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Information bulletin

Philippines: Mayon Volcano



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This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Philippine Red Cross, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time, but will continue to monitor the evolving situation.

<click [here](#) to view the map of the affected area, or [here](#) for detailed contact information>

The situation

Mayon Volcano was at alert level I¹ on 13 January 2018 due to abnormal activities of the volcano. This was raised to alert level II on 00H30 14 January as more phreatic eruptions occurred. On the evening of 14 January, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHILVOLCS) raised Mayon Volcano's alert level from II to III, signifying that Mayon has increased tendency towards hazardous eruption. PHILVOLCS reports that Mayon is exhibiting relatively high unrest and that magma is at the crater and that hazardous eruptions are possible within weeks or even days. Mayon's crater was also exhibiting bright crater glow that signifies the growth of a new lava dome and beginnings of lava flow towards the southern slopes.

Mayon Volcano is in Albay province in the Bicol region, around 300 km southeast of the Philippine capital, Manila. According to records, Mayon has erupted 51 times in the last 400 years, with more than 1,350 people having lost their lives. The last fatal eruption happened in 1993 while the last major activity of Mayon was in August – September 2014 when it was also put on alert level III, which displaced more than 55,000 people within an 8-km extended danger zone. No casualties were reported, primarily attributed to the pre-emptive evacuation done by the government.

On the morning of 15 January 2018, two lava collapse events occurred in the volcano, producing rockfall and small-volume pyroclastic density currents. Ash clouds were also produced with ashfalls reported in 29 villages (barangays) in the municipalities of Camalig and Guinobatan in the southwest of the volcano. Furthermore, on 16 January, lava flow and more rockfall events and short pyroclastic flows were also observed.

With the alert level raised, PHILVOLCS recommended that the 6-km permanent danger zone and a 7-km extended danger zone be enforced due to the danger of rockfalls, landslides and sudden explosions or dome collapse that may generate hazardous volcanic flows. Increased vigilance against pyroclastic density currents, lahars and sediment-laden stream flows have been advised, while civil aviation authorities have been instructed to advise pilots against flying near the volcano's summit due to ash.

As a result of the heightened alert level, precautionary evacuations have been conducted in 25 villages (barangays) in 3 municipalities and 2 cities. As of 15 January, a total of 5,318 families (21,823 people) have been displaced, with 4,134 families (16,877) staying in 18 evacuation centres according to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). The final number of displaced families are still unknown as more evacuations are still underway.

¹ Alert Level I to V; V being the highest; [PHILVOLCS Volcano Alert Levels](#)

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) reported that the field office in Bicol region has a stockpile of food packs enough for more than 12,000 families and 7,000 dignity kits. A standby fund of PHP 5 million (CHF 100,000) has also been made available to augment the response of local government units. Emergency medical teams have also been activated. PHILVOLCS is closely monitoring the activities of Mayon Volcano and new developments will be communicated to all concerned stakeholders.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) has been monitoring the activities of Mayon since the alert level was raised through its Operations Centre that functions 24/7. The PRC Albay chapter's communications centre has also been activated for 24/7 duty. The chapter has also deployed five teams for assessments. The chapter also distributed dust masks to the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office of the Municipality of Camalig. Furthermore, the chapter also deployed one ambulance to move between in the different evacuation centres and established seven welfare desks² in five evacuation centres. Overall, the chapter has mobilized 37 staff and volunteers, who have been provided with personal protective equipment. Red Cross Action Teams (RCAT 143) and Red Cross community-based volunteers (Red Cross 143) teams have also been put on standby for possible mobilization. Close coordination with the LGU and local disaster councils is also being maintained.

The PRC is also conducting hygiene promotion and psychosocial support activities in Guinobatan East evacuation centre and have distributed tarpaulins to Binogsacan evacuation centres to enhance the capacity of the centre to accommodate the increasing number of displaced families. A water tanker from Catanduanes Chapter has been mobilized to support the Albay Chapter, while food trucks to provide hot meals are also being mobilized from the National Headquarters. Operational funds have been made available by the NHQ to support chapter activities.

An update regarding the situation and chapter activities has been issued by the PRC. The National Society maintains close coordination with in-country Movement partners and continues to provide updates.

