

# Final Report

## Philippines: Taal Volcano Eruption

<b>DREF operation</b>	<b>Operation n° MDRPH043</b>
<b>Date of Issue:</b> 30 November 2021	<b>GLIDE n°</b> <a href="#">VO-2021-000071-PHL</a>
<b>Operation start date:</b> 3 July 2021	<b>Operation end date:</b> 31 August 2021
<b>Host National Society:</b> Philippine Red Cross	<b>Operation budget:</b> CHF 54,331
<b>Number of people affected:</b> 22,433	<b>Number of people assisted:</b> 14,260
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation:</b> The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) leads the overall response operation. This action is supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) supported the provision of PPE for the staff and volunteers mobilized under this operation. Seven National Societies are also present in the Philippines: American Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and Qatar Red Crescent Society.	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> Government of Philippines preparedness and response was coordinated through the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). Other Government agencies involved included the Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Health (DOH), and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). The Philippine humanitarian sector response was coordinated by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) via the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).	

## A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

### Description of the disaster

After a year from the previous eruption of Taal Volcano, its main crater generated a short-lived phreatomagmatic plume one kilometre high with no accompanying volcanic earthquake on 1 July 2021. The Department of Science and Technology's Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology ([DOST-PHIVOLCS](#)) consequently, raised the Alert Level from 2 to 3 (out of 5). An [Alert Level 3](#) refers to magma extruding from the main crater, which could drive explosive eruption.

Taal Volcano is located about 50 kilometres south of the capital city Manila, in Batangas, CALABARZON (Region IV-A) on a smaller Volcano Island, and is listed as a Permanent Danger Zone, with permanent settlement on the island not recommended. However, approximately 53,697 people (10,131 families) and CHF 129 millions of infrastructure are within 10 kilometre radius and 2.81 million people within 30 kilometre distance ([AHA Centre](#)). Taal Volcano is among the most active volcanoes in the Philippines, with more than 30 reported eruptions. Last time Taal Volcano erupted in early January 2020 affecting more than 736,000 people in CALABARZON (Region IV-A), Central Luzon (Region III) and National Capital Region (NCR) and leading to an evacuation of more than 135,000 people, damage to infrastructure and livelihoods, and disruption of essential services, such as water supply and education.

Since 9 March 2021, Taal Volcano was on Alert Level 2 due to increasing unrest. After the phreatomagmatic plume on 1 July, Taal Volcano Network continued to record volcanic earthquakes, Sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) gas emissions and steam-rich plumes from the main crater. Sulfur dioxide emissions averaged at an all-time high and volcanic smog was observed over the CALABARZON, the National Capital



Taal Volcano dark phreatomagmatic plume on 1 July 2021. (Source: PHIVOLCS)



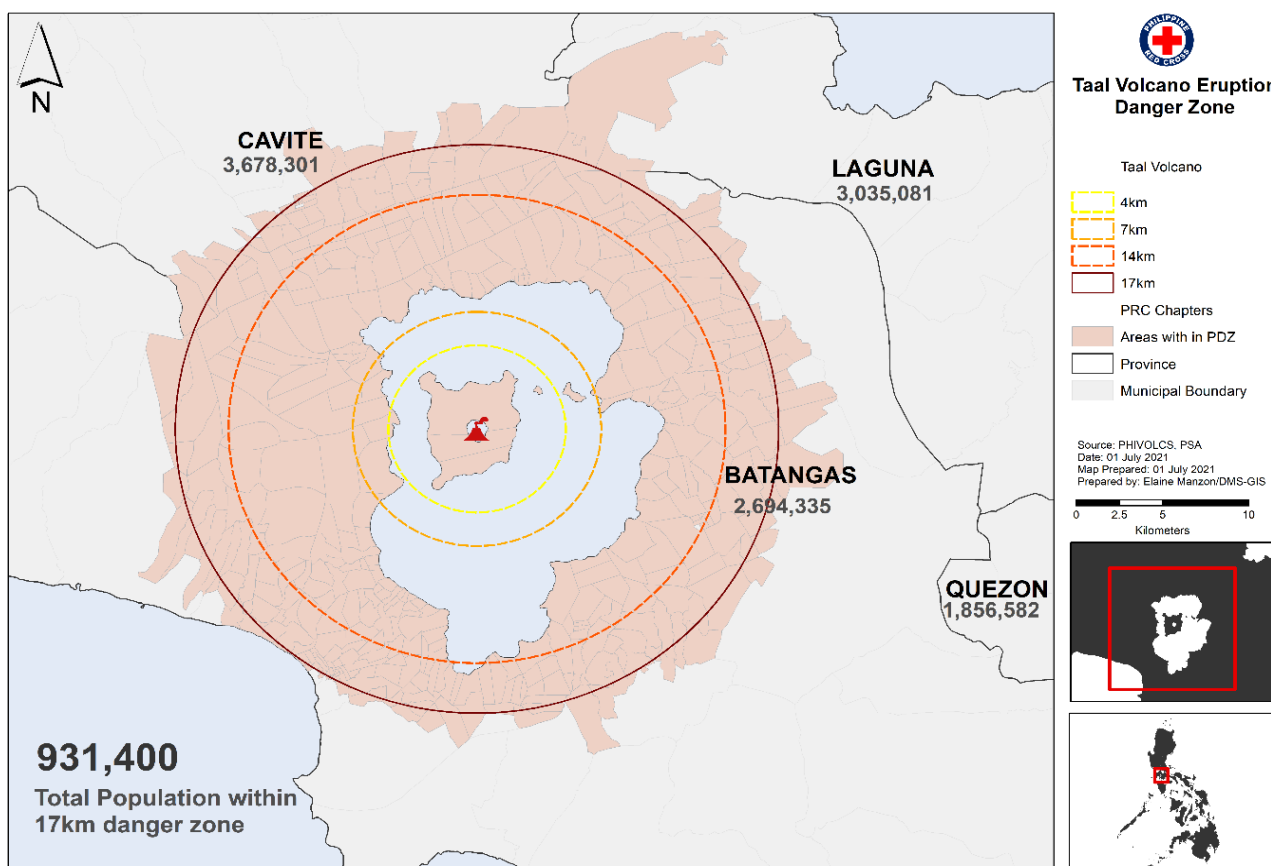
Taal Volcano released steam-rich plumes and high levels of volcanic sulfur dioxide gas emissions. (Source: PHIVOLCS)

