

Peru: Emergency due to Ubinas Volcano Eruption Process

Office of the Resident Coordinator Situation Report No. 01

(as of 23 May 2014)



This report is produced by Office of the Resident Coordinator in Peru in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 13 April to 23 May 2014. There is no foreseen date for a next report depending the evolution of the situation..

Highlights

- The Scientific Technical Committee of Permanent Monitoring Ubinas volcano reported that since April 14 the activity of Ubinas volcano, located in the Moquegua region, near the border with the Arequipa region, increased substantially leaving the volcano system wide open after volcano a main blast..
- The Scientific Technical Committee of Permanent Monitoring Ubinas Volcano recommended raising the alert level to orange level and recommended an evacuation process in three communities on April 15.
- The Regional Governments with the support of INDECI promoted immediate evacuation processes for 03 communities from Arequipa and Moquegua region at greater risk to lower risk areas.



Source: ESRI, UNCS

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

Added data OCR: Volcano Ubinas (red), and city of Moquegua

528

Evacuated persons

1,040

Persons affected by ash emissions and toxic gases

5,113^a

Persons located in volcano influence area

^a This number could increase significantly if the ashes affect Arequipa city

91,188

Animals affected

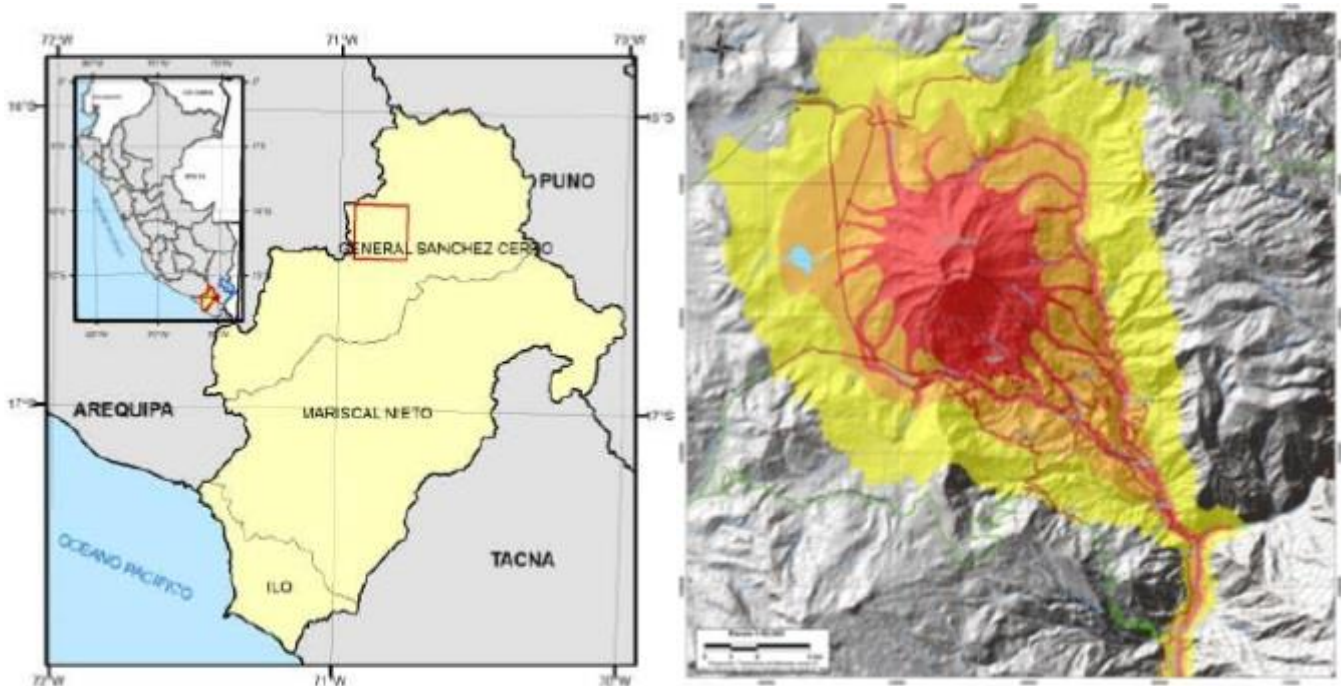
908

Hectares of pasture and crops affected

+ For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report

Situation Overview

In the south and east area of the volcano Ubinas there are about 30 communities and localities exposed to the influence of the volcano where about 4,000 people live in Moquegua region. In the north and northeast area there are 10 exposed communities, inhabited by about 1,000 people in San Juan district Tarucani Arequipa Province, Arequipa Region. All these communities are mainly engaged in agricultural activities, with emphasis on raising alpacas and llamas in San Juan de Tarucani.



