

<b>Appeal N°:</b> MDRVC005	<b>To be assisted:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4,500 people (1,500 families) in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.</li> <li>900 people (300 families) in Barbados, Saint Lucia, and Grenada.</li> </ul>	<b>Appeal launched:</b> 18 April 2021
<b>Glide N°:</b> <a href="#">VO-2021-000034-VCT</a>	<b>Funding requirements:</b> 2M CHF St. Vincent and the Grenadines: 1.6M CHF. Barbados, Saint Lucia, and Grenada: 400,000 CHF	<b>Appeal ends:</b> October 2022 (18 months)
<b>IFRC Category allocated to the of the disaster:</b> Orange		<b>DREF allocated:</b> 266,000 CHF

This Emergency Appeal seeks a total of **2 million Swiss francs CHF** on a preliminary basis to enable the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to support the **St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross (SVGRC), Barbados Red Cross Society (BRCS), Saint Lucia Red Cross (SLRC), and Grenada Red Cross Society (GRCS)** to deliver assistance and support **for 18 months to 5,400 people** affected by the La Soufrière volcanic eruption. The operation will focus on the following areas: **Shelter and Essential Household Items (EHI), Livelihood & Basic Needs, Health and Psychosocial support (PSS), Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Protection, Gender & Inclusion (PGI), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)**. These areas will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling actions: **Strengthening National Societies, influencing others as strategic partners and Strengthening Coordination and Accountability.**

## A. EVENTS TO DATE

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**29 December 2020:** The volcano La Soufrière in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) shows sign of activity, including eruptions, formation of a volcanic dome, changes to the crater lake and seismic activity. The SVGRC engaged in preparedness activities together with NEMO.
- 8 April 2021:** Volcanic activity increases. The SVG Prime Minister declares a Red alert and orders evacuation of the surrounding areas.
- 9 April 2021:** The volcano La Soufrière erupts explosively, releasing an ash plume 10km into the sky, displacing some 16,000 residents in the red and orange zones.
- 10 April 2021:** National Society activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and volunteers were alerted
- 11 April 2021:** Multiple eruptions occur from the early morning into the afternoon. SVGRC assisted in evacuations under the leadership and instructions of government agencies and support is provided in assisting persons in shelters
- 12 April 2021:** CHF 266,000 is allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to provide 2,100 people with direct assistance ([MDRVC005](#)).
- 13 April 2021:** IFRC Surge Capacity is deployed to SVG, including rapid response personnel (Disaster Manager, Finance) and Head of the Country Cluster Delegation.
- 18 April 2021:** IFRC launches an Emergency Appeal for CHF 2 million to support 5,400 people for 18 months.

## Situation overview

Since 29 December 2020, the La Soufrière volcano alert level in St. Vincent and the Grenadines has been elevated due to increased volcanic activity. Since then, the SVGRC and the IFRC teams have been closely monitoring the situation. Constant dialogue and coordination with National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) has been maintained to discuss roles and responsibilities under the National Volcano Response Plan.

By 8 April 2021, alert levels had increased to Red, with government authorities issuing immediate evacuation orders. On 9 April 2021, La Soufrière erupted explosively for the first time in over 40 years, sending an ash plume 10km into the sky. Subsequent multiple eruptions have been reported since. This has resulted in heavy ashfall in the surrounding areas, causing people to flee to different parts of St. Vincent and to the neighbouring island of St. Lucia.

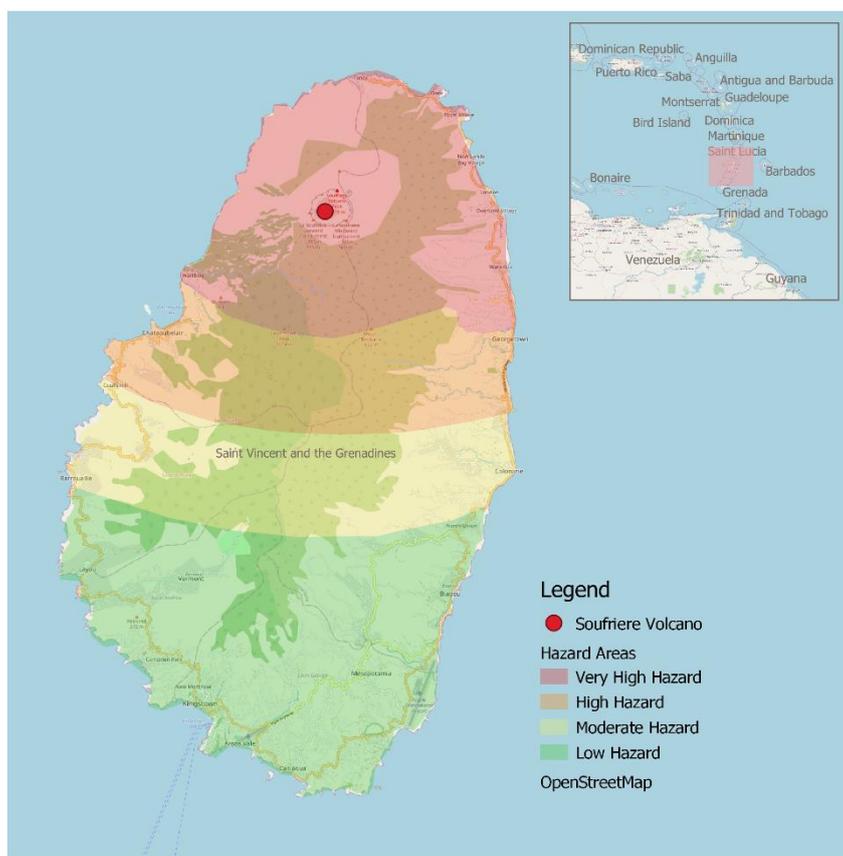
Efforts at evacuation by both land and sea have been hindered by poor visibility, hazardous air quality and airport closures. Disrupted water supply, collapsed roofs, and electrical fires caused by falling ash on electrical poles have been reported. Some 16,000 people have been directly affected by the volcanic eruption, with almost all of St. Vincent's 110,600 population indirectly affected by ashfall and water restrictions, and an unquantified number of others also affected in neighbouring islands<sup>1</sup>.

