

ALERT Volcanic Eruption



actalliance

Guatemala

June 5, 2018

BACKGROUND

The Fuego Volcano, located 27 miles southwest of Guatemala City, erupted around noon on Sunday, June 3, 2018. According to CONRED Guatemala's national civil protection authority, the death toll has reached 65. The agency says that in addition, 46 people were injured, an unknown number is missing, and an estimated 3,271 people have been evacuated from the affected zone by Monday morning, with further evacuations planned. 1,916 people are currently in shelters. Authorities expect the death toll to rise as more bodies are discovered. As many as 1.7 million people may be affected mainly through ash intoxication and acid rain. Emergency response teams from the Guatemala Red Cross are giving medical and psychosocial support to villages on the slopes of the volcano, which were buried in volcanic ash, mud and rocks as the volcano erupted for 16 ½ hours. Disaster response personnel and the military are conducting search and rescue operations. On Monday 4 June, a declaration of State of Calamity was made for the departments of Chimaltenango, Escuintla and Sacatepéquez in the central part of Guatemala, as well as three days of national mourning. Wounded and traumatized survivors are being rushed to hospitals by the Red Cross, as urgent work continues to evacuate communities from the danger zone.

NEEDS

The volcanic eruption destroyed homes, crops and livestock, as well as vital infrastructure such as water supply and schools. Longer term impacts of acid rain and ash are likely to affect food security and livelihoods for years to come.

Humanitarian needs at this point include:

- Food Security
- WASH
- safe shelter and basic non-food items
- basic health services and facilities
- safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure
- Psychosocial support
- protection activities

The impacts are more severe for affected people with special needs, including people living with disabilities who require additional support to access assistance. Women and children are known to be particularly vulnerable during times of crisis and relocation. Students are currently facing disruption to studies due to the disaster.

STAKEHOLDERS

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

- CONRED has mobilized first response teams to affected areas, as well as Guatemalan Red Cross and military personnel, reporting that there are 1,200 people working on and around the volcano in search and rescue. At present, there is no detailed information regarding the number of people missing.
- The military, which is providing assistance with the cleanup operations
- Emergency response teams from the Guatemala Red Cross are giving medical and psychosocial support to survivors, and ambulances from three Red Cross branches have been deployed to take wounded people to hospitals in the capital. The Red Cross is working closely with CONRED, Guatemala's national civil protection authority, and will activate its blood services and Restoring Family Links support to help with the response.
- CONRED is coordinating the overall response of the emergency, local authorities are part of CONRED. Ministry of Health reported that the national hospitals are supplied and are providing medical care to those affected by the eruption

- National Civil Police are searching for survivors in the affected areas.

ACT Alliance

ACT Guatemala Forum members Centro Evangélico de Estudios Pastorales en Centro América (CEDEPCA), Consejo Ecueménico Cristiano de Guatemala (CECG), Christian Aid (CA), and The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) are coordinating for this emergency. The Forum is currently monitoring the situation and is preparing a response proposal based on a quick needs assessment. Coordination meetings are taking place at country level, in coordination with ACT Secretariat Regional Office and with humanitarian officers from LWF and CAID respectively.

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

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