

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



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 ERUPTIONS***

5 November 2002

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*At this stage this bulletin is only for information. Donors will be kept informed about the evolution of the emergency and Ecuadorian Red Cross action.*

### ***The Situation***

On November 3 and 4, Volcano Reventador, 90 km west from the city of Quito, erupted on several occasions. As a result, lava and fire have descended along the Montana, Marquez and Piedra Fir ravines, destroying roads and highways between Quito and Lago Agrio directly affecting small agricultural producers. A 4 km high cloud of volcanic ash and other material is suspended over the affected region and is indirectly affecting over two million people. There are no immediate reports of damage but the heavy fall of ashes over the provinces of Pichincha, Napo and Sucumbios led to the closing of the international airport of Quito and the shutting down of the Trans Ecuadorian oil pipeline as precautionary measures.

Two people were seriously injured by the falling material and 22 people from surrounding rural areas have been evacuated. The Government of Ecuador has declared a local emergency and is making preparations for the potential evacuation of 3,000 people from areas closest to the volcano, specifically from the village of El Reventador.

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

The Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC), through its branches, has been responding to the emergency. The National System of EDAN has been activated. Teams were sent from Quito, Tena and Sucumbios to carry out EDAN and produce updated situation reports. Simultaneously, the branches in the province of Pichincha were activated to assist in impacted areas and provide pre-hospital attention and rescue those zones affected by the ash rains. Co-ordination with government relief agencies is ongoing to improve the provision of services to the affected population that cannot be covered by the government. Ongoing evaluations of the situation will continue over the next 15 days. The ERC, in co-operation with the Government, the Federation's Buenos Aires Regional Delegation and the Pan American Disaster Response Unit, is assessing the needs and planning further disaster-response solutions should

the emergency continue. Among these, the National Society is envisaging the increase of its relief-inventory.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

*For further details please contact :*

- *The Ecuadorian Red Cross National Society in Quito ; Phone 593 22 284806; Fax 593 22 570424; email [crequi@attglobal.net](mailto:crequi@attglobal.net)*
- *Luis Luna, Phone 41 22 730 4274; Fax 41 22 733 0395; email [luna@ifrc.org](mailto:luna@ifrc.org)*

*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

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

John Horekens,  
Director,  
External Relations

Santiago Gil  
Head  
Americas Department