Ash plumes and sulphur dioxide have reached far enough to affect Barbados, Grenada, and Saint Lucia. More than 130 people due to leave St Vincent for Canada were taken by ship to St Lucia after being stranded when their flight was cancelled.

Over the weekend, Royal Caribbean International's Serenade of the Seas carried 137<sup>2</sup> evacuees from St. Vincent to St. Lucia, and the government has made preparations to receive several evacuees in case of need<sup>3</sup>. The falling ash has also impacted St Lucia, and residents in the south are experiencing more effects of the ashfall from the La Soufriere Volcano. In Grenada, the government has accepted to receive a maximum of 1600 evacuees and is currently making preparations<sup>4</sup>. In Barbados the Meteorological Services Agency has issued a significant volcanic and dust haze advisory for the island. Barbados may likely continue to experience reduced visibility and further ash deposits, impacting the affected communities' health and livelihoods<sup>5</sup>.



### La Soufrière Volcanic Eruption Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Categorized Areas of Hazard



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Data sources: IFRC, Pacific Disaster Center, PAHO. Produced by IM Americas.

<sup>1</sup> [ECHO Daily Flash. Volcanic eruption update. 13 April 2021.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Seatrade Cruise News. Update on cruise ships' assist efforts in St. Vincent volcano eruption. 13 April 2021.](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Loop. St Lucia launches registration form to house SVG evacuees. 10 April 2021.](#)

<sup>4</sup> [PAHO. ECC VCT La Soufriere Volcano Situation Report #5. 13 April 2021.](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Barbados Today. A significant volcanic and dust haze advisory is in effect for Barbados – BMS. 14 April 2021.](#)

## Summary of Red Cross Red Crescent response to date

**The St Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross (SVGRC)** has engaged in preparedness activities since the volcano presented activity on 29 December 2020. The following actions have been implemented by the National Society so far:

- Deployment of staff and volunteers to assist authorities with evacuating people from the red/orange zones, and erecting signs at evacuation sites
- Support to the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) in assessing evacuation needs, in line with the roles and responsibilities outlined in the National Volcano Response Plan.
- Distribution of blankets, mattresses, hygiene kits, water and other basic amenities to those affected.
- Activation of the Emergency Operations Centre and deployment of needs assessment team to active collective centres.
- Organization of a volcano readiness meeting with volunteers, National Intervention Teams (NITs), Surge teams, and community group leaders
- Preposition of essential household items and other preparedness stock for distribution;<sup>6</sup>
- Prepare Psychosocial (PSS) teams to assist with Restoring Family Links activities such as tracing and information gathering and the 'Return to Happiness' programme by the Ministry of Social Development and the Department of Child Welfare.
- Worked in collaboration with the Agency of Public Information to share information through social media with the public on grab-and-go evacuation bags.
- Conducted risk communication campaigns with volunteers to encourage remaining people to leave the danger zones.
- Provided live updates to the public via media and social media.
- Distributed PPE items, including face masks, gloves and hand sanitizer to ensure a COVID19-safe environment.

**The Saint Lucia Red Cross (SLRC)** has been making preparations and participating in coordination mechanisms in preparation for a possible emergency. Some of the actions from the National Society include:

- About 15 volunteers doing monitoring in the north and south of the island
- On March 28<sup>th</sup> SLRC ramped up plans to receive potential evacuees from St Vincent
- Constant coordination with authorities as a member of the National Emergency Management Committee
- Participation in a conference call with IFRC Country Cluster Delegation and the National Societies of the region to jointly discuss the regional response

**The Grenada Red Cross Society (GRCS)** has been preparing for a possible response and implemented the following actions so far:

- The GRCS has 75 volunteers in the COVID-19 Response group who are on alert for the volcano response and Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRTs) in the two areas where the shelters might be activated
- Attended coordination meetings with National Authorities and ensured constant briefing to volunteers
- Visit to the locations identified to host displaced persons for the installation of handwashing stations
- Reviewed inventory of household item stocks
- Participation in a conference call with IFRC Country Cluster Delegation and the National Societies of the region to jointly discuss the regional response

**The Barbados Red Cross Society (BRCS)** has reported that the country has been experiencing heavy deposits of ash nationwide and the northern region of the island was most significantly impacted, although there was a downfall of ash nationwide. Some of the main activities implemented by the National Society so far include:

- Continuous monitoring of the situation and participation in coordination meetings with National Authorities
- A Damage and Needs assessment is planned for the coming days to evaluate impacts on health and psychosocial support services
- Participation in a conference call with IFRC Country Cluster Delegation and the National Societies of the region to jointly discuss the regional response

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<sup>6</sup> These include blankets, cleaning kits, hygiene kits, jerrycans, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, shelter tool kits and tarpaulins. These items are currently being distributed.

