

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

ECUADOR: VOLCANIC ERUPTION

Appeal No. MDREC002
30 August 2006

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 185 countries.

In Brief

Operations Update no. 1; Period covered: 23 August to 29 August, 2006; Appeal target: CHF 632,064 (USD 514,753 OR EUR 400,384); see the operational summary below for a list of current donors to the Appeal.

(The Contributions List is currently being compiled and will be available on the website shortly).

Appeal history:

- Launched on 23 August 2006 for CHF 632,064 (USD 514,753 OR EUR 400,384) for 5 months to assist 5,000 beneficiaries; (1,000 beneficiary families)
- Final Report is therefore due on 23 April 2007.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 85,000 (USD 68,079 or EUR 54,092).

Operational Summary: *The Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) has carried out surveys and identified 1,000 beneficiary families in the Districts of Patate and Pelileo in the Province of Tungurahua and of Penipe and Guano in the Province of Chimborazo, which it seeks to assist under the Plan of Action. During the reporting period, agreements were signed with partners in order to implement health activities whereby medical care will be provided in the affected communities through a mobile medical team. Water analysis was carried out by the ERC in coordination with partners including OXFAM and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and more detailed results of these assessments are awaited in order to define interventions in the area of water and sanitation. Two Disaster Management Delegates from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), together with PADRU's water and sanitation officer and a regional intervention team (RIT) member are on the ground working in cooperation with the Ecuadorian Red Cross. Although information regarding the overall situation is lacking in clarity, there are a number of coordination initiatives which are taking place in which the ERC is taking an active part and which are facilitating the compilation of information and data regarding needs and available resources.*

The Ecuadorian Red Cross is working, together with the Federation, to ensure that the beneficiaries' needs are met and that contributions are utilized in the most effective manner. To date, the British Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Chinese Red Cross, and the Swiss Red Cross have contributed to the Federation's Appeal. In addition, the Spanish Red Cross and the United States Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), through the American Red Cross, have pledged bilateral contributions under the framework of the Federation's Appeal and the Spanish Red Cross has made bilateral contributions for activities which are complementary to the Appeal. The Ecuadorian Red Cross has also received a number of national contributions, notably from Fundación Ecuador Mi País, Children International, Coca Cola and Oleoducto de Crudo y Pescado. Further contributions are urgently sought in order to enable the Ecuadorian Red Cross to implement its Plan of Action in full.

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

Background

The Tungurahua volcano in Ecuador began emitting loud and frequent explosions in May of this year, showing increased activity since re-awakening seven years ago, causing a limited state of emergency at the time. The volcano erupted again on 14 July 2006, this time spewing ash up to 15 kilometres high and molten rock. The Ecuadorian Geophysics Institute reported that the 5,023 meters high volcano had changed its behaviour drastically by expelling at least four lava flows. The Ecuadorian Red Cross was able to activate its emergency Plan of Action and more than 240 volunteers were immediately mobilized to the area. CHF 85,000 (USD 68,079 or EUR 54,092) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 19 July 2006 to respond to the needs of this operation over a three month period. The Plan of Action set out to assist 500 affected families (2,500 persons), which was increased to 537 families. DREF funds will be used to cover hygiene kits and psychosocial support (3 visits per week to most affected communities) and strengthening capacities of volunteers in disaster preparedness activities and protection kits (110 kits in total).

On 16 August, the Tungurahua volcano erupted once again, this time characterized by a number of explosions causing ash and volcanic rock to fall in nearby areas. The eruption caused 15 pyroclastic flows to travel down through ravines into nearby areas, damming two rivers, Chambo and Puela, which then overflowed into nearby land. The cloud of ash covered the central part of the country, reaching 10 kilometres high, 742 km in length and 185 km in breadth. A state of emergency was declared in the four main Provinces affected by the volcanic eruption; Chimborazo, Tungurahua, Bolívar and Pastaza. On 17 August the Government declared the area a disaster zone to allow for immediate measures to be taken to provide emergency relief to those worst affected.

