do you know important phone numbers? Have you got a meeting place? What is the plan if the phone network goes down? Have you got emergency supplies in your classroom and at home? What supplies will you need? Consider food, water, hygiene and other important gear.

Make a checklist below and make sure you can tick off all the tasks you need to before the end of the term.



*Plan and meeting locations organised*

**EMERGENCY SUPPLIES PREPARED AT HOME**

**KEY PHONE NUMBERS**



**EMERGENCY SUPPLIES AT SCHOOL**

Check out the Civil Defence's website [www.getready.govt.nz](http://www.getready.govt.nz) for more ideas