## B. THE OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

### Needs assessment and targeting

#### **Impact and needs assessment (St Vincent and the Grenadines).**

The La Soufrière volcano's explosive activity has been continuous since the initial eruption of 9 April<sup>7</sup>, and the alert level still stands at Red. According to NEMO, pyroclastic flows have been reported through the volcano's eastern flank. Ashfall was reported over most parts of St. Vincent and neighboring islands of the Grenadines, Barbados, St Lucia, and Grenada.

In-country transportation has been hindered by heavy ashfall. The St. Vincent Electricity (VINLEC) service is continuing to restore power to areas outside the Red zone, as working in the Red zone is still unsafe. Primary and secondary forests and tree crops around the volcano have been destroyed. The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CEDEMA) reported that national Detailed Damage Sector Assessment (DDSA) teams have been mobilized to support water, health, and agriculture damage assessments. Regional travel has also been impacted as most flights to St. Vincent and neighboring islands have been suspended because of the ash plume. There is now an exclusive reliance on transportation by sea to get supplies and personnel to St. Vincent.

**Shelter:** The government has requested residents in the red zone be evacuated to safer parts of the island as the volcano continues to erupt explosively and has now begun to generate pyroclastic density<sup>8</sup> currents leaving behind ash on roofs, streets, and main infrastructure. As of April 16, a total of 6,032 people have been evacuated, of which 4,161 people are in 88 public shelters. In addition, 3,718 displaced people are sheltering with friends and families. A total of 1,459 families have been displaced so far.<sup>9</sup> There is a need for blankets, personal hygiene kits for all ages and genders, hygiene kits, masks, sanitizers and face shields. As part of the country's National Volcano Plan, the SVGRC is supporting actions in collective centres and assisting in the registration of persons living outside collective shelters. Volunteers will also be providing first aid kits in 31 official shelters and leading the development of safe spaces for children in collaboration with UNICEF and the Ministry of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities, and youth. As per the informal agreement with NEMO, the National Society will target 700 families in informal shelters.

Damage to buildings and structures is expected from the amount of ash currently falling. This includes damage to roofs and structures either partially or fully collapsing, damage to flooring, internal walls, and failure of mechanical, hydraulic, and electrical systems within households. These effects will vary across the island depending on the ash's thickness, whether it is wet or dry, the design of roofs and buildings, air circulation systems, and how much ash enters the buildings.

**Livelihoods and basic needs:** ECHO<sup>10</sup> has reported significant damage to property, fishing and agriculture. The socioeconomic crisis has already damaged the economy due to COVID-19. The Gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019 grew 0.4 points, but decreased in 2020 by 5 points, and may worsen in 2021 due to the continuing pandemic<sup>11</sup>. Agriculture, fisheries, tourism, and commerce may be further damaged in the short and medium-term, worsening the socioeconomic crisis. The most important sector of the economy<sup>12</sup> is agriculture, followed by the service sector, based on tourism, both of which sustain a large part of the country's labour force.<sup>13</sup> The damage caused by ash fall and volcanic material has damaged crops, agricultural land, water for irrigation and human consumption, as well as productive infrastructure in different sectors such as agribusiness, commerce, and fishing. The temporary suspension of productive activities will have negative effects on the income generation of the most vulnerable people and livelihood groups, especially those engaged in informal activities.<sup>14</sup>

**Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion:** The Central Water and Sewerage Authority (CWSA) shut down the water supply from all systems given the ash fall. Water supply from CWSA is expected to be significantly impacted over the coming months due to the detrimental effect of volcanic ash on filtration systems and water supply infrastructure. The

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<sup>7</sup> [CEDEMA Explosive eruption at La Soufrière volcano, St. Vincent situation report no. 13.](#)

<sup>8</sup> [CEDEMA Explosive eruption at La Soufrière volcano, St. Vincent situation report no. 13.](#)

<sup>9</sup> [NEMO La soufrière bulletin #64 April 15.](#)

<sup>10</sup> Saint Vincent and the Grenadines - [Volcanic eruption update](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Global Economic Prospects, January 2021, Regional Overview LAC-SP](#)

<sup>12</sup> [St. Vincent and the Grenadines' economy](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Saint Vincent and the Grenadines - Economic Indicators](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Price and Prices Indices of Statistical Office of Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines](#)

Government has indicated there will be a need for large quantities of bottled water as initial supplies,<sup>15</sup> especially in collective centres, both due to the COVID-19 context and crowding in a single space. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic demands that sanitation be of outmost importance. As such, additional cleaning and protection supplies, and access to potable water are needed. In Saint Lucia, water supply has also been impacted and this is expected to continue for another six months. There has been no impact reported so far on access to potable water for Grenada and Barbados.

**Health and Psychosocial support:** Continuity of essential healthcare will be crucial, especially for vulnerable children, pregnant women, and people with non-communicable diseases, with special attention to those with respiratory problems. Up to 40 per cent of all health facilities have been evacuated, including two main hospitals. There are 18 health facilities in red, orange, and yellow zones. The remaining operational facilities may risk being overloaded by medical needs from displaced people and host communities. The Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) is leading further assessments of needs in this area. Also, the country has reported a deficit of mental health and psychosocial support professionals<sup>16</sup>. Under the COVID-19 pandemic, people have experienced negative impact on their psychological well-being mainly associated with economic problems.<sup>17</sup> Children and teenagers in the LAC region are experiencing high levels of anxiety (27%) and depression (15%) associated with family financial issues.<sup>18</sup> PAHO is supporting the Ministry of Health to coordinate mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) interventions with other agencies, and to identify support for PSS/protection in shelters<sup>19</sup>.

