

# 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  
9 January 2007

*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. 3; Period covered: 7 October 2006 to 4 January 2007; 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. Coverage percentage to be confirmed.**

*(The Contributions List is currently being compiled and will be available on the website in due course, along with an Interim Financial Report)*

#### Appeal history:

- Launched on 23 August 2006 for CHF 632,064 (USD 514,753 OR EUR 400,384) for 5 months to assist 5,475 beneficiaries; (1,095 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, activities have continued within the Ecuadorian Red Cross's (ERC) Plan of Action to respond to the needs of 1,095 families (5,475 people) who were affected by the volcanic eruption in August. The number of beneficiaries has been revised within the Plan of Action and the budget. All families were identified as those worst affected by the eruption in the Provinces of Chimborazo and Tungurahua.*

*The following activities have taken place during this period: distribution of food packages, hygiene kits and cleaning kits to families and education kits and basic hygiene kits to children; provision of pre-hospital care to communities by medical brigades on two three-day visits to Chimborazo and Tungurahua; water and sanitation activities have been underway and chlorinating machines have been distributed to four communities; psychosocial support activities have taken place in benefit of ERC volunteers and affected communities; strengthening of the National Society's response capacity has continued and proven effective in the implementation of activities.*

*Coordination has been ongoing with Partner National Societies (PNS) and with external actors such as European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), the Ecuadorian Government and Civil Defence.*

*Contributions to the Appeal received from British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Monaco Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross have directly contributed to the Federation's Appeal. In addition, the Italian Government made a significant contribution leading to almost complete coverage of the Appeal.*

*Several bilateral contributions have been made to the ERC in support of activities, private and individual contributions have also been made to support the families affected. Bilateral contributions towards the ERC's Plan of Action include those from the United States Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)- through the American Red Cross- the Chinese Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Children International, Fundacion Ecuador Mi Pais, Casino Montecarlo, Embassy of Malta, Polish Consulate, Women's Foundation Soroptimist, Association of Ecuadorians Resident in Holland, Coca Cola and Oleoducto de Crudo y Pescado.*

*The Ecuadorian Red Cross has significantly contributed to the Plan of Action through logistics and technical support.*

*Total contributions, both through the Appeal and bilateral, have ensured almost complete coverage of the budgeted amount. Although almost all funds have been spent following the Plan of Action's schedule, this has yet to be shown in the Balance of Funds, as the National Society is finalizing accounts. An updated contributions list will be available in due course.*

*The ERC, with support from the Federation, is working to ensure that beneficiaries' needs are met through the activities being carried out and that contributions are utilized in the most effective manner.*

**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 reawakening seven years ago, the Tungurahua volcano in Ecuador - at 5,023 meters above sea level - has been in an eruptive state throughout 2006. In May, the volcano began emitting loud and frequent explosions, showing increased activity and causing a limited state of emergency at the time. Tungurahua erupted again in July

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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.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross activated its emergency Plan of Action in response to this eruption, mobilising more than 240 volunteers to the area. In July, CHF 85,000 (USD 68,079 or EUR 54,092) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the 537 families (2,685 people) affected and the needs of the operation.

On 16 August, the Tungurahua volcano erupted with greater force causing the emission of gases, ash, volcanic rock and pyroclastic flows to travel into nearby areas, damming two rivers. The cloud of ash from the eruption reached 10 kilometres high and covered nearby communities in a blanket of ash and volcanic residues, causing people to abandon their homes. As many as 15,000 people were evacuated on the day of the eruption. As a result the Ecuadorian Government declared a state of emergency in the four main Provinces affected by the volcanic eruption: Chimborazo, Tungurahua, Bolívar and Pastaza. The day after the eruption, the Government declared the area a disaster zone to allow for immediate measures to be taken to provide emergency relief to those worst affected.



The Tungurahua volcano in Ecuador

The impact of the eruption has been widespread. After the eruption families were displaced and evacuated to shelters, some even lost their homes. A number of health problems have been registered such as breathing difficulties, conjunctivitis, dermatitis and acute diarrhoea. The eruption also caused a significant impact on agriculture and thereby the livelihoods of the communities that depend on this. The Food and Agriculture Organization confirmed that the August eruption affected 2,607,541 livestock and small animals and 1,297,994 hectares of land, causing damage to crops such as corn, potatoes, beans and barley.

After having carried out surveys to identify the beneficiary families in the ERC Plan of Action, it was decided that support should focus on families from areas worst affected by the eruption and those whose income-generating activities were negatively impacted.