It is estimated that 300,000 people have been affected who are from communities that rely on agriculture. Official figures indicate that there are 4 losses of human life and that 2 people have disappeared. According to official

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figures, there are currently 17 shelters open, 7 of which are in Tungurahua, 5 in Chimborazo, 2 in Penipe, 2 in Guano and 1 in Riobamba. However, according to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), there are currently 7 shelters in operation. The Minister for Social Welfare, together with the Civil Defence, is providing food and medicine for those in shelters. A total of 2,147 people are currently staying in shelters since many have lost houses, crops and cattle after the latest events. There have also been increased cases of breathing problems, conjunctivitis, dermatitis and acute diarrhea since the eruption. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, it is estimated that 150,000 hectares of agricultural land have been affected. Total losses are estimated at USD 150 million.

In terms of prevention, the Ecuadorian Geophysics Institute has stated that another and larger eruption could take place within no more than one year. For this reason the ERC is preparing a contingency plan and a national response plan. The ERC has also installed two early warning systems in two communities in the Province of Pastaza, which have been affected by the overflowing of the River Pastaza and foresee the installation of a further 10 in other high risk communities.

In the case of a further eruption, the Civil Defence is prepared to set up more shelters in the Provinces of Tungurahua, Chimborazo and Bolívar to guarantee basic assistance to a larger number of families.



Left: Pillate in the District of Pelileo (Province of Tungurahua)
Right: Palitahua (Province of Chimborazo)

Operational developments

The Ecuadorian Geophysics Institute has reported that the volcano is currently stable. A slight increase in seismic activity has been noted indicating magma movement and superficial fluids inside the volcano. Lava flows in the north of the volcano are descending at a slower rate and are currently not threatening nearby areas. Due to bad weather conditions in the area near the volcano, closer observations have not been carried out but the volcano has not made any significant noise.

Almost all of the roads accessing the area are now open except for one connecting the community of Baños to Bilbao. The Ambato - Baños road is closed due to warm mud descending into the community of Los Pájaros. Personnel from local authorities are working around the clock to clear the road and ensure that it is not cut off again.

Telephone lines and mobile phones are working without problems, while electricity supplies are still periodically cut off in the area of Puyo in Pastaza Province, and in Baños in Tungurahua Province. The Civil Defence activated

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Emergency Operational Committees in the four Provinces that were declared in a state of emergency. Due to the proximity to the volcano, the Provinces of Chimborazo and Tungurahua have also been declared disaster zones, and for this reason, these Provinces were selected as priority areas in the Ecuadorian Red Cross Plan of Action.

The Minister for Social Welfare is coordinating the resettlement of 713 families (2,147 people) who are currently staying in temporary shelters in the districts of Bilbao, Cusua, Chacauco, Juive Grande and Pondoá, in the communities of Penipe, Guano, La Paz and Río Blanco. The new homes are expected to be ready by the end of the year, after legal papers are processed.

The government, through the Infant Rescue Operation (ORI in Spanish), has assisted 500 young people between 5 and 14 years old from the most affected areas. Thanks to the Infant Development Fund, 10 shelters have been set up, where children throughout the day have access to artistic and cultural exercises, while their parents are busy in recovering their houses, crops and farming activities in the partially affected areas.

According to Government sources, a survey has been developed to determine which families will benefit from a bonus of USD 90 which will be provided over a period of two months to a total of 5,300 families.

The ERC has proceeded to carry out surveys and to identify 1,000 beneficiary families as stated in the Plan of Action; this number of target beneficiaries is based on the ERC's branch capacity and on information initially available. The criteria for selection of beneficiaries are based on the following: families from areas that have been worst affected by the eruptions and those whose income generating activities have been most affected. As stated in the Plan of Action, the ERC will support beneficiary families in an integral way. The ERC has decided to focus the beneficiary selection on those not accommodated in shelters, given the results of assessments being carried out by the ERC, NGOs and United Nations agencies which have identified that there are no major needs within the shelters, as adequate attention is being provided, particularly in terms of food, hygiene, medical and psychosocial support. Nevertheless, sanitation services within the shelters in relation to the numbers of people currently accommodated could be improved.