**Protection, Gender, and Inclusion:** There is a critical need to start awareness actions related to Gender Based Violence (GBV) and interpersonal violence and disseminate the updated referral pathways with communities with a focus on shelters. Also, some gaps concerning privacy and dignity have been found in collective centres. The protection minimum standard at the collective shelters needs to be addressed to ensure that protection measures are in place. Specific needs of the most vulnerable groups require special attention according to their specific protection needs. While formal education is free, access to it faces barriers related to socio-economic status and costs surrounding food, transportation, and educational resources. As such, many children are compelled to work to support their caregivers<sup>20</sup>. The main protection risks reported include domestic violence, early unions, and survival sex, mostly affecting the young<sup>21</sup>.

**Disaster Risk Reduction:** Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRTs) have been closely involved since the early stages of the operation. Personnel and volunteers have supported evacuation efforts, as well as the overall response. Eruptions in La Soufrière could continue for days and weeks to come, and once settled, it could take months for normality to return to St Vincent. The volcanic ashes have reached several countries and the environmental impact is significant. There is a concern about the extended use of schools as collective centers and the affectation and consequences of access to education. There is a specific concern on multi-hazards risks for the region as it was experienced before with the COVID-19 pandemic, the dengue outbreak, and potential hurricanes that could strike the affected countries during the hurricane season.

## Targeting

According to the St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Volcano Hazard Plan, approximately 5,062 persons live in the Red zone, and 10,577 in the Orange. The male-female ratio is approximately 51/49. To date, evacuation orders have only been issued for the Red zone, so activities will be concentrated to support evacuees from areas north of the volcano and people affected by ashfall. Based on discussion/coordination with CDEMA and considering ongoing response from authorities, the SVGRC will target 1,500 families with an average of 3 persons per family (4,500 persons).

The priority regarding the distribution of relief items will be given to the evacuees hosted with their relatives and friends or in unofficial evacuation centers since they are registered through SVGRC. Eventually, the support will be extended for the evacuees located at the official evacuation centers. The families that will struggle to recover their income generation activities and/or whose houses have been severely affected will be targeted through livelihood recovery interventions.

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<sup>15</sup> [OCHA St. Vincent & the Grenadines: La Soufrière Volcano Flash Update No. 02. 10 April 2020.](#)

<sup>16</sup> [Mental Health ATLAS 2017: St. Vincent and the Grenadines](#)

<sup>17</sup> [Saint Vincent and the Grenadines COVID-19 Food, Security and Livelihoods Impact Survey, Nov 2020](#)

<sup>18</sup> [El impacto del COVID-19 en la salud mental de adolescentes y jóvenes](#)

<sup>19</sup> [ECC VCT La Soufriere Volcano Situation Report #5](#)

<sup>20</sup> [Committee on the Rights of the Child examines the report of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines](#)

<sup>21</sup> [Situation-Analysis-of-Children-in-Saint-Vincent-and-the-Grenadines-2017](#)

In addition, support will be given to 300 target families with an average of 3 persons per family (900 persons) on outer islands affected by volcanic ashes in Barbados, St. Lucia, and Grenada. Barbados Red Cross Society, Saint Lucia Red Cross and Grenada Red Cross Society will conduct needs assessments in the upcoming days and preliminary conclusions informing their response strategy will be included in the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA). It is expected that the interventions will mainly target local families whose livelihoods have affected by the failing ashes.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Americas Regional Office (ARO) supports the Port of Spain Country Cluster Delegation (PoS CCD) and other regional Movement partners. The IFRC PoS CCD is closely supporting the National Society and coordinating its regional resources in the neighboring countries. Three PoS CCD staff (Disaster Preparedness Coordinator, the Senior Finance Officer and the Head of Delegation), have been deployed to support the SVGRC in an initial phase while an Operations Manager and a WASH coordinator are currently being mobilized.

French Red Cross' Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean (PIRAC) has played a key role in preparedness through prepositioning of stocks in SVG and surrounding islands and trainings in disaster management, logistics, and water and sanitation. Also, PIRAC has already mobilized 25 cubic meters of water and 55 tons of bottled water that have already arrived in SVG and cleaning kits and PPEs arrived in a first shipment. PIRAC is also planning additional household items and a water treatment plant to support SVGRC activities.

The Canadian Red Cross and Government of Canada have been partnering with SVGRC in the Community Resilience Building Caribbean Region (CRB) project. The project has contributed to the training and equipping of community disaster response teams (CDRT) in three communities, including Overland/Magum in the red zone. CRB project colleagues are currently supporting the NS with the registration of evacuees outside evacuation shelters and provide shelter management support to the authorities. CRB project staff organized nationwide shelter management training for people to manage those evacuation centers. One of the CRB project trained as a Protection, Gender, Inclusion and Engagement (PGIE) first responder is conducting awareness and risk communication at the shelters and has been in touch with the CRC project PGIE advisor for additional advice.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is in close coordination with ARO and provides technical advice to the National Society on Restoring Family Links and Safer Access.

