

SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) NO. 53

PROGRAMME TITLE	Taal Volcano Eruption, Batangas Province, PH.
PROGRAMME LOCATION	Province of Batangas (Archdiocese of Lipa)
DATE COVERED	February 17, 2020 (as of 09:00 am)
SITREP NUMBER	53
SUBMITTED BY	Lipa Archdiocesan Social Action Commission, Inc.

I. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Five (5) weeks after the phreatic eruption of Taal volcano, after the recent downgrading of volcanic alert level warnings, people have been striving to put their lives back in order. While both private and public sectors have provided support for the severely affected population, many are still experiencing displacement, unsafe and unsanitary living conditions, as well as psychological trauma and protection risks even in the disaster's aftermath.

Humanitarian needs and priorities resulting from Taal volcanic eruptions are becoming available following the completion of the Rapid Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (R-DANA) and combined with the data input via incident and information management system¹ of the Malasakit para sa Batangas Command Center.

A. TAAL VOLCANO BULLETIN

Alert Level 2 is maintained over Taal volcano island, which means that there is a moderate level of volcanic unrest; low to moderate level of seismic activities and persistence of local but unfelt earthquakes.

Date	Volcanic Earthquake	Harmonic Tremor	Tremor	Low-Frequency Earthquake	SO2 Emission
Feb. 11	87	2	0	1	105tonnes
Feb. 12	101	0	0	4	67tonnes
Feb. 13	71	0	0	0	59tonnes
Feb. 14	DOWNGRADED TO ALERT LEVEL 2				
Feb. 15	77	0	0	0	59tonnes
Feb. 16	69	0	0	0	53tonnes
Feb. 17	65	0	0	0	58tonnes

If trend shows further decline, volcanic alert level may soon go to Level 1, however, should there be an upward trend in volcanic activities, the downgraded alert may be reinstated to a heightened one. State seismologists reiterates that at Alert Level 2, sudden steam-driven or phreatic explosions, volcanic earthquakes, ashfall and lethal accumulations or expulsions of volcanic gas can occur and threaten areas within Taal Volcano Island (TVI) and along its coast. Entry into the Permanent Danger Zone is still

¹ The Incident and Information Management System is powered by the Emergency Response Integration Center (ERIC).

strictly prohibited. Local government units are advised to additionally assess previously evacuated areas within 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.

B. KEY FOCUSED AREAS

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Based on assessment data, there were significant incidents of interruption to water supply caused by the volcanic eruption, especially in severely affected municipalities, namely: Agoncillo, portions of Balete, San Nicolas and Talisay. Majority of evacuation centers (ECs) have adequate water supply for drinking², which is mostly bottled water, along with those being provided with water tankers mobilized by local water concessionaires and Caritas Manila.

Water containers and water treatment chemicals are freely distributed and monitored by the Department of Health (DOH). However, the existing provision of sanitation services is inadequate, with only fifty-two percent (52%) of ECs having latrines and handwashing stations, or where they are in place they are not enough to cater for the number of affected families. This is not yet inclusive of individuals and families in home-based evacuation sites which accounts for 60% of the total affected populace.

Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihood

Ninety-eight percent (98%) of evacuees in the ECs assessed are being provided with three meals a day, and there have been considerable public and private donation drive of food items for the affected families.

Shelter and Settlement

A total of 3,813 houses in the province were reported damaged due to the incident as shown in the table below:

NO. OF DAMAGED HOUSES³			
MUNICIPALITY	ENTIRELY	PARTIALY	SUM TOTAL
Laurel	136	401	537
Lemery	471	1,034	1,505
Talisay	14	7	21
Tanauan City	178	1,572	1,750
TOTAL	799	3,014	3,813

While most of the evacuees have returned home, it is expected that a significant number of those currently displaced will not be able to return at all, as their homes are now in areas that have been categorized as Permanent Danger Zones. This could result in protracted and prolonged displacement if effective strategies for relocation/resettlement are not identified.

² Situation Report No. 17, issued by the Department of Health (DOH) on 16 February 2020.

³ DROMIC Report No. 47, issued by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on 14 February 2020.

