



FAST FACTS

- An Alert Level 4 remains in effect for the Taal Volcano, indicating that a hazardous, explosive eruption is still possible within hours to days.
- Over the past 24 hours, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology has reported nearly 450 volcanic earthquakes.
- Approximately 460,000 people live within the evacuation zone.

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

- Priority needs include nonfood items, including hygiene/dignity kits, WASH items for evacuation centers, and mental health and psychosocial support.

SITUATION UPDATE

More than one week after it erupted on January 12, the **Taal Volcano** continues to be active. Over the past 24 hours, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) has registered nearly 450 volcanic earthquakes. Since this morning, PHIVOLCS has reported no ash emissions; however, strong winds have remobilized and transported unconsolidated ash toward the southwest region, affecting the towns of Lemery and Agoncilo. While overall volcanic activity has slowed, an Alert Level 4 remains in effect, indicating that hazardous explosive eruption is still possible within hours to days.

This volcanic activity comes just weeks after **Typhoon Phanfone** (known locally as Typhoon Ursula) made landfall as a Category 2 storm on December 24, affecting more than 3.2 million people.¹ Though the number of people taking shelter in temporary evacuation centers established for the typhoon has declined, the government of the Philippines has reported that there are still more than 31,000 people staying with family and friends as a result of the storm.²

¹ National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. "NDRRMC Update: Situational Report No. 26, 10 Jan 2020." Retrieved on January 14, 2020, from http://ndrrmc.gov.ph/attachments/article/3986/update_re_situational_report_no26_preparedness_measures_and_effects_of_TY_URSULA_as_of_10_January_5PM.pdf.

² Government of the Philippines. "DSWD DROMIC Report #24 on Typhoon "URSULA" as of 18 January 2020, 6pm." Retrieved on January 21, 2020, from <https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/dswd-dromic-report-24-typhoon-ursula-18-january-2020-6pm>.

A total evacuation order remains in place for Taal Volcano Island and for high-risk areas within a 8.6 mile (14 km) radius of the main crater of the volcano. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) reports that approximately 460,000 people reside within the evacuation zone. As of January 21, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) reported that more than 148,000 people are currently being assisted in almost 500 evacuation centers. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) remains on high alert and has issued warnings that if the eruption plume remains as-is, ash plumes will drift to municipalities southwest and west of Taal Volcano. However, if a major eruption occurs within the forecast period and eruption plumes exceed 3.1 miles (5 km), ash plumes will drift over metro Manila, Laguna and some parts of Rizal and northern Quezon.

Provincial and municipal authorities are leading response efforts, with support from DSWD and the Philippine Red Cross. Additionally, the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) is coordinating with private-sector members, which are providing road clearing and mobile service sport, water, food, face masks and other relief items. As of January 20, only one road section remains impassable due to the exclusion zone. The NDRRMC has reported that a total of 264 cities and municipalities in Calabarzon, Mimaropa and NCR have declared suspension of classes, with the majority of schools resuming regular operations as of January 20.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS RESPONSE

International Medical Corps is continuing to scale up activities to provide support to national and local partners in response to Typhoon Phanfone and the Taal Volcano. Following the typhoon in December, International Medical Corps deployed its team to affected areas, including Eastern Visayas, to assess the most urgent needs. With support from partners, International Medical Corps' team is able to provide water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) items, as well as relief supplies, to support affected households and sheltering facilities. As the Taal Volcano became active, International Medical Corps met with national and local partners to identify additional needs and is moving forward with procuring and pre-positioning supplies to support vulnerable communities. The team is also developing a distribution strategy to ensure that supplies and services reach those with critical needs. As geological activity indicates that an eruption may be imminent, critical supply needs include face masks, hygiene/dignity kits and WASH items to support evacuation shelters.

Though the national government has not requested international assistance at this time, International Medical Corps is continuing to monitor the situation in the Philippines and remains on alert should support be requested. Additionally, International Medical Corps' team will continue to collaborate with national authorities, local partners and the humanitarian community to ensure strong coordination across priority sectors.