



## **LASAC SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) NO. 4**

<b>PROGRAMME TITLE</b>	Taal Volcano Eruption, Batangas Province, PH.
<b>PROGRAMME LOCATION</b>	Talisay, Tanauan, Agoncillo, Alitagtag, Balete, San Nicolas, Sto. Tomas, Lemery and Bauan (Province of Batangas)
<b>DATE COVERED</b>	January 13, 2020 (as of 8:00 pm)
<b>SITREP NUMBER</b>	4
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	Lipa Archdiocesan Social Action Commission, Inc.

### **I. Situation Overview**

After a brief diminishing of activity following lava fountaining at early morning today, Taal's eruption resumed immediately with weak and irregular lava fountaining at the Main Crater that generated steam-rich plumes approximately 2km tall. New lateral vents were observed to have opened-up on the northern edge where short lava fountains of 500 meters emanate.

Since the last update, heavy ashfall from the ongoing eruptions of Taal has reportedly fallen southwest of the volcano island in Cuenca, Lemery, and Taal, Batangas. The local government anticipates that the agriculture, including livestock and fisheries will be heavily affected. On the other hand, the Department of Health also braces for a possible increase in acute respiratory infection cases especially if the ash falls will continue within the next days. Fine ashfall can cause irritation and breathing problems especially among the elderly and children. Long-term exposure may be harmful to respiratory health.

In addition, areas of ashfall have also experienced sulfurous smell which can also cause irritation. Affected populations are advised to avoid inhalation of ash and use N95-grade facemasks or wet cloth or towel when going outdoors. Motorists are advised to drive with extreme caution as ash can cause poor visibility and, when wet, can make roads slippery.

The Philippine Seismic Network has recorded a total of one hundred forty-four (144) volcanic earthquakes in the Taal region since 1:00 PM, January 12, 2020. Forty-four (44) of these earthquakes were

felt with intensities ranging from Intensity I to V in Tagaytay City; Alitagtag, Lemery, Santo Tomas, and Talisay, Batangas. Such intense seismic activity probably signifies continuous magma intrusion beneath the Taal edifice, which may lead to further eruptive activity.

The Lipa Archdiocesan Social Action Commission, Inc. is working closely with the Provincial Government of Batangas, specifically with its disaster risk reduction and management agency, and as of 5:58 in the evening of January 13, there are a total of 6,338 families or 32,735 individuals in evacuation. The Office of Civil Defense (Region IV-A) fear that the evacuation of at-risk communities could become prolonged which may create concerns relating to camp management and service maintenance (food, WASH, medical services) in the evacuation centers. The city government of Batangas has ordered that all fiesta celebrations be cancelled so that resources may be utilized to aid the evacuees.

## **II. Response**

- After having conducted their respective rapid assessments all over the most severely affected areas, the social services ministry of eighteen (18) out of sixty-five (65) parishes rendered food and logistics assistance in evacuation centers near or within their jurisdiction.
- A Eucharistic celebration was presided by the local Ordinary, Most. Rev. Gilbert A. Garcera at the command center of LASAC attended by pastoral workers and volunteers.
- An initial relief operation was made in effect for Mataasnakahoy (Central and La Purissima), in consideration of its increasing number of survivors from Talisay, Taal and Balete, disbursing four (4) sacks of rice, two (2) boxes of coffee, noodles, canned and biscuits, respectively, along with one thousand (1000) pieces of N95 grade face masks.
- There is a total of ninety-seven (97) volunteers enrolled and deployed in strategic help desks and contingent in order to augment workforce and make humanitarian response speedy and efficient.

- The ongoing monitoring and assessment of LASAC volunteers has reported that the municipality of Agoncillo, San Nicolas and Talisay are now considered ghost towns due to the effects of extreme volcanic activities.
- The provincial government of Batangas has placed the entire province under a state of calamity through a declaration that was adopted in a special session, based on the recommendation of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC) along with an endorsement letter from its chairperson, Batangas Governor Hermilando Mandanas.
- LASAC Director and Social Services Ministry Chairperson Fr. Jayson Siapco provided orientation and briefing to the volunteers as regards the situation in the field.

### **III. Coordination**

- The social services ministry of the Immaculate Conception Basilica and Lingap Pangarap ng mga Paslit Center, Inc. (LPPCI) conducted a rapid assessment to the survivors temporarily staying at the Provincial Auditorium in Batangas City in coordination with the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (CDRRMC) and City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO).
- The social services ministry of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Mataasnakahoy issued a communication as regards the health situation of the survivors, prompting the command center to send additional non-food and medical items, namely: three (3) boxes of paracetamol, two (2) boxes of anti-flu meds, two boxes of cough medicines and pain relievers, one (1) box of anti-histamine and an additional six hundred fifty (650) pieces of N95 grade face masks.
- Seminarians from both the Institute of Formation and College of St. Francis de Sales Major Seminary serve as volunteers taking charge of internal communications and social media infographic posting assisting the ICT Program Specialist.
- Free charging services of mobile phones and electronic devices were offered by the parish of San Guillermo in Talisay.
- Local meal corners around and nearby severely affected areas have offered free hot meals for the survivors.

- Local hotel and resorts all over the province have expressed willingness to accommodate survivors and volunteers.

#### **IV. Pledges and Contributions**

With over 40,000 survivors, close to almost 8,000 families in evacuation, the urgent needs right now are drinking water (packaged mineral water), clean water (as well as the water containers, medicines, rice and side dishes for the kitchen, infant milk, face masks (N95), hygiene kits, cleaning kits for cleaning mud, power jet spray hose nozzles (pressure washer), sanitary napkins, diapers for baby and elderly people, underwear, foldable beds and mats, temporary shelters, generator, emergency lamps and flashlights.

The Archdiocesan Social Action Center of Capiz (CASAC) rendered its solidarity share of ₱53,000.00. A Solidarity Appeal to the dioceses (including individuals and organizations) was also launched today by NASSA/Caritas Philippines, and a solidarity visit is scheduled on Thursday, January 16, 2020. In-kind donations were shared by the Canossa Academy, along with the parishes of St. Therese of Lisieux and Most Holy Trinity, coupled with generous individuals who wish to be held anonymous.

#### **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.

The Radyo Bayanihan System and social communications commission of the Archdiocese has worked closely with social action volunteers both in roving and documentation efforts. The public service and communications program is giving updates in coordination with national government agencies and local government units.

## VI. Photos



## VII. Key Contacts

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Noted by:

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