ARO and the PoS CCD have been attending several coordination meetings, including REDLAC and Caribbean Development Partners Group -Disaster Management meeting. CDEMA has mobilized Detailed Damage Sector Assessment Teams where UN agencies are expected to participate<sup>22</sup>. The UN is also launching a funding appeal and response plan to support the humanitarian response and early recovery for the next six months<sup>23</sup>.

## Capacity analysis of the National Society in the country, risk analysis and scenario planning

The response will involve a collaborative effort of four National Societies, with combined volunteers of 500 and 46 full-time staff. Although the SVGRC does not have a network of branches, there are community groups and CDRT teams in various parts of the islands that operate and can provide support for access into communities. The table below outlines the staffing and volunteer capacities of the four National Societies affected by this disaster.

National Society	Branch Structure	# of Staff	# of active Volunteers
St. Vincent & the Grenadines Red Cross	1 headquarters	14 full-time	205
Barbados Red Cross	1 headquarters	8 full-time	50
Grenada Red Cross	1 headquarters	13 full-time	100
St. Lucia Red Cross	1 headquarters	11 full-time	100

<sup>22</sup> OCHA St. Vincent & the Grenadines:La Soufrière Volcano Situation Report No. 03 As of 14-April-2021

<sup>23</sup> [UN. UN to launch funding appeal for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines following volcano eruption. 14 April 2020.](#)

Recent trends show the SVGRC, as well as the other National Societies listed, have experienced some reduction in volunteer numbers. This may need to be addressed with an engagement strategy, including volunteer recruitment drives. As such, personnel would need to be hired to bolster the staffing capacity of the National Societies if needed.

In 2018, the SVGRC conducted an Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) to assess the performance and capacity of the National Society and received a rating of 66 per cent. Areas identified as strengths of the National Society will be part of the current response including governance and risk management; planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER); financial management; finance resource mobilization; and human resources management for both staff and volunteers. Support to the National Society in areas that require reinforcement to strengthen its capacities in the long term will be part of the plan of action.

Despite this, given the number of disasters over recent times in the region, these National Societies have the trained capacity to respond, following staff and volunteer training in CDRTs, conducting EVCAs (Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment), Roadmap to Resilience (R2R), Community Early Warning Systems (CEWS), and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WASH).

Communications-wise, the capacities of the SVGRC are limited. There is currently one communications focal point, but equipment such as photo, audio, and video equipment, and trained human resources such as social media managers, web editors, and media managers are still required. The National Society's leadership manages the relationship with the media, and there is no national communications network in place at this time. The SVGRC website is also presently inactive, which diminishes its potential to receive online donations.

### **COVID-19 Pandemic**

As of 9 April 2021, a total of 1,789 COVID-19 cases have been reported in SVG, which means 1,612.48 cases per 100,000 situating the country within the top five countries in the area if we look at the relative cumulative number of cases. [Saint Vincent and the Grenadines](#) approved on 12 February 2021 as Emergency/limited use, the COVID-19 Sputnik vaccine, and it has received 40,000 doses of Covishield vaccine as a donation from India.

St. Lucia, as of 9 April 2021, has a total of 4,329 COVID-19 cases have been reported, which means 2,357.47 cases per 100,000 situating the country within the top five countries in the area if we look at the relative cumulative number of cases. The COVID-19 campaign in St. Lucia began on 17 February 2021. To date 23,575 doses of vaccine have been administered. The country received the first shipment of Oxford AstraZeneca from the COVAX facility the first week of April as reported by the National Society. Barbados has a total of 3,708 COVID-19 cases as of 9 April 2021, which means 1290.32 cases per 100,000. The Government of Barbados is rolling out its COVID-19 vaccination programme. To date 66,069 vaccinations have been issued, representing an estimated 20 per cent of the national population. Grenada reports as of 9 April 2021, a total of 155 COVID-19 cases, which means 137.75 cases per 100,000.

National Society responses to COVID-19 are supported through the [IFRC Global Appeal](#), facilitating and helping them maintain critical service provision while adapting to COVID-19. This operation is aligned with and will contribute to the current global strategy and regional Emergency Plan of Action for COVID-19 developed by the IFRC Americas Regional Office in coordination with global and regional partners. This means that the National Societies will ensure that COVID-19 prevention measures are adhered to, in line with the regional plan of action and their respective national COVID-19 country plans. The National Societies will keep monitoring the situation closely and revise the plan accordingly if needed. Consider the evolving COVID-19 status and the operational risks that might develop, including operational challenges related to access to the affected population, availability of items, procurement issues, and National Societies' volunteers and staff movement. For more information, please consult the [COVID-19 operation page on the IFRC Go platform](#).

## C. PROPOSED AREAS OF INTERVENTION

### STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION



#### Shelter and essential household items

**People targeted: 5,400 (1,800 families)**

Male: 2,700

Female: 2,700

**Requirements (CHF): 470,000**

#### Proposed intervention

##### **Short-term and mid-term shelter and settlement assistance**

Support will be provided for the affected evacuees to distribute household items as part of relief activities. The selection of the target population will be based on assessments and needs analysis. Considering past Caribbean volcanic crises, evacuated people's management becomes a critical issue that these crises can drag. In the longer term and if access is given to the affected areas, evaluation of shelter needs will support families with severe damage to their homes. This is only if the governments considers that families can return to their communities. In the short term, the criteria will be vulnerabilities and level of needs while displaced.

