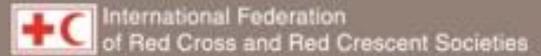


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## Operation Update no. 1

### Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and surrounding countries | La Soufrière Volcanic



<b>Emergency appeal n° MDRVC005</b>	<b>GLIDE n° <a href="#">VO-2021-000034-VCT</a></b>
<b>Date of issue:</b> 22 May 2021	<b>Timeframe covered by this update:</b> 18 April 2021 – 22 May 2021
<b>Operation start date:</b> 18 April 2021	<b>Operation timeframe:</b> 18 months <b>End date:</b> 31 October 2022
<b>DREF allocated:</b> 266,000 Swiss francs (CHF)	<b>Funding Requirements:</b> 2,000,000 (CHF)
<b>N° of people being assisted:</b> 5,400 people (1,800 families).	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation:</b> The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) - Americas Regional Office (ARO), Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) - Port of Spain (POS). French Red Cross/Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean (PIRAC), and Canadian Red Cross.	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> United Nations agencies, Ministry of Social Development, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMO), and Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).	

## A. SITUATION ANALYSIS



*Images from the Red Zone shared by the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross show the impact of the La Soufrière volcanic eruption on communities. Source: IFRC, April 2021.*

### Description of the disaster

On 29 December 2020, the La Soufrière volcano alert level in St. Vincent and the Grenadines was elevated due to increased volcanic activity. By 8 April 2021, the alert level increased to Red, with government authorities issuing immediate evacuation orders for nearby communities' volcanoes. On 9 April 2021, La Soufrière erupted for the first time after 40 years, sending an ash plume of 10km into the sky. The resulting ashfall was very heavy in the

surrounding areas, reaching nearby islands and halting area air traffic. Subsequent eruptions, lava flows, earthquakes, ash plumes, and seismic activity continued throughout April. In early May, explosions subsided, but seismic activity and the risk of lahars remain.

Ash plumes and sulphur dioxide reached far enough away to affect Barbados, Grenada, and Saint Lucia. The falling ash has also impacted St Lucia, especially affecting residents in the south of the island. Residents of Vieux-Fort, St. Lucia, located near the southernmost point of Saint Lucia were seen on the streets, some coughing and rubbing their eyes. Simultaneously, several fishers in the south of the island had complained about how the ashfall had made fishing very difficult for them<sup>1</sup>. In Grenada, the government has accepted to receive a maximum of 1,600 evacuees<sup>2</sup>. The Meteorological Services Agency has issued a significant volcanic and dust haze advisory for the island in Barbados. Barbados also has experienced reduced visibility and ash deposits, impacting the communities' health and livelihoods<sup>3</sup>.

An estimated 23,400<sup>4</sup> people have been displaced to the southern end of St Vincent and the Grenadine and some neighbouring countries. They were received in 85 government-run formal collective shelters (4,417 and getting smaller), informal collective shelters like hotels, some rented available residences, and many are private homes (18,927) hosted by family and friends. The numbers continue to fluctuate as some areas reopen for evacuees to return and others move between formal shelters and private homes.

Regional travel was restricted, but limited flights have now restarted, although severely reduced by the area's ongoing COVID-related travel restrictions. The Argyle International Airport was reopened on Saturday, 24 April, to international travel. However, operations depend heavily on the volcano's explosive activity, which is still unpredictable, and the neighboring countries' COVID shutdowns.

On 30 April, the island of St. Vincent was further impacted by a tropical storm with heavy rain causing flooding on roadways, drainage issues, debris on roads, small landslides that caused some property damage near Kingstown. The saturated soils have caused river levels to rise and an increased flow of lahars (mudflows) in the volcano's vicinity. It is possible that as the hurricane season gets underway in the upcoming months, there will be an increase in the rains and perhaps more severe mass erosion events and flooding.