Health

Essential health services have been disrupted by the Taal Volcanic eruption, with eight (8) public and private health facilities closed as a result of evacuation. There has been increasing pressure put on services which are operating in areas where ECs have been established. Cases of acute respiratory infections (ARI), eye irritation and skin diseases have been reported as a result of the volcanic ash; as well as increasing numbers of acute watery diarrhea in ECs in the province⁴.

Cases	f
Acute respiratory infections	4,335
Influenza (flu)	996
Hypertension	955
Injury	347
Skin disease	224
Acute watery diarrhea	224
Eye irritation	103
Diabetes Mellitus	53
Burn	13
Measles	4
TOTAL	7,254

Additionally, the psychological well-being of evacuees continues to be a priority, given they have had to be evacuated from their homes, while fear of further volcanic eruptions and prolonged displacement may be a cause of anxiety and stress for many, especially for children.

II. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

As of writing, the local Church of Lipa, through its social service arm has been able to carry out the following activities to respond immediately to identified needs:

KEY FOCUSED AREA	ACTIONS TAKEN
Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More than 30,000 liters of clean water distributed ▪ 778 people reached with sanitation and hygiene promotion activities
Food security, nutrition and livelihood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 69,868 families comprised of 390,651 people were provided with food items ▪ 12,343 people (IDPs and volunteers) served with ready-to-eat/hot meals
Shelter and settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1,082 sets of essential household items (blankets, jerry cans and sleeping mats) distributed
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 52 individuals were given psychological first aid, 17 of which are children ▪ 220 people received treatment in medical missions; and an additional 147 consultations conducted

⁴ Epidemiology Bureau Reports No. 11, issued by the Department of Health (DOH) on 14 February 2020.

In terms of the affected population, a total of 151,386 families/584,236 persons are spread and dispersed in and across the provinces of Batangas, Quezon, Laguna and Cavite – of which, a total of 1,833 families/6,666 persons are taking temporary shelter in 40 evacuation centers. **Of the 584,236 affected persons, 2.64% or 15,438 are being cared for and monitored by the local Church.**

III. STATEMENT OF NEED

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Though there have been distributions of basic hygiene items, contributed through in-kind support, these are not necessarily complete or are below standard. There remains a need to provide evacuees with standardized sets of hygiene related items (sanitary napkins, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and underwear for men and women) to complement what has already been provided.

Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihood

While donations of food items from the private sector are still ongoing, this is expected to reduce over the coming weeks and cash assistance will then become a priority. This will be needed to ensure evacuees are able to meet their basic needs while continuing to be displaced or to cover the cost of transportation for those that are able to return home. Based on the current understanding of impact, all markets in the affected area outside of the evacuation areas are currently operational and will allow for cash, and/or commodity voucher interventions. This intervention may be extended with possible further distributions, depending on the evolving situation.

Shelter and Settlement

Support with housing, land and property issues (HLP), materials to set up alternative/transition sites, and/or rental support may be required in the longer term. It is hereby recommended that the provincial and local DRRMCs must establish a Task Force with other government agencies and work closely with various stakeholders to charter solutions with displaced families who cannot return.

Health

Support including the placement and positioning of mobile clinics, emergency health units and health personnel will be required to address the gaps in existing service provision, and ease pressures on the DOH. There will be a need to ensure outbreaks are monitored, and cases referred to health service providers for onward support.

There also has to be on-site medical assessment teams for responders in order to act as a screening mechanism, in view of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). For vector-borne diseases, including the risk of dengue in the affected areas, there is a need to distribute insecticide treated mosquito nets, as well as provide education on how use them to minimize the risk of transmission.

IV. COMMAND CENTER MECHANISM

Donor and Fund Support

In-kind relief (food and non-food items) has a monetized value of ₱35,281,825.06 while cash donations amounted to ₱18,696,652.24.

Volunteer Management

Additional volunteers are called for, specifically in the logistics committee, along with the network and information committee for documentation and communication.

Network and Information

The regular airing of MaLASACKit First is scheduled for today from 3:30 to 4:30 in the afternoon. Specifically, it sought to mainstream updates and developments of the Taal volcano, along with the situation of prolonged displacement among the affected populations.

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