In September and October the volcano continued to show activity, minor eruptions and the emission of gases and ash were registered. Ash fell in communities located near the volcano in the areas of Baños, Runtún and Pondoá.

On 18 October, a significant increase in activity was registered in the Tungurahua volcano, producing clouds of ash up to 3 km high and a flow of lava leading to the

evacuation of 300 people. Ongoing monitoring of the volcano is taking place and up to this date the volcano has not increased activity further.

In November and December the volcano has remained moderately active, showing seismic movements, emission of gases and ash and volcanic tremors according to the Ecuadorian Geophysics Institute. Recent reports show there have been no further eruptions in December, and although volcanic activity has decreased, the Geophysics Institute recommends that authorities and local population remain alert to any change.

### Operational developments

The ERC has continued to implement the emergency Plan of Action in the two Provinces directly affected by the volcanic eruption; Chimborazo and Tungurahua. Activities have been taking place within the planned time frame, and the Operation will come to a close on 31 January 2007.

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Access to the affected areas has improved. There have been reports of electricity being cut off in certain areas surrounding the volcano.

After the small eruption in October 2006, a shelter was activated in Penipe for approximately 300 people. Those communities that were evacuated at the onset of the emergency have since returned to their communities, as there are no shelters functioning at this time. Those who lost their homes have also returned to their communities, as there are delays in the construction of new homes within the Government-funded project (see below). These people are staying with relatives or friends.

During this period, families have also returned to the area to check the state of their land as the planting season has begun; however the land at present is mostly unworkable. The clean up of soil and crops takes time and it could be up to a year until the land returns to normal and crops can be harvested again. The ERC has been coordinating with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock on this issue. Small farmers have been the worst affected and the eruption has changed their lives significantly, they are looking for alternative ways to secure their livelihoods. Communities accept that they will have to live with the Tungurahua volcano and the consequences it may bring.

In December, the President of Ecuador re-issued the State of Emergency in the provinces of Tungurahua, Chimborazo and Bolívar. The Government has also made available human resources, materials and public and private sector services to continue responding to the effects of the eruption of the volcano. A number of Government Ministries will be involved in this process - all in coordination with the National Civil Defence within their respective areas of competencies.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development has approved the resettlement projects for those affected by the volcanic eruption. These projects were presented at meetings in Chimborazo and Tungurahua provinces with Mayors from each district, members of local authorities and the affected communities. In total, four resettlement projects will provide housing for 553 families.

**Red Cross action - objectives, progress, impact**

Within the ERC's Plan of Action, the needs of 1,095 families (5,475 people) affected by the eruption of the Tungurahua volcano will be responded to. To date, the operation has been carried out homogeneously, ensuring an equal and even response to the families affected through coordinated distributions and attention.

**Objectives planned to carry out emergency relief activities**

**Objective 1: 1,095 families (5,475 beneficiaries) will benefit from the provision of food packages in the Provinces of Tungurahua and Chimborazo.**

**Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

A first distribution was carried out on 30 September and 1 October to 21 beneficiary communities, which took place according to plan and with the communities' full support. (During this activity, 22 kg food packages meeting Sphere standards were distributed, thanks to the support of the Ecuadorian public.)

A second distribution of 22 kg food packages took place on 28 and 29 October, thanks to support from the Italian Government. A third distribution of food packages was made on 1 and 2 December. All packages distributed meet Sphere standards. The last two distributions were supported by contributions made to the Appeal.

Each kit distributed included: rice, beans, lentils, unrefined sugar cane, cooking oil, sugar, salt, pasta, flour, oats, quinoa and tuna.

### Impact

The distribution of food packages contributed to ensuring food security for the 5,475 people affected and supported by the Plan of Action. The families supported by the Plan of Action depend on agriculture and livestock as a way of living, both of which were severely damaged by the volcanic eruption.

At the same time, distributions of food packages were timed to take place periodically to ensure support to those affected who are looking for ways to secure sources of food in the long run, particularly farmers.



Left: ERC volunteers preparing food packages for distribution

### Constraints

There are no constraints to be reported during this period.

**Objective 2: 1,095 families (5,475 beneficiaries) will benefit from the provision of hygiene kits in the Provinces of Tungurahua and Chimborazo.**

### Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The first distribution of hygiene kits took place with the distribution of food packages on 30 September - 1 October. This distribution was carried out with support from USAID. The second and final distribution took place on 15 and 16 November.

