

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Philippines: Volcanic Activity

Information bulletin n° 1

22 December 2009

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation.

A total of 9,276 families (44,637 persons) are currently housed in 27 evacuation centres in Legazpi City and Albay province of the Philippines due to the imminent hazardous explosion of Mount Mayon. At 1430 local time on 20 December, Alert Level 3 was raised to Alert Level 4 which means that a hazardous explosive eruption is possible within days.



Since 14 December, Mount Mayon has been exhibiting levels of activities. As the Alert Level has increased to 4, meaning hazardous eruption is imminent. The population in areas surrounding the volcano has been evacuated into centres. Scientists have said the volcano is expected to erupt within days. Photo: Associated Free Press.

[<click here to view the map of the affected area, or here for detailed contact information>](#)

The Situation

On 14 December 2009, an increased volcanic activity was recorded by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHILVOLCS), prompting scientists to raise the Alert Level of Mount Mayon from 2 to 3, which means that magma is close to the crater and a hazardous explosive eruption is imminent. As a result of these developments, a mandatory evacuation was reinforced for households in all areas within the 6-km radius Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ) and the 8-km Extended Danger Zone (EDZ) in the Southeast Quadrant, particularly, in Buyuan, Mabinit and Bonga areas.

On 20 December 2009, Mount Mayon's volcanic activity escalated with the increased number and size of seismic activities. A total of 1,942 volcanic earthquakes was detected by the seismic network. Sulfur dioxide emission rate remained very high at 6,089 tonnes per day while audible booming and rumbling sounds were reported in the eastern flank of the volcano.

The Alert Level is now at four out of a possible five, which means that:

- i) a lava pile is accumulating on the crater floor,
- ii) a hazardous explosive eruption is possible within hours to days.

PHIVOLCS reiterated that the EDZ from the summit of 8 km on the southern sector of the volcano and the 7km on the northern sector be strictly observed. Areas just outside the EDZ were likewise advised to prepare for evacuation in the event of hazardous explosive eruptions intensify. The Local Government Unit of Albay Province has initiated a mandatory evacuation in the PDZ and EDZ areas since 14 December 2009. Due to the increase in the alert level, the number of evacuees had grown considerably from 4,940 families (23,314 persons) on 16 December to 9,276 families (44,637 persons) as of 21 December at 1700 local time. The evacuated families are currently housed in 27 pre-identified evacuation centres.

According to the local authorities, all families that should have been preemptively evacuated under Alert Level 4 had already been moved preemptively during Alert Level 3 (so there should be no additional evacuations in the short term).

The main concern expressed by the local government, with "hazardous explosive eruption expected within hours or days", is to convince evacuees to remain in the evacuation centres, especially, with the approaching holidays. The Governor has requested support with non-food item distributions and the organization of social activities to keep people busy in the evacuation centres. According to the information from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) team on the ground, a significant number of people is going to the forbidden zones explaining that they have to go back to their land to take care of their livelihoods (crops, etc).

Tremendous efforts have been put in place by local authorities to keep evacuees in the evacuation centres. Food distribution (rice, sardines, etc) was organized by the government over the past weekend. In addition, the government made arrangements with provincial/city/rural health facilities to meet possible health and water and sanitation needs of the evacuated families. Local government unit of the Tabaco City dispatched mobile medical teams to the evacuation camps who will be establishing health posts in the centres. The Department of Health has distributed 50,000 face masks to the communities for protection from ash falls. The Department is awaiting the delivery of P1.8M medicines and other health supplies.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Immediately upon receipt of the information from the PHIVOLCS, the Philippines National Red Cross Society (PNRCS) 24/7 Operation Centre at the national headquarters coordinated with the local chapter. The local chapter immediately activated their local disaster response teams to assist the local government unit in the evacuation process. Mobile first aid teams were deployed to different evacuation centres to attend the emergency medical needs of the evacuees. Continuous assessment and monitoring were conducted by both chapter staff and volunteers on a daily basis to identify humanitarian needs and gaps. Coordination with the local disaster coordinating council is taking place to ensure that complementary assistance is provided to the families.

