

**SITUATION REPORT**

**Indonesia – Mt. Sinabung Volcanic Eruption**

**February 3, 2014 | No. 1**

**SITUATION OVERVIEW**

- Mt. Sinabung, located in Karo District of North Sumatra Province, Indonesia, erupted on February 1, through a series of large blasts, sending a plume of heated smoke and ash 16,000 feet into the sky and killing at least 15 people, according to international media. As of February 3, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that nearly 9,400 households, composed of nearly 30,000 people, were displaced to 42 displacement centers.

- On December 21, 2013, the Government of Indonesia (GoI) issued a Level 4 Alert, requiring residents living within a 3 km-radius of Mt. Sinabung to evacuate. The GoI later expanded the evacuation radius to 5 km. The Level 4 Alert remained in place until January 31 when nearly 14,000 people returned to their houses as volcanic activity had decreased.

- On September 15, 2013, Mt. Sinabung experienced a violent eruption of smoke and ash, causing mass evacuations of villages surrounding the volcano. Local government officials reported that the volcano threatened more than 29 villages.

- Prior to the volcanic activity since September, the last recorded significant eruption of Mt. Sinabung occurred approximately 400 years ago. This volcano is one of Indonesia’s 129 active volcanoes. The country is located on the Pacific Ring of Fire, a belt of seismic activity running around the basin of the Pacific Ocean, international media report.

**INITIAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE**

- The Indonesian Red Cross, local church networks and the GoI have distributed relief supplies to populations affected by the volcano. As of February 3, reports indicated that a national task force led by the GoI National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) is planning to relocate at least 1,000 households displaced by the volcano, according to OCHA.

- The Governor of North Sumatra instructed all provincial government offices in the province to coordinate to respond to the displacement situation. With support from the BNPB, the Volcanic and Geological Disaster Mitigation Center (PVMBG) and district government agencies, the Incident Command developed a draft contingency plan in case volcanic activity prompts the PVMBG to declare a hazard zone within 10 km from the volcano. This declaration would result in the evacuation of 53 villages, totaling nearly 58,000 people from the area, OCHA reports.

- The GoI has not requested international assistance for relief efforts at this time.

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**By the Numbers**

- 15 people reported dead
- 29,834 people displaced
- 42 displacement centers

*Source: OCHA and international media reports 02/03/2014*

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Mt. Sinabung spewing smoke and ash. Photo courtesy of the PVMBG
**LWR’S Response**

- On January 14, LWR staff visited areas threatened by Mt. Sinabung to monitor conditions and interview populations living in the surrounding areas. People expressed concerns about health conditions, as well as the long-term impact of volcanic activity on their livelihoods. LWR staff observed extensive damage to crops due to volcanic dust.
- LWR staff met with representatives from the Karo Batak Protestant Church, which is running a large displacement center for those forced to evacuate. The church is working through a large network of partners to provide emergency shelter and meals to approximately 6,000 people affected by the volcano.
- On January 30, LWR staff traveled to areas surrounding the volcano to discuss potential relief activities in a number of displacement centers. Activities under consideration include distribution of non-food items, including blankets, cooking supplies and other household items.
- LWR is currently in the process of providing support to children living in the displacement centers. Child-friendly spaces will be set up to allow children safe play spaces, along with psycho-social support, as needed.
- One of LWR’s development projects, linking micro-hydro power systems to improvements in agricultural production and empowerment of local farmers, is located in Karo District, where Mt. Sinabung is. LWR’s local partner reports no damage to LWR project areas due to the volcano; however, concerns exist around the impact of volcanic dust.
- LWR is coordinating with the ACT Indonesia Forum and provided input to the ACT Alert, issued on January 29. Two ACT member agencies are involved in response efforts—Yakkum Emergency Unit (YEU) and LWR.

**LWR in Indonesia**

- LWR began working in Indonesia following the 2004 Asian tsunami, addressing both emergency and long-term development needs. Indonesia remains one of the world’s most disaster-prone countries, with millions of people affected annually by earthquakes, landslides, floods and tsunamis. Poor, rural communities have few resources to prepare for or mitigate the effects of these hazards and even fewer resources to recover. Recognizing that effective development helps mitigate the impact of hazards, LWR works to build community resilience through improving livelihoods, food security, climate change adaptation and emergency response efforts when the need arises. LWR works in partnership with Indonesian non-governmental and community-based organizations and is legally registered as a not-for-profit organization with the GoI Coordinating Ministry of People’s Welfare.

For additional information about LWR’s response to the Mt Sinabung Volcanic Eruption in Indonesia and other emergencies around the world, please visit: lwr.org. You can also join the conversation about how LWR is assisting those affected by the volcano and how you can help at facebook.com/LuthWorldRelief or twitter.com/LuthWorldRelief.