Each kit distributed includes: toothpaste, toothbrushes, laundry soap, bathing soap, toilet paper rolls, razors and sanitary napkins. Workshops took place on personal hygiene with beneficiary families and in addition informal talks have taken place with communities at the time of distributions, where ERC volunteers and staff have done awareness-raising talks about the importance of hygiene.

### Impact

The distribution of hygiene kits took place according to the Plan of Action. Combining the distribution of hygiene kits with capacity building workshops and informal chats with the community has proved to be successful as people not only had their basic needs met but are now considering ways of improving hygiene, which has the potential to have a positive impact in their quality of life.

### Constraints

There are no constraints to be reported during this period.

**Objective 3: 1,095 families (5,475 beneficiaries) will be provided with cleaning kits in the Provinces of Tungurahua and Chimborazo.**

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**Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

On 19 and 20 October cleaning kits were distributed to the 21 beneficiary communities in the provinces of Chimborazo and Tungurahua. Each cleaning kit contained: rubbish bags, a bucket, a broom, a dustpan, disinfectant and detergent.

**Impact**

The kits have proven to be extremely useful for communities in the clean up process due to the amount of ash and dust that has fallen. Ash continued to fall in some communities and having the cleaning utensils has helped communities move on in the face of this continued volcanic activity. As the distribution of cleaning kits on 20 October in the province of Chimborazo was taking place, ash began to fall again in communities as a consequence of renewed volcanic activity.

**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)**

The first distribution of education kits and basic hygiene kits took place on 11 October in the schools of Patate. Present at the distribution was the Ambassador for the People's Republic of China, who supported the activity.

The second distribution of education and basic hygiene kits took place over two days, on 24 October in Tungurahua and on 27 October in the province of Chimborazo.

The education kits included: small and large schoolbooks, pens, pencils, a sharpener, a set of paints, a ruler, and an eraser. The basic hygiene kits included: toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, toilet rolls, a comb, a hand towel, a plastic cup, masks, gauze and a bag. The intention is for these kits to be used by children at school, fulfilling their basic needs for school alongside the education kit.

The distributions were carried out by ERC volunteers and Federation staff. On the same day of the distributions, staff and volunteers carried out sporting activities such as ball games with the children.

In addition, through savings made within this activity, blackboards, markers and erasers were purchased and provided to schools in coordination with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

**Impact**

Both kits distributed have ensured the availability of important materials and items for school activities, which had been interrupted by the eruption of the Tungurahua volcano.

Due to the negative impact of the eruption on the socio-economic situation of members of communities affected, the children's parents were relieved that both kits were distributed. The materials have contributed to the continuation of everyday school activities.

**Constraints**

There are no constraints to be reported during this period.

**Health**

**Objectives planned to carry out health activities**

**Objective 1: 1,095 families (5,475 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)**

Health problems that persist within the affected communities include, respiratory problems, gastrointestinal problems and eye problems - all caused by falling ash. The ERC identified that the best way to respond to these health issues was through direct visits to the affected communities of medical brigades in order to provide care for those in need.

The medical brigade made its first visit on 21 October to the province of Chimborazo. This visit was organized in coordination with the Department of Health in Chimborazo through the Operating Emergency Committee (COE). As part of this joint initiative, it was decided that the medical brigade would leave a copy of the medical history of each person who received attention, as a way to start up medical histories of people from the communities. The ERC supported the preparation of medical histories, the purchase of the folders and – along with local authorities – the identification of a place to file the documents. The community of Cahaju Alto was visited, where approximately 150 people were seen by the brigade.

The medical brigade continued to visit affected communities in December. On the 8, 9 and 10 December the brigade visited Tungurahua and on the 15, 16 and 17 December the medical brigade visited Chimborazo. Each visit lasted three days to ensure proper treatment of affected families and to provide medicine for those who need to continue with treatment.

The ERC have worked in strategic points in each Province, letting communities know well in advance when they would visit to ensure people could attend. In total six visits will be made, three more visits will be carried out before the end of the operation.

**Impact**

The visits of medical brigades to communities were significant, as people were treated and medicines were provided so that people can continue with treatment at no additional cost. This was possible thanks to the contribution made by the Order of Malta of 770 medicine kits and donations of medicines from the ERC and the Federation Secretariat with an aim to secure the medicine needed.

**Constraints**

There are no constraints to be reported during this period.

