



ECUADOR

Disaster Mitigation and Preparedness Programme in Response to the Tungurahua Eruption

Disaster Context

The Tungurahua Volcano, located in the Andean region of Ecuador, entered a phase of intensive eruptive activity in August 1999, resulting in the mass evacuation of local residents. This disaster inflicted major economic losses and created mistrust between residents and the government due to the abruptness of the evacuation. It also presented a new spectre of re-eruption for those who returned to the area despite prohibitive warnings.

Since future eruptions are likely, emergency planning and disaster mitigation activities need to be organised and executed in time to reduce potential future damage. Plans also need to be made to mitigate the damaging psychosocial and economic effects of the eruption in 1999.

Project Title

Emergency: Tungurahua Eruption

Sectors

- Rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes
- Disaster management and prevention

Funding

UNDP contributed \$10,000.

Partnerships

- Ministry of Housing and Planning
- Educational and Training Project for the Improvement of the Quality of Life of Ecuadorian Peasant Women
- Local authorities

Programme Activities

- Support scientific monitoring and distribution of information to the public on volcanic activity
- Build emergency shelters in Baños

- Develop an evacuation plan and provide capacity-building among authorities and the public
- Purchase and distribute protective equipment and tools (including 2,000 protective masks) for use in disaster response
- Organise income-generating activities in communities living in high-risk zones on the lower slopes of Tungurahua

The direct recipients of the project were:

- People living in areas vulnerable to the risk of future eruptions of Tungurahua and others affected by the eruption
- 4,000 people in the area of Baños who received necessary tools
- Scientific and emergency personnel
- The communities of Chaucauco, Cuzua, Runtún, Lligua, and Juibe Chico