##### *Activities planned to be carried out:*

- Assessment of shelter needs, capacities, and gaps in affected islands.
- Identification of cases and verification of beneficiaries in different target groups (including integrated factors such as gender, diversity, and disability in the response).
- Coordination with government and other stakeholders
- During the initial response distribution of household items (jerrycans, kitchen sets, cleaning kits and blankets) to 5,400 affected people
- Support to be provided to the affected population in the early recovery phase will be determined and tailored once the exact nature of the intervention becomes clear.

##### **Technical support, guidance and awareness raising in safe shelter design and settlement planning and improved building techniques are provided to affected households in the medium and long-term**

The general response strategy will target the most affected families from vulnerable groups, whose houses have been destroyed or very heavily damaged and not habitable. The displaced population is accommodated in existing collective shelters, many with neighbours or relatives on the outer islands. Medium- and long-term needs assessments will be carried out, and adjustments to the plan will be made as necessary.

##### *Activities planned to be carried out:*

- Advice by specialized personnel for evaluation and repair of affected homes, the rehabilitation of the educational facilities and the implementation of the rental and host family assistance.
- Orientations to volunteers and to support affected households in collective shelters and carry out assessments for implementation of identified shelter activities.
- The technical guidance on the possible support to be provided to the affected population in the early recovery phase will be determined and tailored once the exact nature of the intervention becomes clear.



## Livelihoods and basic needs

**People targeted: 5,400 (1,800 families)**

Male: 2,700

Female: 2,700

**Requirements (CHF): 470,000**

### Proposed intervention

#### **Food security and basic needs short and medium term:**

Assistance for food and basic needs, protection and recovery of livelihoods, and support for the local economy are critical for the affected population that is needed to cover their essential needs in the first months of affectation. The National Society has limited experience in this area and will receive support from the IFRC for needs assessment and rollout.

#### *Activities planned to be carried out:*

- Market analysis (food, basic needs shelter, WASH) and feasibility study (including assessment of needs, capacities, and gaps)
- Workshop for volunteers about Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) tools
- Assistance for 500 families covering basic needs and food, prioritizing the use of CVA if markets are functional and have capacity.
- Post-distribution monitoring and evaluation

#### **Livelihoods protection and restoration medium and long-term:**

It is essential to identify local market capacity to support different needs and evaluate various interventions and mechanisms to enable the market's functionality and capacity. Support will be provided to affected families to restore their livelihood activities and their livelihoods-related markets (distribution of assets, cash, and voucher assistance, etc.) so affected communities can resume their income-generating activities. Cash transfer mechanisms will be assessed from the beginning, considering that this assistance can be extended for several months for the most vulnerable groups. It is vital to generate linkages with livelihood recovery activities and social protection systems.

#### *Activities planned to be carried out:*

- Livelihood recovery activities for small farmers, small agroindustry (oil) and fisherfolk from all affected islands, according to livelihood assessment findings.
- Support and continuity to families covering basic needs and food.
- Support and recovery activities for small enterprises, according to livelihood assessment findings.
- Implementation of a feedback mechanism for affected communities.
- Mapping of volunteers affected to address their individual needs.



## Health

**People targeted: 5,400 (1,800 families)**

Male: 2,700

Female: 2,700

**Requirements (CHF): 250,000**

### Proposed intervention

***The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment:***

The National Society has been asked to assist in the registration of nurses to be assigned in collective centres. Mapping of First Aid needs for Protection and First Aid response teams in receiving communities was also discussed with NEMO as an urgent response, and First Aid response kits provided.

*Activities planned to be carried out:*

- Provision of First Aid services to people during evacuation and in shelters.
- Procurement and distribution of protection equipment to evacuees and frontline aiders and volunteers to prevent ash effects.
- Support to shelter management on public health measures to avoid COVID-19 transmission, including physical distancing, use of face masks and hand sanitization.

**Psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened:**

Greater response is needed to cover mental health and psychosocial support needs of the adult population and front-line responders, while Psychological First Aid and referral services are needed for the most marginalized and vulnerable groups<sup>24</sup>. Mechanisms to address mental health and emotional needs are essential due to the distress caused by disasters. The prevalence of common mental disorders such as depression and anxiety are expected to be more than double in a humanitarian crisis.<sup>25</sup> This adds to the emotional burden and an accumulative stress already shouldered by the population from the current COVID-19 pandemic. The first responders demand psychosocial support due to the exposure to the pressure generated during the emergency phase. The ongoing volcanic activity and the lack of predictability of evolution of the volcanic eruption contribute to the affected population's anxiety and stress.

*Activities planned to be carried out:*

- Participation in a multi-sectorial needs assessment coordinated with partners to know the mental health and psychosocial support needs of the population.
- Support in the registration and identification of people with pre-existing mental health needs in shelters.
- Provision of PFA and PSS during emergencies for affected population in shelters, Red Cross staff and volunteers involved in the activities based on National Society's capacities and provision of referrals as needed.
- Collaboration with partners to provide PSS support in shelters for children under the "Return to Happiness" programme.

**Psychosocial support provided to the target population as well as to Red Cross volunteers and staff medium and long-term:**

*Activities planned to be carried out:*

- Provision of PSS services through the activities implemented in coordination with other sectors for communities targeted and RC staff and volunteers and provision of referrals as needed.