This year a reactivation of volcanic activity was registered since February, and the Scientific Committee of Permanent Monitoring Ubinas volcano intensified its work. The main activity took place in April producing several explosions on April 15 with ash emissions (up to 4,500 meters high) and incandescent rocks.

The study made by INGEMMET in March this year recommends, in the context of the recent Law No. 29869, Resettlement for Population in Very High Risk Areas that cannot be Mitigated, that authorities and institutions evaluate the need to implement the resettlement of towns located in the Valley of Ubinas.

The ash fall hazard area is extensive. A 20 km radius was defined, but ashes had reached Arequipa city which is 65 km away. At the moment there are negative impacts of ash fall mainly on the health of people and livelihoods (agriculture). The situation of people evacuated in refuges need constant and multisectoral attention, where also ash fall occurs.

INDECI is permanently present in the area providing technical assistance and support with humanitarian supplies, as well as coordinating the response of state sectors, and regional and local governments. CENEPRED also visited the area to plan a definitive relocation process.

The following COEN-INDECI map shows the location of the volcano, the surrounding communities and areas set as refuge:



The following INGEMMET map shows the areas in higher and lower risk of ash fall if low to moderate process:

Funding

With regard to state funding:

- The Declaration of State of Emergency has allowed to mobilized resources from central level by INDECI , Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Housing, Construction and Sanitation.
- At sub-national level, through the 068 program budget for vulnerability reduction and emergency disaster, the province of Sánchez Cerro, Moquegua region, still has 472.482 soles available (approximately US\$ 170.000), and the province of Arequipa, Arequipa region, approximately 2.200.000 soles are still available (approximately US\$ 780.000).
- Municipalities have not budgeted relief goods.
- Regional Government of Moquegua budgeted around 600,000 new soles for humanitarian goods but not for food. Similarly the Regional Government of Arequipa has scheduled 700,000 nuevos soles but not for food. They can reassign their budget based on the State of Emergency.

At the time, the international cooperation agencies have not mobilized funds.

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org

Humanitarian Response



Food Security and Nutrition

Needs:

- The Regional Government of Moquegua made a requirement of 4,190 food rations for 838 people and 5 days, and 20,950 rations for 838 people for 25 days.
- The Regional Government of Arequipa was a requirement of 6,000 food rations to 200 people for 30 days.
- The evacuated families require food assistance as they can not continue their business for a time not yet determined.
- The situation of monetary poverty is 69.4% and 28.7% in the districts of San Juan de Tarucani and Ubinas respectively. Chronic child malnutrition in children under 05 years is 12.4% in San Juan de Tarucani and 20.4% in the province of Sanchez Cerro (where Ubinas district is located)

12.59

Tons of food distributed

Response:

- The COEN has registered 1.2 MT of food distributed in Arequipa and Moquegua 5.5 TM needs which covers up to 30 days needs.
- In refuges/shelters food aid has been provided through soup kitchens strategy.

Gaps & Constraints:

- It is necessary to assess the number of people not currently in refuges whose livelihoods have been affected
- A greater number of people may have to be evacuated, so more food aid support should be planned.



Health

Needs:

- More than 5,000 persons are exposed to ashes and at risk for being in the area of influence of volcanic hazard maps for flows and ash falls according INGEMMET.
- In addition, the emanation of magmatic gases (especially SO₂) causes harm to the health of people, animals and plants.
- On April 16 in its report INGEMMET recommended to provide masks and lenses to protect the population from falling ash, and protect water and food containers.
- Health care and prevention measures are required for eye, respiratory problems, and mental health.
- The population does not make proper use of masks and lenses received.