The IFRC Philippine country office is supporting the PRC in disseminating updates to the Regional office, Movement partners, is coordinating with the Humanitarian Country Team and with the ICRC. The IFRC continues to closely coordinate with the PRC and is ready to process possible request for support.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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² Welfare desks activities include: (i) restoring family links; (ii) tracing; (iii) psychosocial support; (iv) critical incident stress management; (v) guidance and counseling; (vi) inquiry and communications; (vii) contact of relatives; and (viii) referral

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



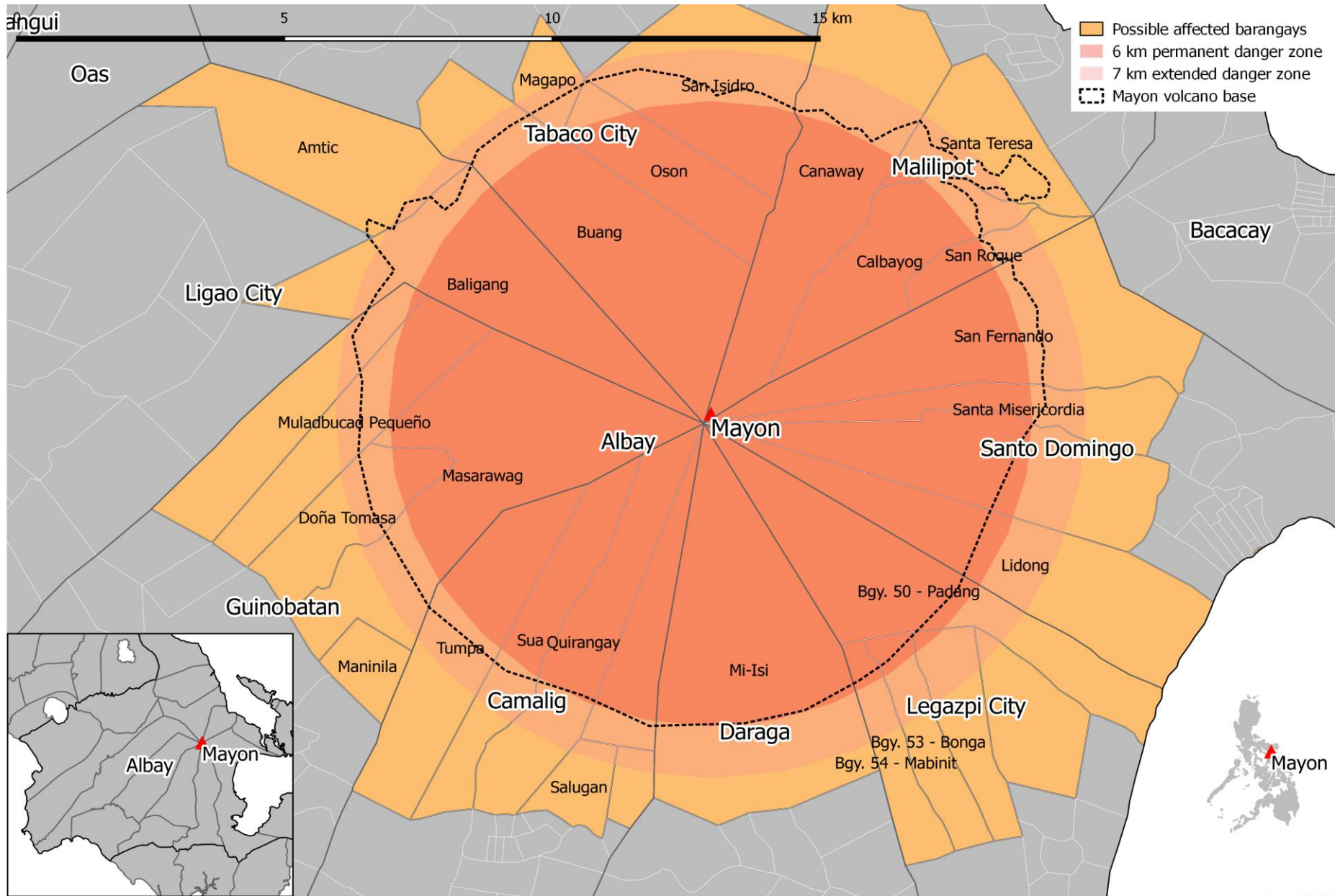
Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.



The maps used do not imply expression of any opinion on the part of the IFRC or National Societies concerning legal status of a territory or of its authorities
 Source: PHILVOLCS, DSWD, PRC

