

Long-term multidisciplinary commitment to reduce the impact of eruptions: Las Cascadas Village at the foot of Osorno volcano, Chile

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Long-term multidisciplinary work together with at-risk communities is needed to reduce vulnerability and, as a consequence, volcanic risks. Evaluation, planning and communication process must include the generation, transfer, appropriation and application of volcanologic, social, and economic knowledge. The long-term involvement and commitment of the local mayor, civic and business leaders, and other community and regional authorities and representatives are crucial to jointly develop and enforce selected guideline in order to reduce structural, social and economic vulnerability and to be successful in reducing eruption impacts. Las Cascadas village is located at the northwest foot of the active Osorno volcano in the Southern Andean volcanic belt. Multidisciplinary work was done for more than five years, between 2004-2010, involving the preparation and distribution of geologic and hazards maps, and systematic work evaluating their implications together with local community leaders, volcanologist, representatives of the local county, government, education, environmental and others relevant authorities. During that time, several projects were completed, including implementation of secure zones, transference and spreading of scientific and social information through special publications, design and practicing of evacuation routes, addressing concerns of handicap and older age people and teacher, students and authority training. However, since 2010 the previous work was only continued by a few local community organizations and additional projects have not been proposed. For this reason, innovative multidisciplinary long-term commitment is necessary, in order to upgrade and modernize previous work and inspire fresh risk reduction projects.