

PICTURES OF DAILY LIFE AT A MT. AGUNG EVACUATION CENTRE:

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BACKGROUND

Currently there are 500 people housed in Tejakula village.

They are mainly in the Village Hall, but about 200+ are staying with friends, families & good Samaritans, in empty houses and near open land where they can run their livestock.

Most evacuees are the old, sick, women & children – the men are generally leaving their families in safe centres & then going to look for work as seasonal farmhands or labourers.

About 26% of the evacuees are school aged children, 14% are babies & children under 6 years, 18% are the elderly & sick and 42% are women including pregnant mothers.

Mt Agung started showing activity in early September, going from “Normal” to Stage 3 “Standby” and Stage 4 “Beware” in under 2 weeks. An eruption is expected to be imminent.

A volcano eruption will usually last several months and can continue for several years.

EVACUATION EFFORT

At this stage, about 70.000 people have been evacuated (all living within a 9 km radius of the crater, & within 12 km of the north, south east & south west slopes) to the Buleleng, Karangasem & Klungkung Regencies. A further 80.000 people not within the danger zone, but in close proximity to Mt Agung, have chosen to leave voluntarily.

There are 4 evacuation centres in Buleleng Regency, able to house 17.000 persons. In addition, the villages from Tejakula to Sawan have been authorised to house 300 persons in each village hall. The village halls have been chosen as smaller evacuation posts because they have communal kitchens, basic sanitation facilities & a large undercover aula / meeting hall where people can congregate.

Mt Agung last started erupting in Feb 1963, and stopped erupting in Jan 1964.

Mt Sinabung has been erupting since 2013, and just yesterday had 5 eruptions & spewed lava. The quickest the volcano could subside is in 3 months, so any solutions must be longer -term.

GAIA'S INVOLVEMENT

Gaia-Oasis is a registered non-profit Foundation in Indonesia, operating since 2007. We work with the local community in Education, Environment and Culture.

Amongst others, we work closely with the Tejakula Fishing Collective, part of a chain of 9 locally managed marine areas (LMMA) that cooperate to protect the North Bali Coast. This initiative took the runner-up prize for the internationally recognised Coral Conservation Award in 2014.

This year, Gaia-Oasis won the "Hometown Hero" category for our community involvement, in National Geographic's Big Sleep Awards 2017.

We are trying to raise the following urgent funds for the evacuees :

- a) Water purifying/filtration system: USD 3000

This is required because water cannot be drunk straight from the tap in Indonesia. Water-borne disease (diarrhea, typhus) is a real risk, especially in crowded conditions with a corresponding lack of hygiene. Boiling water is expensive & inefficient as cost of gas is high. Bottled mineral water is not viable longer term. Currently many people have donated boxes of cup-sized mineral water, but these will not last long, and will create a plastic landfill issue down the track. Assuming 3 litres per person x 500 persons x 30 days, the cost of mineral water refills is around USD 1300/ month, which is inefficient & very expensive

We have found and will first pay for a commercial water filtration system which can provide 1000 litres per day & are coordinating with the Village Authorities to run & maintain the system. The system will be sourced from Denpasar, to ensure parts & servicing are available locally. As this is the most important longer-term priority, Yayasan is using funds from other projects for this first. But we require donations to pay the Yayasan back as this is out of our annual budget.

- b) Stationary packages for 1000 schoolchildren for a semester : USD 2000

Government can provide textbooks, but it doesn't provide stationary & writing materials. The headmasters of all the schools in the sub-regency have committed to absorbing the displaced children in the nearest schools. The Regent (Bupati) has issued a directive which allows the displaced children to attend school without having to wear school uniform.

Gaia has coordinated with the UPP/ Education Department, to provide stationary packages for the displaced children. We are targeting 1000 children in the sub-regency.

We have found a supplier who is giving us a 40% discount on stationary packages. Each package contains 10 exercise books, 2 ball pens, 1 pencil, 1 eraser, 1 ruler & 1 sharpener. Each package is enough for 1 child for a semester (6 mths), and will cost just under Rp 26.000 (USD 2)

- c) Ongoing requirement for transport logistics : USD 400 / month x 6 months = USD 2400

The village can pick up food, sanitation, medical items & supplies for evacuees every 3 days. Supplies are available at the Les Evacuation Centre (housing 1700 persons), 8 km away. However, there is no village pick-up truck and government doesn't provide petrol.

Gaia has found a local man who is willing to rent his pickup for Rp 2.5 million a month (30% less than market price). The pickup will be used for carrying goods from Les, also for distributing supplies to the evacuees living in private homes / on private land outside the Village Hall, for trips to the regency capital, and for other requirements.

d) Ongoing requirement for cooking gas : USD 500 / month x 2 months = USD 1.000

Gaia is sending 2-4 staff a day to the Village Hall, as volunteers to cook, clean, wash up and help alongside other local volunteers and the evacuees. We are cooking for 500 persons, 3 meals a day, using gas stoves. Gas is also used to boil water for sterilising baby bottles, making up formula, hot drinks and hygiene.

Currently usage runs to approx 2 large gas tank refills each day. We have negotiated a very reasonable price with the village cooperative, for Rp 118.000 a refill instead of the usual commercial rate of between Rp125.000 – Rp135.000

The village has approached Pertamina, the national Oil & Gas company for support. At first they offered us free refills, but on the condition that we take the gas tanks to Temukus, 3 hours drive away! We have since been allowed to refill at the nearby Les Evacuation Centre, but refills are limited and we cannot rely on a regular supply.

e) Wish List – environmentally friendly replacement for waxed paper

Currently, 1500 sheets of waxed paper are used daily, to line bamboo plates (inka) to save on washing up. The traditional alternative is banana leaf, but 1500 sheets a day is a tall order.

If anyone knows of anybody willing to sponsor this, I can look at biodegradable cassava sheets which are made in Bali, but cost a lot more than wax paper, which doesn't break down/ causes a plastic problem later. Or if you have any other ideas, that would be most welcome.

f) Other items – cooking equipment, sleeping mats, blankets, pillows, facemasks, baby items

We have been sourcing most of these items from the local community; but any help is welcome.

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-Oasia

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