Region and other parts of Luzon. Exposure to volcanic smog can irritate eyes, throat, and respiratory tract. People with pre-existing health conditions, the elderly, pregnant women, and children are the most vulnerable to its effects.

Due to the situation, 6,262 families (22,433 people) were displaced in 131 barangays in CALABARZON reported by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center (DROMIC) [terminal report](#). Out of the families displaced, 1,655 families (5,865 people) took temporary shelter in 29 evacuation centres, and others stayed with their relatives and/or friends temporarily. Furthermore, peoples' livelihoods such as farming, livestock, fishing and tourism were affected.

After a three-week-period on Alert Level 3, the alert status of Taal Volcano was downgraded to Alert Level 2 (Decreased Unrest) on 26 July 2021. DOST-PHIVOLCS reminded the public that at Alert Level 2, sudden steam- or gas-driven explosions, volcanic earthquakes, minor ashfall, and lethal accumulations or expulsions of volcanic gas could occur and threaten areas within and around Taal Volcano Island (TVI). DOST-PHIVOLCS strongly recommended that entry must be strictly prohibited into Taal Volcano Island, Taal's Permanent Danger Zone, especially the vicinities of the Main Crater and the Daang Kastila fissure, and occupancy and boating on Taal Lake. Local government officials were advised to continuously assess and strengthen the preparedness of previously evacuated barangays around Taal Lake in case of renewed unrest.

As of October 2021, Taal Volcano remains at Alert Level 2 with reported volcanic tremor events, upwelling of hot volcanic fluids in its lake generating plumes and high levels of volcanic sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) gas emissions. DOST-PHIVOLCS is closely monitoring the activity and immediately reporting any new developments to all stakeholders.



Map of the Taal Volcano Danger Zones. (Source: PRC)

## Summary of current response

In accordance with the PRC Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), the PRC activated its Emergency Operations Center for Taal Volcano Eruption to monitor 24/7 the eruption, the alert level, weather and situation, and to provide pertinent information to the chapters. The PRC Alert Level was raised to yellow meaning that all services were on high alert to monitor the situation and standby necessary assets to support the affected areas. Close monitoring at the field level through the Red Cross 143 (RC143) and Red Cross Action Team (RCAT) in the chapters was also activated. The National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT), PRC Emergency Response Units (ERU), safety, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health and welfare personnel were alerted for deployment.

The PRC's Batangas chapter mobilized a Rapid Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (RDANA) team to support evacuations and conduct assessments in the affected areas. The mobilization of 36 volunteers, 35 Red Cross Youth and 37 Chapter staff from the different chapters in National Capital Region as well as PRC National Headquarters Operation Center members played an important role in the assessment and identification of the most in need. Operational challenges that required immediate resolutions like logistics and distributions were addressed with the assistance of the deployed team and the chapter. This kind of support has been a key to the success of the onset disaster emergency response. The lessons learned from the past eruption, lifesaving assets and relief assistance from the management have been proven to be of great help in the implementation, especially to intensify the existing capacity of Batangas Chapter.



The PRC Batangas Chapter Emergency Response Units supported pre-emptive evacuation of the families in Laurel, Batangas. **Photo: PRC**

PRC National Headquarters deployed assets to assist the chapter, and teams composing of staff and trained volunteers from different services were deployed to the affected municipalities in Batangas to accelerate emergency lifesaving activity. PRC aimed to support the immediate needs of the evacuees with provision of hot meals, WASH, welfare, health and safety services inside and outside the evacuation centres. WASH assets were utilized as one of the main priority sectors to support the affected families through hygiene promotion, water distribution, and installation of portalets. Overall, PRC mobilized response assets including five ambulances, one rescue truck, two water tankers, two water treatment units, three food truck, two 6x6 trucks, and six service vehicles.

