

DISPLACEMENT OVERVIEW

Data from DSWD DROMIC, 21 Jan 2020



DISPLACED

235,655 individuals
61,123 households

497

Evacuation Centres

Hosting

148,514

Individuals

SITUATION OVERVIEW

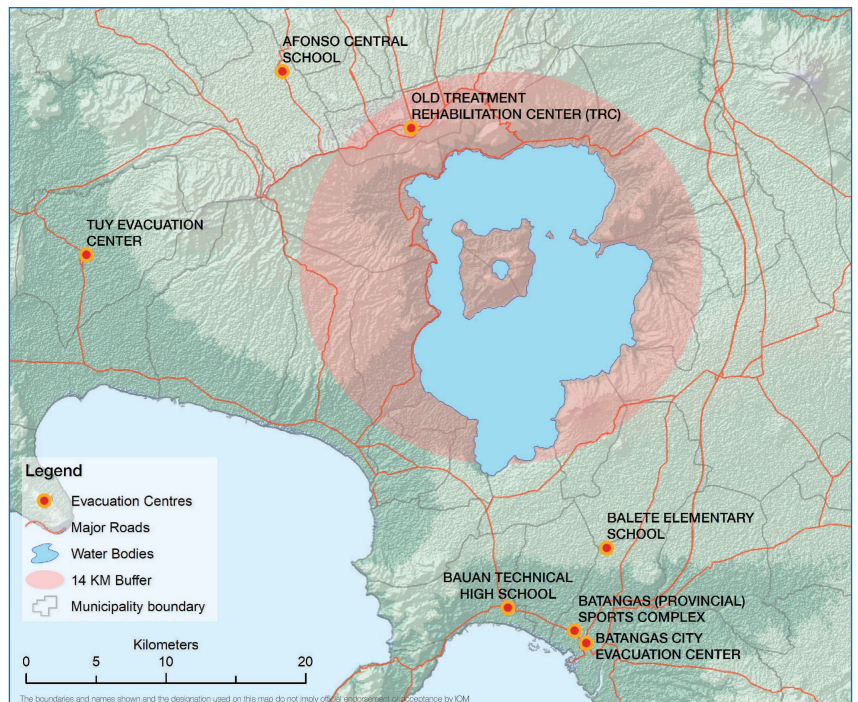
On January 12, 2020 around 1:00pm local time, Taal Volcano located in the province of Batangas, Calabarzon Region began showing signs of unrest after 43 years of inactivity. According to the Philippine Institute of Vulcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), increasing steam activity was observed in at least five areas inside the main crater with frequent phreatic explosions that generated a steam laden tephra column reaching 10-15km high.

As of January 20, 2020, activity in the volcano has been characterised by steady steam emission and infrequent weak explosions that generated ash plumes 500 to 1000 meters tall and dispersed ash southwest of the Main Crater. For the past 24 hours, the Taal Volcano Network recorded 673 volcanic earthquakes including 12 low-frequency earthquakes. Such intense seismic activity likely signifies continuous magmatic intrusion beneath the Taal edifice, which may lead to further eruptive activity.

Alert Level 4 remains in effect over Taal Volcano. This means that hazardous explosive eruption is possible within hours to days. DOST-PHIVOLCS strongly reiterates total evacuation of Taal Volcano Island and high-risk areas as identified in the hazard maps within the 14-km radius from Taal Main Crater and along the Pansipit River Valley where fissuring has been observed. Currently Tagatay City has been approved for re-opening given its placement on the higher ridge, but other areas within the 14km radius remain no-go zones.

INITIAL RAPID ASSESSMENT

During 18th and 19th January 2020, IOM surge team conducted initial rapid assessments in Batangas and Cavite provinces. Primary focus of the assessment was around the management of evacuation centres (collective sites) and the overall displacement scenario. The team visited the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and 7 Evacuation Centres (ECs), including the largest sites per DSWD/DROMIC data, as well as randomly selected smaller sites and Municipalities. The type of evacuation centres visited include those utilising school buildings, sports complex as well as dedicated municipality evacuation centres.



Name and location of Evacuation Centres visited during rapid assessment between 18 and 19 January 2020

The assessment also included piloting of the DTM form with Kobo Collect to prepare for a full DTM data collection roll out with partners in the coming week (22-24 January) as well as initial observations on the situation and needs for partners' planning.



In all Evacuation Centres visited, information board showing information of displaced persons are clearly displayed and updated regularly. Key EC in the municipality, such as Bauan Technical High School, also collect and compile lists from all ECs and host communities in the municipality.

KEY FINDINGS

Management of Collective Centres:

- All centres had management functions including basic information management and data tracking on displaced persons with age, sex and vulnerability breakdowns, as well as origin information of varying degrees of specificity.
- Good collaboration across sectors/departments of Government were observed at the centres.
- Management of volunteers and donations – particularly in this initial phase – is a strain on the staff and there were varying degrees of quality for tracking and monitoring the in-kind donations and no clear code of conduct for volunteers published or communicated.
- Only 2 sites – Batangas Sports Complex (EOC) and the Tagatay Rehab Centre had security sign in sheets for people entering the sites, though all had administrative personnel present to receive incoming visitors.

Representation of displaced people:

- Most centres had room and block leaders, with representation structures, as well as clear organigrams of overall management for affected people to view. Further assessment required to understand how well this is working in practice.
- Information boards are available, primarily with numbers of people and their place of origin. Some sites – particularly schools – had more details on distribution, feeding times, rules and regulations.
- Complaints and feedback mechanisms appear to be informal at this stage.
- Some displaced persons freely admitted to having sent representatives back to their home sites to assess the situation – entering highly dangerous areas against GoPH recommendations. Setting up of mechanism to support awareness of the risks and clear accessible information sharing on conditions in place of origin without physical visits is vital.

