

PHILIPPINES

Mayon Volcano Response

May, 2026





Mayon Volcano Eruption

Mayon Volcano's renewed activity this month caused widespread disruption across Albay Province, with heavy ashfall, pyroclastic density currents, and volcanic debris affecting multiple municipalities surrounding the volcano. According to reports, approximately 280,000 people were affected by the eruption and related volcanic hazards. Several municipalities and cities in Albay were placed under a state of calamity to accelerate emergency response efforts and enable local governments to access disaster funds and mobilize assistance from NGOs and private sector partners.

Communities in Camalig, Guinobatan, and nearby areas experienced thick ashfall that disrupted daily life, contaminated water sources, damaged crops, and forced thousands of residents to evacuate to temporary shelters. Roads and public spaces were covered with ash and mud, while farming communities located in Daraga, near the foot of the volcano suffered major livelihood losses. The ongoing volcanic unrest, combined with limited access to clean water and sanitation, created urgent humanitarian needs in many affected communities.



CR: Fr. Paulo Barandon/Radyo Veritas Legazpi 1008Khz









Our Response

Following the eruption of Mayon Volcano and the widespread national reports on its impact, the Planet Water Foundation Disaster Response team immediately began monitoring the situation and coordinating internally for a potential disaster response. Once clearance was given to conduct field assessments, Planet Water rapidly mobilized its team and resources. As early as May 7, less than a week after the escalation of volcanic activity, Planet Water had already deployed personnel to Albay and began preparations for a full-scale response, recognizing the extensive impact and urgent need for clean and safe drinking water in the affected communities.

Water filtration systems were mobilized from the Planet Water logistics hub in Greater Manila to Albay Province. The deployment included the AquaBlock emergency water systems and the newly developed AquaSafe Water Filter & Hygiene Station, which provides safe water access and hygiene support for affected families.

The AquaBlock has the capacity to produce up to 700 liters of clean and safe drinking water per hour and can support up to 6,000 people with access to potable water. Meanwhile, the AquaSafe unit can provide up to 40,000 liters of safe water and is also designed to function as a handwashing station. It includes a hand shower and reusable water cups, allowing each system to support the daily water, sanitation, and hygiene needs of a family or group.











On May 11, the Planet Water team began deployments of AquaSafe systems in Bariw Elementary School, an evacuation center in Camalig, Albay, one of the areas most severely affected by ashfall and displacement. Many of the families currently staying in the evacuation center are residents living within the 6-kilometer permanent danger zone surrounding Mayon Volcano. Due to the continuing volcanic activity and safety risks, they remain displaced and are unable to return to their homes and livelihoods.

The Planet Water team then installed the AquaBlock system and additional AquaSafe systems in Tandarora, Guinobatan, Albay, a remote and highly vulnerable community that had limited access to government support.

Planet Water Foundation also supported the Mi-isi farming community, where many families lost their crops and livelihoods due to ashfall and volcanic activity from Mayon Volcano.

In total, 300 families were provided with AquaSafe systems.













AquaBlock Emergency Water System

The life-threatening waterborne illnesses that are rampant during emergency situations can be prevented with the help of Planet Water Foundation's AquaBlock Emergency Water System. This advanced water filtration system has a four-stage water purification process and produces 700 liters of safe drinking water per hour with capacity to support the daily drinking needs of up to 6,000 people. Each system is setup on an existing non-potable water source and processes this water to produce microbiologically safe drinking water.

AquaSafe Water Filter & Hygiene Station

The AquaSafe system provides families with reliable access to safe drinking water and improved hygiene through advanced ultrafiltration and carbon filtration technology that can purify water from rivers, streams, lakes, and even floodwaters. Designed for ease of use and everyday sanitation, the system includes a built-in liquid soap dispenser and connectable hand shower to support healthier hygiene practices and help reduce the spread of germs. Each deployment also includes in-person training, step-by-step guidance materials, reusable drinking cups, and hygiene education resources to help families safely operate the system, promote long-term behavior change, and improve overall health and wellbeing.

“The ashfall left our family without income and made access to safe water even more difficult. Receiving the AquaBlock and AquaSafe has eased a major burden, giving us reliable clean water during a very challenging time.”

Cleofe Obsequio,
Resident from Guinobatan















“When pyroclastic flows from Mayon Volcano buried our crops and contaminated our water sources, our community struggled to access clean water for days. Receiving the water filter has been a huge help, giving our families safe water and peace of mind during this difficult time.”

Glenn Resuena,
President of Mi-isi Farmers Association in Daraga



Thank you

Planet Water Foundation extends our gratitude to our donors for their invaluable support.

Through this response we were able to bring clean, safe drinking water to up to 12,000 people affected by the Mayon Volcano in Albay, Philippines.

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