Response:

- On April 04 MINSA declared yellow alert for health centers in the districts of Ubinas Ichuña, strengthening their ability for health care and sanitation. On April 11, a team of medical doctors mobilized to Ubinas and Matalaque districts in Moquegua region.
- On April 17, the evacuation of the town of Querapi took place with the support of brigades of the Regional Directorate of Health leaned Moquegua.
- 453 people have been assisted by health centers (conjunctivitis, acute respiratory infection and stomach problems).
- The Moquegua Regional Directorate of Health (DIRESA) provided psychological care to people refuged in Sacohaya and Pampas de Sancaya, mobilizing a brigade of 04 psychologists for 05 days.
- The Moquegua DIRESA is monitoring air quality.
- The Regional Government of Moquegua distributed 8,757 masks and 6,622 protective lenses.
- PAHO / WHO has provided technical assistance to Arequipa Regional Health Management (GERESA) and Moquegua DIRESA on health actions to be undertaken against potential damage caused by increased volcanic activity. Technical documentation on prevention was shared before the volcanic activity and ash fall, as well as the characteristics of the masks to be used in such situations.
- Regular communication of PAHO / WHO with Ministry of Health General National Defense Office, Arequipa GERESA and Moquegua DIRESA on the evolution of the situation.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The use of protective masks and lenses is not right, more education and awareness is needed.
- A comprehensive assessment of the health situation of hosted and non-hosted families in the catchment area of the volcano is needed

**Camp management and Camp Coordination****Needs:**

- The evacuation of families was completed in two phases, and there is a possibility of greater mobilization required if the risk persists or worsens.
- In the Moquegua region 62 people are refuged in Sacohaya, 60 persons in Santa Lucía de Salinas, and 115 in Sancaya Pampas in the town of Anascapa. The communities from which they come are: Querapi, Tonohaya, Santa Rosa Annex Phara and San Carlos de Titi.
- In the Arequipa region 45 persons are housed in the Municipal Hostel de San Juan de Tarucani, 73 in Municipal Refuge of San Juan de Tarucani, and 66 persons in Pasto Grande. The communities from which they come are: San Carlos de Titi, and Carmen de Chaclaya Cancosani.
- Persona in these refuges need a comprehensive support. In addition, families require protection for their livelihoods.

528

Evacuated persons

Response:

- The Ministry of Housing, Construction and Sanitation provided modules and INDECI provided tents.
- INDECI has delivered 838 beds, mattresses and blankets. Also, plastic coils 20 344 drums 130 liter water and other supplies for cooking and food to the Regional Government of Moquegua.
- The evacuation of 353 people was conducted in the first phase on April 17. They also moved their animals. In a second phase more evacuations occurred the first week of May.
- Food assistance and health services in refuges is provided
- Food for livestock and veterinary supplies are also being provided.

Gaps & Constraints:

- More suitable areas for refuge in Moquegua areas need to be identified as the current areas do not meet the recommendations made by INGEMMET.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene****Needs:**

- There is a risk of water pollution in the affected areas.
- Refuges require solutions for sanitation and hygiene monitoring

Response:

- The Regional Government of Moquegua has distributed 1676 hygiene kits
- The National Water Authority has monitored water quality in the affected communities of Arequipa, finding that at the moment there optimal conditions, but further tests are being conducted.
- The Center for Disease Prevention and Control in Disaster and Emergencies of the Regional Health Directorate of Moquegua is monitoring the quality of drinking water in affected communities of Moquegua. Tin has also chlorinated water in provided containers and oriented the population in this procedure.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Not reported

**Education****Needs:**

- Alternative strategies to support children and adolescents who do not attend schools are needed.

Response:

- Regional Directorate of Education in Moquegua ordered the suspension educational activities until April 25 in towns located within 10 km of the radius of the volcano. When classes have resumed although absenteeism is high.
- The Ministry of Education provided the Regional Government of Moquegua 32 emergency education kits (16 on socio-emotional aspects and 16 for recreational activities) to be distributed in 10 pre-school level , 16 elementary level schools and 6 secondary level schools.