### PRC Actions Taken:



**14,153** hotmeals served



**119** families provided with Jerry Cans



**286** individuals reached through psychosocial support (PFA and CFS)



**206** individuals served with bread



**50** individuals provided with surgical mask



**1,223** individuals reached through hygiene promotion



**42,500** liters of clean water distributed



**10** individuals assisted in first aid; **77** assisted through BP taking



**1,223** individuals reached through Health Teaching



**6** portable toilets installed



**227** individuals assisted through Health Consultation

Partners: Local Partners, IFRC and ICRC

PRC Actions - Taal Volcano Eruption 3W report as of 26 July 2021

Created by: E.Manzon/DMS

Close coordination with the LGU, national and provincial disaster councils (NDRRMC and PDRRMC) was maintained, providing PRC an avenue to utilize its resources to assist the most vulnerable people affected by the situation. The PRC Communications teams were posting updates and photos of the situation on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), including

dissemination of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials for “What to do during Volcanic Eruption” in all social media platform.

Taal Volcanic activity was occurring, while the authorities and partner organizations were already responding to emergencies related to floods and typhoons in October and November 2020 ([Goni MDRPH041](#), [Vamco MDRPH041](#), [MDRPH042](#)) and the COVID-19 Pandemic ([MDRCOVID19](#)). This imminent crisis DREF is prepared as PRC’s current resources have reached the threshold of available national resources, resulting in triggering the request for additional support.

Since January 2020, the country has also experienced the spread of COVID-19. On 12 March 2020, the Philippine government raised a Code Red sublevel 2 as recommended by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID). This has imposed stringent measures on the country including measures of physical distancing, enhanced community quarantines (ECQ), and limitation of movement within the entire country.

### Coordination and partnerships

The Republic Act 10072 (Philippine Red Cross Act of 2010) recognizes PRC as an independent, autonomous, non-governmental organization auxiliary to the authorities of the Republic of the Philippines in the humanitarian field. As an auxiliary to the government, PRC maintains a strong relationship and collaboration with (i) NDRRMC; (ii) provincial, municipal and barangay (village) disaster risk reduction and management councils; and (iii) local government units defined in the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act. PRC participates in NDRRMC meetings and coordinates with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and Department of Health (DOH).

The Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center ([DROMIC](#)) of DSWD, NDRRMC and the [Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology](#) (PHIVOLCS) provided updates including on preparedness, evacuation and response measures, volcanic alert levels and advisories to regional counterparts and other agencies through formal updates.

### Movement coordination

This imminent DREF operation was coordinated in accordance with the [IFRC Principles and Rules](#). These recognize the importance of strengthening organizational, coordination and delivery capacities of National Societies, to respond to the increasing number and complexity of disasters and the growing number of vulnerable people. They call for greater collective learning, adaptation, innovation and leadership to ensure that the IFRC and its member National Societies achieve greater humanitarian impact.

The PRC led the overall response operation, and hosts Movement coordination meetings and operational meetings to share information with partners. The IFRC and the PRC are also coordinating with other National Societies present in the country and remain in close contact with the ICRC on any security-related considerations. The IFRC Philippines Delegation supported the PRC in disseminating updates to the IFRC network in-country and coordinating with the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) in Kuala Lumpur in accordance with the IFRC Secretariat’s Emergency Response Framework.

### Overview of non-RCRC actors’ actions in country

The IFRC coordinated with various government and non-government agencies, including members of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). At country level, the PRC and IFRC are observers to, and participate in meetings of the HCT held both during disasters and non-emergency times.

The IFRC is a co-lead of the Shelter Cluster with government lead agency the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).



IEC materials for “What to do during Volcanic Eruption” disseminated in social media platform by the PRC.  
**Photo: PRC**

## **Duty of care**

Teams adhered and practiced all precautionary measures outlined in the Asia Pacific COVID-19-safe Best Practice Guide for Disaster response. Specifically, with regards to person-to-person transmission, the National Society followed the four key actions - plan ahead; maintained physical distance; ensured hygiene (use surgical masks, practice handwashing or use 60 per cent alcohol-based hand sanitizers, carried personal hygiene kits at all times, cleaned and disinfected surfaces regularly especially transport vehicles during field assessments); identified and supported vulnerable people, and immediate actions to be triggered as per guideline if contact with suspected/confirmed case of COVID during line of work. The PRC volunteers were insured and provided access to psychosocial support, and the security of the volunteers was always a priority throughout the operation.

The operation was delivered in a manner that minimizes the risk of COVID-19 transmission for disaster-affected people. Guidance was developed by the PRC to identify actions needed to safeguard the community and volunteers. The PRC provided COVID-19 testing when required via the PRC molecular laboratories. The Inter Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases coordinated the government response to COVID-19. All activities carried out within this operation were coordinated with LGU's in compliance with the national protocols set by the IATF.