## Water, sanitation, and hygiene

**People targeted: 5,400 (1,800 families)**

Male: 2,700

Female: 2,700

**Requirements (CHF): 200,000**

### Proposed intervention

*Provision of water, sanitation, and hygiene for the affected population in the emergency:*

Based on preliminary discussions with government and other partners, needs to be covered in the short-term by the Red Cross include provision of hygiene kits and hygiene promotion; water treatment and water supply; management of solid waste.

*Activities planned to be carried out:*

<sup>24</sup> St. Vincent & the Grenadines: La Soufrière Volcano [Situation Report No. 02](#)

<sup>25</sup> WHO mental health in emergencies [fact sheet](#)

- Initial assessment of the water, sanitation, and hygiene situation in targeted communities.
- Coordination with other Water and Sanitation actors and government authorities on needs of the target group and appropriate response.
- Monitor treatment and storage of water.
- Guarantee of access to adequate potable water, basic sanitation services.
- Provision of hygiene kits to people located in collective shelters.
- Elimination of residual waters, and solid waste in shelters and communities.
- Awareness-raising and promotion of personal hygiene also to prevent the spread of COVID-19



## Protection, gender, and inclusion

**People targeted: 5,400 (1,800 families)**

Male: 2,700

Female: 2,700

**Requirements (CHF): 160,000**

### Proposed intervention

***The operation ensures safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors for the affected population:***

The activities will include the protection component to address risks of gender-based violence against children, girls, and young unaccompanied women in the emergency shelters. There is a high risk of family separation which could affect unaccompanied/separated children, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, single heads of household, and women traveling alone. There is also a high risk of sexual exploitation and abuse in shelters, due to overcrowding and the important amount of intervention actors in the field. Consideration will also be given to families with children that have been evacuated to neighboring islands.

#### *Activities planned to be carried out*

- Hold basic ½ day training with IFRC and National Society Staff and Volunteers. Including on addressing SGBV and child protection (or integrate a session on addressing SGBV in standard/sectorial trainings).
- Use PGI Minimum Standards as a guide to support sectoral teams to include measures to address vulnerabilities, needs and capacities specific to gender, disability and diversity factors Collect and analyze sex-age and disability disaggregated data in the need's assessments and any other collection of information.
- Map SGBV and child protection referral pathways, assure coordination in the operation-wide coordination with other organizations and disseminate SGBV and child protection referral pathways.
- Develop community-based information, education, and communication initiatives and materials on culture of non-violence and peace (discrimination, violence, and exclusion, including SGBV and Child Protection) and develop individuals' ability to address them.
- Establish a system to ensure IFRC and National Society staff and volunteers have signed the Code of Conduct, Child Safeguarding Policy and the Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) Policy and have received a briefing in this regard.
- Provision of Restoring Family Links services, together with self-care messages for persons and families who are intending to migrate to other countries and/other islands nearby.



## Disaster Risk Reduction

**People targeted: To be confirmed**

Male: N/A

Female: N/A

**Requirements (CHF): 150,000**

## Proposed intervention

### **Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas adopt climate risk informed and environmentally responsible values and practices**

Assessments must be undertaken to evaluate the extent of the damage caused in the environment, and the feasibility of implementing Nature Based-Solutions that can support the recovery of the environment and communities, ensuring water and air quality are restored in the long term.

#### *Activities planned to be carried out*

- Environmental assessments and feasibility of nature-based solutions
- Environment assessments and feasibility of Nature-Based Solutions (application of the Blue Guide) for water conservation, air purification, debris disposal.

## ENABLING ACTIONS

### **Strengthening National Societies**

**Requirements (CHF): 150,000**

The emergency appeal operation will support SVGRC, BRCS, SLRC and GRCS to address some self-assessed gaps with the view of further leveraging their mandates and capabilities as a partner of choice for emergency response and disaster preparedness. The National Societies will be supported in enhancing their **media and public communication reach** (by the deployment of communication surge support, hiring of Communications personnel, and acquisition of photo and video equipment), **leadership development** (through coaching, training, support for planning activities, and the activities from their OCAC assessments), **sustainability of activities** (with the hiring of local staff for the implementation of the operation's actions), and **duty of care** (for all personnel and volunteers involved in the operation, including insurance, psychosocial support, and personal protective equipment).

### **Influencing others as strategic partners**

**Requirements (CHF): 50,000**

#### **Coordination with the authorities and humanitarian actors**

The IFRC's PoS CCD is supporting resource mobilization efforts and coordination with the Partnerships and Resource Development (PRD) unit of the Americas Regional Office. IFRC has engaged with several diplomatic missions and key donor agencies (including ECHO, BHA/USAID, Canadian Red Cross, American Red Cross, PIRAC) to promote a shared understanding of the volcano eruption response. This engagement will continue throughout the operation. Coordination meetings are being held with the regional Shelter working group. The sectors have not been officially activated, but all agencies are coordinating with CDEMA and the government.

## **Strengthening coordination and accountability**

**Requirements (CHF): 100,000**

### ***Community Engagement and Accountability***

A Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach will promote effective participation and feedback from affected communities and support the focus areas' effort. This will be structured based on an analysis and diagnosis of the communities' needs and information channels to support the strengthening and enhancement of their response capacities to ashfall.

