The present situation report, which is produced by the UN Office in Cabo Verde in collaboration with disaster management partners, provides an update on the emergency in Cabo Verde after the eruption of the Fogo Volcano in the morning of Sunday 23 November 2014. It is published by the UN RC office in Praia and covers the period of 28 November 2014.

BACKGROUND

This map illustrates areas affected by Pico de Fogo volcano close to Portela, Cha Das Caldeiras and Bangaeira as seen in a WorldView-2 image acquired 25 November 2014.

Although the eruption continues from the subsidiary cone, the report of 28.11 indicated a decrease in the intensity of the lava emission with positive impact on the advancement of the lava flow.

Large quantities of volcanic ashes and gases continue to be emitted with particular concerns to public health of the local communities. As to avoid unnecessary exposure to volcanic ashes, face mask should be used to reduce the inhalation of ash particles. Exposure to respirable-sized free crystalline silica from most ash falls are typically of short duration (days to weeks), and data suggests that the recommended respirable exposure limit of 50 micrograms/m³ of air can be exceeded for short periods of times for the general population.

The eruption which started morning of 23 November is affecting the entire population of “Chã das Caldeiras” which according to 2010 census totaled 697 people (340 male, 357 women), including 312 children under age of 15 and 24 elderly greater than 65.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

1. According to local officials and scientists on the ground the eruption intensity decrease in 28.11 and the flow of lava has substantially slowdown (No data on the lava flow speed was provided).
2. The risk of lava reaching the communities of Portela and Bangaeira remains a concern.

3. During the day local officials continued to support the population to remove their belongings.

GENERAL COORDINATION

1. Following the 24 hour visit to Fogo (as reported on in sit rep 4), the Prime Minister (PM), José Maria Neves met on today with the Diplomatic Corps and United Nations representatives, accredited in Cape Verde in order to provide information on the emergency situation in Fogo and solicit support from the international community. While underlining the national leadership, the PM confirmed the role of the UN System in Cabo Verde in providing support to the coordination of international relief and humanitarian assistance. He mentioned the request solicited to ECHO (EU humanitarian arm) for support in emergency response/relief items and that they would be included in the coordination mechanism.

2. The UN Resident Coordinator met later in the afternoon with the national emergency task force and the MIREX Coordination team leader to define the mechanisms for the coordination as well as for information/communication and decide on support for the rapid needs assessment. A more comprehensive tool is being developed to be used for articulating the needs and responses. Officials informed that requests have been extended to CEDAO, and African Union.

3. The diaspora from the US is showing great solidarity. In this regard the Government is coordinating with the Embassy and consulates in the US to channel the aid.

4. The US and the Brazilian Embassy in Praia are preparing their assistance to the emergency.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

1. The communities of Achada Furna, Monte Grande, Mosteiros, Santa Catarina and São Felipe are currently hosting the population from Chã das Caldeiras. The three shelters in Achada Furna, Monte Grande, Mosteiros provide some food and shelter for displaced. As at 27 November, the lists with details (names, age, sex etc) about the displaced were still being developed. Some difficulties reported in Achada Furna due to movement of affected population. Basic items such as mattresses, blankets and basic food items are needed and were still being received. Warehouses being set up to receive relief items.

2. The latest list of needs has been shared by the government (attached to this SitRep).
3. The government is expected to work on a mechanism to monitor the development pattern aid.

4. Humanitarian needs will be assessed with support from the UN. At a first stage from the aspect of public health from WHO and specific needs for children from UNICEF. More overall support in rapid needs assessment was also confirmed.

HEALTH

1. Air population from SO₂ and other gases is a concern. Air quality monitoring is being undertaken, although additional equipment may be needed.

2. The health emergency plan is in place and the local and central officials are monitoring the situation and assisting the evacuees. The WHO Country Office will receive reinforcement to undertake a rapid health assessment next week. The mission will be done jointly by UNICEF. WHO confirms possibility to support any gaps in health equipment/medicine

EDUCATION

1. Efforts are made to resume education for the many school aged children displaced. UNICEF is in contact with the ministry to support these efforts, including on the ground. Reinforcing the capacity with additional school equipment may be needed.

CHILDREN

1. Due to high number of children, including below one years of age, some registered concerns about adequate nutrition. Ensuring Child protection is also a priority. Additional support from UNICEF has been requested.

2. A psychologist, previously identified by ICCA arrived today in Fogo Island Due to high number of children, including below one years of age, some registered concerns about adequate nutrition. Ensuring Child protection is also a priority. Additional support from UNICEF has been requested to provide support to the displaced children.

LIVEHILHOODS
CABO VERDE: VULCANO ERUPTION EMERGENCY
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No updated information available.

1. As considerable agricultural land in the affected area “Chã das Caldeiras” is being covered by lava, livelihoods are affected in short and medium term.

2. Some habitat has been destroyed by the lava.

NEEDS

1. Additional items such as: Tents, mattress, blankets, toilets etc are included in the latest lists attached.