



Bangkok

1 February 2018

**SITUATION**

In the afternoon of Monday the 22 January 2018, the province of Albay in Region V where the Mayon Volcano is situated in the Philippines, was advised to stay vigilant as the alert level was raised to 4 (hazardous eruption imminent), on a five-step alert system, coming from a 10-day increasing unrest. The alert level-3 has been in effect since January 14 after the active volcano exhibits relatively high unrest after the phreatic eruption ejected ash and sulphur fumes accompanied by rumbling sounds. As of January 24, five episodes of intense but sporadic lava fountaining from the summit crater occurred. Frequent phreatomagmatic eruptions, energetic lava effusions, lava-collapse feeding pyroclastic density currents (PDCs), and hundreds of volcanic earthquakes and tremor events were recorded by Mayon's seismic monitoring network which has affected over 22,000 households / 89,000 individuals in 59 barangays (villages), of which 18,291 households / 69,425 persons are currently being served inside 74 designated evacuation centers (ECs) as of January 30 report. The public is strongly advised to prevent any human activity near the danger zone due to the rockfalls, landslides and sudden explosions or dome collapse that may generate hazardous volcanic flows. Aside from the danger brought by the continuing eruption, lahar or mudflow is a threat especially during heavy rains, which have been reported in the region.

**NEEDS**

The volcanic eruption has put the province in a state of crisis. The affected persons find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs such as access to sufficient food, safe shelter and basic non-food items, basic health services and facilities, safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure, and livelihood activities.

The dire situation is further compounded for the affected people with vulnerabilities. the elderly people living with disabilities, pregnant women, and children, as the concerns are growing over health and hygiene conditions at the temporary shelters away from the extended 8 km radius, from a previous 7 km danger zone. The displacement had led to overcrowded temporary shelters, and is seen to prolong over a month, which will make it more difficult for the vulnerable sectors to cope with the dangers facing them. Respiratory illnesses among the affected population were reported due to the series of ash falls affecting the whole region. There is a pressing necessity to provide immediate assistance to minimize loss of life and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered first.

**STAKEHOLDERS**

The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:

- The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) are continuously monitoring the situation, providing the notification for Mayon eruption. All the government agencies at the national level activated its alert status to continuously monitor the situation. The provincial and municipal authorities are leading the disaster response.
- UN OCHA fielded a team to Legazpi City on 17 January to assist local authorities and assess needs.
- The Philippine Red Cross have set up first aid stations and welfare desks to provide psychosocial support to affected individuals.
- International and local humanitarian actors are currently monitoring the situation and stand ready to provide relief assistance. Local partners of Christian Aid-Coalition for Bicol Development participated in the Inter-agency assessment.
- Faith-based groups are mobilizing resources locally to help in providing basic needs to several temporary shelters. Coordination among the ACT Forum members have been activated and agreed to send this Alert Report to ACT Alliance. The National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) through the local ecumenical humanitarian arm-Andurog Mayon, is closely

monitoring the situation and is actively engaging with the multisectoral coordination meetings in the area.

The emergency response is currently being coordinated by the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (RDRRMC V). To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, the ACT Philippines forum will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders (such as the inter-agency assessment meetings, relevant cluster meetings, and multisectoral and local government led coordination meetings) and establish an open line of communication with crisis affected persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback.

#### ***ACT Alliance***

ACT Alliance has been working in Philippines since 2013, now helping/planning to help people affected by the eruption. ACT Alliance works in the affected areas and is assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities. ACT Alliance is currently monitoring the situation and is preparing a rapid needs assessment to have an in-depth context analysis and better understanding of existing vulnerabilities. ACT Alliance is monitoring the situation and emergency teams are ready/preparing to respond according to the results of a contextual analysis and rapid needs assessment.

In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT Philippines forum has identified gaps in food security, WASH especially potable water supply and hygiene kits, basic non-food items such as sleeping kits, and shelter-grade tarpaulins for temporary shelter. Although, early recovery and livelihood is seen to become a problem in the coming weeks, as most of the affected population rely on farming and fishing among others, which is highly devastated, amounting to a total of 180 Millions of damages incurred as of this writing. and has resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to properly bridge the identified gap.

The ACT forum is now planning on submitting a funding proposal to provide food packs, hygiene kits and NFIs, to ensure that the affected persons' basic needs are met with regards to EFSL, WASH, NFIs. ACT Alliance is ready to respond, providing immediate needs such as food packs, hygiene kits and NFIs to around 3,000 affected households in the coming months. Furthermore, ACT Alliance will engage in advocacy on the national and international level to ensure that the voices the affected communities are amplified.

**Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel ([Line.Hempel@actalliance.org](mailto:Line.Hempel@actalliance.org))**

For further information please contact:

Forum Coordinator, Allan Vera ([avera@christian-aid.org](mailto:avera@christian-aid.org))

ACT Regional Programme Officer, , James Munpa ([james.munpa@actalliance.org](mailto:james.munpa@actalliance.org))

ACT Web Site address: <http://www.actalliance.org>