Beneficiary families per community

Province	District	Community	Number of Families
Tungurahua	Patate	Loma Grande	57
		Punapi	84
		Las Palmas	7
	Pelileo	Chacabuco	42
		Pillate	37
		San Juan	41
		Cotalo	89
		Queseras	43
Chimborazo	Penipe	Manzano	35
		Puela Centro	32
		Anaba	16
		El Tingo	28
		Puntal de Puela	61
		Palitahua	50
		Ganzhi	60
	Guano	Chazo Bajo	35
		San Jose de Sabanag	65
		Guanando	54
		Cahuaji Alto	122
		Guso de Guanando	7
		Palestina	35
Total			1,000

The recovery of those affected by the volcanic eruption will depend on the relocation of the devastated communities, the response to psychological and medical problems, the recovery of basic services, the reactivation of agricultural activities and the economy. The National Government, through the Ministry of Housing, has taken the decision to gradually resettle those communities in close proximity to the volcano and who have been affected by the eruption. Changes will be undergone gradually to ensure that those affected are able to adapt to new lives.

Red Cross action - objectives, progress, impact

On 23 and 24 August the President of the Ecuadorian Red Cross, the ERC National Relief Coordinator and the Regional Intervention Team member who is in Ecuador organized meetings with the Provincial and District Relief Coordinators of the four affected Provinces: Tungurahua, Bolívar, Chimborazo and Pastaza, in the capacity building centre in Guano, Chimborazo Province. During the meeting, coordination and reporting lines were decided on, which will ensure the effective development of the relief operation. Priorities were defined in terms of capacity building for volunteers and a preliminary timeline was produced showing when training activities would take place.

The ERC will benefit from the support of a Disaster Management delegate from the Federation and a Regional Intervention Team member. Internally the ERC will have an operations coordinator who will be supported by two field assistants, one based in Tungurahua and the other in Chimborazo, who will coordinate and support actions on the ground with the branches involved.

Objectives planned to carry out emergency relief activities

Objective 1: 1,000 families (5,000 beneficiaries) will benefit from the provision of food packages in the Provinces of Tungurahua and Chimborazo.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The ERC has carried out the identification of beneficiaries and is initiating procurement procedures in view of implementation of this objective

Objective 2: 1,000 families (5,000 beneficiaries) will benefit from the provision of hygiene kits in the Provinces of Tungurahua and Chimborazo.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The ERC has carried out the identification of beneficiaries and initiating procurement procedures in view of implementation of this objective

Thanks to the support of DREF funds, the ERC has already distributed 500 family hygiene kits and, with the support of private contributions, the ERC was able to distribute an additional 37 kits. With the new plan of action under the Appeal, the ERC plans to reinforce this activity and to reach 1,000 more families.

Objective 3: 1,000 families (5,000 beneficiaries) will be provided with cleaning kits in the Provinces of Tungurahua and Chimborazo.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The ERC has carried out the identification of beneficiaries and is initiating procurement procedures in view of implementation of this objective

Objective 4: 1,400 children aged between 5 and 17 years will be provided with education kits and basic hygiene kits in the Provinces of Tungurahua and Chimborazo

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The 1,400 children who will benefit from the education kits belong to families who have been identified as beneficiary families under the Appeal.

Although classes are due to resume on 4 September, the Government has yet to confirm this date. The logistics department of the ERC has identified providers and defined the terms of reference for the acquisition of the hygiene kits.

Impact:

The distribution of the education kits is expected to take place in September. Children from most affected families will, therefore, be able to attend school with the basic material needed.

Constraints:

The immediate provision of education kits is important to ensure that children are in a position to return to school.

Health**Objectives planned to carry out health activities**

Objective 1: 1,000 families (5,000 beneficiaries) will have access to and will be provided with medical care to improve health conditions in the Provinces of Tungurahua and Chimborazo.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Although the Pan American Health Organization has stated that health needs are being met by the Provincial Health Headquarters, the ERC considers it necessary to continue providing medical attention to the affected population.

The ERC has identified that the most effective way of reaching the population and providing medical care is through a mobile bus with a medical team on board which travels to affected communities periodically; the company Oleoducto de Crudo Pesado is providing transportation and medical personnel are also available to work with the ERC since the Catholic University has committed to providing doctors over the four months of the implementation of activities. This was confirmed in a signed agreement with the ERC, whereby the ERC purchases the necessary medicines and the Catholic University commits to the provision of medical personnel to carry out health activities with no charge. All actions will be coordinated with the Provincial Health Headquarters.

Impact:

Based on prior experience, it may be that in the initial emergency phase medical needs are well taken care of; however, as time passes, this focus is lost. With the health care proposed by the ERC, the National Society seeks to ensure access to regular, personalized medical care for those in need. The collaboration with partners including the public health system ensures the effectiveness of the assistance provided.

