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
6 October 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. 2; Period covered: 30 August to 6 October 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.***
(Interim financial report to be attached 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: ***During this period, the Plan of Action and the budget have been revised to respond to the current needs of the affected communities in the Provinces of Tungurahua and Chimborazo, which it seeks to assist. An additional 95 families have also been identified who are in need of help under the Appeal, and have been considered within the revised budget.***

Activities have continued within the Ecuador Red Cross (ERC) Plan of Action, including the distribution of food packages, hygiene kits, domestic protection kits, provision of medical care and procurement of medicines, and psychosocial support to affected communities. The provision of education kits to children belonging to affected families is being coordinated with UNICEF. A water and sanitation Plan of Action has been developed based on the results on an assessment carried out and these activities are being coordinated with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), OXFAM and CARE International. Activities to ensure safe drinking water is available in the affected communities will take place shortly. In addition, the ERC has strengthened preparation and response mechanisms through a Damage and Needs Assessment (DANA) course for volunteers, procurement of protection kits for volunteers, the development of local contingency plans, improved telecommunications and the installation of early warning systems.

The ERC, with support of the Federation, is working on a recovery plan within the Plan of Action to pave the way for communities to return to their daily lives.

Federation support is being provided on the ground through a Disaster Management Officer from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), together with a regional intervention team (RIT) member who are supporting the ERC in implementing the Plan of Action

The ERC, with support from the Federation, is working to ensure that the beneficiaries' needs are met through the activities being carried out and that contributions are utilized in the most effective manner. To date, the British Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Chinese Red Cross, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the

Netherlands Red Cross and the Swiss Red Cross have directly 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 towards activities which are within the framework or are complementary to the Appeal. The ERC has also received a number of national contributions, notably from Fundación Ecuador Mi País, Children International, Coca Cola and Oleoducto de Crudo y Pesado. The Ecuadorian public has also made contributions in the form of humanitarian aid. In addition, the Embassy of Malta has made a contribution as well as the Montecarlo Casino. In September a significant contribution was made to the Appeal through the Italian Government, contributing to almost complete coverage of the Appeal, ensuring support for the ERC in the implementation of the Plan of Action.

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

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

Since 1999 the Tungurahua volcano in Ecuador has been in an eruptive state. In May this year, the volcano began emitting loud and frequent explosions, showing an increase in activity, causing a limited state of emergency at the time. Tungurahua at 5,023 meters above sea level erupted again in July 2006, spewing ash and molten rock up to 15 kilometres high. The Ecuadorian Geophysics Institute confirmed that the volcano had changed its behaviour significantly by expelling four new lava flows.

In response to the eruption in July, the Ecuadorian Red Cross activated its emergency Plan of Action and more than 240 volunteers were immediately mobilized to the area. On 19 July 2006 CHF 85,000 (USD 68,079 or EUR 54,092) were allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs of this operation. The Plan of Action set out to assist 500 affected families (2,500 people), and later increased to 537 families.

On 16 August, the Tungurahua volcano erupted once again, this time with greater force. This eruption caused the emission of gases, ash and volcanic rock and pyroclastic flows to travel down ravines into nearby areas, damning two rivers. The cloud of ash from the eruption covered a major part of the country reaching 10 kilometres high. Nearby communities were covered in a blanket of ash and volcanic residues, causing people to abandon their homes and belongings. As many as 15,000 people were evacuated the day of the eruption, many of whom had lost their homes.

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.