Coordination and Monitoring of Service Provision:

• **Information Management:** Paper and electronic systems are in place, depending on site, including demographic breakdowns, place of origin, people with disabilities, vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, etc. Support to consolidate this information for better coordination and targeting of sectoral resources could be of value added to the response.

• **Monitoring of donation and distributions** appears to be a challenge and due to the influx of volunteers and in-kind donations is not easily systematised:

- Need better messaging to volunteer donors to avoid wasteful items such as small bottles of water – ideally pre-kitted packages for families and a mechanism to pre-book donation visits to plan and coordinate ahead of time with families in need.
- Stock management and accountability will be a problem given the ad hoc donations (e.g. piles of used clothing) and awareness that families have limited space and may need to move, thus cash and other alternatives to in kind donations may be preferred.
- Overall, need a mechanism to communicate individual centre's needs (DTM will produce site assessments per location) and a guide to private donations including a process to support planned distributions that give displaced people pre-warning and ensure equitable allocations of support.
- **Hosted families:** currently tracking is done by Municipalities per Barangay but unclear and mixed information on the ability to access support and services. Signs on the side of the road pointing to small sites (3-9 families) in hosted locations to flag for private donors. Need to support tracking on host families to be sure of numbers hosted (more in host than in ECs in some municipalities) and that registration and services are provided out of ECs (or in ECs as distribution points).



Staff at Belete Elementary School Information desk showing photos from when she was in Camp Coordination and Camp Management training conducted by DSWD.

CCCM TOT GRADUATES DEPLOYED

Data from DSWD and IOM

30 | 15-20

CCCM Trainers

Evacuation Centres



The classrooms in Bauan Technical High School all have posted list of families and individuals, including room number and leaders.



Large number of volunteers and staff also mean that multitudes of activities can be taking place at the same time in an evacuation centre, from a distribution to a concert.



Over congestion is still a challenge in larger evacuation centres visited, while not yet a priority concern in places visited, it can have heavy impact on WASH facilities.

Site Environments:

- Crowding is apparent in the larger sites, but manageable overall. In schools, rooms are cleaned and bedding packed away during the day to allow more space, but some sites have up to 50 people in a single classroom which is likely leading to difficult sleeping arrangements and stress over time.
- Water for sanitation and hygiene was one of the largest concerns in a few sites, as schools and sports complexes are not designed for showers and personal use. Many have received portable toilets, but water and shower/bathing facilities will remain a challenge.
- Drainage issues were evident at some sites, and will need to be addressed.
- Formal registration was not evident, though there are one or two sites with sign in sheets and security booths. Registration and IDs or system to track in and out flow of people will likely be needed soon.
- While currently adequate, sports complexes and large facilities are not ideal for families as currently structured, combined with expected closure of schools as ECs, alternatives are being explored by municipalities.

Exit Strategy and Solutions to Displacement

- **School Closures:** There is overall awareness of the 15-day limit on use of schools as ECs, and the Municipalities are assessing buildings and covered courts for use as alternative displacement sites. It is expected that alternative solutions will not be reached within the the coming 7 days and abrupt closure of school will likely cause confusion, increase vulnerabilities and further complicate the quality of management and organisation.
- **No return zones:** It is anticipated that a number of those displaced will not be able to return. Need a task force on this topic as soon as possible as the level could remain or decrease only slightly, which will mean protracted displacement if a transitional and long-term strategy is not identified. This combined with school closing will mean an additional strain and 'emergency within an emergency' in the coming week or two.

IOM PHILIPPINES NEXT STEPS:

1. Work with relevant authorities to enhance and support information management capacity at EOC, Municipal and ECs levels to ensure comprehensive analysis and profile of people, locations and needs; including registration of evacuees with origin information to support long term planning.
2. Continue to monitor needs in both ECs and host communities, with consideration for cash as public support will likely phase out in the coming weeks while displacement continues
3. Support assessment, planning and optimisation of Evacuation Centres facilities, alternative options, including possible support to transfer the more vulnerable families to purpose-built municipality ECs.
4. Support GoPH to plan phased out approach to school closure, and/or support Municipalities with shelter materials to set up transitional sites for the next phase of displacement given return is not advised at this time and displaced people will need to find more host options (rentals) or transitional shelter sites in the interim.
5. Support national and provincial authorities in setting up a Task Force to focus on the land and property issues and find options for transition and long-term solutions given many will not be able to return.
6. Support information campaigns at ECs and Municipal levels to facilitate risk awareness and discussions on solutions and options for families evacuated so that displaced people can take more ownership of their decision process for next steps.



Dedicated rooms and spaces are required on site to receive, sort and stock in-kind contributions in all evacuation centres - the one is Belete Elementary School in Batangas Province.

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DTM ENUMERATORS DEPLOYED

From DSWD, IOM and humanitarian partners (OCHA, WFP, RI, HI, IMC)

40 | 25 Jan

Enumerators

Expected Round 1 Report

Data collection for Round 1: 21-22 January



Large influx of in-kind donation and volunteers can be a challenge for management and monitoring in evacuation centres.

BASE SURGE AREA

From PHILVOCS, OCHA and 2015 Census data

12 | 318,173

Barangays

Individuals