## **Needs analysis and scenario planning**

### **Needs analysis**

Due to raising the alert level, the public was reminded that the entire Taal Volcano Island is a Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ). Entry into the island as well as into the high-risk barangays of Agoncillo and Laurel was prohibited due to the hazards of pyroclastic density currents and volcanic tsunami should strong eruptions occur. According to [DROMIC](#) terminal report, a total of 6,262 families or 22,433 persons were affected by the Taal Volcano eruption in 131 Barangays in CALABARZON

Initial priority need was the evacuation of the people living within the danger zones. Further needs identified were food assistance, water, sanitation and hygiene, psychosocial support, health and protection. The response from the government, non-government, private organizations, and other stakeholders were providing food and essential items. To support meeting the priority needs of the people affected by Taal Volcano, PRC complemented the assistance through psychosocial support and provision of hot meals, health promotion, distribution of potable water and assurance of sanitation, medical and safety services through deployment of ambulance services and installing First Aid Station in the evacuation centres.

Please refer to the original EPOA for information on needs analysis, risk analysis, information on targeting, multi-dimensional vulnerability indicators, and scenario planning.

### **Operation Risk Assessment**

Operational risks identified in the scenario planning included the following:

- There was a high risk associated with the ongoing COVID-19 situation in the country. During the implementation of the operation, the PRC followed the existing government and COVID-19 safe best practices.
- Security risk posed by armed non-state actors in the areas affected was regarded as low to medium, and not expected to impact the implementation of the operation under this imminent DREF or hinder access by IFRC/PRC personnel. protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) minimum standards was used to ensure a "do no harm" approach and elaborate on how the mitigation approach will (ideally) include establishment of protection referral pathways, training and sensitization of staff and volunteers to identify and refer protection concerns and safeguarding in the operation (such as signing the Code of Conduct and Child Protection policy) for all staff and volunteers. There was continued coordination between the IFRC, the PRC and ICRC on security related issues.
- There was a risk to the safety of personnel due to toxic conditions and potentially violent eruption of the Taal Volcano. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) was provided for personnel involved in the imminent DREF operations (goggles, masks etc.). Advisory information was also circulated in terms of precautionary measures to be taken to protect health, and early warning early action systems identified for safe evacuation (in accordance with the authorities own contingency plans).

## B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

### Proposed strategy

This imminent DREF operation aimed to provide effective disaster response to deliver timely humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable individuals and families. The operation aimed to meet the immediate needs of 5,000 people (1,000 families) affected by the Taal Volcano eruptions and displaced to evacuation centres, over a period of one month.

Summary of strategy for this imminent DREF operation:

- Monitored the current situation and ensured that relevant information was communicated effectively by:
  - Activating the PRC chapter to be on full alert, readiness, and 24-hour monitoring.
  - Alerting and mobilizing the Red Cross 143 volunteers to provide early warning information to the community and most vulnerable of the threat and risks of the volcano eruption, to provide up-to-date report to the PRC, and to take precautionary measures to minimize effects. The PRC will share early warning messages with volunteers and BarCom through SMS messages. Information will also be disseminated to people via megaphones and social media.
- Ensured that personnel, assets, and resources were readily available by:
  - Activating the 24-hour response team on-duty at the chapter.
  - Prepositioning and mobilization of the PRC assets in strategic areas.
  - Ensuring availability of emergency funds to support chapter operations.
  - Ensuring relief stocks were available at various warehouses in Manila, Mandaluyong, and Subic for mobilization.
- Mobilization of personnel and assets to support evacuations, provide first aid, as well as conduct rapid needs assessments.
- Provision of essential welfare services, including The psychosocial support (PSS), ready to eat / hot meals, and restoring family links (RFL).
- Distribution of safe drinking water; installation of temporary sanitation (latrines, bathing and/or shower facilities, and handwashing facilities) as needed.
- Provision of appropriate PPE for volunteers, staff and community.
- Incorporating COVID-19 related expenses.

### The operation was underpinned by a commitment to quality programming that involves

- Continuous and in-depth assessments and analyses to inform the design and ongoing implementation of the programme.
- Adjustments based on these assessments.
- Adherence to PGI measures, with focus on disability inclusive development.
- Establishment of mechanisms to facilitate two-way communication with, and ensure transparency and accountability to, disaster-affected people, and highlighting the nature of communication and information as a life-saving mechanism.
- Management and delivery of the programme is informed by appropriate monitoring and evaluation.

## C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



### Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 14,260

Male: 7,130

Female: 7,130

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of affected people able to meet their basic needs	2,000	14,260
Number of people provided with ready-to-eat / hot meals	2,000	14,260
Number of ready-to-eat / hot meals provided	30,000	14,260

#### Progress towards outcomes

To ensure that PRC fulfils its mandate of becoming the lead organization providing timely relief responses in the Philippines, the PRC were able to serve 14,260 individuals who were displaced in evacuation centres with hot meals by deploying three newly acquired food trucks. Hot meals were provided to the families staying at the evacuation centres to complement the government response.

