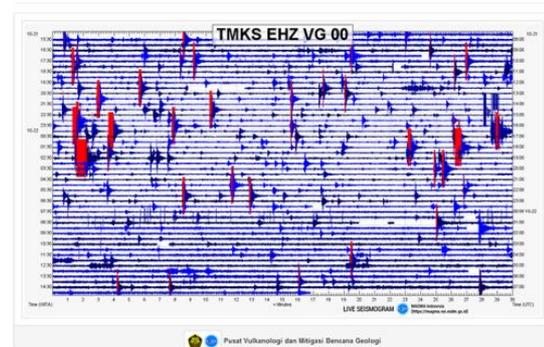


MT. AGUNG UPDATE – 22 OCTOBER 2017

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Seismogram G. Agung



EVACUEES & SEISMIC UPDATE

Mt Agung has been at Stage 4 “Beware” since 22 Sept 2017. Recently, the crater has fissured, smoke has risen 1500 mtrs and poisonous gas has been detected. Earthquakes have increased from ± 360 a day on 22 Sept, to over 900 a day. Over 140.000 people have been evacuated. A volcano eruption will usually last several months and can continue for several years.

GAIA’S ENGAGEMENT – Target US \$18.000

Project Duration 6 – 9 months

In this first month, over 111 donators have raised US \$13,098 for the Mt Agung refugees and many others have stepped forward to volunteer time and effort.

To date, we have used 49% of the funds raised for essential upfront supplies including a large-scale water filter, school packages for children for a semester, and safety equipment for village clean-up. We will use the remainder over 5-8 months, for food & other essentials.

Full accounting will be given at project close. We target to raise another US\$5.000.

a) Volunteers = invaluable

Our incredible volunteers have poured love and energy into supporting our cause. They have taken wonderful photographs, designed fundraising campaigns, translated into 3 languages, collated refugee data, given massages at the centre, led yoga music & English classes, cooked, cleaned and shown how much love is in the human spirit. Words cannot express our gratitude.

b) Water and water system maintenance = US\$2.500 disbursed; another US\$500 reserved

An anonymous couple donated the full cost of a water filtration system with a capacity of 1000 litres per day. Laboratory tests show the treated water meets WHO drinking water standards. Village staff are now taking and distributing water daily to all refugees. Gaia-Oasis staff will do weekly backwashing, as well as monthly & quarterly maintenance for filters, pumps and UV.

c) Stationary packages & school support = US\$1.000 disbursed; another US\$1.000 reserved

430 books and stationary packages have been distributed to displaced refugee schoolchildren, now attending schools in the villages of Tembok, Les, Tejakula, Bondalem and Pacung. These packages have been shared out amongst 1053 children in 32 schools in the regency.

However, the schools are finding that the displaced children are not integrating. Many students attend for a few days and then stop coming, some feel less confident in their new environment. The Education Department is considering offering afternoon classes for refugee children only. They will redeploy teachers from the evacuated regions near Mt Agung, and use the facilities and schools in the host regency.

Pending a solution, the Centre will invite teachers to teach on-site. Gaia-Oasis will direct funds wherever required to ensure the most support for children to obtain schooling.

d) Food, Gas & logistics: US\$1.200 disbursed; US\$5.000 reserved; US\$2.800 to be raised

Food

The logistics supply post in Tejakula caters for 21.000 refugees housed in 3 districts. Recently, provisions have dropped dramatically as donors have decreased from over 50 a day when the crisis started, to 2-3 a day in the last week. Although government has promised supplies, officials have privately said that supplies are being prioritized for after the volcano erupts. When we checked a few days ago, there was not a single egg, no onions or garlic, some dried chillies, some baskets of chayotes and old sweet potatoes. Rice was plentiful. We were asked to provide instant noodles (easier to distribute) and MSG (requested by refugees); we respectfully declined.

We supplied eggs, dried anchovies, bulbs of garlic & onions; and have assured the Logistics Post that we will try to step in when supplies are low. We will do another drop next week, just prior to the important festival of Galungan (the Victory of Good over Evil).

Gas & logistics

Cooking gas & the logistics truck look likely to be fixed, ongoing expenses over the next 6 months. Fortunately we obtained good prices for gas, however we will continue to try to get regular gas supplies from Pertamina, the national Oil & Gas company. Ideas for viable alternatives e.g. solar powered BBQ grills and how to obtain these would be very welcome.

The pickup truck is used to transport food medical & other supplies from the central logistics depot, to distribute supplies to the evacuees living outside the Village Hall, for trips to the regency capital, and for other village and refugee requirements. We see this as a vital, ongoing need.

e) Waste, Health & Safety = US\$1.500 disbursed, US\$2.200 to be raised

Gaia has provided enamel plates, glasses, tin trays and eco-friendly utensils, in an effort to reduce the 1500 sheets of waxed paper and the countless plastic disposable cups used daily. We have also donated vegetables and seedlings from our organic garden, and provided bins for waste separation and for a liquid composter to reduce waste around the centre.

We note with concern that the Village Waste Disposal Unit is unable to cope with the explosion of garbage due to the influx of refugees; waste collectors and drivers are working around the clock, but they have limited equipment and resources, and many refugees are from remote mountain villages where they don't use garbage bins, let alone sort waste. The village is trying to find a solution at Regency level; Gaia has promised to help where we can and will provide dust masks and safety goggles, as these workers will be the first to be called upon to clean up should ashfall hit the village. A village group, JEPRI-LINK, is encouraging refugees to build and use composters.

Generous donators have sent 600 respiratory masks recommended by the International Volcanic Health Hazard Network (IVHHN) and 50 safety glasses which we are sharing with village personnel and those most at risk. We have also provided additional safety eyewear, eye drops, emergency lamps and safety materials should ashfall occur, to supplement government supplies.

f) Other items (eg cookware, linen, hygiene kits, spectacles, baby items) = US\$300 disbursed

We have been sourcing most of these items from the local community; but any help is welcome. A group generously donated a TV set to allow older illiterate refugees to watch the news.

Please send this to concerned friends, families & supporters who may wish to donate. 100% of your funds (after credit card fees if you are not banking in directly) will go directly to the evacuees. Anything you wish to contribute would be deeply appreciated.

Do join others who have started sending us their contributions to the villagers of Mt. Agung;

Yayasan Gaia-Oasis

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE <http://www.gaia-oasis.com/payment/>

Credit card: click link above and select 'Yayasan' for payment. Type 'Mt Agung' in the further details box. Details of how to bank into our accounts directly are also at the same link. We have a *Bali (Rupiah/IDR) Account, a German (Euro) Account & an Australian (AUD) Account.*

Thank you in advance for your kindness and blessings