Gaps & Constraints:

- High absenteeism in schools.

**Agriculture****Needs:**

- It is vital for the affected population to protect their livelihoods, mainly livestock.
- The Regional Government of Moquegua made a requirement of 56,000 bales of hay.
- The Regional Government of Arequipa was a requirement of 33,000 bales of hay, 50 sheds, and veterinary supplies

Response:

- The Ministry of Agriculture has delivered 4,514 hay bales 18 kg each (total of 81.252 kg) for three communities in Arequipa and 11 communities in Moquegua, as well as 798 bottles of antiparasitics, 535 bottles of vitamins and 549 bottles of antibiotics
- 5,160 animals were evacuated

Gaps & Constraints:

- It is necessary to assess the unmet needs and project the needs for the coming weeks

**Logistics****Needs:**

- INGEMMET indicates that approximately 65% of the area of the Ubinas river basin correspond to areas of high to very high susceptibility, ie most ground conditions (hillsides) favorable to generate mass movements converge. These can be triggered by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions or intense rainfall.
- The roadway to reach the affected areas of Moquegua pass very close to the volcano crater.

Response:

- Humanitarian aid from the national level has come by air and then moved by road.

Gaps & Constraints:

- INGEMMET indicates that the presence of roads (not paved), passing through areas of high risk, prevents a quick and safe evacuation.

**Needs:**

- The affected families are in acute stress conditions, especially those in refuges. They are worried about their homes and belongings. Some persons are guarding their homes despite the risk.
- There are families who are not in refuges, but are located in the area of influence of the volcano.

Response:

- Mental health support has been provided in refuges in Moquegua
- Livelihoods of families have also been protected.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Families who are not in refuges but are affected require greater attention to address the impact of the ash and to face possible higher risks.
- A communication strategy as well as psychosocial support for families to have greater clarity in relation to their current situation and future options is needed

**Needs:**

- The houses have not been damaged beyond ashfall. They have not been damaged by burning rocks.
- The relocation of communities in high risk areas in the Moquegua region has been approved, but this is a longer term process.

Response:

- The habilitation of relocation areas is being evaluated by regional authorities with the support of CENEPRED and the Ministry of Housing, Construction and Sanitation.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Not reported.

General Coordination

At the meeting of the Task Force of the Humanitarian Country Team (Red Humanitaria Nacional) in April 8 the situation in Ubinas was discussed with information provided by INDECI, ASPEM, Welthungerhilfe, Peruvian Red Cross and Oxfam.

Upon learning of the Declaration of state of emergency for 60 days for Ubinas district in Moquegua region, and San Juan de Tarucani district in Arequipa Region, the Office of the Resident Coordinator circulated a Risk Briefing Note on April 16 among the members of the Red Humanitaria Nacional.

At the meeting of the Task Force of the Red Humanitaria Nacional in May 13 the current situation of the population located in a radius of influence of Ubinas volcano affected by ash fall and other harmful elements was addressed again. An ad-hoc meeting to further assess the situation was agreed, which will take place next week.

Background on the crisis

The Ubinas volcano is located 90 km north of the city of Moquegua and 65 km east of the city of Arequipa. It is located between 2800 and 5670 meters above sea level, and is part of the Western Cordillera of the Peruvian Andes.

The Ubinas volcano had several types of activity throughout its eruptive history, of large and low magnitude. According to INGEMMET eruptions mainly reaching Volcanic Explosive Index (IEV) of 1-4 are expected. In this case the eruption column can reach 6 to 15 km in height, producing ash falls , pyroclastic flows , mudflows and debris. These flows can be directed to the south flank toward the Ubinas valley.

According INGEMMET in the last 500 years 25 eruptions of low to moderate magnitude occurred, suggesting that an eruption occurs every 10 to 30 years on average. The eruptive activity of the volcano Ubinas during the geological past and mostly in historical times have constantly affected residents located in Ubinas valley .

In March 2006 there was a reactivation of the volcano until August 2006 with emissions of ash up to 4,000 meters and generated a process of evacuation of 1,079 persons from various communities for several months in the refuge Chacchagen in Anascapa .

In September 2013 there was a reactivation of low intensity for seven days.

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