

**Lewotobi Laki-Laki Volcano Eruption – Indonesia, 1 January 2024**

Completed by: Waqas Muhammad – HPO Asia-Pacific

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Forum: Indonesia Forum

Type of emergency: Volcano Eruption

Date of emergency (if rapid onset): 1 January 2024

### 1. The nature of the emergency

A series of explosive eruption from Mt. Lewotobi Laki-Laki occurred from December 23<sup>rd</sup> to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. After the eruption on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, a crack was seen in the northwest of the peak 160 meters long and emitting thick white smoke with the height around 300 meters. On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, at 00.03 Central Indonesian Time there was an increase in continuous earthquakes with an amplitude reaching 7 mm. A new eruption center was observed originating from a fracture in the south-southeast of Mt. Lewotobi Laki-Laki's summit. The eruption occurred 1,000-1,500 meters high from the peak, the eruption ash column was white, grey to black. Based on instrumental observation, there were more than 100 volcanic earthquakes and around 79 tectonic earthquakes occurred since the first eruption. On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, at 04.00 Central Indonesia Time, the Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation (PVMBG) raised the status of Mt. Lewotobi Laki-Laki from Level II to Level III due to the potential danger of explosive eruptions with more than 3 km distance of volcanic rocks as well as pyroclastic flow with 4 km range towards the northwest, north and southeast.

### 2. The impact and scale of the emergency

Based on the government's report and initial assessment, recently, the disaster indicates in a moderate impact and is categorised as medium-scale emergency. Nevertheless, there is a possibility for status raise since Mt. Lewotobi Laki-Laki's was increased by PVMBG to Level III since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. The local government of East Flores District has also declared a disaster emergency alert for 14 days starting from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Mt. Lewotobi is a twin volcano located in the southeast of Flores Island geographically located in Latitude -8.5539°LU, Longitude 122.7805°BT. Mt. Lewotobi is in East Flores District, East Nusa Tenggara Province, which has two summits namely Mt. Lewotobi Laki-laki and Mt. Lewotobi Perempuan. Mt. Lewotobi Laki-Laki has a height of 1,584 meter.

There are 5 villages in Wulanggitang Sub-District affected by the eruption, these villages include Nawakote Village (Duang Hamlet and Bawalatang Hamlet), Boru Village (Podor Hamlet), Hokeng Jaya Village, and Klatanlo Village. The eruption also affected 2 (two) villages in Ile Bura Sub-District, there are: Dulipali Village and Nobo Village. These two sub-districts are close to the crater peak so that volcanic ash rains still often occur in these two sub-district areas if an eruption occurs.

Data from the MoH's Crisis Center on January 4, 2024 showed that 898 people suffered minor injuries that need outpatient service, and a total of 3,224 people have been evacuated to the temporary shelters set up by local governments and community houses in other villages. Based on temporary rapid assessment conducted by BNPB on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, as many as 2,331 people in Wulanggitang and Ile Bura Sub-Districts have been evacuated to several points, such as relatives' houses, evacuation posts including independent tents erected in the community gardens. Around 644 people took refuge in Konga Village, Titehena District, and 178 people fled to Sikka District. As for now, the total affected population which are reported to evacuate are increasing to 4,112 persons, divided in some evacuation points.

After the eruption of Mt. Lewotobi Laki-Laki, people in the evacuation camps began to complain of illnesses such as hypertension, coughs, headaches, fever, and respiratory infections. Boru Sub-District Health Center reported a total of 726 patients has received treatment and health services, including 75 infants and toddlers, 2 pregnant women, 139 older people, and 2 persons with disability.

### 3. Local and national capacity

The local government of East Flores District has declared a natural disaster emergency alert status in accordance with the Decree of the Regent of East Flores Number BPBD.300.2.2.5/001/BID.KL/2024 for 14 days from January 1 to January 14, 2024. East Nusa Tenggara Disaster Management Agency has been conducting rapid assessment and establishing emergency tent and public kitchen in IDPs Camp. Blanket assistance and mask distribution were also carried out to prevent the occurrence of respiratory infections.