On 6 May 2021, the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines with the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) lowered the Volcanic Alert Level from Red to Orange, noting that no significant activity had been observed during the 22 April eruptions. This has permitted persons in the Yellow and Orange zones to return to their homes, except a couple of specific communities. People returning home are being reminded that escalation inactivity can still occur with little or no warning, and caution should be taken in crossing river valleys on the volcano due to the increased risk of lahars during periods of rainfall. As of 13 May, government shelters are reporting that approximately 30 evacuees have returned since the announcement. Many have travelled to visit their residence and then made their way back to collective centres, finding their homes uninhabitable.

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<sup>1</sup>[Loop. Ashfall affecting residents of the south of St Lucia. 13 April 2021.](#)

<sup>2</sup>[PAHO. ECC VCT La Soufriere Volcano Situation Report #5. 13 April 2021.](#)

<sup>3</sup>[Barbados Today. A significant volcanic and dust haze advisory is in effect for Barbados – BMS. 14 April 2021.](#)

<sup>4</sup> Latin America & The Caribbean Weekly Situation Update (3-9 May 2021), as of 10 May 2021.

## Summary of current response



*The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross unpack donations of water (left) in the early days of the response and distribute cleaning kits and other emergency items (right).*

## Overview of Host National Societies Response Action

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross (SVGRC) primarily organize and ensure the distribution of essential items received through the emergency appeal and bilateral donations. The following actions have been implemented by the National Society so far:

- Staff and volunteers assisted 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 and requested to register and provide assistance to families sheltering outside Government run collective centers.
- Organized readiness meeting with volunteers, National Intervention Teams (NITs), Surge teams, and community group leaders
- The SVGRC has a representative present in NEMO's National Emergency Operations Centre on a 24/7 shift basis
- Activation of the Emergency Operations Centre and deployment of needs assessment team to active collective centres.
- SVGRC volunteers assisting with Restoring Family Links activities such as tracing and information gathering, and Psychologic First Aid provided psychosocial support as needed during registration and distribution activities.
- Before the eruption, the national society collaborated with the Agency of Public Information to share information on television and social media about reading, including having grab-and-go evacuation bags.
- Conducted risk communication campaigns with volunteers to encourage remaining people to leave the danger zones. Key messages on protecting oneself from volcanic ash, protecting oneself and others from COVID-19 in collective centres, and live updates on the eruption have been shared.
- Provided live updates of SVGRC activities to the public via media and social media.
- 670 food parcels have been delivered to impacted families on the islands of St Vincent and Bequia.
- Registration of a portion of the families displaced and living in informal collective shelters, renting residences or hosted with friends and relatives is complete. Assessments of recipients' need for relief items are ongoing, and after verification, they are placed on the distribution list. With over 6,400 people and their hosts registered with Red Cross, an initial selection criterion of 5 family members minimum is used to prioritise the NFIs available for distribution.

- Distributed PPE items, including face masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer to ensure a COVID19-safe environment for SVGRC staff, volunteers, and affected families.
- Ongoing prioritized distribution of relief items such as mattresses, blankets, water bottles, jerry cans, cleaning kits, and hygiene kits for families in informal collective shelters, hosted families, and in the last week, returning families. **A total of 786 families (2,358 persons) have been supported to date.**

<b>Persons registered (approx.)<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>6418</b>
families registered (approx.) <sup>b</sup>	2139
<b>Item</b>	<b># of kits/ items distributed</b>
Cleaning kits	786
Hygiene kits	658
PPE Kits	275
Blankets	474
Baby supplies (bilateral donation)	35
Mattresses (bilateral donation)	120
Food parcels (bilateral donation)	670

<sup>a</sup> Includes host families, <sup>b</sup> Calculated on 3 persons/ family basis

The Saint Lucia Red Cross (SLRC) has been preparing and participating in coordination mechanisms in preparation for a possible emergency. Some of the actions from the National Society include approximately 15 volunteers doing monitoring activities in the north and south of the island.

- On 28 March, 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.
- Collecting donations to send to support St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross work.
- Publication of ICE material advising citizens on how to protect themselves from ashfall.



