

# Information bulletin



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Chile: Volcano

Information bulletin n° 01  
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02 January, 2008

This bulletin is being issued for information only. At 18:20h on Tuesday 1 January, the Llaima Volcano in Chile started to erupt. The volcano, 600 kilometers south of Santiago, started belching lava and a 12-kilometer ash plume on this New Year's Day, forcing hundreds to flee or be rescued. Consequently, the authorities issued an orange alert. The incandescent material which reaches 400 meter above the crater covers some 600 meters on the eastern slope of the volcano. The ash and gas that the volcano is spewing, reaches some seven kilometres. Four communes near the volcano are being affected by the ashes.

La Chilean Red Cross, with the support of the Federation, has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

[<click here to go the attached map; or here for detailed contact information>](#)



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### The Situation

In the afternoon of Tuesday, 1 January 2008 (at 18.20), the Llaima volcano started erupting, thereby spewing a big plume of smoke, visible from a large part of the Ninth Region. The authorities have assembled the Regional Emergency Committee and have issued an Orange Alert, which could become a Red Alert in the following hours, depending on the evolution of the event. According to the technical reports, the incandescent material reaches 400 meters above the crater and covers some 600 meters of the eastern slope of the volcano. The ash and gas plume reaches about seven km to the east/ northeast. At least four communes near to the volcano are being affected by the ashes. The authorities evacuated 150 tourists who were in Conguillío National Park; in addition, all the staff members of the national park were evacuated and other evacuations were carried out in the villages of Captrén, Sahuelhue and El Escorial. Three temporary shelters have been opened to attend the evacuated people. The evacuations are voluntary and the authorities are supporting the people with these activities.

Local authorities, the National Emergency Office of the Ministry of the Interior (Oficina Nacional de Emergencias del Ministerio del Interior – ONEMI) and experts of the Los Andes Observatory and the National Geology and Mining Service (Servicio Nacional de Geología y Minería – SERNAGEOMIN) have realized flights over the area to assess the possible lava emissions, and their course. All the emergency agencies of the zone are in a state of alert, especially in the Melipueco commune, where custom officers, firemen and staff from the health services

work to face any situation of emergency. The Regional Direction of Civil Protection has activated the Commune Committee of Civil Protection in the communes of Melipueco and Vilcún. ONEMI sent satellite communication equipment, tents and water tanks to help establish the Emergency Operations Centre, as well as 1,440 masks to distribute among the population. The National Directorate of Civil Protection in Argentina reported that a plume of gas and ash of 12 kilometers has drifted across the border. This affects some 50,000 people in the Neuquen province and therefore, the Directorate distributed surgical masks and goggles.

The increase in the volume of water of the Captrén-river caused a momentary interruption of the road that connects the localities of Curacautín with the Conguillío National Park. The mayor informed that the road has been rehabilitated.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Cross has assembled the regional emergency committee to face this event. The Relief Director of the CRC has been deployed to the Vilcún commune and is coordinating directly with the Civil Protection Emergency Committee. In the course of the morning of 2 January, a damage assessment team, including volunteers from the National Intervention Team (NIT), was deployed to the Melipueco and Curacautín communes. Water samples have been collected to be analyzed in the following hours. The International Federation, through the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representation Office for South America in Lima are in contact and are coordinating with the CRC. Monitoring and follow-up activities will be undertaken by PADRU during the evolution of the event.

## How we work

*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.*

The International Federation's activities 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.

## Contact information

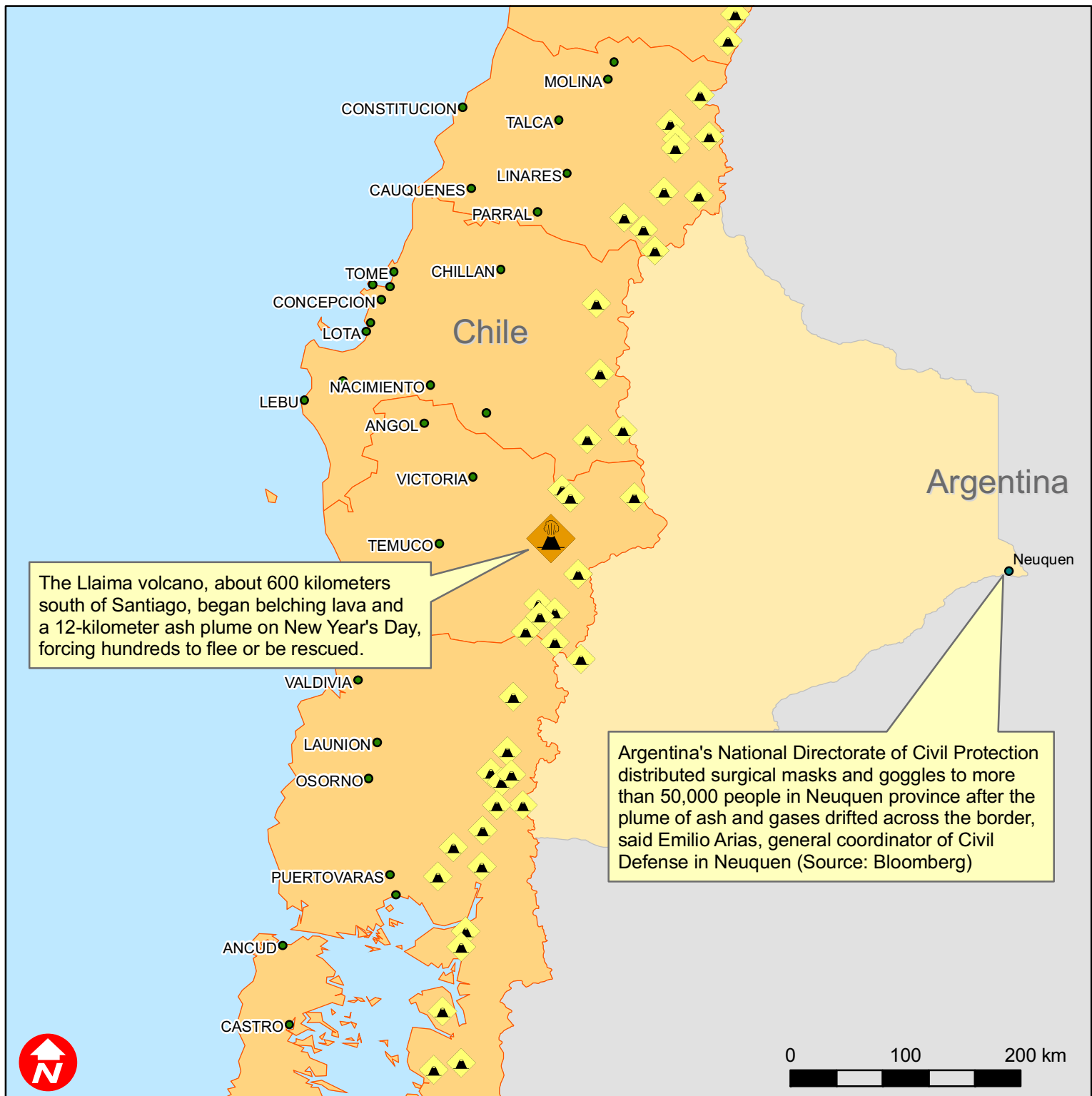
**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**






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[<map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



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-  Llaima volcano
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