Constraints:

Access by road to some affected areas is limited.

Objective 2: 1,000 families (5,000 beneficiaries) will have access to and will be provided with safe drinking water in the Provinces of Tungurahua and Chimborazo.



Water analysis in San Juan,
Pelileo, Tungurahua

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Given the lack of information on the impact of the volcanic eruption on water systems and on the quality of water available in affected communities, the Water and Sanitation Officer from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit was mobilized to Ecuador to support the ERC in the physiochemical and microbiological analysis of the systems of water supplying of the selected communities. A group of volunteers from the Tungurahua and Chimborazo branches were invited to join the team to take advantage of the experience. On 31 August it is expected that training in water and sanitation will take place for 37 volunteers in Guano, during the workshop to be held focusing on damage and needs assessments. The agenda will cover practical water and sanitation evaluations and water analysis in the field.

At the moment, the results of assessments carried out by PADRU, the ERC and other organizations including PAHO, OXFAM Intermon, the Ecuadorian Centre for Agricultural Services – CESA -, Foundation ALLI CAUSAI, and the Ecuadorian Fund of Progressive Population – FEPP -, indicate that there are no major problems in the quality of drinking water. However, the final results are still expected from the analysis of the water systems, which are being carried out in the affected areas and which will define any needs.

Once the results of assessments are received, the ERC will develop a specific plan of action in terms of water and sanitation activities for the beneficiary population.

Impact:

The ERC is benefiting from a technical analysis of the water systems in the affected areas, which will allow the National Society to evaluate how best to assist the beneficiary population in the area of water and sanitation.

Constraints:

It is important to ensure coordination of activities between all water and sanitation actors in the field.

Objective 3: 1,000 families (5,000 beneficiaries) will have access to and will be provided with psychosocial support in the Provinces of Tungurahua and Chimborazo.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Since the eruption in July, ERC volunteers have been actively participating in psychosocial support activities, in shelters as in affected communities. For example in the shelter at Patate, the ERC carries out these activities three times a week.

On 26 and 27 August, the ERC organized four first aid and psychosocial support capacity building workshops for volunteers in the four Provinces affected by the volcanic eruption; these were facilitated by specialists in this field from the ERC. Two of the workshops were carried out in Ambato and Pelileo on 26 August with a total of 70

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volunteers from the Ambato, Pelileo, Huambalo and Puyo branches. On 27 August, 68 volunteers participated in two workshops in the branches of Riobamba and Patate.



Training of volunteers in psychosocial support held on 27 August in RioBamba

Impact:

Affected families have received appropriate psychosocial support which has enabled them to continue to face their situation and to cope better with it. Psychosocial support has been adapted to particular circumstances and has responded to the needs of the people concerned, including the affected population and ERC volunteers and staff.

Constraints:

There are no constraints to report to date under this objective.

Family Linking

Objective 1: 100 people will be supported in the process of reuniting with family members in the Provinces of Tungurahua and Chimborazo

Given the risk of further volcanic eruptions, the Ecuadorian Red Cross anticipates the organization of a workshop for 24 volunteers from the four Provinces as well as from Quito in order to ensure that each Branch has at least two volunteers trained in restoring family links. This activity is currently being planned.

Objectives planned to carry out disaster preparedness activities

Objective 1: 1,000 families (5,000 beneficiaries) will be provided with domestic protection kits in the Provinces of Tungurahua and Chimborazo.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The ERC has carried out the identification of beneficiaries and is initiating procurement procedures in view of implementation of this objective.

Objective 2: The ERC is reinforced to respond to the situation and carry out the activities in support of the affected communities in the Provinces of Tungurahua and Chimborazo

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

In order to strengthen the ERC branches in the Provinces affected by the volcanic eruption, the following capacity building activities have been planned:

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- Two workshops on Damage and Needs Assessment are scheduled to take place on 31 August and 1 September in the Training Centre in Guano for a total of 37 volunteers from the four affected Provinces and from the Headquarters.
- A workshop on basic training in shelter management is planned to take place on 2 September in the Ambato branch, with the participation of 34 volunteers from the four affected Provinces from the Headquarters.

Telephone lines, radio communications and internet access in the four Provincial branches is being supported by the ERC Headquarters in Quito, as the lack of access to communications was a major limiting factor in the transmission of information when the eruptions took place.