The Indonesia National Agency for Disaster Countermeasure (BNPB) and East Flores Resort Police have deployed their response teams and assistance to the affected areas, and also distributed the logistics needed to the IDPs. The technical implementation of disaster mitigation includes the construction of refugee tents, the construction of public kitchens, evacuation of children, women and older people to posts safe from the impact of volcanic ash, water distribution, socialization to the community to avoid dangerous zones affected by the eruption, and also preparing evacuation teams and vehicles for anticipating status level increase of Mt. Lewotobi. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Indonesian Red Cross have deployed their teams to monitor the situation and to ensure the public kitchen was far away (estimated 15 km) from the affected location, with consideration the volcanic ash will have an impact on the food consumed by IDPs.

### 4. Key needs and gaps

**Foods:** Food still the main necessity needed by evacuees at this time, not only ready-to-eat food but food that can be processed into a healthy menu. The increasing amount of volcanic ash will also have an impact on the food that will be consumed by refugees, hence proper management of public kitchens for survivors of volcanic eruptions is needed.

**NFIs:** Sleeping equipment is a necessity in refugee camps such as mattresses and blankets. This gap will affect the quality of health of survivors while in refugee camps. The needs for at-risk groups are sanitary napkins, diapers, eucalyptus oil, and other special needs for pregnant women and older people.

**Health:** Masks are an urgent need for survivors including humanitarian volunteers due to volcanic ash and dust. After the eruption of Mt. Lewotobi, residents in the evacuation camps began to complain of illnesses such as hypertension, coughs, headaches, fever, and respiratory infections. Health services for now are still actively carried out by the local Puskesmas, but if there is a surge in the number of refugees, it is very necessary to support health services to avoid overburdening the Puskesmas in health services which are expected to be on standby for 24 hours in refugee camps. It is expected that there will be an increase in the number of cases over the next week.

**Protection:** Eruptions and tremors continue to occur and increase the risk of traumatizing survivors. Psychosocial support becomes one of the main needs for the affected community, especially for the at-risk groups.

**Camp Management:** Chaotic situations have the potential to occur in refugee camps, therefore camp management to organize survivors in refugee camps is needed. On the other hand, waste is often a challenge after a disaster, therefore waste management in refugee camps is needed to avoid other new disasters.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an <b>X</b> below
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Rapid Response Fund ( <i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i> )	<b>X</b>
Appeal ( <i>intended for large scale emergencies</i> )	

If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.

Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below.

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise	Support required	Estimated Budget range
PELKESI	Jakarta	Health, Psychosocial	Financial support	
YEU	Jakarta	Food, NFIs, Shelter, Camp Management	Financial support	
MBM	Bali	Health	Financial support	
CWS	Jakarta	WASH, Shelter	-	-

#### 5. Potential responses

The forum members potentially to operating in the affected area are PELKESI, YEU, CWS and MBM. PELKESI has hospital/clinic member di NTT, YEU/YAKKUM has work units operates in Alor, MBM is located in Bali which is in border with East Nusa Tenggara, and CWS as an international member has project sites in East Nusa Tenggara. According to ACTIF members coverage area, it is also possible for other members to provide response, since they have the networking in East Nusa Tenggara.

PELKESI and YEU have a joint experience in the RRF mechanism for Cyclone Seroja in NTT in 2021, in addition to other experiences in RRF mechanisms. The latest response experience is the 2022 Cianjur Earthquake RRF by PELKESI and YEU with additional support from MBM. PELKESI is specialised in health services and health sector while YEU is specialised in shelter, WASH, NFIs and cash transfer.

ACT Indonesia Forum is planning to respond and providing Food, NFIs, Health Services, Psychosocial Support, and Camp Management, with the responding members are PELKESI, YEU and MBM. ACT Indonesia Forum is planning to give assistance to IDPs affected by Mt. Lewotobi eruption through ACT Alliance's Rapid Response Fund. We plan to aid and support the disruption of Foods, NFIs, health services, household items, protection for at-risk groups, camp management, and assistance to support the disruption of livelihoods.