People affected by the eruption have shown breathing problems, conjunctivitis, dermatitis and acute diarrhoea since the eruption. A total of 405 families are currently staying in shelters since many have lost homes, crops and cattle after the recent events. The conditions of the shelters are adequate and the coordination for supporting activities is good. Safe drinking water has been provided, as well as food and medicine. Many families are living in their homes or returning to them during the day, while children remain at the shelters and are looked after by other community members. The evacuated population is living in temporary shelters in the following areas:

Name of shelter	Number of families	Under 18 years	Over 18 years	Over 60 years
RALPIM	5	17	19	1
Escuela de la Formación de Policías / Santa Ana de Baños	60	39	60	15
Albergue Hacienda Guadalupe	105	218	80	50
Huambaló # 3	14	-	19	-
San Juan de Cotaló	-	-	-	15
Cotaló	38	53	72	16
Chacauco	17	23	34	6
TOTAL TUNGURAHUA	***239***	***350***	***284***	***103***
Escuela Pacifico Villagómez	46	72	70	26
Albergue Colegio Nacional de Penipe	21	25	38	3
Club Alianza	-	45	-	-
Escuela Julio Román	82	30	120	50
TOTAL CHIMBORAZO	***149***	***172***	***228***	***79***
Campamento Cumandá	17	24	25	2
TOTAL PASTAZA	***17***	***24***	***25***	***2***
TOTAL	**405**	**546**	**537**	**184**

Information provided by The United Nations Children's Fund UNICEF, presented to UNETE at the end of September

The impact on agriculture and the livelihoods of the communities that depend on this has been major. The Food and Agriculture Organization has now confirmed that the eruption in August affected 2,607,541 livestock and small animals and that 1,297,994 hectares of land have been affected causing damage to crops such as corn, potatoes, beans and barley.

On 21 September a small eruption was registered, causing a slight delay in distribution activities under the Plan of Action for safety measures. According to the National Geophysical Institute of Ecuador a moderate explosion was registered on 3 October, which was followed by a gas, steam and ash column (approximately 5 km high); ash fall was registered near the volcano in the surrounding areas of Baños, Runtún and Pondoa. This is the first explosion since that which took place on 16 August.

The ERC responding to the initial stages of the eruption

The intensity of the volcanic activity has decreased, however volcanic activity is still considered as moderate. Current cloudy weather has hindered monitoring of the volcano. The threat of reactivation remains high and the volcano continues to be under strict surveillance and the Geophysical Institute recommends that the population stays alert. The ERC is maintaining close contact with the Geophysical Institute in the event of a further eruption.

The Geophysical Institute stated that rain in the area could create movement in the pyroclastic flow deposits and cause problems for the local population and infrastructure. Recommendations have been made for people in the area take care when travelling on the roads that cross valleys where lava flows have come down and in areas affected by the volcano to date.

Operational developments

The ERC is implementing the emergency Plan of Action in the two Provinces directly affected by the volcanic eruption; Chimborazo and Tungurahua. The Plan of Action was revised during this period as the initial emergency phase has passed. Small amendments have been made in medical care, psychosocial support and water and sanitation activities in order to respond to the changing needs of the affected communities.

In terms of Needs and Damage Assessments, the ERC has completed assessments which contributed to the identification of the beneficiary families. At present the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are still carrying out assessments - the FAO to evaluate the damage caused to agriculture and the WFP to carry out a survey of the population needing assistance.

The ERC has implemented a number of activities during this period thanks to international support and donations received from the population for those communities affected by the volcanic eruption. Since 14 July, the ERC has distributed 30 tonnes of humanitarian aid in the form of food and non-food items such as blankets, mattresses, clothes, cleaning utensils and medicine. With the help of 300 volunteers, the ERC is also offering psychosocial support and ambulance services.

Communities affected by the eruption, those living in shelters and those who have returned to their homes, still have basic needs that need to be met. At the same time, the ERC needs to be in a good position to support these communities and respond to their needs through the provision of medical care, safe drinking water, food and non-food items and psychosocial support. Ensuring that the National Society is strengthened to respond effectively and efficiently to the needs of communities in the event of a further eruption is crucial and is being supported by the activities that are in implementation. Capacity building for volunteers and communities are taking place to ensure a level of preparedness in this case.

In September the ERC's National Relief Coordinator and the Disaster Management Officer, deployed to Ecuador from PADRU, visited Baños, Jiuve, Cusúa, Cotaló, and Pelileo to monitor the situation on the ground. In addition, the RIT member deployed to Ecuador at the onset of the emergency is still present and is supporting the activities.

