



## MT. AGUNG UPDATE – 30 NOVEMBER 2017

<http://www.gaia-oasis.com/gaia-foundation/mount-agung-appeal/>

### SEISMIC UPDATE – inner and outer rumblings

It has been a bit of a roller-coaster ride, with Mt Agung being downgraded to Level 3 on 29 October, and then suddenly having a phreatic eruption (smoke, ash, water) on 21 November and being upgraded again.

A second phreatic eruption occurred on 25 November, with ash columns reaching 4 km, and eruption has continued with 4 ash explosions. Mudflows started on 27 November and volcanic glow is visible as the magma boils within the crater. In the 5km zone, plants and animals are dying, as ash and sulphur take over. Monkeys are wailing as food becomes scarce. An estimated 40.000 people are still in the 10km Danger Zone.

There is a sense of frustration and mixed emotions at what is happening. Refugees evacuating, being told to move back, & then evacuating again. The scare-mongering – headlines in CAPITALS!!!! Bali is in DANGER!!!! Consumers listening to a tattle sheet thousands of miles away, whilst some of the world's most experienced volcano professionals work quietly round the clock. Fear and concern mixed with disbelief, for the people still going back every day into the danger zone, to feed their cattle and to tend their family shrines and temples. Seeing pictures of devout pilgrims climbing up to pray at the smoking crater of Mt Agung. Hearing the unshakeable conviction in their voices, as people talk about Mt Agung as the earthly manifestation of Semeru, the Axis Mundi, and the current events as reflecting dis-ease in the *niskala*, the unseen worlds, as a result of man's misdeeds in the *sekala*, the seen world.

Amidst all of this, to just keep working; and to rely more and more upon the inner stillness. To focus on the Triple Gem of truth, wisdom, purity ..

If there is no peace in the self, there is no peace in the country ...

### GAIA'S ENGAGEMENT – Target US \$18.000

#### Project Duration 6 – 9 months

In the first 2 months, 155 donators have raised US \$17.741 for the Mt Agung refugees and many others have stepped forward to volunteer time and effort. We thank all of the people who are too many to be named.

To date, we have used US \$8.354 of the funds raised for essential upfront supplies including over 1 ton of foodstuffs, health & safety equipment, a large-scale water filter and school packages for children for a semester. We will use the remainder over a 4-7 month period. Full accounting will be given at project close.





## PROGRAM UPDATE

Our incredible donors and volunteers continue to be the backbone of this project, pouring out love, care and concern. More volunteers came to share music, drawing & play sessions with children, and to offer massages for the elderly. Words cannot express our gratitude.

a) Education: US\$1.100 disbursed; US\$900 reserved

It is unclear what happened to the over 1.000 children that were attending schools in Tejakula district, as many went back to Karangasem. Although 7.120 refugees are back, currently schools only have 70 refugee children recorded as attending. It may be the children are still in Karangasem, sitting the final year exams in schools closer to home, but it appears likely that many are just not attending school. Gaia-Oasis will continue to monitor the situation, working with the Education Department in Tejakula.

d) Food Water Gas Transport : US\$5.400 disbursed; US\$6.600 reserved

Operations at the Tejakula logistics post were disrupted as refugees housed in the East Tejakula district went from over 21.000 to 2016 persons, then back to 7.106 persons during the month. Provisions dropped dramatically as donors decreased from over 50 a day when the crisis started, to 2-3 donors a day. Gaia-Oasis has supplied over a ton of food including fresh vegetables, dried beans, eggs, anchovies, garlic & onions; we continue to provide fresh vegetables each week. As refugees stream back in, the Social Department obtained 6 container loads of aid from Jakarta so we hope that supplies will increase.

Gaia continues to provide cooking gas for the Tejakula Evacuation Centre. We have stopped the logistics truck, as the evacuees are now coming individually to the logistics post for their needs. The water filter is working well; every weekend, Gaia staff maintain and backwash the system, to ensure continuous drinking water for several hundred evacuees.

e) Waste, Health & Safety = US\$1.900 disbursed, US\$2.100 reserved

Gaia has partnered with the North Bali Red Cross and is surveying needs on the ground for health & hygiene eg children's vitamins & emergency toilets. We have shared some of the N-95 respiratory masks generously donated by Yolinde Galama's group with the North Bali Red Cross, as their personnel will be amongst those most at risk.

Gaia has provided tarpaulins for the Tejakula Evacuation Centre and zinc roofing materials for the village Waste Sorting Unit. We applaud the Waste Unit which has started a Waste Bank to weight and buy plastic waste, in an effort to deal with the huge increase in plastic garbage since the refugees came. The unit has also managed to obtain a use of a much-needed waste truck from the government – well done!





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**

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**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