Evacuation Area	Municipality	SERVED
		No. of Individuals
Agoncillo Central School	Agoncillo	450
Agoncillo Municipal Covered Court	Agoncillo	364
Balangon Elementary School	Agoncillo	1,220
Barigon Elementary School	Agoncillo	720
Coral na Munti Elementary School	Agoncillo	171
Coral na Munti National High School	Agoncillo	509
Pook Elementary	Agoncillo	479
Don Leon Martinez Memorial Elementary School	Balayan	221
Malabanan Elementary School	Balete	259
As Is Elementary School	Laurel	450
Molinete Elementary School	Laurel	1,203
Niyugan Elementary School	Laurel	446
Paliparan Elementary School	Laurel	791
San Gabriel Elementary School	Laurel	1,218
San Gregorio	Laurel	1,149
Sta. Maria Elementary School	Laurel	1,138
Ticub Elementary School	Laurel	3,056
Banilad Elementary School	Nasugbu	151
Bilaran Elementary School	Nasugbu	134
Bilaran National Highschool	Nasugbu	131
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>14,260</b>



PRC distributes hot meals to the displaced affected people inside the evacuation centers. **Photos:**

#### Challenges

None identified.

#### Lessons Learned

None identified.



## Health

People reached: 1,223

Male: 611

Female: 612

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of people reached through NS emergency health management programmes	1,000	1,223
Number of people reached by First Aid and Blood Pressure Reading services	based on need	95
Number of ambulances dispatched to the affected area	2	5
Number of PPE provided to staff, volunteers and community members	based on need	0
Number of families provided with mosquito nets	1,000	deprioritized
Number of people reached by psychosocial support	based on need	297

### Progress towards outcomes

The damages caused by the Taal Volcano Eruption placed families' psychosocial well-being at risk in the evacuation centers, and hence there was a need to offer psychological support to families and individuals who had lost their homes and livelihoods. The psychosocial support (PSS) activities for the vulnerable groups such as children, women, persons with disability and elderly were conducted to prevent potential long-term effects of the eruptions like psychological trauma, and to alleviate the stress caused by the volcanic eruption.

Welfare desks were set up in evacuation centres as a package of programs and activities by the Welfare Services extended to the affected population to help them cope with the drastic changes brought about by the disaster. A total of 20 welfare desks were set up in the evacuation centres in Batangas. Through the desks, 7 individuals were provided with referral activities, while 297 individuals were provided with psychological first aid. The welfare activities adapted to the current COVID-19 situation by adopting preventive measures, such as placing plastic covers to welfare desks and ensuring personnel wear masks and face shields, to mitigate the spread of the virus.



Psychosocial support (PSS) provided to the families in the evacuation centre by PRC volunteers. **Photo: PRC**

Furthermore, the welfare desks serve as an avenue to promote community engagement and accountability activities. The presence of the volunteers in the welfare desks and the frequent visit support immediate feedbacking between displaced population and the PRC. Most of the questions received by the staff and volunteers are being addressed immediately at their level, for example the timing about distribution.

As part of the response, the chapter deployed five ambulances, four of which were from the Batangas Chapter and one from the National Headquarters. In total, 20 first aid stations were established in the evacuation centres that catered 77 individuals with blood pressure taking, 10 individuals with first aid, and 8 individuals were able to monitor their Blood Glucose Level under health and safety activities. The people assisted were those staying in the evacuation centres. In addition, a total of four individuals were assisted through ambulance transportation and the chapter assisted 30 individuals in evacuation during the course of the operation.

PRC, through the partnership of the Rotary Club of Metro Batangas, was able to deploy its Mobile Clinic. Volunteer Doctors and Nurses from Health Partners were deployed in the Medical Units to cater basic health care services of the evacuees. A total of 227 patients were served during the operation. In addition, a total of 1,223 individuals were reached through health teachings. This was participated mostly by children in the evacuation centres. The health teaching focused on vector borne diseases and other health related concerns during a volcanic eruption.

PRC has been known for ensuring that the assistance to the affected populations is immediately delivered, especially with this magnitude of disaster. The PRC's strategy is through the mobilization of logistical and human resource assets. PRC is committed in supporting affected families, especially children, elderly, pregnant women, and people with disabilities who experienced difficult situations because of the eruption. Health issues were the primary concerns in the evacuation centres because of Delta-variant of COVID-19.



PRC volunteers providing blood pressure readings during the evacuations. **Photo: PRC**

There was no need to distribute household items, mosquito nets or hygiene kits as evacuees were able to secure these items from their homes. All stocks released for prepositioning will continue to be pre-positioned, and there is no need for replenishment.

The operation was delivered in a manner that minimizes the risk of COVID-19 transmission for disaster-affected people and for the people involved in the operation. Staff and volunteers were provided with PPE, such as masks and face shield, to minimize the risk of infection during groundwork. The provision of PPE was supported by the ICRC.

### Challenges

None identified.

### Lessons Learned

None identified.



