



LASAC SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) NO. 7

PROGRAMME TITLE	Taal Volcano Eruption, Batangas Province, PH.
PROGRAMME LOCATION	Talisay, Tanauan, Agoncillo, Alitagtag, Balete, San Nicolas, Sto. Tomas, Lemery and Bauan (Province of Batangas)
DATE COVERED	January 15, 2020 (as of 8:00 pm)
SITREP NUMBER	7
SUBMITTED BY	Lipa Archdiocesan Social Action Commission, Inc.

I. Situation Overview

A. Taal Volcano Bulletin

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.

Residents around Taal 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. DOST-PHIVOLCS is continually monitoring the eruption and will update all stakeholders of further developments.

In addition to the previously identified fissures in Lemery (Sinisian, Mahabang Dahilig, Dayapan, Palanas, Sangalang, Poblacion, Mataas na Bayan), Agoncillo (Pansipit, Bilibinwang), Talisay (Poblacion 1, Poblacion 2, Poblacion 3, Poblacion 5) and San Nicolas (Poblacion), new fissures were observed in Sambal Ibaba, Lemery. Drying up of portions of Pansipit River has also been observed. Furthermore, newly acquired satellite images would show that the Main Crater Lake (MCL) has been drained and new vent craters have been formed inside the Main Crater and on the north flank of the volcano.

Taal Volcano's eruption has been characterized by continuous magmatic and hydrovolcanic activity that generated 700-meter tall dark gray steam-laden plumes that drifted to the general southwest.

B. Rapid Assessment

Evacuation centers in most areas are becoming congested due to the influx of survivors and evacuees being transferred and relocated. At least 3 road sections, including all roads to Talisay, are not passable and access to the same is no longer open to the public. Six hundred five (605) flights were cancelled, while at least four (4) municipalities/cities experienced power service interruption.

The Department of Agriculture reports an estimate cost of damage to agriculture reaching more than 70 million pesos in the province. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) still advise the evacuation of families within the 17 and 14-kilometer radius of the volcano.

The local Ordinary, Archbishop Garcera, reported malicious and unidentified individuals asking for funds in behalf of the Archbishop and of the social action command center using the contact number (+63 916 533 2152). An advisory was issued, urging the volunteers to disseminate the information to prevent further deception.

C. Volunteer Management

As of 7:30 in the evening, the emergency response team of LASAC was able to orient and deploy three hundred eighty-nine (389) volunteers, one hundred seven (107) of which are enrolled as psychological first aid responders (PFA'ers) duly supervised and spearheaded by volunteers from the Psychological Association of the Philippines.

The facilitation of psychosocial processing and psychological first aid shall commence in coordination with the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) upon the stabilization of volcanic activities.

II. Response

A. Incoming and Outgoing Relief

- A total number of 34,668 food and non-food items were disbursed and shared for over one hundred seventy-two (172) evacuation centers all over the province. Further categorized are the following:
 - 25,161 food items and bottled water
 - 04,467 medicines for cough and colds
 - 05,040 non-food items (WASH, blankets and mats)
 - 04,300 kilograms of rice
- In-kind donations monetized amount is ₱2,643,543.00 while cash donations had a total of 1,380,720.00.
- The relief operations of LASAC has already benefitted 72,991 individuals in one hundred forty-three (143) evacuation centers all-over the province.

B. Psychosocial interventions and Spirituality

- A Eucharistic celebration was presided by the local Ordinary, the Most Rev. Gilbert A. Garcera for the volunteers and psychological first aid responders in attendance.
- A psychosocial debriefing and special contingency meeting with LASAC focal persons were called for by the Director, Fr. Jayson Siapco to ensure that the humanitarian management core is emotionally balanced and technically equipped, given the imminent warning of local authorities.

III. Coordination

- 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 its social welfare and development office. As of 4:00 in the morning, there are a total of 10,506 families or 45,944 individuals in evacuation. Hot meals and wash items, along with face masks are among the most requested necessities. There were 172 evacuation sites beforehand, but this has decreased to 168 because four (4) sites from Taal moved to other municipalities and cities, per advised by the local government.

- The local Ordinary, Most. Rev. Gilbert A. Garcera, called for the eight (8) ministries of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Lipa for a coordination meeting as regards possible transfer of the command center, should an Alert Level 5 category be raised by PHIVOLCS-DOST.

IV. Pledges and Contributions

With over 50,000 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 cooked food and dishes for the soup 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. Immediate relief assistance in the municipality of Balayan and San Luis is crucial as relief operations are hampered due to the large number of evacuees.

The Diocese of Cubao has pledged to initiate second collections on Sunday masses to be remitted for the purpose of relief assistance to the Archdiocese of Lipa and the Diocese of Imus. WeGen Energy Philippines has pledged to give disaster risk and emergency assistance machines (DREAM) to augment emergency lamps and power charging supply in evacuation centers. Globe Telecomm Philippines will provide free text messaging and calls service for volunteers duly enrolled by LASAC. Coca-Cola Foundation shall disburse drinking water. There is a total amount of ₱753,800.00 cash donations as of 2:00 in the afternoon.

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.

VI. Photos



VII. Key Contacts

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