

effects. We have been lucky in the past 100 years in that there have been no major eruptions to cause more than minor climatic disturbances.

This presentation will focus on the types of impacts caused by volcanic eruptions and how people have coped with the effects using examples from around the Pacific Ring-of-Fire.

**Keywords:** climate; displacement; eruption; effects, socio-economic; evacuation; Pacific Ring-of-Fire; volcanoes

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### **MSF Activities in Pacific Rim Relief Efforts**

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This presentation will review the recent activities of the non-governmental medical relief organization Medecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders (MSF)) in the Pacific Rim. MSF was present in at least 11 Pacific Rim countries, carrying out a range of projects from interventions in complex emergencies to the support of local infrastructure in combating public health disasters such as HIV/AIDS. MSF's activities also have included local and international advocacy campaigns, such as the campaign to make essential medicines more affordable and available to those who need them most. Finally, the specific case of East Timor will be examined in greater detail, since it illustrates the difficulties inherent in situations when NGOs and the military must operate side-by-side in the field. Such situations inherently are complex, but they also can threaten the impartiality and neutrality of humanitarian organizations. This can reduce the capacity of an NGO to act freely, and may even endanger its personnel.

**Keywords:** complex emergencies; cooperation; East Timor; infrastructure; Medecins sans Frontières; medications; military; non-governmental organizations (NGOs); public health