



Evaluation of the Current Situation on the Island of Fogo, Cape Verde, after the Volcano Eruption in November 2014 & project proposal vista verde tours

This evaluation is based on several reports of both local and international news agencies until December 8th 2014 as well as pictures, video footage and interviews that have been published in the World Wide Web.

Current situation at December 8th , 2014 (Day 17 after the eruption)

The volcanic activity is fluctuating, but continuing. Until the evening of December 7th, 90% of the village of Portela and 75% of the village of Bangaeira have been destroyed. This not only includes dwellings, but also important parts of the rural infrastructure, the primary school, the municipality hall, the local health office, the tourist information of the national park, several private pensions and one hotel.

Furthermore, approximately an area of 1.000 acres has been flooded by the lava including a vast area used for agriculture such as fruits, wine, vegetables, and coffee plantations.

The evacuation of the appr. 1.200 inhabitants of the Chã das Caldeiras has almost been completed. Almost half of these people could find shelter with relatives or friends, the remaining being distributed towards the three existing evacuation centres in Achada Furna, Mosteiros und Monte Grande.

The basic supply for the evacuees (groceries and shelter) has been guaranteed. However, the life of the communities who receive the evacuees is being affected as well. For example, in Achada Furna, families found shelter at the school.

The head of the local health station of Achada Furna states that the mood varies between desperation, rage, and existential fear. An unknown number of people shows symptoms such as trauma and will need special treatment, which cannot be provided at the moment.

Law enforcement forces have the situation under control, civil defence and other institutions have been undertaken the evacuation successfully despite the given circumstances.

Meanwhile the eruption also provoked international attention within the media. The supply with information and reports to the very interested public is – thanks to the internet and social networks – extensive.

Charity projects have been implemented on a regional, national, and international level. This is particularly valid for the community of emigrants in the United States. There is a big solidarity within the evacuated families. Amongst others fund-raising and charity concerts have been taken place. Also the European committee announced their support with goods.

Local enforcement will be done by the administration of three municipalities of Fogo (São



Filipe, Mosteiros und Santa Catarina), governmental authorities based in Fogo and several NGO`s. In order to mention some, these are the Red Cross, the Cape Verdean Women`s Organisation (OMCV) and the Institute of Cape Verdean Children and Adolescents (ICCA).

Forecasts and Perspectives at December 8th , 2014

The complete dimension of the catastrophe cannot be determined yet, as the volcano eruption is still taking place.

In our opinion the most likely scenario is:

The living environment of the Chã das Caldeiras as well as the agricultural area has been effectively destroyed to such a great extent that a re-settlement is out of question and hence ca. 200 families will lose their home.

Other parts of the Fogo Island will face impacts due to the volcano emissions, but not destroyed.

It is yet impossible to estimate, what the middle and long-term effects of the ash disposal, the sulphur dioxide and other gases will be regarding to both human and animal health as well as the agricultural products.

The former inhabitants of the Chã das Caldeiras will face many challenges within the next months as only few have financial savings:

- They have to find new homes
- They have to find new ways of getting income.
- As most of the affected people worked within the agricultural sector, they will need appropriate land.

Besides material and financial issues there are also tremendous psycho-social problems:

- The traumatic experience of this abrupt uprooting has to be handled.
- Social structures such as neighbourhoods or friendships have been torn apart and have to be replaced slowly
- Dramatic changes within living circumstances often lead to pressure and conflicts within the families.

Also, the local institutions will face new tasks regarding to the support of the evacuated families:

- Support in coping with material predicaments
- Support with finding new places to live
- Support the people to find new and appropriate jobs
- Support in coping with psycho-social problems
- Creation and expansion of the infrastructure within the new environments of the affected families (e.g. kindergarten, school)



External help and support, which exceed the current first aid arrangements and are of a middle- or long-term nature, are of high importance, as neither the families nor the governmental authorities and NGO`s have enough funds to cope with the entire situation.

Our Project Proposal

The evacuation and the emergency supply has worked out well and avoided any serious harm to the people on spot.

Also the material supply with groceries, clothes, medicine and emergency shelters seems to be guaranteed for the next weeks due to the support of many national and international relief operations.

The experience with former similar catastrophes show that the influx of subsidies and reliefs decreases with the diminishment of the media interest.

However, it is expected that the demand of both financial and psycho-social support will increase by time. This will happen when the first trauma has been overcome and the families start to move forward thinking about reorganising their lives.

The project with the aim and objectives to attend these evacuated families from the beginning on, will be of major use in addition to the existing aid efforts. Tasks are amongst others:

- Counselling with the planning and orientation for devising the future
- Initiation and soliciting of sponsorships
- Support with transportation and displacement
- Support with the initial equipment of houses
- Assistance with bureaucratic errands and paperwork for the authorities
- Support with the application for reliefs and subsidies.
- Assistance with organising re-entry into the working life (tools, seeds, etc.)
- Providing microcredits
- Cooperation with the local authorities and institutions in this sector
- Documentation of the project and activities for donors, sponsors and the public

The accomplishment of this aforementioned explained project implies the mobilisation of sponsors as well as the liquidation of subsidies. (authors: Heike Alter & Mike Goike)

Account for Donations (established for his purpose):

Name: Heike Alter

Bank: Sparkasse Dortmund, Germany

IBAN: DE16 4405 0199 0002 9133 30

BIC: DORTDE33XXX

Keyword: Help Fogo

(contribution receipts cannot be given)

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!