

Guatemala: Volcanic Eruption

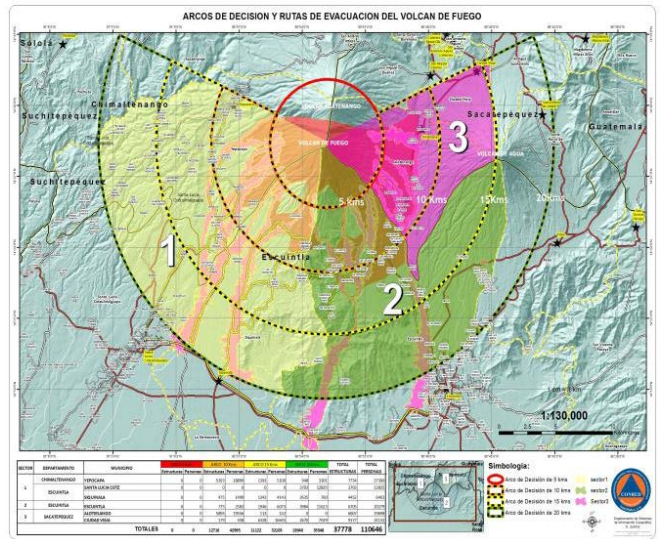
Situation Report No. 4 (as of 18 June 2018)



This report is produced by the **Humanitarian Country Team in Guatemala**, in collaboration with humanitarian partners, based on consolidated information from the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED), UN System via the UN Emergency Technical Team (UNETE), NGOs and the Red Cross. It covers the period 12-19 June 2018.

Highlights

- The number of people in shelters has decreased, as they have returned to their homes. These homes remain at risk, as they are in near the base of the volcano. Others have been seeking refuge with family or friends.
- In the department of Escuintla, search efforts have been suspended in the communities of San Miguel Los Lotes and El Rodeo, as they are currently uninhabitable and remain high-risk areas. The current total of missing persons stands at 197, but this may increase.
- There is a high risk of food insecurity in communities whose livelihoods were affected by the eruption of the Volcán de Fuego, especially for unsheltered who remained in their homes or in makeshift shelters.
- Some 8,500 children are estimated to be unable to return to school, which may result in early dropout over the interruption to regular school programming.



Risk map and evacuation routes for the Volcán de Fuego volcano in Guatemala
Source: CONRED

1,714,387 People affected	12,823 People evacuated	56 People injured	111 People killed	17 Shelters	3,615 People sheltered	2,570 People still at risk	197 People missing
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*official data as of 07:00pm, 19 June 2018

Situation Overview

Due to the rainy season, areas around the Volcán de Fuego volcano have experienced heavy rainfall, generating lahars with abundant volcanic material and blocks 30 to 40 meters wide and 2 to 3 meters high, with columns of steam in its path. The Pacaya and Santiaguillo volcanoes have also increased their activity in recent days.

Access to the communities near the Volcán de Fuego is difficult, given the heavy rainfall and lahars, and several routes in Escuintla have been destroyed or temporarily closed (RN14, Km. 40 to 61 highway to Palín, Km. 95 RD-ESC-6, Km. 101, Km. 96).

The Departmental Coordinator of Escuintla (CODRED) to end search and rescue efforts in the communities of San Miguel Los Lotes and El Rodeo, as the area is currently uninhabitable and remains at high risk. The suspension of

search and rescue has caused anguish to many people who are still searching for their relatives on their own, risking their lives in the process.

At present, the search for missing persons and restoration of family links is of crucial importance. The National Forensic Sciences Institute (INACIF) is playing a key role, mainly in the identification of deceased persons or their remains. This procedure is done by comparing the information available on persons through antemortem records that relatives and close persons provide in interviews collected by INACIF and genetic profiles of relatives with the information available from the bodies and remains that have been collected and analysed. Family members should be included in the State's decision-making process and be involved in the search process if they have information that would facilitate the search.

Following assessments and field visits, a high risk of food insecurity was identified in communities whose livelihoods were affected by the eruption of the volcano. Specifically, families who did not seek refuge in official shelters, who remain in their homes or who are sheltered by themselves, as they do not receive any constant assistance in food and other basic necessities. One of the main problems identified is that some communities are isolated or have very limited access due to infrastructure damage caused by lahars. This has a direct impact on families' access to food and work opportunities - daily work at sugar mills has been lost, as there is no transport to transfer them or, in some cases, the cost of transport has even increased.

