



FACTSHEET INDONESIA MERAPI ERUPTION

1. LATEST AVAILABLE FIGURES

As of 10/11/10	Estimates
Number of deaths	165
Number of seriously injured	429
Number of refugees and/or internally displaced persons (IDPs)	over 280,000
Number of people affected	+/-3 million Four districts + Yogyakarta

Source : National Disaster Management Authority (BNBP)



Mount Merapi 8 November 2010, Mathias Eick, EU/ECHO

2. BACKGROUND

Mt. Merapi in central Java erupted on the 26 October at 17:02 local time (10:02 GMT), causing 29 casualties. A mass evacuation began immediately.

Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has declared the ongoing volcanic eruptions on Mount Merapi a "national disaster". All emergency services and local security forces dealing with this crisis will now be co-ordinated by the central government. A football stadium in the center of Yogyakarta is now being set up as a central reception center for the displaced.

The volcano continues to eject vast amounts of hot volcanic ash and gas several thousand meters into the atmosphere. A lot of the ash is raining down on the four



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districts around the volcano. The western Magelang district is particularly badly affected with a thick layer of ash covering trees, houses, vehicles and the roads. The danger zone is now set at 20km around the mountain.

Vehicles are throwing up the dust into a thick choking haze which stings the throat and eyes. Many of the rivers flowing down the mountain are swollen with a thick mix of rainwater, ash and debris rushing through densely populated areas. Some isolated flooding has already taken place.



Streets of Magelang district, 7 November 2010, Mathias Eick, EU/ECHO

Main football stadium, Yogyakarta, Nov 2010, Mathias Eick
EU/ECHO

3. IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES FOR HUMANITARIAN AID

Water and sanitation appears to be one issue. However, in combination with security forces and Indonesian Red Cross more latrines are being constructed.

Even if the volcano would stop erupting tomorrow, returnees have little to return to as their houses and livelihoods have largely been destroyed.

The ash dust in the air may also lead to long-term challenges to public health. In the short-term many crops are negatively affected although in the long-term, the ash may act as a fertilizer, increasing yields.