## Water, sanitation and hygiene

**People reached: 3,000**

Male: 1,500

Female: 1,500

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of people provided with safe water (according to WHO standards) in the affected area	5,000	3,000
Number of affected families provided with jerry cans	500	deprioritized
Number of litres of water distributed (cumulative)	based on need	42,500
Number of temporary latrines installed	based on need	6
Number of people reached with hygiene promotion activities	1,000	1,223
Number of families provided with hygiene kits	1,000	deprioritized

### Progress towards outcomes

The rapid assessment for the water, sanitation and hygiene situation was conducted by a chapter staff and volunteers. This assessment indicated that mobilization of water equipment, provision of safe water supply, hygiene promotion and sanitation facilities in the evacuation centers were highly needed.

PRC deployed two water tankers along with trained personnel in various evacuation centers in Laurel, Batangas. To ensure the health situation of the people from the effects of potential water quality contamination, the operations team closely monitored the sources of drinking water in the affected areas to prevent water related diseases. The chapter supported the evacuees by establishing water stations through installation of tap stands in strategic locations identified by WASH technical teams in priority evacuation centers.

As a result, a total of 42,500 liters was provided to more than 3,000 individuals to meet the demand for clean drinking water for the evacuees during the course of operations. Water was not an immediate issue in some evacuation areas due to oversupply of water donations from different stakeholders.

PRC was able to mobilize six portable toilets to ensure proper sanitation in evacuation centers, especially critical with more families arriving and staying at the centres.. These were installed in Ticub Elementary School in Laurel, Batangas.

Hygiene promotion sessions were conducted in evacuation centers where water stations were installed. A total of 1,223 individuals were reached through hygiene promotion activities. The hygiene promotion activities were mostly participated by children in the evacuation centers. The hygiene promotion sessions focused on key messages on effective hand washing, menstrual hygiene management, and safe disposal of solid waste, water storage and treatment. Furthermore, PRC printed and distributed IEC materials during these hygiene promotion sessions.



Affected people line up to get water from water tankers. **Photo: PRC**

There was a plan to distribute jerry cans and hygiene kits. The distribution was deprioritized since evacuees brought with them survival kits which contains jerry cans. Additionally, the DSWD distributed hygiene kits sufficient for the displaced population.

**Challenges**

None identified.

**Lessons Learned**

None identified.



**Disaster Risk Reduction**

**People reached: 14,260**

Male: 7,130

Female: 7,130

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of people supported by the PRC response	5,000	14,260
Number of staff mobilized to support the response	10	37
Number of volunteers mobilized to support the response	150	71
Number of people assisted with pre-emptive evacuations	based on need	30

**Progress towards outcomes**

The PRC immediately assessed the situation and released initial reports to alert the Batangas Chapter and other nearby chapters for immediate action. PRC mobilised total of 108 staff and volunteers for the operations; 36 volunteers, 35 Red Cross Youth and 37-chapter staff. These staff and volunteers played an important role in the assessment, identification of the most in need in the evacuation centers, assisting pre-emptive evacuations, initial response activities and activities monitoring. Issues and concerns that need immediate resolutions like support around vehicle deployment and mobilization were addressed with the assistance of the deployed team and the chapter. This kind of support has been a key to the success of the onset disaster emergency response.

PRC National Headquarters deployed teams composed of staff and trained volunteers from different services to affected municipalities in Batangas to accelerate emergency lifesaving activity. Safety, WASH and Health assets were mobilized to support the affected families through hygiene promotion, water distribution, and installation of portalets. PRC headquarters deployed five ambulances, one rescue truck, two water tankers, two water treatment units, three food trucks, two 6x6 trucks, and six service vehicles for the operation.

Team from Batangas Chapter visited evacuation centers and conducted assessments in different municipalities during the height of Taal Volcano eruption. Chapter staff and volunteers assisted 30 individuals for pre-emptive evacuation during the operations.

**Challenges**

Continuous movement of evacuees from one place to another resulted in difficulties in gathering data. Even the LGUs and camp managers faced challenges in maintaining an up-to-date data of some of the displaced families / people. There were for instance families or individuals returning back to their homes for short period of time and then back to evacuation centers.

Batangas chapter continuously operates at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic while experiencing the aftermath of Taal Volcano Eruption and responding to the needs brought by this disaster. This resulted in limited activities, limited personnel to be mobilized, implementation of rigid safety measures, and safety concerns of the volunteers and staff being deployed.

**Lessons Learned**

The operation was built on lessons learned from the past volcano eruption operations: Pre-positioned assets, PRC expertise on relief assistance and capacity of the Batangas Chapter. This enabled to provide immediate response to the affected people. Submission of timely reports allowed the national headquarters to depict the situation on the grounds, specifically the sudden and abrupt changes of figures in the number of evacuation centers and displaced population.

The coordination and communication to local government and other government agencies were established that provides an avenue to PRC to utilize its resources. Intensive monitoring at the field level through the Red Cross 143 (RC143) and Red Cross Action Team (RCAT) in the chapters was also activated for possible immediate deployment.

There is an identified need to strengthen the recruitment of RC143 volunteers. Through the equipment used during Taal Volcano Eruption Response Operation, PRC Batangas was able to continue providing activities and online training to organize the RC143 volunteers in the affected areas, even beyond the project. With more knowledge and skills, the chapter will have a reliable source on the updates and development of the affected population of Taal Volcano eruption.