**Objective 2: 1,095 families (5,475 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)**

An analysis of the water systems used by the affected families within the target communities considered in the Plan of Action took place at the start of the operation, which led to the identification of activities in a Plan of Action to ensure the provision of safe drinking water for communities.

The results of the analysis showed that although communities' water systems are well organized, not one community uses chlorine to disinfect water for human consumption. In response to this, and within the plan to provide safe drinking water to affected families, five chlorinating machines were handed over to communities in affected areas.

The chlorinating machines chosen have the capacity to produce 30 litres of chlorine per day and have a low consumption of electricity. It is estimated that chlorine production will need to take place between two and three times a week (depending on the community) to respond to the needs of the affected communities.

In addition to chlorinating machines, this activity includes capacity building in hygiene, community health and risk management for affected families. It also includes the acquisition of bio security equipment for operators of the chlorinating machines and monitoring equipment in the use of chlorine.

Another component considered necessary in this process is the acquisition of a water quality analysis kit and the respective training for ERC personnel using the kit. This will strengthen the capacities of the National Society in

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carrying out evaluations themselves. The water quality analysis kit includes: three containers of membrane Laurel Sulfate Broth; 1 PLD-3 step charger; porta Millipore filters; three boxes of 0.45 um Millipore filters; six containers of Media Pads and eight boxes tablets for water analysis. This kit is currently held by the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) in Panama and will be sent to the ERC shortly.

On 24 November, 45 ERC volunteers participated in training on hygiene, community health and risk management, to be replicated within communities. The volunteers have previously provided training on these topics to community leaders and introduced similar topics to the community.

Two capacity building workshops are planned within this activity to strengthen volunteers' knowledge in these topics and provide training to the community. One took place in December and the other one will take place in January. After meetings with community leaders, the installation of chlorinating machines took place.

In January 2007, a capacity building workshop on the use of the water quality analysis kit will take place with the participation of the Water and Sanitation Officer from PADRU. Monitoring will also be carried out within the communities during January on the use and production of chlorine.

Support to activities to provide safe drinking water for communities is thanks to USAID, the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and funds contributed to the Appeal. USAID and OFDA supported capacity building activities for volunteers and the community in the use of chlorine and community health.

All water and sanitation activities have been coordinated with other organizations carrying out similar activities.

**Impact**

The provision of safe drinking water to affected communities is considered a priority for the ERC in fulfilling the Plan of Action. The ERC has experience in implementing activities of this kind, and materials used for capacity building have been previously validated under similar circumstances.

During monitoring visits to communities affected by the volcanic eruption, discussion groups were formed on the use of chlorine. Reactions by the communities at these meetings were positive, which increases the chances of greater sustainability of the use of chlorine and safe drinking water in the communities living near the Tungurahua volcano. It has proven important to work with the community regarding the use of chlorine in order to ensure the integration of this methodology. Capacity building sessions are also important within the community.

**Constraints**

Due to technical problems with providers, there was a small delay in the delivery of materials needed for the chlorinating machines; therefore the timeline of activities was delayed. Activities are now underway.

**Objective 3: 1,095 families (5,475 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)**

This activity aimed to provide ERC volunteers with the tools to be able to respond to needs of the communities and provide them with psycho social support during an emergency.

After initial delays due to continued volcanic activity, actions were underway in November. On 3-5 November, capacity building workshops were held in the town of Guano with 16 volunteers, four from each Province (Bolívar, Tungurahua, Chimborazo y Pastaza) affected by the volcanic eruption. The volunteers who participated in the workshops support activities in the areas of emergency relief and



Right: A child participating in a workshop on psychosocial support

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youth. The workshops covered issues such as appropriate psychosocial interventions before, during and after an emergency, mental health damage and needs analysis and psychological first aid. Participants were also invited to form part of the National Crisis Intervention Team to provide support in the central part of the country. A timeline was also defined during the workshop for actions to take place with the communities.

Three workshops in psychosocial support took place in the Provinces of Tungurahua, Chimborazo, Pastaza and Bolívar for a total of 46 volunteers. The workshops focused on intervention in psychological crises caused by disasters and will focus on children and adolescents. Volunteers have since carried out replica workshops in Provincial Branches and with communities. In addition, community diagnostics in mental health have been carried out and in 2007 self help groups for volunteers will be set up in cases of stress in each Provincial Branch that took place in the capacity building.