Shelter care is being maintained, with a total of 17 official shelters. The department of Escuintla has the highest number of people sheltered. Many have returned home to high-risk areas or have been seeking support from family and/or friends, leading to a decreased shelter population. The main priorities identified by the lead agency of the shelter sectorial working group are close coordination with the Secretariat of Social Work of the First Lady of Guatemala (SOSEP) to avoid duplication of actions and maintaining a direct line of communication to optimize support for humanitarian actors.

On Friday, 15 June, Retalhuleu and Quetzaltenango CODREDS declared a departmental yellow alert for the 2018 rainy season as a preventive measure, as the seasonal rainfall could lead to an increase in the river flows and a downhill of lahars in the Santiaguito volcano.

Financing

The United Nations System sent a request for Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) financing in the amount of USD\$1.67 million, which will continue to support the response to the affected population.

The following contributions from international agencies and foreign governments have been reported:

- Central American Bank for Economic Integration BCI: USD\$250,000
- The Government of Taiwan: USD\$100,000

Humanitarian Response



Shelter – Sectorial working group coordination: IOM

Needs:

- Clothing, linen, household goods, tools and accessories that ensure the proper functioning of shelters.
- Communication mechanism in shelters to ensure that all institutions receive the same information.
- One single list of official shelters to be monitored.
- Harmonization of technological tools to gather information to avoid the re-victimisation of people in shelters and uphold the humanitarian principle of "Do no harm".
- Establish management standards for humanitarian actors working in shelters and coordination mechanisms within shelters.
- Establish coordination between the different sectorial working groups.

Response:

- Action Against Hunger is providing shelters in Escuintla (both formal and non-formal) with 30 portable latrines, 43 portable showers, washing points (6 washing machines and 6 dryers), 300 hygiene kits, 7 gas stoves and 7 kitchen kits and 10 sinks to support 1500 people for at least two months.
- Mercy Corps delivered 300 jerrycans of pure water, 18 women's kits, 3 men's kits and 2 children's kits to Escuintla.
- Strengthening of census and information capacity within shelters.
- Shelter management teams from various organizations have been formed, and efforts are ongoing to work on the methodology for establishing minimum standards.
- Organizations in the sectorial working group have promoted community participation.
- Food for the Hungry has provided 240 boxes of ready-to-drink Incaparina (high-quality protein vegetable food used in Guatemala), 120 sanitary pads, 5 children's storybook kits, 6 cleaning supplies kits, 1,000 towels, 300 women's undergarments (various sizes), 300 girls' undergarments (various sizes), 300 men's undergarments (various sizes), 300 undergarments for boys (various sizes), 300 socks for women (various sizes), 300 socks for girls (various sizes), 300 socks for men (various sizes), 300 socks for boys (various sizes), 300 brassieres (various sizes).
- Catholic Relief Service (CRS) is strengthening emergency shelters at the Catholic Church through Caritas Escuintla, as well as the coordination and management of shelters.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) - Sectorial working group: UNICEF

Needs:

- Water and basic sanitation in shelters.

Response:

- Toilets and portable showers. Requests have been made for the purchase of cleaning and hygiene kit supplies and the short-term delivery by UNICEF.
- The Ministry of Health is monitoring for water and vector-borne diseases.
- UNICEF will focus on childcare in the school system, which will be placed in temporary tents for the continuation of the school year, initially installing toilets and portable toilets, as well as hygiene and cleaning kits.



Protection – Sectorial working group: UNHCR

Needs:

- A register of the staff supporting the shelters, their professional profile, including their background, especially those working with children and adolescents, to ensure the safety and protection of the population.
- Psychosocial support remains a primary need in shelters.
- Coordination with families undertaking their own search for missing relatives.
- Public authorities need to providing clear, centralized and systematic information to the affected people, especially on the status of identification processes and on the fate and location of the people identified, as well as information on the criteria that support the State's decisions regarding the search for the people.
- Adequate attention from the authorities, including constant communication on the different actions being undertaken by the State in the areas of shelter, protection and recovery and taking necessary measures to ensure that mourning and recovery processes are carried out in a healthy way, in particular by ensuring the inclusion of victims at every stage of the processes of searching, identifying and managing corpses.
- Inter-institutional coordination to avoid the re-victimization of people.

Response:

- Coordination with the ICRC, Red Cross and Guatemalan Human Rights Office (PDH) to support the search for persons and care for relatives, as well as with civil society organizations.
- The Attorney General's Office is supporting the identification of lost and missing children.
- Challenges have been raised in identifying deceased children.
- Exposure to the disaster and deteriorating living conditions are affecting children's psychological and social well-being and therefore require urgent psychological support.