**Effective, credible and accountable IFRC**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Effective and coordinated international disaster response ensured	Yes	Yes
Rapid response personnel support the operation (based on the need)	1	0
DREF procedures are applied during the implementation of the operation	Yes	Yes
Number of coordination meetings held with other stakeholders		3
IFRC and PRC participate in local, national and international dialogues/meetings	Yes	Yes
Number of communications materials produced/published	5	5
Staff security is prioritized in all IFRC supported responses	Yes	Yes
Number of security reports provided		1
Number of staff and volunteers received security briefing prior to field deployment	100%	100%
Number of volunteers insured	100%	100%

**Progress towards outcomes**

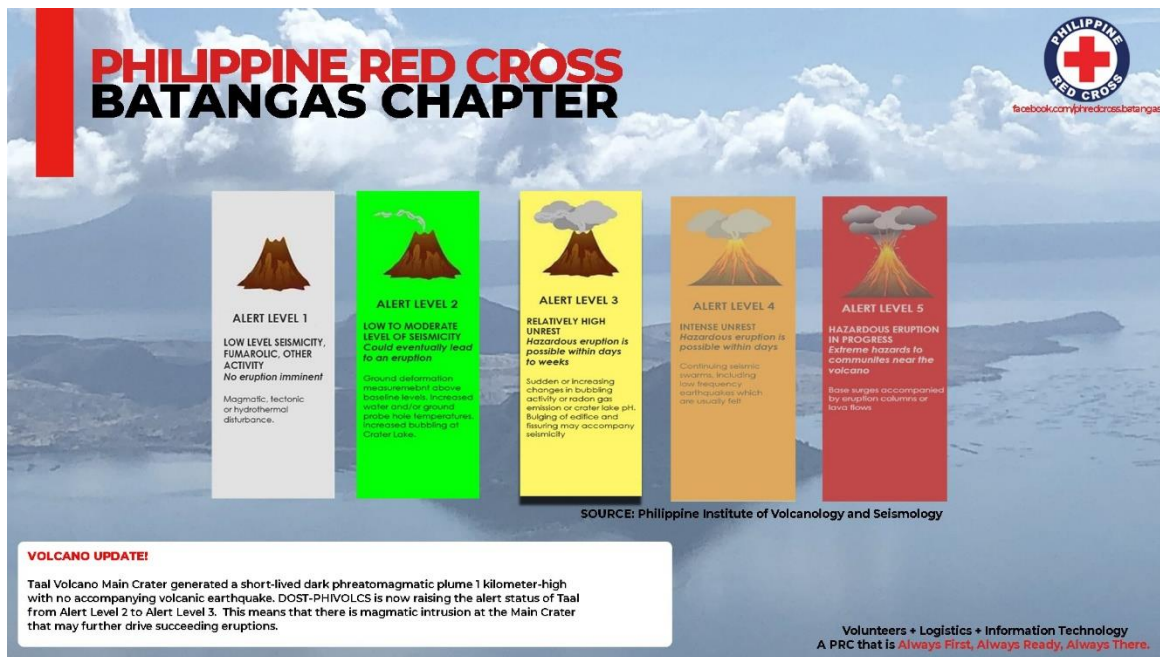
The PRC led the Movement's overall response for this operation, maintaining close coordination with Movement partners in the country and providing updates. The PRC works with the IFRC, the ICRC and seven Partner National Societies in the country: The American Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, German Red Cross, the Japanese Red Cross Society, Netherlands Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent and Spanish Red Cross.

PRC, with support from IFRC, actively coordinated with different stakeholders such HCT, relevant government agencies from the national level down to the municipal level. Most of the coordination meetings were held in the provincial level where PRC Batangas chapter actively participated.

The IFRC CO assisted PRC to ensure accountability and compliance with regards to the DREF procedures. This includes the sharing of informal updates and ensuring that DREF is published on [the IFRC Appeals Database](#), as well as utilization of the [IFRC GO Platform](#) to issue situation reports.

The PRC communication team ensured that the Red Cross response efforts were effectively communicated to its key target audiences in a timely manner. The Operations Center (OpGen) located at the PRC's National Headquarters (NHQ) collected information from the chapters and Red Cross 143 volunteers in the affected areas. In addition to a press release, regular updates on activities and status were posted on the official social media accounts of the [PRC Batangas chapter](#). PRC staff and volunteers across the country actively contributed to corporate communications through their own social media networks.

Information regarding the situation were also posted on the PRC Batangas Facebook Page, with at least communication materials related to Taal operation were posted. A short video interviews to those supported by the Philippine Red Cross is published and available [here](#).



PRC mobilized NHQ and Chapters existing staff, Red Cross 143 volunteers, Red Cross Action Teams (RCAT134) and NDRTs from other chapters as required. PRC's human resources (HR) procedures were applied for all deployments. A total of 108 personnel were mobilized in this operation. PRC volunteers mobilized for this DREF operation were insured under the Membership and Accident Assistance Benefit (MAAB) of PRC.