According to Government sources, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development has carried out the study and planning for 4 resettlement projects. 185 families from Bilbao will be resettled to the urban sector of Penipe district, 200 families from Cusúa and Chacauco will be resettled to La Paz in the district of Penipe, and 170

families from Juive, Grande and Pondoa will be resettled to Rio Blanco in Baños district. Families from the communities of Bajo, Chazo Bajo, La Palestina, Guzo Grande and Guzo Chico will be relocated to a piece of municipal land in the city of Guano. The new settlements will have all basic infrastructure and services (roads, pavements, drinking water and electricity). The distribution of the homes will be according to communities to ensure identity and links are maintained.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock distributed food for livestock affected by the volcanic eruption in the districts of Penipe, Guano, Riobamba, Colta and Chambo.

The country is currently preparing for general elections and attention is focused on electoral campaigns, as a result there has been little new information from the Government on the status of the operations being planned. In addition, there has been socio political unrest in the district of Quero due to legal proceedings underway with community representatives. This has hindered the distribution of aid to some communities in this district.

Red Cross action - objectives, progress, impact

The ERC carried out surveys to identify the 1,000 beneficiary families as stated in the Plan of Action. The criteria for selection of beneficiaries were based on the following: families from areas that have been worst affected by the eruptions and those whose income generating activities have been negatively impacted. As stated in the Plan of Action, the ERC will support beneficiary families in an integral way. In September, the ERC has identified an additional 95 families who are in need of support after the eruption and the ERC has decided to assist them through the activities under the Appeal.

The table below shows the distributions made up of food packages, hygiene kits and domestic protection kits.

Location	Families assisted
Tungurahua Province	
PELILEO	
Chacauco	26
Cotalo	125
Queseras	62
Pillate	57
San Juan	55
Bilbao	44
PATATE	
La Palma	10
Loma Grande	39
Puñapi	78
TUNGURAHUA SUBTOTAL	**496**
Chimborazo Province	
PENIPE	
Palitahua	52
Anaba	27
Ganzhi	47
Manzano	36
Puela Centro	31
El Tingo	18
Pungal de Puela	71
GUANO	
Chazo Bajo	35
San Jose de Sabañag	62
Guanando	51

Cahiaji Alto	122
Guzo de Guanado	16
La Palestina	31
CHIMBORAZO SUBTOTAL	**599**
TOTAL	**1095**

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 first distribution of food packages took place on 30 September in Chimborazo and 1 October in Tungurahua. The packages delivered were made up of 22kg of food items, which were donated by the Ecuadorian public, the next two distributions will be those covered by the Appeal, which are expected to take place in October and November.

Impacts
This first distribution will contribute to ensuring food security for the beneficiary families.

Constraints
The volcano erupted once again on Thursday 21 September, causing a delay in the distribution of food packages for safety measures.

Left: Communities affected by the eruption of the Tungurahua volcano receiving food packages, hygiene kits and domestic protection kits
Right: An ERC volunteer helping an elderly man carry the kit to his home

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 distribution of hygiene kits took place on 30 September in Chimborazo and 1 October in Tungurahua. The kits were distributed thanks to USAID, representatives of which were present at the distributions. Each kit includes: toothpaste, toothbrushes, laundry soap, soap, toilet rolls, razors and sanitary towels. Workshops have also taken place on personal hygiene with beneficiary families.

Impacts
The distribution of hygiene kits accompanied by workshops on personal hygiene is contributing to improved hygiene practices within communities.

Constraints
There are no constraints to be reported during this period.

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 cleaning kits are expected to be distributed in October, with the support of the Spanish Red Cross. Each kit will include: rubbish bags, bucket, broom, dustpan, disinfectant and detergent.

Impacts
The results and impact of the distribution of cleaning kits have yet to be measured.

Constraints
There are no constraints to be reported during this period.

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)
1,780 children have been identified to benefit from the kits who are from the beneficiary families identified under the Emergency Appeal. This activity has been coordinated with UNICEF. Schooling has started once again, and it is expected that the education and basic hygiene kits will be distributed at the beginning of October.

