

LASAC SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) NO. 28

PROGRAMME TITLE	Taal Volcano Eruption, Batangas Province, PH.
PROGRAMME LOCATION	Province of Batangas
DATE COVERED	January 26, 2020 (as of 10:00 am)
SITREP NUMBER	28
SUBMITTED BY	Lipa Archdiocesan Social Action Commission, Inc.

I. Situation Overview

A. Taal Volcano Bulletin

Taal Volcano's condition in the two weeks following the January 12-13, 2020 phreatomagmatic eruption (main eruptive phase) has generally declined into less frequent volcanic earthquake activity, decelerated ground deformation of the Taal Caldera and Taal Volcano Island (TVI) edifices and weak steam/gas emissions at the Main Crater. These observations are supported by the following monitoring parameters:

1. Significant earthquakes recorded by the Philippine Seismic Network (PSN) across the Taal region declined from 959 to 27 events/day and peak magnitudes of M4.1 to M2.1 between 12 and 24 January. The Taal Volcano Network (TVN) likewise recorded a downtrend in volcanic earthquakes from 944 to 420 events/day between 17 and 24 January with a corresponding decline in the daily total seismic energy released. In particular, hybrid earthquakes that tracked post-eruptive recharge from Taal's deep magma reservoir to a shallow magma region beneath TVI ceased on 21 January, while the number and energy of low frequency events associated with activity in the shallow magma region diminished.
2. Global Positioning System (GPS) data recorded ground deformation after the main eruptive phase that included sudden widening of Taal Caldera by ~1 meter, uplift of its northwestern sector by ~20 centimeters and subsidence of the southwestern part of TVI by ~1 meter. These patterns were followed at much smaller rates between 15 and 22 January 2020 and were generally supported by field observations of lakewater recession by ~30 centimeters around Taal Lake as of yesterday. Field observations also measured a ~2.5 m lakewater recession along

the southwestern lakeshore denoting uplift of portions of the Pansipit River Valley where fissuring has been reported. The overall pattern of ground deformation is for most part supported by InSAR (satellite) data and yields a net inflation of western Taal Volcano as a consequence of magma intrusion to the shallow magma region until 21 January.

3. After the main eruptive phase, activity in the Taal Main Crater diminished to infrequent weak ash eruptions and longer episodes of degassing or steaming that generated steam-laden plumes <1000 meters tall. This marked decline coupled with volcanic earthquake activity suggests stalling, degassing and reduction in gas pressures of eruptible magma in the shallow magmatic region that feeds surface eruptive activity.
4. Sulfur dioxide or SO₂ flux based on campaign Flyspec data fluctuated between a high of ~5,300 tonnes/day on 13 January to a low of ~140 tonnes/day on 22 January but has steadied at an average of 250 tonnes/day in the last five days. This low concentration average is consistent with a progressively degassed shallow magma source and diminished plume activity.

In view of the above observations, **PHIVOLCS-DOST is lowering the alert status of Taal Volcano from Alert Level 4 to Alert Level 3 to reflect the overall decrease in the level of monitoring parameters.** Alert Level 3 means that there is a decreased tendency towards hazardous explosive eruption but should not be interpreted that unrest has ceased or that the threat of a hazardous eruption has disappeared. Should an uptrend or pronounced change in monitored parameters forewarn a potential hazardous explosive eruption, the Alert Level may be raised back to Alert Level 4. People residing within areas at high risk to base surges who have returned after the Alert Level was stepped down must thus be prepared for a quick and organized evacuation at such time. Conversely, should there be a persistent downtrend in monitored parameters after a sufficient observation period, the Alert Level will be further lowered to Alert Level 2.

DOST-PHIVOLCS reminds the public that at Alert Level 3, sudden steam-driven and even weak phreatomagmatic explosions, volcanic earthquakes, ashfall and lethal volcanic gas expulsions can occur and threaten areas within Taal volcano island and nearby lakeshores. DOST-PHIVOLCS recommends that entry into TVI, Taal's Permanent Danger Zone, as well as into areas over Taal Lake and communities west of Taal volcano island within a seven (7) kilometer-radius from the Main Crater must be strictly prohibited.

Local government units are advised to assess areas outside the seven-kilometer radius for damages and road accessibilities and to strengthen preparedness, contingency and communication measures in case of renewed unrest. People are also advised to observe precautions due to ground displacement across fissures, frequent ashfall and minor earthquakes. Communities beside active river channels particularly where ash from the main eruption phase has been thickly deposited should increase vigilance when there is heavy and prolonged rainfall since the ash can be washed away and form lahars along the channels. Civil aviation authorities must advise pilots to avoid flying close to the volcano as airborne ash and ballistic fragments from sudden explosions and wind-remobilized ash may pose hazards to aircrafts. PHIVOLCS-DOST is closely monitoring Taal Volcano's activity and any new significant development will be immediately communicated to all stakeholders.

B. Rapid Assessment

- There are over one hundred forty-eight (148) parish-based and school-based evacuation centers managed by the Archdiocese of Lipa. The latter cares for 45,942 families comprised of 182,998 persons.
- Local government managed evacuation centers attend to 108,805 families comprised of 409,388 persons in 646 evacuation centers while interfaith and interreligious groups cater to 1,085 families comprised of 4,344 individuals in 12 evacuation centers. The private sector responds to the needs of over 5,649 families composed of 24,350 persons.

C. Volunteer Management

- *Volunteer Response Slightly Increased.* No trend movements yet per latest records and report. A slight increase in volunteers was recorded, with two hundred two (202) persons in attendance as compared to yesterday's one hundred sixty-eight (168) volunteers. The slight increase may have been caused by the usual weekend scenario, in view of the availability of volunteers. This trend however is much lower as compared to the volunteer response on Friday last week, dated January 17, 2020 where 323 volunteers signed-up.

II. Response

A. Incoming and Outgoing Relief

- In-kind relief has a monetized value of ₱16,064,367.80 while cash donations amounted to ₱7,248,671.16
- A total number of 234,467 individuals benefitted from the humanitarian efforts and relief services of the Archdiocese for over nine hundred (900) 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

- Eucharistic celebrations are offered twice today, while Eucharistic adoration persists from 7:00 in the morning until 9:00 in the evening, along with the recitation of the rosary. These are well attended by lay volunteers, seminarians and members of the religious men and women of the Archdiocese.

III. Coordination

- The humanitarian response of the Archdiocese was made more efficient by the coordination and support of the following:
 - Ayala Homeowners Mandaluyong
 - Okazaki Filipino Community in Japan
 - Philippine Media Group of Publications
 - Children Mission Philippines (Manila)
 - Provincial Government of Pampanga
 - Social Action Commission of Pampanga (SACOP)

IV. Pledges and Contributions

- The second batch of medicines donated by UNILAB for internally displaced persons has arrived this morning at the Malasakit para sa Batangas Command Center.

- 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:

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| 5. Thermal sleeping kits | 1. Rubber mats |
| 6. N-95 masks | 2. Ready-to-eat food packs |
| 7. Nebulizer kits | 3. Tents and shelter materials |
| 8. Hygiene kits | 4. Medicines (anti-hypertension, cough remedies, antihistamine, anti-vertigo) |
| 9. Portalets | |
| 10. Water purifiers | |
| 11. Water containers | |

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. Ildfonso Dimaano.

The Catholic Media Network (CMN) and Veritas Radio 846 has likewise been in close coordination with the Archdiocese of Lipa, specifically with the Networking and Information Cluster of the Malasakit para sa Batangas Command Center for updates and information drive. The latter assures that news sources and situation reports are widely and massively disseminated.

VI. Key Contacts

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