PNRCS national headquarters actions:

The national headquarters alerted and put on stand-by all emergency response teams in nearby chapters, namely in Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Sorsogon and Catanduanes. It also provided the local chapter with prepositioned emergency food supplies for 1,500 families and deployed seven (7) water tankers with 500

galloon capacity for each tank. National emergency response teams (ERT) were also alerted in case there is a need for additional support to the skilled personnel on the ground. Close coordination with the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) and PHIVOLCS is being maintained. In addition, personal protective aids were sent to the chapter for the use of the volunteers and staff. Emergency medicines for upper respiratory track infections have also been prepositioned.

The International Federation country office has the prepositioned stock of 10,000 plastic mats and blankets sufficient to cover the needs of 5,000 families. Besides, 5,000 hygiene kits are currently in country going through the customs clearance process. These items will be dispatched to the field according to the needs on the ground. Water and sanitation and relief recovery delegates from the country office team will be deployed to the field to monitor and assess the situation.

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 \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

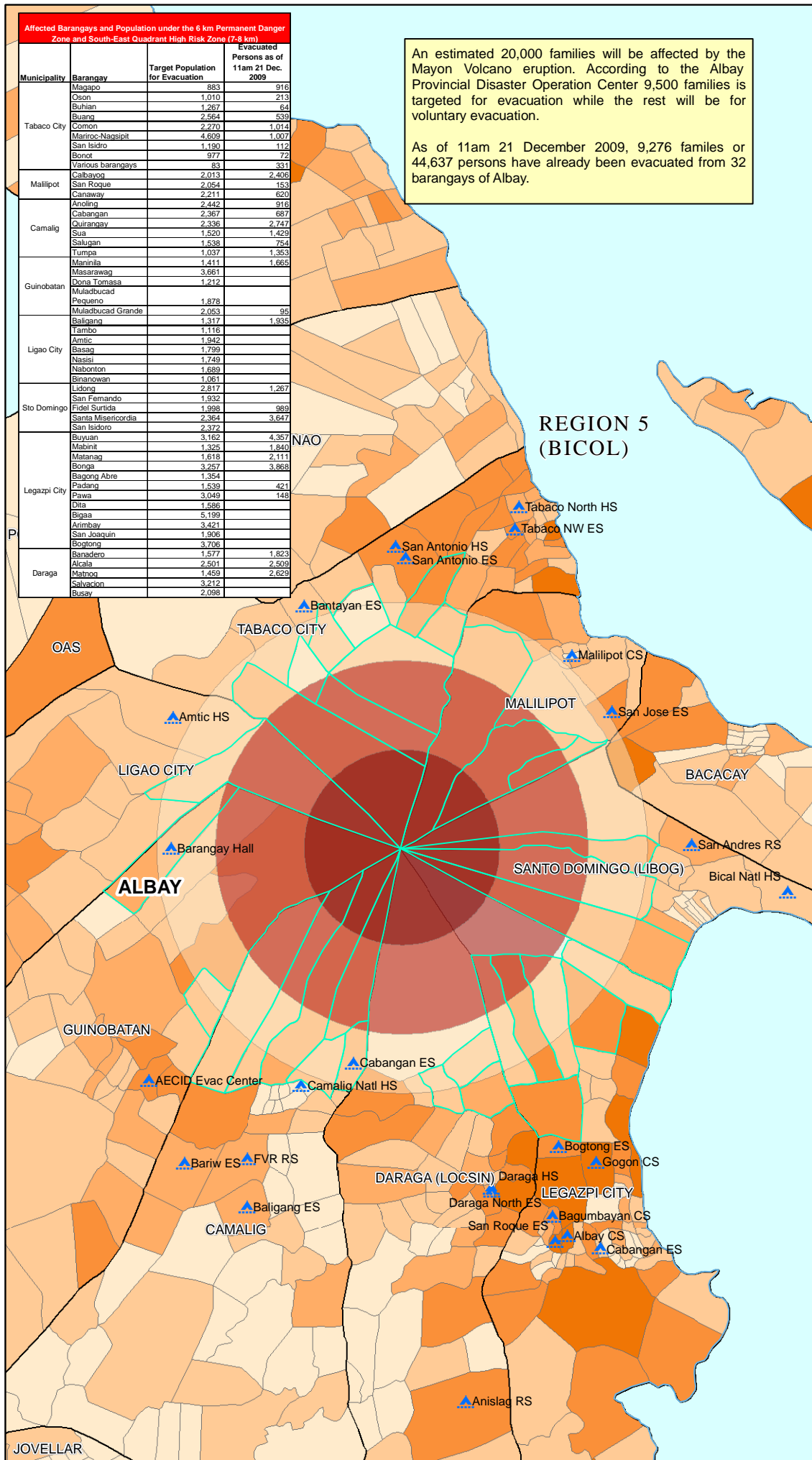
- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[<map below; click here to return to the title page or contact information>](#)



