

A day with Mt Agung Displaced People



In the east of Bali, Mount Agung - the volcanic mountain named in the Balinese legend of the Hindu God Pasupati - has been under constant surveillance since August 2017. In past days, a thick white smoke and ash has been spewing from the volcano and authorities are worried about an imminent eruption.

Mt Agung last erupted in 1963, causing more than 1000 deaths. In order to prevent any such fatalities from occurring again, the Indonesian authorities arranged for more than 100,000 people to be evacuated from their homes within an area extending from 9 to 12km around the volcano. Many such families have ended up living in temporary camps with limited healthcare, inadequate shelter, food and water provisions and especially with little information on their personal wellbeing and if and when they can return home.

Last Sunday, Zen Resort Bali mobilized a staff team to bring food, medicines, clothes, mattresses, duvets and safe shelter construction bamboo to three temporary camps near Mt Agung with a population of some 400 people. Upon arriving at the camps it became apparent that garbage collection required immediate attention due to the risks of sickness and disease, especially in extreme heat and any rains. Thus, during the visit Zen staff organized the collection and disposal of the camp garbage and waste. Zen Doctor was also present and he provided healthcare and comfort to the needy. Whilst we were there, one child suffered an epileptic attack and immediately provided with First Aid care to stop the seizure.

Despite living under conditions of immense anxiety and stress over what will happen to them and their homes, the families we met smiled and laughed with gratitude. Their smile was indicative of their unwavering courage not to lose hope. The people we met showed us much affection and humanity.

Thousands of Balinese across the island have rallied to help the displaced people near Mt. Agung. The Balinese communal spirit, solidarity and love towards one another remains steadfast even under the most difficult of circumstances. #lovebali.

For further information regarding donations, please contact us at info@zenresortbali.com !