

Alert note

Mt. Ruang Volcano Eruption – Indonesia, April 30, 2024

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Date completed: April 30, 2024

Forum: ACT Indonesia Forum

Type of emergency: Volcano Eruption

Date of emergency (if rapid onset): 30th April 2024

1. The nature of the emergency

On Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 02:35 WITA, Mount Ruang in Sitaro Regency, North Sulawesi, Indonesia erupted with a maximum amplitude of 55 mm and a temporary duration of ± 10 minutes. This eruption was a continuation from the April 16 eruption. Indonesia’s Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation (PVMBG) raised Mt. Ruang status went from Level II to level III on April 16, 2024, then raised to level IV (the highest) on April 17, 2024 due to the increases in activities. On April 22, 2024 the status was lowered to level III, but due to the current eruption, the status rose again to level IV on April 30, 2024.

2. The impact and scale of the emergency

Based on the government’s report and initial assessment, recently, the disaster indicates a moderate impact and is categorised as medium-scale emergency. The Regent of Sitaro Islands has extended the status of disaster emergency response for another 14 days from April 30 to May 13.

Around 12 villages in Tagulandang Resort are greatly affected by this eruption. Communities within a radius of 4-6 km from Mount Ruang have evacuated independently, including those from Bahoi Village, Balehumara Village, Barangka Pahe Village, Mahangian Village, Tulusan Village, Lesa Village and Lesa Rende Village. The number of people affected was estimated around 14,045 and 6,437 people were displaced in Sitaro Regency and North Minahasa Regency.

Volcanic ash covered the roads and houses by 2-5 cm, hampering the activities of the community. It also covered several airports around the North Sulawesi region including: Sam Ratulangi Manado Airport, Djalaludin Gorontalo Airport, Melonguane Airport, Siau Airport, and Naha Airport, causing access to the North Sulawesi region to be impassable by air for the next couple of days.

Access to sea transportation especially private ships both from Manado and from other islands also closed, the only ship transportation is warships.

Most market activities were stopped and only some convenience stores still operated with limited materials and heavily relied on shipments of goods from the city of Manado.

3. Local and national capacity

The affected community receives donations from churches around the island in the form of food and money from neighbouring churches. These donations are used for food in the initial days, and then to buy urgent necessities from shops or markets that are still operating. The community also used public facilities such as churches, village halls for evacuation and opened soup kitchens.

Churches have formed an integrated post managed directly by the head of the region (Tagulandang Resort) to facilitate coordination with parties both with the government and between churches, and also to facilitate logistics management related to incoming donations, outgoing goods and aid distribution.

The government plans to evacuate the community to the island of Siau and also to the provincial city. Distribution of aid goods for people who still remain on the island of Tagulandang will be carried out through Navy ships provided by the local government.

No cluster has been activated because the focus of coordination is still more on evacuating people between the islands. The local government with the help of other agencies continues to evacuate the community using Navy ships, and to clear the volcanic ash from the airports to normalize the air transportation.

4. Key needs and gaps

Foods: Food is 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 IDPs; hence proper management of public kitchens for survivors of volcanic eruptions is needed.

NFIs: Sleeping equipment is a necessity in IDPs camps such as mattresses and blankets. This gap will affect the quality of health of survivors while in IDPs 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, 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 IDPs, 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 IDP 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 IDP camps, therefore camp management to organize survivors in IDP camps is needed. On the other hand, waste is often a challenge after a disaster, therefore waste management in IDP camps is needed to avoid other new disasters.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i>)	X
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		Health, Psychosocial		

YEU	Food, NFIs, Shelter, Camp Management
MBM	Health

5. Potential responses

The forum members potentially operating in the affected area are PELKESI, YEU and MBM.

North Sulawesi is the regional base of PELKESI Region IV, with the center office at Manado-Tomohon City. Sitaro Regency is in the area adjacent to Manado City. The PELKESI National Secretariat has coordinated with the PELKESI Region IV Management and the GMIM Synod to conduct assessments at refugee locations across Manado City, Bitung, and North Minahasa. The nearest PELKESI member hospital arranges to assist with assessment and response in the health sector. Meanwhile, PELKESI is also raising aid donations from internal members and networks to support the response to the Mount Ruang eruption disaster.

YEU/YAKKUM has assisted, in collaboration with GMIST Resort Tagulandang, in distributing basic food packages at the refugee posts in Apengsala village and Lesah Rende village on 22 - 24 April 2024:

1. Establish an integrated post-coordination mechanism between GMIST and the parties.
2. Distribution of basic food packages at two displaced people locations:
 - Apengsala Village (45 family packages)
 - Lesah Rende Village (45 family packages)

Currently, the YEU team is already at the location to assist in the form of basic food packages, masks, and mattresses.

MBM has experience in volcanic eruption response in Bali, with capacity in the health sector. MBM will participate in the disaster response for Ruang Volcano in the form of collaboration with PELKESI and YEU.

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 provide 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. Ruang 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.