Affected Barangays and Population under the 6 km Permanent Danger Zone and South-East Quadrant High Risk Zone (7-8 km)			
Municipality	Barangay	Target Population for Evacuation	Evacuated Persons as of 11am 21 Dec. 2009
Tabaco City	Madapo	883	916
	Oson	1,010	213
	Buhian	1,267	64
	Buang	2,564	539
	Comon	2,270	1,014
	Martoc-Nagsipit	1,639	1,007
	San Isidro	1,190	112
Mallipot	Bonot	977	72
	Various barangays	83	331
	Calbayog	2,013	2,406
Camalig	San Roque	2,054	153
	Canaway	2,211	620
	Andina	2,442	918
	Cabangan	2,367	687
Guinobatan	Quirangay	2,336	2,747
	Sua	1,520	1,429
	Salugan	1,538	754
	Tumpa	1,037	1,353
Ligao City	Manina	1,411	1,655
	Masarawag	3,661	
	Dona Tomasa	1,212	
Ligao City	Muladbuca	1,878	
	Pequeno	2,053	95
	Muladbuca Grande	1,317	1,935
	Bakanga	1,116	
	Tambo	1,942	
	Amtic	1,799	
	Basag	1,749	
Sto Domingo	Nasisi	1,689	
	Nabonton	1,061	
	Biranowan	2,817	1,287
	Lidong	1,932	
	San Fernando	1,998	989
	Fidel Surtida	2,364	3,647
	San Isidoro	2,372	
Legazpi City	Buyuan	3,162	4,357
	Mabint	1,325	1,840
	Matanag	1,618	2,111
	Bonga	3,257	3,868
	Bagong Abre	1,354	
	Padang	1,539	421
	Pawa	3,049	148
Daraga	Dita	1,586	
	Bigaa	5,199	
	Animbay	3,421	
	San Joaquin	1,906	
	Bogtong	3,706	
	Banadero	1,577	1,823
	Alcala	2,501	2,909
Daraga	Matnog	1,459	2,629
	Salvacion	3,212	
	Busay	2,098	

An estimated 20,000 families will be affected by the Mayon Volcano eruption. According to the Albay Provincial Disaster Operation Center 9,500 families is targeted for evacuation while the rest will be for voluntary evacuation.

As of 11am 21 December 2009, 9,276 families or 44,637 persons have already been evacuated from 32 barangays of Albay.



Legend

- Evacuated Barangays, (11am, 21 Dec 2009)
- Evacuation Center (approx. within barangay)
- 3 km-Radius Permanent Danger Zone
- 6 km-Radius Permanent Danger Zone
- 8 km-Radius High Risk Zone

Total Population by Barangay

- < 1000
- 1001 - 2000
- 2001 - 3000
- 3001 - 5000
- > 5001
- Municipal Boundary

Map Doc Name: PHL-OCHA_Mayon Volcano Danger Zone_Affected Population and Barangays and Evacuation Centers as of 11am 21Dec2009.mxd

Creation Date: 21 December 2009
 Projection/Datum: UTM/Luzon Datum
 Web Resources: <http://www.un.org.ph/response/>

Best printed at A3 paper size
 Scale 1:130,000

Data sources:

NSO - 2007 Census Barangay Population
 Albay Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC) - Affected Families and Population
 NSCB - (www.nscb.gov.ph). P-Codes are those on the website of the National Statistical Coordination Board
 Geodata - Administrative boundaries.

Target Population is based on the 2007 Census
 Evacuated Persons is based on the Albay PDCC Report

Disclaimers:

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