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 on alert for the volcano response and Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRTs) in the two areas where collective centres might be activated.
- Attended coordination meetings with National Authorities and ensured regular briefings to volunteers.
- Visit 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.
- Preparation for the deployment of relief items to St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- Publication of IEC material advising citizens how to protect themselves from ashfall.
- Distribution of PPEs to the most vulnerable population affected by the ashfall in Grenada.

The Barbados Red Cross Society (BRCS) has reported that the country has been experiencing heavy deposits of ash nationwide, with the island's northern region significantly impacted. 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

- Consultations with CDEMA and the DEM to facilitate the shipment of (500) blankets, (50) hygiene kits, (25) raincoats, and (30) gowns.
- Submission of proposal to The Coca-Cola Foundation (TCCF) for a grant for US\$75,000 to support the purchase of generators, bedding, food supplies, masks and respirators, and WASH items.
- Consultation with Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of People's Empowerment and Elder Affairs to formalize BRCS provision of logistical support if evacuees are brought to Barbados.
- Formal offer of logistical support to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) Disaster Committee to support a makeshift unit at the QEH if operationalized.

### **Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions**

The Americas Regional Office (ARO) supports the Port of Spain Country Cluster Delegation (PoS CCD) and other regional Movement partners. IFRC is closely supporting the SVGRC and coordinating its regional resources in the neighboring countries. The initial phase of the operation was supported by three IFRC staff from the PoS CCD (Disaster Preparedness Coordinator, the Senior Finance Officer, and the Head of Delegation). As of the beginning of May, an IFRC surge team includes an Operations Manager, a CVA team, Finance, PGI, CEA, Livelihoods, and the Disaster Preparedness Coordinator is staying on in a Relief role.

French Red Cross' Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean (PIRAC) has played a key role in preparedness by prepositioning stocks in SVG and surrounding islands and training in disaster management, logistics, and water and sanitation. Additionally, PIRAC has already mobilized 25 cubic meters of water and 55 tons of bottled water and PPEs. PIRAC has supported SVGRC activities with household WASH items and helped ready a water treatment unit that SVGRC has in stock if the network drinking water deteriorates further. PIRAC has sent out requests to Guadeloupe and Martinique organizations to donate 11 tonnes of food supplies for SVGRC food parcel activities with a planned shipment to arrive in St Vincent's mid-May.

The Canadian Red Cross and the 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 Magum/Overland in the red zone. CRB project colleagues support the NS with the registration of evacuees and provide shelter management support to the authorities. CRB project staff organized nationwide shelter management training to manage evacuation centres and support PGI initiatives in collaboration with the operations team.

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

### **Overview of non-RCRC actors' actions**

The IFRC operation team, the ARO, and the PoS CCD attend several coordination meetings, including REDLAC and Caribbean Development Partners Group-Disaster Management meeting. The CDPG facilitates a twice-a-week call to present the various organizations' evolving situation and coordination efforts working in SVG. CDEMA has mobilized Detailed Damage Sector Assessment Teams with support from the EU civil protection agency and the UN agencies<sup>5</sup>.

The UN also launched a USD 29M funding appeal and response plan to support the humanitarian response and early recovery for six months<sup>6</sup>. IOM, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA and WFP are on the ground supporting assessments and distribution of essential items. A standard procurement system has been set up to make goods available to implementing partners.

ADRA is providing hot meals to 600 families through local volunteers and is looking at cash-based assistance.

<sup>5</sup> [UN Resident Coordinator in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean St. Vincent & the Grenadines: La Soufrière Volcano Situation Report No. 03 As of 14-April-2021](#)

<sup>6</sup> [UN news. La Soufrière volcano: UN launches \\$29 million appeal to support stricken island of Saint Vincent. 20 April 2020.](#)

Caritas organizations in St Lucia, Grenada, Dominica, and Catholic Relief Services are working together to provide food, water, hygiene kits, face masks, shields, and goggles and provide emergency response expertise and support.

On the ground, the IFRC team attends WASH and Food Security and Livelihood / CVA working groups (led by UNICEF and WFP).