Gaps:

- The State does not have archaeological-forensic specialists in the country, which makes it difficult to speed up the processes of identification of people.
- No use is made of technological resources available from the institutions for searching and establishing the number of missing people. There are not enough staff in the shelters to systematically inform the entire population about the actions being taken by the authorities, as well as about the fate and location of the relatives. There are also no staff to provide care for families.
- The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has monitored the human rights situation in the shelters and advised the United Nations system on the importance of adopting protection measures for the evacuees.

**Food Security and Agriculture - Sectorial working group: FAO & WFP****Needs:**

- People remaining in communities that have been affected by the eruption need an immediate response to prevent their food insecurity from escalating to severe.
- The World Food Programme (WFP) has identified at least 1,000 families in Escuintla who are facing food insecurity and need immediate assistance. The assessments in Sacatepéquez and Chimaltenango have yet to be completed to identify the population at high risk of food insecurity. These priority families are the ones who would receive the cash grant.
- It is necessary to identify markets in Sacatepéquez and Chimaltenango that have food availability so that families can access them and make their purchases.
- It is important to establish the mapping and identification of crop loss in the affected areas to intervene in rehabilitation and recovery through resilience activities, considering that farming families in these areas are depend on subsistence farming.

Response:

- Food for the Hungry has provided a supply of 1000 4-piece children's tableware (plate, bowl, spoon and glass), 70 vials of Albendazole (400 mg), 14 vials of Vitamin A (2000 IU), duplication of the material for the nutritional brigades, to benefit 1000 children under 5 years old, who are in shelters and communities that the brigades will visit.
- UNICEF provided training for nutritional assessment brigades, young child feeding and shelter feeding services by on 18 and 19 June. These brigades will begin their work in shelters on 20 June or Thursday 21 June at the latest. They will be supervised by the group members. An initial assessment will be conducted in the communities starting on 18 June, which includes nutritional information. Questions were added to the form that will be used in the community assessment.
- A multi-sectoral assessment with the sectorial working group will be conducted in: 1) Communities on the south side which have been affected by the landslides of lahars and pyroclastic material - this is an area susceptible to isolation and damage to infrastructure due to rainfall - and 2) Communities on the northern side of the volcano will be assessed for crop loss due to the fall of tephra and volcanic ash at the household level. The evaluation will be done using best practices in statistical processes.
- Identification of 6 communities in Escuintla, whose food insecurity situation is a concern. Some 1,000 families have been targeted in the following communities: San Vicente los Cimientos, La Rochela, Ceilan, Chuchu, La Lucerna, Unión Maya. Families will receive cash transfers equivalent to US\$77 starting this week. Markets were identified in Siquinalá for families to buy food.
- Families at high risk of food insecurity are being targeted in the departments of Chimaltenango and Sacatepéquez during the week of 18-22 June, to begin cash transfers from the week of 25-29 June.

Gaps:

- Specific data on crop and livelihood losses in the three departments.



Education - Sectorial working group: UNICEF

Needs:

- Interrupted school year, an estimated 8,500 children are unable to return to school.
- Loss of learning and teaching materials.
- Psychosocial support for teachers.
- Develop an emergency curriculum to continue classes and complete the school year under the given situation

Response:

- The Government has planned to establish 20 temporary learning spaces and a compressed school schedule. Provision of a minimum supply of learning and teaching materials, school bags and personal health care kits are part of the plan.

General Coordination

Shelter and CCCM sectorial working groups met on 15 June, mainly to identify needs sent by public shelter authorities and to better coordinate the response to avoid duplication of efforts.

UNICEF met with the Ministry of Education to address the rapid return to school, an area of major concern in the education sector - assessments on the education sector requirements and actions to support the rapid return have already been carried out. The members of the sectorial working group have agreed on the importance of organized support for the Ministry of Education's Emergency Response Plan. The response plan includes the recovery of school infrastructure after the end of the school year and after schools are no longer used as shelters and warehouses.

The Humanitarian Country Team met to present progress in the response to the emergency caused by the eruption of the Volcán de Fuego volcano and to learn about the qualitative assessment of crops, agreeing to conduct a needs assessment of affected communities that are not sheltered to be led by the World Food Programme.

The intersectoral coordination mechanism has been activated. The Early Recovery sectorial working group, coordinated by UNDP, has already initiated actions with the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED), within in the National Recovery Framework.

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For more information, please visit: www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.int | www.redhum.org