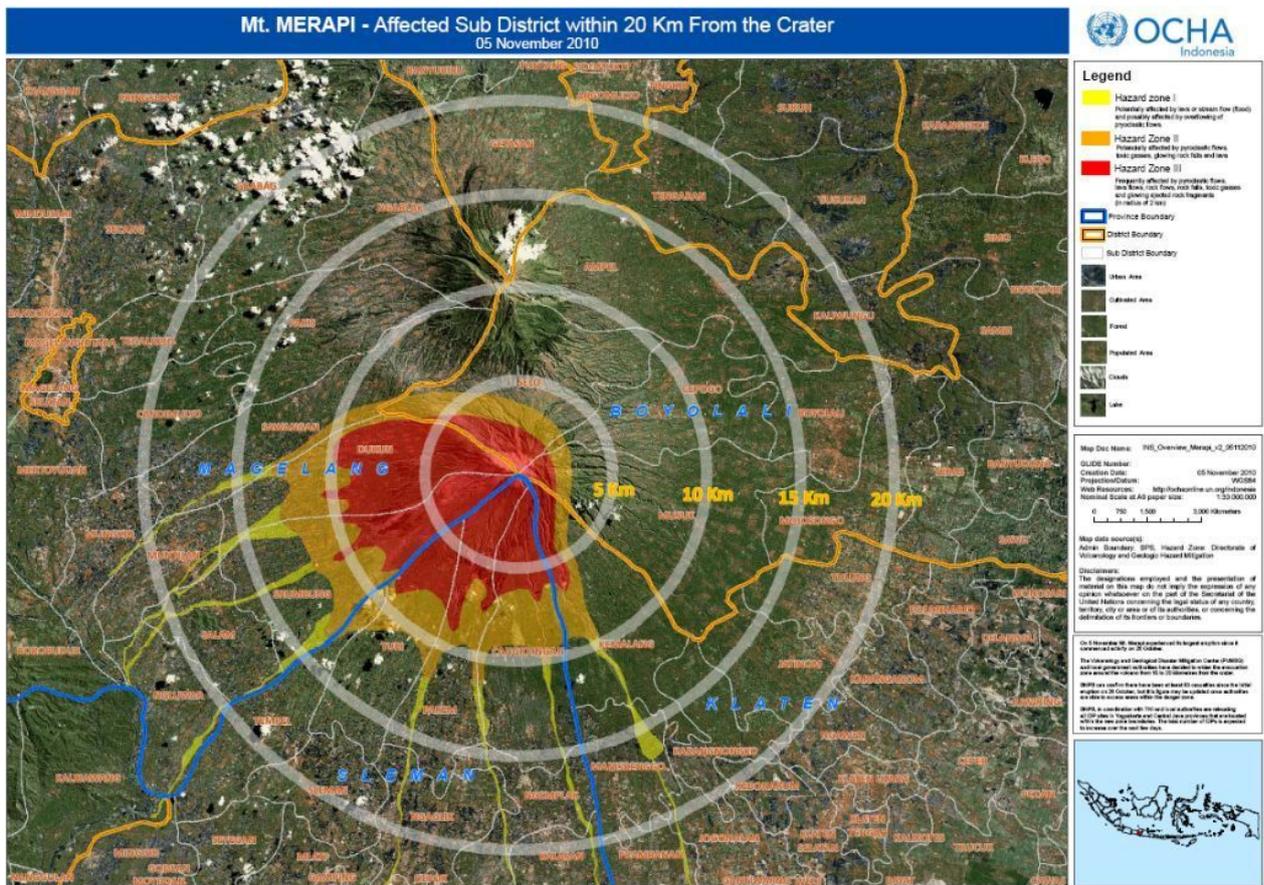


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4. MAIN CHALLENGES FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

The volcanic activity has increased, Yogyakarta's international airport is closed. The spread of volcanic ashes gone beyond radius of 15km had not been predicted earlier but the impact is significant on numbers of camps being pushed out of the "danger zone". This implies increasing needs on all basic necessities. Humanitarian actors had to reassess and review their operational plans while at the same time are conditioned to serve needs of increasing number of IDPs.

Further high intensity eruptions likely to happen.



But there is uncertainty as to how long the local authorities can maintain their efforts or how long people are willing to stay in the centers, some of which house more than 8,000 people.

Due to the onset of the rainy season, there is the **threat of flooding** in some areas as rivers are swollen by ash and debris



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5. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

UN is facilitating an inter-agency rapid assessment team in support of the government. The team travelled to the affected areas of central Java.

International organizations such as Plan Indonesia, Oxfam, World Vision, ASB and Save the Children also conduct assessments with their local partner organizations on the needs of the affected population.

ASB partner has been and is still funded by ECHO for eruption alerts and evacuations drills in the last two years and this action has been useful in the present situation.

6. COMMISSION'S HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The European Commission has a humanitarian office in Jakarta from where its humanitarian expert is following the situation, in close contacts with local and national authorities and partners. The expert is in constant contact with partner's working in Yogyakarta and one expert has been sent to the area to assess the situation.

ECHO took a primary emergency humanitarian decision of €1.5 million to cover the needs of survivors in both the eruption and the tsunami emergencies. In Yogyakarta/Central Java, the funds will help at least 22,000 people among the most vulnerable.

Funded activities : emergency shelter, water and sanitation, access to primary health care and disease control, distribution of food and non-food items, emergency communications, psychological support and logistics. All actions possible will mainstream disaster preparedness activities.

7. CIVIL PROTECTION

The EU Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCP) is on alert and ready to respond to a request for assistance from Indonesian government to the international community. The Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) within ECHO is in touch with the 31 countries participating in the European Civil Protection Mechanism.