In support of the emergency response coordination, IFRC as the global convener of the shelter cluster in disasters originated by natural hazards provided inputs to the funding appeal in the shelter sector, and is co-chairing the joint CCCM/Shelter working group organized by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and NEMO. The first meeting of this working group identified shelter partner's response and capacity in the country and discussed pressing shelter needs. The IFRC Operations Manager checks in with the Regional representative weekly to discuss sector developments.

## **Needs analysis and scenario planning**

### **Needs analysis**

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

On 6 May 2021, on the advice of the University of the West Indies Seismic Research Centre (UWI SRC), NEMO lowered the alert level from Red to Orange La Soufrière volcano due to a reduction in its explosive activity. An Orange Volcano Alert level means that the volcano may resume explosions with less than twenty-four hours' notice. As a result, the Government decided that residents of communities in the orange zone from Petit Bordel to Gordon Yard on the Leeward side of the island and up to Mt. Young near the RUBIS Gas Station Windward side the island can return home. The communities of Chateaubelair, Fitz- Hughes, and all communities in the Red Volcano Hazard Zone remain restricted.

According to NEMO, pyroclastic flows have been reported through the volcano's eastern flank. Ashfall was reported over most St. Vincent and neighboring Grenadines, Barbados, St. Lucia, and Grenada. Still, rains have started to displace the ash in places where only a thin layer was present. Primary and secondary forests and tree crops around the volcano have been destroyed. The impact on livestock and fisheries in the area is not yet known.

In-country transportation had been hindered by heavy ashfall. The St. Vincent Electricity (VINLEC) service restored power to areas outside the Red zone, and preliminary work has begun in parts of the Red zone. Residents are warned to take precautions when working around electrical lines during the clean-up.

The CDEMA reported that national Detailed Damage Sector Assessment (DDSA) teams had been mobilized to support water, health, and agriculture damage assessments. This report is in draft form and will be presented to the government before being distributed to the public.

#### **Shelter:**

Displaced people are accommodating in four shelter categories:

- Collective centers (managed by the government).
- Private homes (where friends and family with informal arrangements host evacuees).
- Hotel accommodations.
- Renting apartments and houses.

According to the latest CDEMA situation report, 84 public shelters open with 4,417 occupants, and there are 18,927 people in private homes.

Most families were displaced with only essential personal belongings and require help to access critical household items like bedding, kitchen items, and clothing. As the displacement period continues, the congested conditions are becoming unbearable, and families are looking for alternative options, like renting, that require access to funds. Government is aware that the formal shelters located in schools will need to be used in October for the

restart of school and are planning for alternative mid-term housing solutions if families are still not able to return to their homes.

Damage to buildings and structures from ashfall and mass erosion near rivers and creeks is confirmed by early visits to the most affected zones in the Red area. This includes infrastructures either partially or fully collapsing, damage to roof coverings and framing, internal walls, and failure of mechanical, hydraulic, and electrical systems within households. These effects vary across the island depending on the ash's thickness, whether it is wet or dry, the design of roofs, homes, and buildings, air circulation systems, and how much ash enters the buildings. As families in the orange zone start to return to their homes, there is a danger that the destabilization of the structures during cleaning poses a danger to the families. Not all families have members that can carry out this very physical work and will require help. Families are asking for clearing tools and advice on the handling and disposal of the ash. Many will need to repair varying levels of damage to protect their assets and family from the rains anticipated as the hurricane season begins.

The level of damage to public infrastructure like public buildings (health, education, administration, transport) is unknown. Some families may choose to erect temporary shelters to allow them to stay near their home to begin the repair or reconstruction and protect the assets they deliver to the site.

### **Livelihoods and basic needs:**

ECHO has reported significant damage to property, fishing, and agriculture. The socio-economic 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. Agriculture, fisheries, tourism, and commerce may be further damaged in the short and medium-term, worsening the socio-economic crisis. The most important sector of the economy is agriculture, followed by the service sector, based on tourism, which sustains a large part of the country's labour force. The damage caused by ashfall and volcanic material has damaged crops, agricultural land, water for irrigation and human consumption, and productive infrastructure in different sectors such as agribusiness, commerce, and fishing. The temporary suspension of productive activities has had a significant adverse effect on the income generation food production for some of the most vulnerable households living in St Vincent. This loss of livelihood capacity is further compounding the issues and costs these households already face due to the need to relocate to a safer zone.