A main priority for the ERC has been the work on the draft of the Response Plan for the Relief and Disaster Department in the area of Tungurahua in the case of another eruption, as well as the National Contingency Plan which is under development. In this way, the ERC is consolidating different emergency plans in the four affected areas and ensuring compilation of information from each of the national programmes within the ERC: volunteers, youth, blood banks, disasters and relief and so forth.

- The first phase (now completed) involved meeting the branches of the ERC and the communities which have been affected by the eruption. In these working sessions, a diagram of capacities and needs was provided showing the resources that are available and the needs of the ERC (this is also being disseminated at the national level and other branches, and meetings are taking place with managers at the ERC headquarters).
- The second phase, which is under way, involves bringing all information together with the aim of incorporating it into one document, and disseminating the results within ERC and other national relief organizations.
- In the third phase, (entering the rehabilitation stage) the identification, analysis and planning of projects will take place in order to reactivate the economy or respond to social needs to support the most vulnerable affected by the eruption of the Tungurahua volcano.

In terms of human resources needed to carry out the implementation and follow up of activities, the ERC has initiated the recruitment of a coordinator and two field assistants.

In addition to the activities foreseen under this Appeal, the ERC has carried out the installation of 12 early warning systems, 2 of which have already been installed in Rio Verde and La Isla, two communities affected by the flooding of the river Pastaza which was dammed by lava flows. The remaining early warning systems will be installed and the purchase the equipment required is underway.

Impact:

Given the likelihood of further volcanic eruptions affecting the areas of Tungurahua, Chimborazo, Pastaza and Bolivar, the ERC is seeking to strengthen its institutional development through internal contingency planning to ensure appropriate response in case of new eruptions. In addition, community activities envisaged include awareness-raising regarding risk reduction and early warning systems.

Constraints:

The lack of a telecommunications system in some of the branches proved to be a major obstacle and hindered the immediate sharing of information.

Federation Coordination

At present, there is a lack of clear information regarding resources and activities at the level of the government, international and national agencies, which is a limiting factor in coordinating relief efforts. However, the Civil Defence with the support of the UN is in the process of setting up a situation room, and this will help to ensure that information is disseminated to all actors and that actions are coordinated to benefit the affected population.

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Nevertheless, despite this overall lack of coordination, the ERC has shared information from areas where the National Society is carrying out activities and is working with the Civil Defence, the United Nations and NGOs. This information will be provided through a database made available by the United Nations Emergency Technical Team (UNETE). The ERC will share its Plan of Action with all participating actors during UNETE meetings, together with the list of beneficiaries and the locations of communities to avoid the duplication of interventions.

On Friday 25 August, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a multilateral meeting with the aim of providing information about the difficult situation that the local population is facing after the Tungurahua volcanic eruption. The meeting also provided the opportunity to give information on the diverse international aid contributions made to date, and to state the urgent humanitarian needs of the families who have been displaced by the devastation caused by the volcano. The meeting was attended by 60 Representatives from Diplomatic Missions, international organizations, NGOs and the ERC. It was announced that the Ecuadorian Government would send a detailed report quantifying the damage made by the volcano and a new list of necessities in terms of food and medicines to Diplomatic Missions and international organizations.

ERC technical personnel and Federation staff have attended a number of meetings with organizations working in response to the disaster which has facilitated the exchange of information and the coordination of activities on the ground. The ERC/Federation attended meetings with representatives from CARE and PAHO to gather information on the levels of contamination of drinking water and with regard to water and sanitation activities planned in the affected area. As a result, between 25 and 27 August, PADRU's Water and Sanitation Officer, with the ERC's National Sub Director of Risk Management and a CARE engineer went on a field visit to carry out analysis of the quality of the water and an assessment of water supplies. These activities were coordinated with and complemented those initiated by a PAHO team, which also carried out an evaluation analyzing water systems in the affected areas.

The ERC and the RIT member have also participated in a number of meetings with local and Provincial Operating Emergency Committees to coordinate activities under the Plan of Action.

To date, the British Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Chinese Red Cross and the Swiss Red Cross have contributed to the Federation's Appeal. The Ecuadorian Red Cross has also received a number of national contributions, notably from Fundación Ecuador Mi País, Children International, Coca Cola and Oleoducto de Crudo y Pescado.

