

# Tonga remains cut off after a massive eruption and tsunami

Helen Regan, Cnn editor – January 18, 2022

The eruption of an underwater volcano near Tonga on Saturday was likely the biggest recorded anywhere on the planet in more than 30 years, according to experts.



Satellite images from JMA show the volcano eruption in Tonga on January 15.

Dramatic images from space captured the eruption in real time, as a huge plume of ash, gas and steam was spewed up to 20 kilometers (12.4 miles) into the atmosphere -- and tsunami waves were sent crashing across the Pacific.

The eruption and subsequent tsunami caused "significant damage" along the western coast of the main island of Tongatapu

Tonga is a Polynesian country of more than 170 South Pacific islands and home to about 100,000 people.

It's a remote archipelago that lies about 800 kilometers (500 miles) east of Fiji and 2,380 kilometers (1,500 miles) from New Zealand. The eruption caused a tsunami on Tonga's largest island, Tongatapu, with waves recorded at 1.2 meters (about 4 feet) near Nuku'alofa city. Tsunami waves were felt in California, Alaska and Hawaii.



Powerful undersea volcano eruption in Tonga on January 14.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent have enough supplies in the country to support 1,200 households.

## READING COMPREHENSION

READ THE QUESTIONS AND MARK THE CORRECT ANSWER:

**1. Who writes the news?**

- The experts
- Helen Regan of BBC news
- Helen Regan of Cnn news

**2. The news speaks about...**

- A dangerous volcano
- An underwater volcano
- An inactive volcano

**3. When did the volcano begin erupting?**

- On Saturday
- On Sunday
- On Monday

**4. How was the eruption?**

- Dangerous
- Dramatic
- The biggest recorded

**5. What did the images from space capture?**

- The lava and the rocks
- A huge plume of ash, gas and steam
- A huge plume of ash and the lava

**6. Where is Tonga?**

- In Polynesia
- In Haití
- In New Zealand

**7. How many people live there?**

- 10,000
- 1,000,000
- 100,000

**8. How many kilometers is away from Fiji?**

- 800 km
- 2,380 km
- 20 km

**9. What did the eruption cause?**

- A flood
- An earthquake
- A tsunami

**10. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent are helping people**

- True
- False