



ECUADOR: VOLCANO ERUPTION

DREF Bulletin
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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 over 183 countries.

In Brief

This Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. A DREF allocation of up to CHF 85,000 (USD 68,079 or EUR 54,092) has been agreed, to be allocated depending on outstanding funding needs for this operation. This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will be completed by 19 October 2006; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 18 January 2007). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's 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 \(NGO's\) 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>

Background and current situation

At 17.00 hours on Friday, 14 July 2006, Ecuador's Tungurahua volcano began spewing ash, gas and molten rock – with ash rising 15 kilometres, and molten rock being thrown 500 metres above the crater. The Ecuadorian Geophysics Institute reported that the 5023 meters high volcano had changed its behaviour drastically by expelling at least four lava flows - the first since activity resumed in May. Volcanic activity continued for a second day on 15 July, although explosions had lessened in frequency to every half an hour, from every five minutes on Friday, according to the Institute.

The Director of the Institute stated that the wind was carrying ash from the explosions up to 130 kilometres west of the volcano, affecting provinces to the north-west of the country - in particular Tungurahua, Los Ríos and Chimborazo. The community of Bilbao has declared a state of emergency due to the quantity of ash raining down on it. Up to 125,000 people live within the vicinity of the volcano, of whom approximately 36,000 have been affected so far.



Lava flowed from the volcano and devastated this area

Civil Defense authorities informed that more than 7,000 people have been evacuated from these high risk areas, specifically from some seven villages in close proximity. Since the onset of this situation, several make-shift shelters have been established and some 1,600 people have taken refuge in them, but there is no reliable data on this, as many of those staying at the shelters returned to their ash-covered homes to try to salvage their possessions.

No fatalities have been reported to date, but there have been cases of minor respiratory and gastrointestinal problems and minor burns and trauma. The Mayor of the county of Penipe has said that all the vegetation has died and many cattle and farm birds have been lost. This county includes two villages where 300 families have been obliged to evacuate. Lava flow along the brook of Juive Grande, located on the north-western side of the volcano, has knocked down a bridge along the Baños-Penipe highway, while the Baños-Ambato road has also been affected.

The volcano, located 180 kilometres south of the capital of Quito, had begun emitting loud and frequent explosions in May of this year, showing increased activity since re-awakening nearly seven years ago, after having been inactive for eight decades – prompting a limited state of emergency at the time.

Authorities have declared a red alert in zones near to the volcano and experts have indicated that the current activity may only be a precursor to greater volcanic activity over the coming period. In other more distant cities, an orange alert has been declared. Today, 19 July, although the situation appears to have stabilized, there may be a need for further evacuations from high-risk areas.

Red Cross Actions

The Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) activated its emergency plan of action within an hour of the eruption of Tungurahua Volcano – which has been one of the most active volcanoes in the country. More than 240 volunteers were immediately mobilized to the area, to provide primary medical care and assist with search and rescue operations. The Provincial Branches of Pastaza, Tungurahua, Chimborazo and Bolivar, as well as ERC National Headquarters in Quito, have supplied technical teams and volunteers to support in the assessment of damage and needs, and are collaborating with authorities in the evacuation of families living in the high risk zones. A Disaster Management Delegate from the Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) is in-country, in support of the National Society. A Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member has also been assigned to the operation and will replace the PADRU Delegate in due course.



Home covered by ash

Chile: DREF Bulletin MDREC001; Update no. 1

To date, the ERC has distributed 14,000 masks, 600 protective glasses, 500 bottles of serum, and first aid material to the most affected.

The day after the eruption, a psychological support team and a telecommunications team were deployed to the area.

Preliminary assessments have identified the need for food, both in shelters and for the affected population, and safe water in shelters, personal hygiene items, blankets, mobilization of patients and injured. In light of these needs, ERC actions will include the distribution of food parcels and hygiene kits and the mobilization to the area of Red Cross ambulances.

The table below summarizes the resources mobilized by the ERC to date:

ERC Resources mobilized for TUNGURAHUA response 16-07-2006		
PROVINCE	Staff and volunteers mobilized	Vehicles
TUNGURAHUA	165	3 AMBULANCES / 2 PICK UPS
CHIMBORAZO	17	1 AMBULANCE / 1 VAN / 2 MOTORCYCLES / 2 ALL TERRAIN QUADRICYCLES
BOLIVAR	35	2 AMBULANCES / 1 PICK UP
HEADQUARTERS	30	1 TRUCK / 1 PICK UP / 1 VAN
TOTAL	247	6 AMBULANCES / 5 PICK UPS / 1 TRUCK / 2 MOTORCYCLES / 2 ALL TERRAIN QUADRICYCLES
A relief team of 10 people has been mobilized, as well as a psycho-social team of six, one person in charge of information, one coordinator, 15 NITs members and two IT/Telecommunications experts. Each vehicle is accompanied by a driver and each ambulance has two technicians for medical emergencies.		

The Ecuadorian Red Cross has prepared a detailed plan of action, which takes into account the results from the needs assessments conducted. With funding provided through DREF, the Ecuadorian Red Cross plans to assist 500 vulnerable families (2,500 people) through four distributions of food parcels with 22 kilograms of goods, as well as hygiene kits which will be provided through a single distribution.

The food parcels will contain the following:

Product	Amount	Unit
Rice	4	Kg
Beans	2	Kg
Lentils	2	kg
Granulated Panela	2	kg
Cooking Oil	2	kg

Salt	2	kg
Sugar	0.5	kg
Noodles	1	kg
Flour	2	kg
Oatmeal	2	kg
Quinoa	1	kg
Tuna	1.5	kg

The hygiene kits will contain the following:

Product	Amount	Unit
Toothpaste	0.375	litres
Soap for clothes	5	units
Bath soap	5	units
Toothbrush	5	units
Sanitary napkins	10	packages

In addition, the Ecuadorian Red Cross will continue to provide an ambulance service during the initial week of the emergency response. The National Society also plans to offer psychosocial support to the affected population during the three month period of the operation; a series of workshops will be held in order to train trainers in this area who will then provide support in the target communities. Furthermore, in order to strengthen the response capacity of the ERC branches in the areas affected by the volcano eruption, 100 volunteers and staff members will be provided with equipment comprising: a helmet, a jacket and two aprons.

Information and Coordination

The ERC is closely coordinating its relief activities with Civil Defense, government authorities and other organizations active in the affected area, including The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), OXFAM and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The results from a comprehensive needs assessment by the authorities are expected shortly – although the ERC has clearly noted needs for non-perishable foodstuffs, blankets, water and masks for people now in shelters.

The Federation and ERC are in contact with various Partner National Societies and funding agencies – including the Spanish Red Cross, ECHO and USAID. The Spanish Red Cross has made a bilateral contribution to the Ecuadorian Red Cross for activities under the overall plan of action for response to the volcano eruption; contributions from other PNS or partner organizations are welcomed.



Red Cross volunteer speaks to woman and her children in a shelter

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