Impacts
The results and impact of the distribution of education and basic hygiene kits have yet to be measured.

Constraints
There are no constraints to be reported during this period.

Left: Children attend the distributions of food, hygiene kits and domestic protection kits

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)
During September, six medical brigades have been set up. Each brigade has one doctor, one driver, one paramedic and a volunteer. The brigades will visit communities throughout October, November and December on weekends and will travel in the mobile bus donated by the company Oleoducto de Crudo Pesado, visiting communities and providing medical care. At present, stocks have been taken on medicines, and additional purchases will be made for the visits.

The Embassy of Malta has donated 770 medicine kits, which will be combined with ERC's medical supplies, to ensure the provision of medicine to the affected communities. Through the appeal, other materials will be purchased, such as gloves, syringes, thermometers, and stationery.

In addition, the ERC has a team of volunteers to support the provision of health care. Capacity building is being provided in first aid, ambulance services and disasters for volunteers on a regular basis, with 60 volunteers attending. On 16 September, formal practical training was provided to volunteers in the Tungurahua Province. A total of 70 volunteers from Ambato, Pelileo, Patate, Huambaló, Quero, and Mocha participated. In Huambaló, first aid training was also carried out with the community, with the support of four relief volunteers from Bolívar. During the month of September volunteers demonstrated discipline and motivation in their efforts to support the affected communities.

Impact:
As initially there was good coverage of health activities by other organizations, the ERC has focused medical care on responding to the needs of the affected population. The ERC is also committed to responding to these needs beyond the initial emergency period, therefore the provision of medical care will be ongoing over the next few months.

Constraints:
There are no constraints to be reported during this period.

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.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)
At the end of August, the ERC with the support from the International Federation sent a team of technicians to evaluate the quality of water systems that distribute drinking water to the beneficiary communities. A group of volunteers from the Tungurahua and Chimborazo branches were invited to join the team to help gather data. Samples were taken from storage tanks and physiochemical and a microbiological analysis of the water systems supplying the selected communities was carried out.

The conclusions of the assessment contributed to the formulation of the Water and Sanitation Plan of Action developed by the ERC with the support of the Water and Sanitation Officer from PADRU to implement activities and ensure the communities access to drinking water. The ERC has been coordinating with PAHO, OXFAM and CARE International in the assessment and the development of the water and sanitation Plan of Action.

The assessment showed that although water systems in the selected communities do not use chlorification processes, they are mostly suitable for human consumption. Despite these findings, presence of fecal coliforms has been registered in water systems and it has been recommended that these and other systems be chlorinated to prevent contamination.

In addition, the assessment showed that capacity building for communities is needed in water treatment, principally in areas where water is distributed by the Water Board. It has also been recommended that each person in charge of water systems in each community be provided with a chlorine and Ph tester to guarantee that good quality water is being distributed.

This analysis of the water systems in the affected communities led to the identification of objectives and expected results in the Plan of Action to ensure the provision of safe drinking water.

Expected results:

- Five chlorinating machines will be provided for the four districts worst affected by the eruption of Tungurahua volcano. Two in the Province of Tungurahua (1 in Patate and 1 in Pelileo) and three in the Province of Chimborazo (2 in Guano and 1 in Penipe).
- 1,000 beneficiary families will have participated in at least one capacity building workshop in the areas of hygiene and community health (2 will take place in November and 2 in December)
- 50 community leaders and those responsible for the distribution systems of drinking water for the 21 ERC target communities have received capacity building on the maintenance, use and advantages of chlorinating machines in their communities.
- 90 ERC volunteers from the Provincial and district branches of Tungurahua, Chimborazo will have received capacity building as facilitators in the areas of safe drinking water, the use of chlorine and hygiene. (This is expected to take place in October with support from a Water and Sanitation Officer from PADRU)
- The ERC have a team prepared to evaluate the quality of water and functioning of distribution systems and a group of 5 people from different branches are trained in the management of this team and in the areas of water and sanitation in emergency situations. (This is expected to take place in October with support from a Water and Sanitation Officer from PADRU)

This Plan of Action is dependent on the following assumptions: the authorities and communities support the development of water and sanitation activities; all equipment and personnel needed for the activities are available; and that a further eruption of the Tungurahua volcano does not take place.