Authorities have recently worked to quantify the extent of the eruption's damage to buildings, schools, businesses, crops, and livestock. An initial Ministry of Agriculture and Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) assessment of the red zone areas nearest the volcano and orange zone areas outside the red zone indicates a 100% and 80% loss in vegetation, respectively. The Government stated that the damage to plant life on the island's northern third would set them back decades. Incoming Surge livelihood delegate will focus on gathering information and carrying out assessments to design the livelihood program interventions across all affected islands.

UNDP will start a program of Cash for Work for the clearing of ashfall. Other agencies are also prioritizing cash-based

The IFRC Livelihoods and Basic Needs Coordinator has started designing an integrated assessment for the returning evacuees to inform the early recovery support activities.

### **Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion:**

Field assessments were completed by the IFRC WASH coordinator on April 25th in the East Coast (Windward) communities of Colonarie, Byera Hill, and Georgetown, and on April 26th in the West Coast (Leeward) communities of Wallalibou, Troumaca, and Chateau Belair. The situation was not assessed for the northern part of the windward side because teams cannot directly access the communities by road due to the amount of ash and proximity to the volcano.

- All the potable water systems are gravity-fed from springs and surface water. While most treatment plants were impacted, many have been restored and put back into operation, and 90% of the nominal production capacity is reached. The northern supply system is still out of service due to significant damages at the water

plant. In the red zone, areas have had the water supply turned off. Main water supply lines are still pressurized, and collection could be provided if required/requested by the local authorities.

- Water analysis was conducted on-site on the east and west coast. Twelve water samples were taken directly from rivers (8) and taps (4). All parameters indicate that river waters analyzed, once turbidity treated, would still be compatible for human consumption. Fluoride is not a concern currently in these areas. Rivers in red zone upper have not been sampled for security reasons. The impact of ash has not been fully assessed. The water quality from taps reaches WHO quality standards, and, at this time, there are no specific pollutions linked to ashes (iron, manganese, fluorine, arsenic). pH is not a concern for distribution network infrastructures.
- The Central Water and Sewerage Authority (CWSA) confirmed that landslides broke some secondary pipelines but did not damaged main or principal pipelines due to heavy rains on April 29th, 2021. CWSA laboratory contacted the WASH coordinator for water analysis support on Friday, April 30th. Four water samples from springs (collected by CWSA) were analyzed by the WASH team directly in the CWSA laboratory. Water quality was still good (no chemical concerns) even after a heavy mixture between ash and water.
- There are no special needs to implement water treatment units (WTU) in Saint Vincent. CWSA is operational, and river and spring water quality were not impacted by ash fall, and the national water supply reached efficiently WHO quality standards in central areas.

If other eruptions occur, CWSA may be forced to shut down the water supply once again because the water system relies on surface water and gravity-fed systems. The ashfall caused temporary water quality issues in the streams, particularly in red and orange zones, that could cause possible damage and clog on water treatment equipment. Families are told to keep a minimum amount of stored water in temporary ruptures during ongoing work to the supply systems. Alternative solutions to bottled water are available, with water supplies available to homes in green, yellow, and orange zones. Prepositioned stocks of bottled water should only form part of contingency in case of further eruptions or damage to the supply system in the coming hurricane season. Action will need to be identified and implemented in collaboration with CWSA to minimize the currently generated waste.