The IFRC CO, through the finance and administration team, provided operational support for the review, budget validation, bank transfers, and technical assistance to PRC including review and validation of invoices. All financial transactions in this operation were conducted in accordance with the IFRC's standard financial procedures. The DREF project agreement was signed upon the activation of the DREF.

For IFRC staff the IFRC security framework was applied to the DREF operation. For PRC staff and volunteers, the National Society's security framework was applied. Regular and close coordination was maintained with the ICRC in accordance with the existing security framework and Movement's coordination agreement. Regular information sharing was maintained and specific security protocols for each level of security. In the country, all staff members and volunteers have required to take the IFRC online courses: Stay Safe Personal Security, Stay Safe Security Management and Stay Safe Volunteer Security. Following the Taal Volcanic eruptions, the IFRC CO security focal point disseminated updated security guidelines and precautionary measures such as the use of N95 masks. The IFRC CO logistics team distributed PPE for staff working in the areas of operation.

## Challenges

The country is still amidst its response to COVID-19. The PRC, through the Batangas chapter, responded to the needs brought by the Taal Volcano Eruption, alongside the COVID-19 response. This resulted to limited personnel to be mobilized, implementation of rigid safety measures, and worries on the people being deployed.

## Lessons Learned

PRC has incorporated COVID-19 guidelines into its response protocols. PRC requested staff and volunteers to always use appropriate PPE, provided necessary PPEs, and provided with briefing to staff and volunteers prior to deployment, these ensured safety of staff, volunteers and affected people. This has been the lesson identified in the past operations and would still be applicable in on-going and future operations.

## **D. Financial Report**

The actual expenditure is 50 per cent (CHF 27,704) of the CHF 54,331 DREF amount requested. Balance from this operation, CHF 26,627.35 will be returned to the DREF pot.

Refer to the [attached](#) financial report.

## Reference documents



Click for:

- [IFRC GO platform](#)
- [Emergency Plan of Action](#)

**For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:**

### In Philippine Red Cross

- Elizabeth Zavalla, secretary general; phone: +63 2 790 2300; email: [elizabeth.zavalla@redcross.org](mailto:elizabeth.zavalla@redcross.org)
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### For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support

- **In IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office:** Alice Ho, partnership in emergencies coordinator; email: [partnershipsEA.AP@ifrc.org](mailto:partnershipsEA.AP@ifrc.org)

### For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries):

- **In IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office:** Fadzli Saari, PMER manager a.i.; email: [fadzli.saari@ifrc.org](mailto:fadzli.saari@ifrc.org)

## How we work

All IFRC 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 the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



**Save lives.**  
protect livelihoods,  
and strengthen recovery  
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**  
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion  
and a culture of  
**non-violence** and peace.

# DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/7-10	Operation	MDRPH043
Budget Timeframe	2021	Budget	APPROVED

## FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 29/Nov/2021

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### MDRPH043 - Philippines - Taar Volcano Eruption

Operating Timeframe: 03 Jul 2021 to 31 Aug 2021

#### I. Summary

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Funds &amp; Other Income</b>	<b>54,331</b>
DREF Allocations	54,331
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>-27,704</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>26,627</b>

#### II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	13,313	16,446	-3,134
AOF2 - Shelter		333	-333
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	12,288	6,130	6,159
AOF4 - Health	4,096	10	4,086
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	15,690	4,564	11,126
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			0
AOF7 - Migration			0
<b>Area of focus Total</b>	<b>45,387</b>	<b>27,483</b>	<b>17,904</b>
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	240		240
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	5,325		5,325
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	1,024		1,024
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	2,355	221	2,135
<b>Strategy for implementation Total</b>	<b>8,944</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>8,723</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>54,331</b>	<b>27,704</b>	<b>26,627</b>

# DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/7-10	Operation	MDRPH043
Budget Timeframe	2021	Budget	APPROVED

## FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 29/Nov/2021

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### MDRPH043 - Philippines - Taar Volcano Eruption

Operating Timeframe: 03 Jul 2021 to 31 Aug 2021

### III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>	<b>28,194</b>	<b>8,996</b>	<b>19,197</b>
Food	11,538	2,301	9,238
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	10,577	6,623	3,954
Medical & First Aid	3,846	73	3,773
Teaching Materials	192		192
Utensils & Tools	2,040		2,040
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>10,192</b>	<b>3,631</b>	<b>6,562</b>
Transport & Vehicles Costs	5,192	3,631	1,562
Logistics Services	5,000		5,000
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>9,552</b>	<b>12,622</b>	<b>-3,070</b>
National Staff	673		673
National Society Staff	1,923	6,357	-4,434
Volunteers	6,956	6,264	691
<b>General Expenditure</b>	<b>3,077</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>2,313</b>
Travel	385	98	287
Information & Public Relations	962	170	791
Office Costs	769	172	597
Communications	673	11	662
Financial Charges	288	313	-24
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	<b>3,316</b>	<b>1,691</b>	<b>1,625</b>
Programme & Services Support Recover	3,316	1,691	1,625
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>54,331</b>	<b>27,704</b>	<b>26,627</b>