Impact
As the water and sanitation Plan of Action was dependent on the results of the assessment and has only recently been developed, the impact of the activities has yet to be shown.

Constraints
The initial lack of precise data on water quality and distribution systems delayed the start of activities and the development of the Plan of Action.

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)
On the 20 September, a meeting was held with organizations and institutions carrying out psychosocial support with children and adolescents affected by the volcanic eruption, in order to define actions to ensure their sustainability.

Further psychosocial support activities will continue in October. Two workshops will take place in Riobamba and Tungurahua with 16 people participating in each workshop. In Riobamba community members will participate from Chimborazo and Bolivar. In Ambato, community members from Tungurahua and Pastaza will participate. Each workshop will last 3 days, the first day is entitled “return to happiness”, the second day will look at psychological first aid, and the third day will address psychosocial support based in the community.

In addition, regular visits to the 21 communities identified for psychosocial support have been made and will continue. Support is also being provided to the communities at the time of distributions of food and non-food items.

Impact
Affected families are receiving appropriate psychosocial support and is helping them face the circumstances and to cope better with the situation. Psychosocial support has been adapted to particular circumstances and is responding to the needs of the people concerned, including the affected population and ERC volunteers and staff.

Constraints
At this time there are no constraints to be reported on as activities have yet to get under way.

Family Linking

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

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)
At present, and with the revision of the emergency Plan of Action, the ERC has decided that the activities planned under family linking are no longer needed as families initially separated by the eruption have now all been reunited.

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 distribution of domestic protection kits took place on 30 September in Chimborazo and 1 October in Tungurahua. The kits were distributed thanks to USAID, representatives of which were present at the distributions. Each kit includes: 1 torch, 10 masks, 2 protective glasses, 4 batteries, and 1 spade.

Impact
The domestic protection kits were well received by the communities and are considered to be a positive move in terms of providing basic needs for the affected communities. The communities are now better prepared for response in case of any further eruptions.

Constraints
There are no constraints to be reported during this period.

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)
At the beginning of September a Damage and Needs Assessment (DANA) course took place in Guano, and included a module on water sanitation. Up to 35 volunteers from Tungurahua, Chimborazo, Pastaza and Bolívar took place in the training. One more DANA course is expected to take place.

Protective equipment for volunteers has been purchased including identification jackets, sweaters, masks, gloves, protective glasses, helmets, overalls, first aid kits, waterproof jackets, bibs, mobiles, hats and torches for 250 volunteers and will be distributed shortly.

The ERC is reviewing its national response plan and developing local contingency plans in the four affected areas. This is being supported by ECHO Thematic funding. Between 25 August and 1 September, response plans were developed with each community after an ERC meeting in Guano, where specific activities were identified. Plans were developed in relation to three phases of the emergency: preparation, response and rehabilitation.

During this period, Early Warning Systems have been strengthened by the ERC in the affected areas; 20 systems have now been set up in Chimborazo, Tungurahua and Pastaza. In September, equipment was delivered and sirens were installed in the communities and materials for signage to mark evacuation routes and meeting points were put up. In the 21 communities identified, capacity building has taken place, with the aim of strengthening local contingency plans. Capacity building is considered important in setting up Early Warning Systems; after the signage has been completed training exercises will take place. Although these activities are not included under the Appeal, they are considered as vital in case of a further eruption.

Efforts were made to move the radio communications centre to a more suitable location for improved coordination and response actions, strengthening the relief programme. A telecommunications network has also been set up in the four provinces using the frequency of Ambato; it is hoped that an independent frequency will be used as communication is precarious in the area.