In the Province of Tungurahua the following replica workshops have taken place: in Huambaló one replica workshop for eight volunteers in psychosocial support for children and adolescents and one workshop with the community for 40 children in the community of Huambaló. Volunteers who participated in the workshops in Patate have since carried out a workshop for 30 children from the community of Loma Grande; volunteers in Ambato held a workshop for 13 adolescents from the Atenas School to facilitate and support activities taking place within the community. In the Province of Chimborazo, one workshop for 25 volunteers has been carried out and two community workshops for 160 volunteers took place in Penipe. The workshops for children have taken place in schools.

Workshops for volunteers and communities are also taking place in the Provinces of Bolívar and Pastaza. Workshops are still underway in all four Provinces and activities to provide psychosocial support will continue until the end of the operation in January.

**Impact**

Psycho social support activities have shown to be important for communities as they face the ongoing threat of recurrent volcanic activity. The ERC decided to focus psychosocial support activities on children as they have been considerably affected by the volcanic eruption. The impact of this initiative is expected to be lasting as ERC volunteers will be prepared to provide psychosocial support to the community in the event of further volcanic activity.

**Constraints**

There were initial delays to the implementation of this activity due to continued volcanic activity in affected areas.

**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)**

The ERC has decided that the activities planned under family linking are no longer needed as all families initially separated by the eruption have now been reunited. The emergency Plan of Action has been revised accordingly.

**Disaster Preparedness****Objectives planned to carry out disaster preparedness activities**

**Objective 1: 1,095 families (5,475 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 include: a torch, masks, protective glasses, batteries, and a spade.

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In addition to the distribution, capacity building workshops and talks have taken place with the community on the use of the domestic protection kits and personal safety in the event of volcanic activity.

**Impact**

The kits continue to provide protection and respond to basic needs for the affected communities particularly in the face of the ongoing volcanic activity. In addition, 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.



Left: ERC volunteers helping members of communities with domestic protection kits

**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)**

After the eruption in August, the telecommunications system in the affected area did not work due to the quantities of ash that had fallen. Since then, telecommunications equipment stated within the Plan of Action has all been acquired and the system has been installed allowing ERC staff to communicate amongst themselves between Provinces.

The coordinator and two field assistants have been hired and are currently working to support activities within the Plan of Action.

Distribution of protective equipment for volunteers took place in each of the following places on 28 October: Pastaza 20 volunteers, Huambalo 10 volunteers, Chimborazo 20 volunteers, Patate 20 volunteers, Ambato 20 volunteers, Bolívar 20 volunteers.

The 20 Early Warning Systems installed in communities in the four Provinces in affected areas are in place for use in the event of an emergency. Although not within the Plan of Action, this activity is considered extremely important by the ERC and complements activities taking place within the Plan of Action. Communities know how the systems work and these are now part of their everyday lives.

Accompanying the Damage and Needs Assessment (DANA) kits, workshops will take place to support the ERC in the use of the kit. The first workshop was carried out in December and a second workshop will be carried out in January.

Thanks to support from ECHO Thematic funding, the ERC has continued working on the preparation of Contingency Plans with a view to consolidate the National Response Plan. The main activities developed over the last few months have focused on the following areas:

- Design, validation and dissemination of matrixes (showing capacities, vulnerabilities and threats)
- Preparatory workshop on the Esmeraldas Contingency Plan
- Preparatory workshop on the Manabí Contingency Plan
- Meeting with Presidents of district boards of Manabí, mostly affected by floods, with the technical team of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the sub-Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Civil Defence and main actors involved in the event of floods.

### **Impact**

The strengthening of ERC capacities has been crucial during this period and has allowed for the activities within the Plan of Action to be carried out in the face of continued volcanic activity. The installation of all communications equipment has allowed for regular contact and enabled coordination between ERC Branches in the affected Provinces. The participation in the first DANA workshop has contributed to ensuring that the National Society has multidisciplinary staff specialist in DANA and available in the event of further volcanic activity. The complimentary activities of Early Warning Systems and the development of contingency plans, are further contributing to strengthening the National Society to be able to respond during emergencies and minimize the impact on vulnerable communities.

### **Constraints**

There are no constraints to be reported during this period.

## **Federation Coordination**

The ERC, with the support of representatives from the Federation Secretariat, reached an operational agreement with the World Food Programme (WFP) to support the distribution of food rations to an additional 1,000 families in the province of Chimborazo. The ERC carried out a survey of the affected population with the WFP. This operational agreement required logistical support from ERC in terms of the distributions.

