

LASAC SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) NO. 25

PROGRAMME TITLE	Taal Volcano Eruption, Batangas Province, PH.
PROGRAMME LOCATION	Province of Batangas
DATE COVERED	January 24, 2020 (as of 8:00 pm)
SITREP NUMBER	25
SUBMITTED BY	Lipa Archdiocesan Social Action Commission, Inc.

I. Situation Overview

A. Taal Volcano Bulletin

Activity in the Main Crater in the past 24 hours has been characterized by weak to moderate emission of white steam-laden plumes 50 to 500 meters high from the Main Crater that drifted southwest. Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emission was measured at an average of 224 tonnes/day.

The Philippine Seismic Network (PSN) plotted a total of four hundred eighty-six (486) volcanic earthquakes today. One hundred seventy-six (176) of these registered at magnitudes M1.2-M4.1 and were felt at Intensities I-V. Since 5:00 AM on January 23, 2020 until 5:00 AM today, there were seven (7) volcanic earthquakes plotted that registered at magnitudes M1.2-M2.7 with no felt event.

For the past 24 hours, the Taal Volcano Network, which can record small earthquakes undetectable by the PSN, recorded four hundred eighty-six (486) volcanic earthquakes including four (4) low-frequency earthquakes. Such intense activity likely signifies continuous magmatic intrusion beneath the Taal edifice, which may lead to further eruptive activity.

Alert Level 4 remains in effect over Taal Volcano. This means that hazardous explosive eruption is possible within hours to days. DOST-PHIVOLCS strongly reiterates total evacuation of Taal Volcano Island and high-risk areas as identified in the hazard maps within the 14-km radius from Taal Main Crater and along the Pansipit River Valley where fissuring has been observed. Based on PAGASA wind forecast, if the eruption plume remains below five (5) km, ash will be drifted to the municipalities west and northwest of the Main Crater; however, if a major eruption occurs during the day and the eruption column exceeds 7 km, ash will also be drifted over the

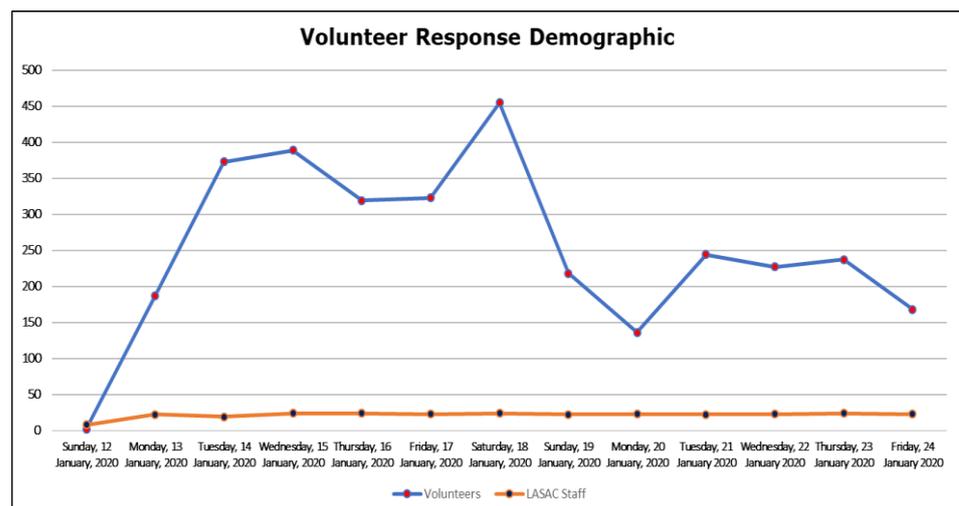
western parts of Laguna and Quezon provinces. Residents around the volcano are advised to guard against the effects of heavy and prolonged ashfall. Civil aviation authorities must advise pilots to avoid the airspace around Taal Volcano as airborne ash and ballistic fragments from the eruption column pose hazards to aircraft.

B. Rapid Assessment

- Overcrowding and congestion in evacuation camps, along with unsanitary conditions are among the pressing concerns of over 300,000 internally displaced individuals. Among the risks are nutrition deficiency which could trigger the rise of illnesses such as acute respiratory infections, diarrhea and skin disease.
- The influx of evacuees also raises concern for the evacuation center coordinators since there are limited number of food and non-food items prepositioned by the local government, prompting the local barangay to outsource relief packs from the Malasakit para sa Batangas Command Center.

C. Volunteer Management

- *Volunteer Response Significantly Decreased.* A decrease in volunteers was recorded, with one hundred sixty-eight (168) persons in attendance as compared to yesterday's 237 volunteers. The dwindling response of volunteers may have been directly correlated with the recent advisory from the provincial government that classes will resume for all students under the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) that began last January 23, 2020, specifically, all schools outside the fourteen-kilometer (14km) radius.



II. Response

A. Incoming and Outgoing Relief

- In-kind relief has a monetized value of ₱14,722,481.80 while cash donations amounted to ₱6,741,531.96
- A total number of 234,467 individuals benefitted from the humanitarian efforts and relief services of the Archdiocese for over six hundred thirty-two (632) evacuation centers all over the province. Further categorized are the following:

Evacuation Category	Reliefs disbursed by RCAL for Individuals
Local Government	149,907
Archdiocese of Lipa	70,153
Interfaith and Interreligious	2,487
Private Organizations	11,920

B. Psychosocial intervention, liturgy and prayer

- Archbishop Garcera celebrated the Holy Mass in the evening at the St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr Chapel in honor of St. Francis de Sales, reflecting on the love of God who always is the first to choose those in service, referring to all the selfless volunteers in attendance. Among the concelebrants were Rev. Fr. Jayson Siapco and a guest deacon from the Incarnate Word Congregation.
- A psychological first aid session was given to the core group of the Malasakit para sa Batangas Command Center. This is part and parcel of the humanitarian response in consideration of self-care for the primary responders.

III. Coordination

- The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Lipa has granted a special permission for contemplative nuns to go out of their convent to visit the survivors of the eruption of Taal Volcano in the spirit of prayer and solidarity.
- A report of the summary situation and pastoral response shall be presented by Archbishop Garcera to the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and to the Secretary of the State of the Vatican City.

IV. Pledges and Contributions

- In response to the expression of support and intent to help, along with the needs of the survivors and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Taal relief efforts, we encourage the donation of the following items:
 1. Rubber mats
 2. Ready-to-eat food packs
 3. Tents and shelter materials
 4. Medicines (anti-hypertension, cough remedies, antihistamine, anti-vertigo)
 5. Sleeping kits
 6. N-95 masks
 7. Nebulizer kits
 8. Hygiene kits
 9. Portalets
 10. Water purifiers

V. Media and Communications

The Lipa Archdiocesan Social Action Commission, Inc. (LASAC) continue to provide updates of the humanitarian response, entitled, ***"Malasakit para sa Batangas"*** through its social media accounts and website, while coordinating with the social communications commission of the archdiocese, along with other local and national broadcasting system.

To make massive the dissemination of information, an update from the command center shall be issued every three (3) hours on-air, per the latest communication with the Archdiocesan Social Communications Commission through Rev. Fr. Ildefonso Dimaano.

VI. Photos





VII. Key Contacts

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