

Information bulletin

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Indonesia: Sinabung Volcano Eruption

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This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation. The Indonesian Red Cross, better known as *Palang Merah Indonesia* (PMI) in the native Bahasa Indonesia, will, however, accept direct assistance to provide support to the affected population.

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Mt. Sinabung which is located in Karo district, North Sumatra province, has erupted twice; the first was on 29 at 00:08AM and then on 30 August at 06:30AM local time. These incidents have caused 28,756 people displaced according to the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA). Local authorities have reported two deaths due to respiratory problems and heart attack. The situation has gradually returned to normal but many of the displaced are still afraid to go back to their homes.



Sumirah (a lady with white veil) in one of internal displaced people camps in Kabanjahe city, Karo district, is giving information to PMI volunteers on Monday (30/8) about their condition after Mt. Sinabung eruption. (Wayne Ulrich/IFRC)

The Situation

Sinabung Volcano, located in Tanah Karo, North Sumatra province, has been registering activity since Friday, 27 August. The first eruption was on Sunday (29 August), at 00:08 a.m. local time, and then the second was on Monday (30 August) at 06:30 a.m. local time. Volcanic ashes spewed out from Sinabung and reached into 1,500 metres. There are three sub-districts affected, such as Namaparang, Payung and Tiga Nerkan. About 14 villages on these three sub-districts were evacuated to safer areas. To date, according to the National Disaster Management Agency (*Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana* or BNPB), as many as 28,756 displaced people from eight sub-districts have been evacuated and are living in 20 refugee camps. Local authorities reported two deaths from respiratory problems and heart attack. Residents who are located in the 6-kilometre radius, which consists of 12 villages, were ordered to leave the stricken area to be relocated to Kabanjahe city, the capital of the Karo district and Berastagi district. So far, many displaced people have reported health problems of acute respiratory infection and eye irritation.

The vulcanology and geological disaster mitigation department is advising people to use face masks and cover their water resources to avoid the harmful effects of volcanic ashes. This mountain status was originally of Volcano Type B, which does not need to be monitored due to previous dormancy. After this incident, the status was changed to Volcano Type A which advises caution.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

After the eruption, there have been 17 PMI disaster response team personnel or *SATGANA* assisting the people in Kabanjahe city, Karo district. In the meantime, PMI national headquarters has deployed disaster management staff to Medan and dispatched 6,000 medicines and 10 medical personnel deployed to the ground. Relief items have been dispatched from Jakarta to Medan including 1,000 hygiene kits, 1,000 blankets, and 1,000 of sleeping mats for affected people. In addition, PMI has also distributed 20,000 units of face masks for the affected people and the volunteers.

A team from PMI national headquarters and North Sumatra chapter and a team from the IFRC country office conducted assessment and monitoring at seven points of refugee camps on Monday (30 August) in Kabanjahe, Karo district. The result of this assessment is that almost all displaced people are accommodated at community halls (*jambur*). There are 5,000 people in those seven *jambur*. In each *jambur*, food has been available from the local communities and social department. In addition, in some camps, there are army personnel assisting the field kitchen.

To date, PMI has started a field kitchen in Sinabung operated by 14 volunteers from PMI. These field kitchens have provided meals for 2,000 displaced people for five days. A mobile clinic has also started today which will operate until 8 September. This unit comprises one ambulance, doctor, paramedic, and a trained ambulance crew.

PMI is in cooperation with government agencies to carry out the emergency response for the next 14 days referring to the local government's direction.

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 \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The International Federation's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

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