With support from Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI) telecommunications systems have been strengthened. The following equipment was purchased and installed: two broad band relays, antennas, batteries, and base radios. With Appeal funds, it is hoped to purchase a total of five broad band relays.

Impact
To ensure preparation in the event of a further volcanic eruption, Early Warning Systems are crucial and will strengthen response mechanisms and the local contingency plans. The purchase of protective equipment and capacity building for volunteers as well as improved telecommunications is expected to strengthen activities in each community under the Plan of Action.

Constraints:
There are no constraints to be reported during this period.

Federation Coordination

The ERC, with support from Federation representatives, continues to participate in coordination meetings with Government representatives, NGOs and other actors. Overall coordination has improved with the setting up of the situation room together with the United Nations and the Civil Defence, along with the identification of people responsible for activities within each agency.

In mid-September, the ERC participated in a bi-provincial meeting (Tungurahua y Chimborazo) held by Operating Emergency Committees (COE) and attended by the Director of National Civil Defence.

In the water assessment carried out, support was provided to the ERC from the Water and Sanitation Officer from PADRU mobilized to Ecuador for the emergency. Throughout this process close coordination has been maintained between PAHO, OXFAM and CARE International.

Contributions have been made directly to the Appeal through the Federation by the British Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Netherlands Red Cross and the Swiss Red Cross. In September a significant donation was made by the Italian Government contributing to almost full coverage of the Appeal.

ERC/Federation continues to hold meetings with representatives from Partner National Societies in the country. Bilateral support has been provided by the American Red Cross, the Chinese Red Cross, the Ecuadorian Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross which are contributing to the Plan of Action. The Spanish Red Cross has made 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 support telecommunications within the Ecuadorian Red Cross and the provision of first aid kits. Thanks to United States Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) 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. As a result of these coordinated efforts, the ERC with the support of the Federation is ensuring that those most affected by the volcanic eruption receive much-needed assistance.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross has also received a number of bilateral private contributions to the Plan of Action. Donations have been received from the Embassy of Malta, Fundación Ecuador Mi País, Children International, and Casino Montecarlo. Organizations, private institutions, and companies have also contributed to the Appeal and towards complementary activities. In addition, the Ecuadorian public has made contributions, reaching the equivalent of 93 tonnes of humanitarian aid.

The Sport Federation of Tungurahua has offered support in the form of the Olympic Village installation and 100 volunteers in the event of a further eruption. The installation has the capacity to provide basic commodities, and is prepared for the immediate provision of food and water for three full days in case of a further emergency.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

The Federation is supporting the Ecuadorian Red Cross to assist the communities that have been affected by the volcanic eruption. 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 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

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	

Thanks to the dedicated support of hundreds of volunteers working in the affected areas, the ERC has been able to carry out the activities under the Appeal. In September, the ERC recruited a coordinator to organize the operation and activities, and are currently recruiting two assistants to support the work in the field.

The Federation currently has one Disaster Management Officer from PADRU on the ground and an RIT member from Argentina Red Cross in Ecuador supporting the ERC's activities. In September the Finance Officer from the Regional Delegation in Lima travelled to Ecuador to support the ERC in financial and administrative procedures. The presence of Federation representatives is supporting the ERC in the application of standards and following of procedures in logistics, 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 bi-lingual professionals who have widely disseminated information (nationally and internationally) about the situation and the response activities that the ERC is carrying out. A number of articles have been published and interviews recorded for television detailing these activities. The Information Officer from the Lima Regional Delegation continues to provide support to ensure appropriate dissemination of information on the eruption.

Press releases have been published by the ERC during this period, with information on the latest developments. On 4 October a press conference was held at the ERC headquarters to highlight the contribution of the Italian Government towards the Appeal. Present at the meeting was the Italian Ambassador in Ecuador, the President of the ERC, members of the Government and Delegates from the International Federation.

Up to date information on the situation is continually being posted on the ERC's website (http://www.cruzroja.org.ec/) as on the Federation's website (http://www.ifrc.org/ and http://www.cruzroja.org/).

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