An assessment of 83 official collective centres was also conducted by a joint UNICEF and water mission team. Their findings show that 100% of the shelters surveyed have access to safe, potable water and the majority have water storage capacities for at least three days. 100% also have access to flushable toilets and shower facilities. Due to the number of people evacuated from red and orange zones to green zones, there has been a substantial increase in water demand in the south, creating some water pressure issues for gravity-fed systems. This creates problems in several collective centres at higher elevations that do not have enough water quantity to cover sanitation and good hygiene practices. Additionally, most formal collective centres are schools where the number of toilets and showers available does not meet the needs of families currently residing there. With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the extended time, the collective centres will be required to ensure sufficient, dignified, and safe sanitation facilities are of utmost importance. As such, hygiene promotion, additional cleaning and infection protection supplies, and secure storage containers are also needed.

The Red Cross has focused its efforts on providing hygiene kits, household water treatment kits with storage capacity, and hygiene promotion campaigns with COVID-19 messaging included approach is warranted.

### **Health and Psychosocial support:**

Continuity of essential healthcare will be crucial, especially for vulnerable children, pregnant women, and people with non-communicable diseases, exceptional attention to those with respiratory problems. Up to 40% of all health facilities have been evacuated, including two leading hospitals. There are 18 health facilities in red, orange, and yellow zones that have been evacuated. The remaining operational facilities risk being overloaded by medical needs from displaced people and host communities. First aid care support and referral services are a need in collective centres. The Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) is leading further assessments of needs in this area.

Collective shelter procedures are met within the challenging context of COVID-19, given that extra preventive measures are needed to prevent the spread of the virus. Distancing requirements have reduced the number of persons a shelter can accommodate, hygienic standards also had to be adapted, and personal protective

equipment (PPE) is needed for those operating and staying in collective centres. To date, 8 shelters have found COVID-19 positive residents and taken measures like quarantine to control the spread.

There is also an urgent need to strengthen messaging to contain the transmission during the progressive return home. Hosted families and overcrowded conditions are also a high risk for the transmission of COVID-19 and other illnesses.

Also, the country has reported a deficit of mental health and psychosocial support professionals. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, people have experienced a negative impact on their psychological well-being, mainly associated with economic problems. Children and teenagers in the LAC region are experiencing high levels of anxiety (27%) and depression (15%) associated with family financial issues. PAHO supports the Ministry of Health to coordinate mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) interventions with other agencies and identify support for PSS/protection in collective centres. As part of the country's National Volcano Plan, the SVGRC supports actions in collective centres and assists in the registration of persons living outside collective centres. The SVGRC will also be donating first aid kits to 31 official collective centres and trained volunteers.

### **Protection, Gender, and Inclusion:**

There is a critical need to start awareness actions related to Gender Based Violence (GBV) and other manifestations of interpersonal violence (such as child protection concerns) and disseminate the updated referral pathways with communities with a focus on the informal collective shelters and hosted families where the people have evacuated to. In terms of community-based interventions, it is a priority to conduct awareness sessions on violence prevention and create inclusive risk communication in different formats (for example, materials for persons with disabilities, illiterate persons, and child-friendly messaging).

Schools are being used as collective centers to house the displaced population without close dates to be reopened. While they are safe structures, these are not designed to provide accommodation to people. As such, there are some concerns related to privacy and dignity for the families. The protection, gender, and inclusion minimum standards at the collective centers need to be addressed to ensure that satisfaction, access, participation, and safety measures are in place. Specific needs of the most vulnerable groups require particular attention according to their specific protection needs, for example, support to persons with disabilities and older people. 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. The main protection risks reported include domestic violence, early unions, survival sex, negligence, mostly affecting the young, therefore the need to have a specific approach to child and youth protection (especially unaccompanied and separated children) but also, there are particular social groups with especially high levels of vulnerability, due to increased risks and lessened capacity to respond. These are older adults, people with disabilities, or chronic diseases.

### **Disaster Risk Reduction:**

Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRTs) have been closely involved since the early stages of the operation in critical areas and communities from the most affected zones. Personnel and volunteers have supported evacuation efforts and the overall response, including supporting the operation to identify evacuees living with host families to receive specific relief packages. 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. Thus, it remains essential for volunteers and personnel to strengthen and expand their multi-hazard preparedness capacities in case of potential scale-ups of the crises. There is a concern about the multi-hazard threats for the region as Saint Vincent, and the neighbouring islands were experiencing the compounded effects of several crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, dengue outbreaks, and potential hurricanes that could strike the affected countries during the upcoming 2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season scheduled to start in June. Capacity-building activities with the communities and new volunteers on multi-hazard preparedness, Early Warning/ Early Action, community/ family preparedness are essential to increase NS capacity to articulate within the communities and other humanitarian stakeholders.

