



CONSULADO GERAL DA REPUBLICA DE CABO VERDE  
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## **SITUATION REPORT ON THE VULCANIC ERUPTION IN THE CABOVERDEAN ISLAND OF FOGO**

The Volcano on the island of Fogo in Cabo Verde erupted around 10:00 am, on Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014. The eruption occurred in the caldera bounded by steep near-vertical fault scarps on the north, west, and south sides, and it has primarily affected the people of Chã das Caldeiras where eruptive vents are located. In the following days, lava flows have destroyed the livelihood thousands of people of the villages of Portela and Bangaeira, located within the western half of the caldera. Agricultural fields, homes, infrastructure, schools, churches, medical centers, and businesses operating in the area have all been destroyed, and primary and secondary roads overrun by lava. The population of the island of Fogo is about 36,300 people.

The government of Cabo Verde responded to this disaster by declaring a State of Emergency and ordering an immediate evacuation of local residents. This timely evacuation of the villages impacted by lava flows and volcanic ash prevented injuries and loss of lives. As of last count, about 3,000 people were evacuated by the local and national authorities of Cabo Verde and relocated to shelters across the island.

Due to the complexity of this disaster and the ongoing volcanic activity with continued large emission of toxic gases, a complete report of assessed damages has not been released yet.

A Crisis Committee was formed to coordinate short- and long-term responses to the situation, and began reaching out to foreign governments and international organizations for support. The United Nations' OCHA Fund for natural and humanitarian crises, the Government of Portugal, and the United States of America are among those who have provided material support for the people of Fogo. For more information on the coordinated response, please see the Consulate General of the Republic of Cabo Verde's press release dated November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

The Government has mobilized the country's scarce resources towards Fogo, and while the initial and ongoing volcanic activity has been largely confined to that island, this disaster has



affected Cabo Verdeans across the country, and the globe, whose families and friends have been displaced.

There is a long history of positive relations between Cabo Verde and the United States of America where a large portion of the Cabo Verdean diaspora resides. Cabo Verdean organizations and representatives of numerous local and state governments have come together to assist both the people of Fogo and the affected members of this community.

Individual organizations, churches, and local initiatives have since begun to raise funds and collect goods for immediate basic relief of the affected people. Many of these organizations are actively working with the Consulate General of Cabo Verde and the National Alliance of Cape Verdean Organizations (NACVO) to ensure all the support they have raised directly reaches the victims of the eruption.

While community organizations, faith-based organizations, and others are encouraged to pursue their fundraising for Fogo, the Consulate General of the Republic of Cabo Verde has been designated by the Crisis Committee to be the central coordinator of all endeavors towards helping the victims of the volcanic eruption in Fogo. Hence, the Consulate General has established a donation account at HarborOne Bank designated *USA for Fogo*. This account is intended to help facilitate the organizations and individuals' initiatives who would like to confidently contribute directly to the response efforts. All proceeds will be transferred to the emergency fund established by the Association of the three Mayors of the Island of Fogo. Donations to that fund can be made in three different ways:

- 1) By visiting any HarborOne Bank branch in Massachusetts.
- 2) By check: Make a check payable to Consulate General of Cabo Verde and in the Memo line write USA For Fogo. Mail your check directly to HarborOne, 68 Legion Parkway, Brockton MA 02301.
- 3) Online: e-check, debit or credit card donations will be available soon through the Consulate website [www.conscvboston.org](http://www.conscvboston.org)

The Consulate General has also created an informational hotline for updates. The number is 1 (844) FOR-FOGO or 1 (844) 367-3646.

Consulate General of The Republic of Cabo Verde, December, 5 2014.

