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Information bulletin Indonesia: Volcano

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Glide n° VO-2013-000115-IDN	Date of issue: 30 January 2014
Date of disaster: 15 September 2013 (initial)	Point of contact: see contact information
Operation start date: Increased volcanic activity commenced on 14 January 2014	Expected timeframe: ongoing
Host National Society: Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI)	
Number of people affected: 29,727 people	Number of people to be assisted:



Staff and volunteers of Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI) providing relief items to family displaced by the erupting volcano. Photo: PMI

This bulletin is issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not being requested at this time. Should the situation worsen or become more protracted, this may change.

The situation

Mount Sinabung in Karo district of North Sumatera province has been continuously erupting since September 2013. The intensity of the eruptions and localized seismic activity has risen recently with smoke, volcanic ash and debris reaching altitudes of more than 4,000 metres. Lava and pyroclastic flows have been recorded up to five kilometres (km) to the southeast of the cone. Volcanic tremors continue and ash clouds spewing volcanic materials with a diameter of up to six centimetres (cm) are damaging houses and crops in the affected areas.

As of 26 January 2014, the number of internally displaced persons (IDP) has increased to 29,727 persons or 9,324 households. The displaced families from 31 villages of four sub-districts within Karo district are being sheltered in 42 displacement centres. Approximately 203 pregnant women, 1,573 elderly and 869 infants are among those displaced.

The Centre for Volcanology and Mitigation of Geological Hazards (Pusat Vulkanologi dan Mitigasi Bencana Geologi - PVMBG) has warned of an increased risk of *lahar* (cold lava flows) due to the continuing rainfall which

is dislodging ash and volcanic debris from the slopes of Mount Sinabung into the surrounding streams and rivers. People who reside along those waterways have been warned to be particularly vigilant. The emergency phase which has been set by the government to cover this event is currently running from 18 to 31 January 2014. It is likely to be extended further as the volcanic activity continues unabated.

The Governor of North Sumatera has instructed all provincial government offices of North Sumatera to collaborate to deal with the Sinabung IDP situation. The National Agency for Disaster Management (Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana - BNPB) has implemented a cash-for-work programme for IDPs.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

PMI provided support to the affected population through the provision of clean drinking water, hygiene promotion and relief items. Psychosocial support is available for traumatized individuals while entertainment and games have been provided for the affected children. To date, PMI has distributed in excess of 2.7 million litres of clean water over the last three months as well as relief items including masks, toiletries, clothing, medicine, mats and hygiene materials.

The distribution to the affected communities has been organized in collaboration with civil society, the private sector and humanitarian agencies including MDMC, Dompot Dhuafa, PKPU, GBKP, Rebana, World Vision, Oxfam, Plan International, Caritas, GBKP, UNICEF and WFP.

An Incident Command structure with support from BNPB, PVMBG and the district government has been set up to monitor the situation and coordinate relief efforts.

A draft government contingency plan has been developed in case the volcano eruption prompts the PVMBG to declare a hazard zone within a 10 km radius (from the crater) and require the Incident Command to evacuate 53 villages with 57,879 persons from the hazard zone. PMI is developing its own contingency plan to link with the government's mechanism should the situation worsen.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

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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.

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1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.