### ***Impact and needs assessment (Outer islands).***

Ashfall was reported over most St. Vincent and neighbouring islands of the Grenadines, Barbados, St. Lucia, and Grenada. The volcanic ashes have reached several countries, and the environmental impact is significant. Assessments have commenced in St Vincent & Grenadines and will continue as the Surge team become available in the country. Assessments will also be carried on the three other affected islands, primarily by each NS. However, the surge members based in SVG will provide remote support. These assessments will look multisectoral and evaluate the environmental damage suffered by communities and the ecosystems surrounding them. Tephra, fragmental material produced by a volcanic eruption, affects hydrology, air quality, and ecosystems. Its effect is felt far beyond the initial eruption area. Healthy ecosystems are crucial to creating resilience to tephra fall. It is necessary to assess early on the feasibility of disposing sustainably of the volcanic material accumulated, improving the ability of affected areas to endure tephra-fall, focusing on recovering affected agricultural lands. Water conservation efforts are also necessary, as water sources and supply networks are under pressure due to the relocation of many people and because there are no pumps within the network system with all pressure being provided through gravity. Recycling schemes and waste management options with private partners need to be explored to mitigate waste being created through our response.

Additionally, recovery of degraded lands and identifying preliminary solutions that set the ground for a greener, more effective program in the longer term will be encouraged. In Saint Lucia, the water supply has been impacted, which 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.

### **Operation Risk Assessment**

With the volcano's activity is challenging to predict, the situation for the affected population and those assisting them is evolving. The response needs to stay flexible to offer the support required.

The risks the team has identified and works to mitigate are;

- Some families never left the Red zone, and some, growing impatient, are returning before the government says it is safe to go home. These families will be out of reach of any support in the Red zone. The Red Cross continues to encourage people to follow the regulations set out by the government to stay out of the Red Zone and is looking to provide support to those evacuated from this zone.
- SBGV and/or Child protection issues continue to increase, remain unaddressed and result in further or exacerbated abuse, harm, neglect, exclusion, discrimination, death, increased scale of (mass) violence, and significant access limitations to humanitarian actors, including IFRC and the National Society.
- Distribution of limited essential items creates tension within the communities; CEA best practices ensure the families are informed and engaged.
- Cash distribution has an inherent perceived risk to the security of recipients and distribution teams. Mitigation includes communication campaigns, sharing information on ATM usages and safety tips, quickly explaining vulnerability criteria, good planning around and selecting safe sites, and delivering to the door for families with mobility restrictions.
- Small active and trained NS team could mean significant workloads as they continue with existing projects (such as COVID-19, CRB, CBI) and take on the requirements of the volcano response operations. The National Society is beginning to mitigate this by hiring for five positions (PMER, Finance, Communications, Logs, and CVA). Further work will continue as focal points work with IFRC delegates, and additional training for volunteers is provided.
- An increasing number of organizations are assisting the evacuees, so more attention must be paid to coordination, attending working groups and government meetings to avoid duplication.
- Long quarantine regulations (and fewer Working Quarantine allowances) prevent delegates from getting to the field for the first two-to-three weeks of their deployment. The third rotation of surge personnel is planned to avoid a gap in any activity. There are some relaxed regulations for delegates from other CARICOM countries so that future rotations could come from the surge roster.
- Difficulty engaging communities as they did not evacuate together and are not staying in the same locations. The National Society can help to mitigate this risk by relying on input from existing community networks of CDRT volunteers

## B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

### Proposed strategy

#### Overall Operational objective:

Provide emergency assistance and recovery support to 5,400 people affected by the La Soufriere volcanic eruption in SVG, St Lucia, Grenada, and Barbados with a specific focus on Shelter and Essential Household Items (EHI), Livelihood & Basic Needs, Health and Psychosocial Support (PSS), Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Protection, Gender & Inclusion (PGI) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

#### Proposed Strategy:

The general response strategy will target the most affected families from vulnerable groups who were evacuated and families that are hosting them. The displaced population is accommodated in collective centres, private shelters, rented residences, or with relatives or friends. In addition, evacuees that left SVG to shelter on other islands may also be assisted, and these islands are also responding to the effects of the ashfall.