The ERC and the Federation representatives organized a meeting on humanitarian reform for staff from FAO and Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, as requested by a representative of FAO. In terms of agricultural rehabilitation, the ERC has participated in ongoing dialogue with FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock as regards the response to the needs of the population. The land affected by the volcanic eruption could take up to a year to recover and therefore the agricultural rehabilitation plan will be long term and developed in due course.

The ERC and Federation representatives have continued coordinating with the United Nations system, ECHO and the Ecuadorian Civil Defence. Agencies continue to cooperate with the objective of meeting the needs of the affected communities. WFP continues coordinating UNETE's activities in ensuring effectiveness in the emergency response. The ERC is working closely with UNICEF and the National Institute for Family and Childhood (Instituto Nacional para la Niñez y la Familia - INNFA) on the project "return to happiness" and all activities involving children.

In January 2007, the ERC and the WFP signed a cooperation agreement to work in coordination in the intervention, prevention, immediate response and mitigation of the effects of natural or manmade disasters in Ecuador, through the mobilization of food resources and capacity building in terms of food security.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) continues to support and strengthen the health services response and the ERC has ensured close coordination with the Ministry of Health. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continues to work on the early recovery strategy. All water and sanitation activities are being coordinated with organizations working to provide safe drinking water to affected communities.

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Contributions have been made directly to the Appeal through the Federation by the British Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Japanese Red Cross, the Monaco Red Cross, 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. The funds donated by the Italian Government contributed to a number of activities within the Plan of Action, amongst those: psychosocial support, food packages, hygiene activities, water and sanitation, and medical and pre-hospital care.

The ERC has maintained dialogue with representatives from Partner National Societies working in the country. Bilateral support has been provided by the American Red Cross, the Chinese Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross, these bilateral donations are contributing to the Plan of Action. In addition, thanks to OFDA funds, the American Red Cross is supporting the ERC Plan of Action through a bilateral contribution.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross has also received a number of bilateral private contributions to the Plan of Action from Children International, Fundación Ecuador Mi País, Casino Montecarlo, Embassy of Malta, Polish Consulate, Women's Foundation Soroptimist, Association of Ecuadorians Resident in Holland, Coca Cola and Oleoducto de Crudo y Pescado. The Ecuadorian public has made contributions, reaching the equivalent of 93 tonnes of humanitarian aid. In addition, the ERC has significantly contributed to the Plan of Action through logistics and technical support.

**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 SPHERE standards, 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**

At present there are approximately 250 volunteers supporting the operation on a full time basis. At the start of the operation most volunteers supporting the efforts came from other areas. They have since returned to their Branches and efforts are concentrated in the four ERC Branches within the affected areas in Bolívar, Chimborazo, Pastaza and Tungurahua. The ERC headquarters have also been involved throughout the entire operation working with Branches to enable direct intervention and implement activities to support the affected families.

The National Relief Director has been coordinating the Operation with a Project Coordinator based in Tungurahua. Coordinators from different areas such as finance, logistics and community health (in psychosocial support activities) have also provided support in the implementation of the Plan of Action.

In addition, the recruitment of a coordinator and two assistants has taken place and an accountant has also been recruited temporarily to ensure the management of finances during the operation.

Federation representatives supported 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 of situation rooms, emergency operations centres, and coordination in emergencies, command systems and organization of response. The Disaster Management Officer from PADRU and the RIT member from Argentine Red Cross left Ecuador in November. Support is being provided to the ERC by the Disaster Management Delegate based in Lima.

## **Communications, Advocacy and Public Information**

An information leaflet has been produced by the ERC Communications team to provide information on donations made to the Emergency Appeal and how the funds and contributions have been used to respond to the emergency situation and help the communities affected by the volcanic eruption. This was distributed in the newspaper El Expreso to ensure widespread circulation.

During distributions and other activities, the communications team has ensured that the beneficiaries understood the origin of the support through visibility and providing information to communities, such as in the case of the Chinese Red Cross in Ambato, the Italian Government and the Polish Government.

Each activity has been covered by the media and a photographic and video memory of the whole operation continues. It is expected that a video will be produced at the end of the operation to show the impact it has had on the affected communities, for which a specialist will be hired. A laptop has been purchased to facilitate the activities of the communications team.

In each Branch, communication volunteers have met and shared experiences, lessons learned and best practices with one another.

The ERC's communications team is producing special materials for the beneficiary families, which will include information on how to carry on in the face of volcanic activity and how to work together within communities and with the Red Cross.

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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