### ***Communications and advocacy***

International media attention has been focused on the eruption itself, and limited coverage has been given to people's needs. Angles such as overlapping crises (COVID-19 and Dengue outbreaks and the eruption), regional impact (effects over nearby islands), and population movement have been barely explored. The presence of media correspondents on the ground is minimum due to the COVID-19 related measures. Journalists are asking the Red Cross for pictures and videos, as the Red Cross is one of the few humanitarian organizations present in the country. Support will be provided to National Societies to increase their outreach and advocacy.

### ***Logistics and Supply Chain***

Once the Volcano has stopped the eruption, a proper evaluation will be conducted by the government to evaluate the status of infrastructure/airport/port damages or congestions. Still, logistical damage is not foreseen. The primary supply chain strategy will be to mobilize from the IFRC's Panama Hub the necessary stock of household items. If needed, the prepositioned stock already placed in Trinidad and Tobago can be mobilized as a first response, followed by the coordination of sea and air shipments from Panama to the country. The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has approved 100% waiver of all import taxes and fees for relief supplies, water, and barrels from April 12 to June 30, 2021.

### ***Security***

The IFRC security plans will apply to all IFRC staff throughout. Area specific Security Risk Assessment is being conducted for the operational areas where IFRC personnel is deploying; risk mitigation measures will be identified and implemented. All IFRC must, and RC/RC staff and volunteers are encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses, i.e. Stay Safe Personal Security, Stay Safe Security Management and Stay Safe Volunteer Security online training. A welcome package is in place and a Business Continuity Plan is being finalized.

Based on the demand for the technical and coordination support required to deliver in this operation, the following programme support functions will be put in place to ensure an effective and efficient technical coordination: human resources, information technology support (IT); communications; CEA; security; planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER); partnerships and resource development; leadership, governance, business continuity and finance, and administration. More details will be shared in the Emergency Plan of Action.

## D. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

### EMERGENCY APPEAL

#### *MDRVC005 - St Vincent & the Grenadines - La Soufriere Volcano Eruption*

#### *Funding requirements - summary*

Area of Intervention	Needs in CHF
SHELTER	470,000
LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS	470,000
HEALTH	250,000
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE	200,000
PROTECTION, GENDER, AND INCLUSION	160,000
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION	150,000
STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETIES	150,000
INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS	50,000
STRENGTHENING COORDINATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY	100,000
<b>TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*

### Contact information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

#### In the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross

- Bernard Morgan, President; email: [bmorgansvg@gmail.com](mailto:bmorgansvg@gmail.com) Telephone: 1 784 498 1118
- Dora James, Director General; email: [dora.jamesedu@gmail.com](mailto:dora.jamesedu@gmail.com) Telephone: 1 784 531 1717

#### In the Barbados Red Cross

- Winston Waithe, President; email: [winstonwaithe@gmail.com](mailto:winstonwaithe@gmail.com); Telephone: 1 246 234 9592
- Danielle Toppin, Programme Coordinator; email: [zikaprojectcoordinatorbb@gmail.com](mailto:zikaprojectcoordinatorbb@gmail.com); Telephone: 1 246 264 5986

#### In the Grenada Red Cross

- Samantha Dickson, President; email: [grcspresident2018to2020@gmail.com](mailto:grcspresident2018to2020@gmail.com); Telephone: 1 473 534-9132
- Kathy-Ann Morain; Director General, email: [kmorain@hotmail.com](mailto:kmorain@hotmail.com); Telephone: 1 473 404 5701

#### In the Saint Lucia Red Cross

- Hubert Pierre, President; email: [deltaorion@hotmail.com](mailto:deltaorion@hotmail.com); Telephone: 1 758 384 2593
- Terrencia Gaillard, Director General; email: [terrenciaag@gmail.com](mailto:terrenciaag@gmail.com) email: Telephone: 1 758 712 2195

#### In the IFRC Americas Regional Office

- Roger Alonso Morgui, Head of the Disaster & Climate Crisis, Prevention, Response, and Recovery (DCPRR) Department, email: [roger.morgui@ifrc.org](mailto:roger.morgui@ifrc.org)
- Continental Operations Manager (acting): Gonzalo Atxaerandio [gonzalo.atxaerandio@ifrc.org](mailto:gonzalo.atxaerandio@ifrc.org)
- Susana Arroyo, Communications Manager for the Americas; email: [susana.arroyo@ifrc.org](mailto:susana.arroyo@ifrc.org)

#### In the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation

- Ariel Kestens, Head of Country Cluster Delegation, email: [ariel.kestens@ifrc.org](mailto:ariel.kestens@ifrc.org)

#### In IFRC Geneva

- Antoine Belair, Senior Officer Operations Coordination, Disasters, Climate and Crises, email: [antoine.belair@ifrc.org](mailto:antoine.belair@ifrc.org)

#### For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- Marion Andrivet, Emergency Appeals and Marketing Senior Officer: [marion.andrivet@ifrc.org](mailto:marion.andrivet@ifrc.org)

#### For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting enquiries):

- Maria Larios; Planning, Evaluation, Monitoring and Reporting Manager; [maria.larios@ifrc.org](mailto:maria.larios@ifrc.org)

#### For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- Mauricio Bustamante, Head of Regional Logistics Unit Americas Region, [mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org](mailto:mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org)

#### Reference documents



Click here for:

- Initial [DREF Operation Plan of Action](#)

## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief, the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable, to **Principles of Humanitarian Action** and **IFRC policies and procedures**. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world

### Jagan Chapagain

Secretary General