



EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR THE **REMOTE** ISLANDS OF TONGA

On Saturday, January 11, 2014, the island nation of Tonga was hit by a Force 5 Cyclone named Ian, which tore through the most vulnerable center island group of Ha'apai. With winds of over 175mph, it destroyed 70-90% of the homes and left their 23 inhabited islands without food, water, shelter and access to medical care. Emergency aid is being directed to the 4 primary islands of Ha'apai, but there are no dedicated vessels available to deliver the emergency aid and medical care to the remaining 19 inhabited islands.

At the urgent request of Tonga, Sea Mercy is preparing to send two of our Floating Health Care Clinic's (**Rebelle** and **Segue**) to Ha'apai to be the emergency "aid delivery" vessels for their remote islands. Our job will be to help deliver the local Tongan doctors, medicines, food, water and shelter needed to the 7,000+ people living on these remote islands until the infrastructure can be rebuilt (3-6+ months).

Sea Mercy needs your help to meet those emergency and ongoing needs. Enclosed is information on how you can help make a difference on the remote islands of Tonga.

Richard Hackett
President & Founder of Sea Mercy



Visit us online for more information:
www.seamercy.org

A single vessel can make a difference
our fleet can help change the world



Who is Sea Mercy?

Sea Mercy (www.seamercy.org) is a US based 501(c)3 non-profit organization that serves the often neglected "remote" islands of the South Pacific. Working directly with the Health Ministries of our island nation partners, we operate a growing fleet of Floating Health Care Clinic's (FHCC) that delivers free evaluations and treatments to the remote islands that do not have access to even the most basic health care services. With hundreds of miles often separating their remote islands, our island nations do not have the funds and resources to operate and maintain a FHCC vessel. Our FHCC vessels carry local and international health care volunteers, medicines, and supplies, and although we wish there was never a need, we also act as disaster response vessels.

Why is Sea Mercy Needed in Tonga?

Sea Mercy has already led non-disaster related operations on Tonga and is in close contact with the national government about disaster relief for their remote islands. For many of these remote islands, shallow draft catamarans (such as the ones operated by Sea Mercy) are the only vessels capable and experienced to perform these relief activities. As is our standard procedure, we move our FHCC vessels to safe anchorages in Fiji during the cyclone season. As a result, it will take some time to organize the supplies and funding needed to sustain their operations (expected to last from 3-6+ months).

Ensuring Success

During emergency relief and disaster recovery periods, there is a great deal of chaos and confusion. To avoid the loss or misuse of Sea Mercy purchased or donated items, we will be stationing our medical supplies 100 miles north in the protected port of Neiafu, Vava'u (Vava'u was spared the devastation of cyclone Ian). Although this adds a day each way in sailing, I want to insure our FHCC vessels will have continual access to the medical, fuel, and food supplies they need to operate and serve the remote islands. We have also negotiated secure and free delivery of our supplies to Vava'u via Tonga's only interisland ferry (www.fisa.to).

YOUR help is needed NOW!

We are in communication with international aid organizations to provide the ongoing assistance and support for this emergency relief program, but working through the approval channels takes time, something the remote islanders do not have. As a result, here is where you can help most, based on highest priority:

Cash Donations - Cash donations are needed now to purchase the emergency fuel, food and medical supplies. Go to www.seamercy.org and click on the **Tonga Emergency Relief** link and donate today!

International Aid Relationships - If you have contacts with local or international charities or disaster response organizations, shipping companies, airlines, etc. please introduce them to Sea Mercy and ask them to contact us.

In-kind Donations - Once our vessels depart Fiji, we will shift to the "ongoing support" role, and begin gathering the needed medical and non-medical supplies that we need to continue the program. We will be shipping boxes (short-term) and containers (long-term) to Vava'u.

Mālō (Thank You)!

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