ERC/Federation personnel are holding coordination meetings with Partner National Societies with representatives in the country: the American Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross; in addition, information has been provided to other National Societies which have requested details in respect of the Appeal. The Spanish Red Cross has provided a bilateral contribution to support psychosocial support activities under the Federation's Appeal, as well as a further bilateral contribution, outside the framework of the Federation's Appeal, to promote telecommunications within the Ecuadorian Red Cross and to provide fist aid kits. Thanks to United States Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance funds, the American Red Cross is supporting the Federation Appeal/ERC plan of action through a bilateral contribution to support the distribution of 1,000 domestic protection kits, 1,000 hygiene kits and the implementation of activities in promoting community hygiene. In addition, capacity building in disaster preparedness activities will be promoted both for the affected communities and ERC volunteers. As a result of these coordinated efforts, the ERC is ensuring that those most affected by the volcanic eruption receive much-needed assistance.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

The Federation is working with the Ecuadorian Red Cross Society to assist the most vulnerable. In the planned operation, the activities to be carried out in search and rescue, first aid care, psychosocial support, and emergency assistance are based upon the principle of humanity. Beneficiary selection criteria focus on the level of vulnerability of those affected, respect of the culture and ensuring gender sensitivity.

Activities planned for this appeal are based on the SPHERE project, humanitarian charter and the code of conduct for emergency response. The operation is guided by principles and rules relating to transparency in the drawing up

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and dissemination of narrative and financial reports. All objectives put forward in the appeal are in line with Strategy 2010, as well as the Strategy for the Movement and the Principles and Rules of the Movement.

National Society Capacity Building

The Federation currently has the following personnel in Ecuador supporting the ERC's activities; two Disaster Management delegates from PADRU on the ground, a Water and Sanitation officer from PADRU and an RIT member. In the implementation of the Plan of Action, the ERC has the support of 8 branches in the four Provinces affected by the eruptions:

Province	Branches	Volunteers	Resources
Tungurahua	Ambato Provincial branch	35 volunteers,	2 ambulances, 1 4 x4 pick up
	Pelileo District branch	18 volunteers	
	Baños District branch	33 volunteers	
	Patate District branch	34 volunteers	
	Huambalo Branch	18 volunteers	
Chimborazo	Riobamba Provincial branch	36 volunteers	2 ambulances; 2 pick ups
Pastaza:	Puyo Provincial branch	20 volunteers	1 ambulance
Bolivar	Guaranda Provincial branch	46 volunteers	

As a result of the actions taken by the ERC in the community of Guano, a petition was signed by 135 people to support the opening of a Red Cross branch. In addition to the branches in the affected areas, the ERC has the support of a network of 22 Provincial branches.

The presence of Federation delegates is supporting the ERC in the application of standards and following of procedures in logistics, in finance and technical areas such as Water and Sanitation, damage and needs assessments, report writing, as well as assisting in the provision of information with regard to the setting up situation rooms, emergency operations centres, coordination in emergencies, command systems and organization of response.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The communications department of the ERC has a team of professionals who have widely disseminated information (nationally and internationally) about the situation and the response activities that the ERC and other actors are carrying out. A number of articles have been published and interviews carried out for television detailing activities that are being carried out.

In addition, the Information Officers from the Lima Regional Delegation and from PADRU have been providing support from the onset of the emergency to ensure appropriate dissemination of information on the eruption. The ERC currently has a bilingual (English-Spanish) Communications Officer on the ground, which is helping in communications with international media.

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On 24 August, the ERC organized a press conference which was attended by the Ambassador of the United States in Ecuador, the President of the ERC, the Director of CARE and a delegate from the American Red Cross. During the press conference, the Ambassador pledged USD 50,000 in support of ERC's Plan of Action. Numerous television channels reported on the press conference.

The communications department has a specific communications plan responding to the eruptions of the Tungurahua volcano. Part of the plan included a meeting held before the latest eruption which was organized with journalists from the area around Tungurahua to raise awareness about the ERC's Plan of Action and to give recommendations as to how to operate in case of an emergency.

On the ERC's website (<http://www.cruzroja.org.ec/>) up to date information is available on the situation, as on the Federation's website (<http://www.ifrc.org/> y <http://www.cruzroja.org/>).

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