In-depth evaluations will constantly improve the plan but will be constructed based on two phases, which are expected to overlap: the emergency relief phase and recovery phase. According to Government permission, these phases will be lived at different times for the affected population as returning to the evacuated sites will be according to Government permission. Emergency relief will improve the conditions of the displaced families with hygiene, PSS, and protection promotion accompanied by the distribution of essential items. At the same time, recovery will cover some families on return home with shelter and livelihood support. These actions are designed to strengthen the resilience of the affected families. Sectoral interventions will be integrated wherever possible to impact the worst affected and streamline implementation significantly. Gathering information and feedback from communities will be a key component to ensuring our programs and supports meet the needs of the affected populations.

#### *St Vincent and the Grenadines*

The SVGRC will work directly with communities and in coordination with local authorities. The NS has been prioritizing its actions to support people from the most affected areas. NEMO has requested that the SVGRC focus on assisting informal or private shelters (host families). Following the completion of registration of a portion of these families, the SVGRC is finalizing verification work and is concurrently delivering essential aid to this caseload. All support requested by NEMO informal collective centers will be provided as far as possible.

The National Society has plans to improve the HQ, and small changes such as a designated finance office improved IT network, painting, and air conditioning units. Software systems (MS 365) are planned to be purchased and upgraded to improve accountability systems, verification, and coordination between staff and volunteers. A warehouse has been rented for six months to permit safe storage and the preparation of distribution packages efficiently and accommodate incoming household items (both from the appeal and many bilateral donations). The National Society has only two vehicles available for the activities, and there are limitations to transport personnel to communities to start implementing activities. There is planned to purchase an additional vehicle to facilitate implementing the activities under this plan. Transportation rental has been included for the moment.

#### Logistics and Supply chain Management:

Logistics activities aim to manage the supply chain effectively, including mobilization, procurement, customs clearance, fleet, storage, and transport to distribution sites following the operation's requirements and aligned to IFRC's logistics standards, processes, and procedures. The primary supply chain strategy has been through Panama Hub and Trinidad and Tobago RC support. Shipments have been sent in coordination with the operation. The procurement plan is being developed for the following months.

All procurement related to this operation will follow the IFRC's standards procurement procedures and sphere standards for household items purchases.

A Mobilization table was launched to coordinate the needs in the field and contributions offered by donors/partners and managed by the Regional Logistics Unit, Panama office. Import regulations are known, and a revision process will be conducted to eliminate bottlenecks and delays.

### National Society Development

SVGRC is responding to the COVID-19 outbreak together with other emergencies in its country. The NS has unparalleled access to communities and is a vital partner to the CDEMA, Government, and other local and international non-Governmental Organizations. This demands that the NS organizational policies, processes and procedures, and systems are in place and skilled and experienced personnel at national and branch levels. There is also a need to support the strengthening of the NS in its headquarters capacity and the update of software and technological tools.

### *Grenada*

The Grenada Red Cross Society has been coordinating with the local National Emergency Advisory Council (NEAC) to prepare for hosting a maximum of 600 evacuees. The GRCS conducted an emergency meeting with its management team and examined how it would respond considering three scenarios:

1. Scenario (1) Hosting displaced families in two venues in the State of Grenada. It will entail the support of displaced people from SVG to Grenada.
2. Scenario (2) Responding to needs of families in St. Vincent and Grenadines. This is to respond to any potential family that is already in Grenada.
3. A third possible scenario (3) Effects of possible ash flow affecting the State of Grenada and its implications

The NS has already shared information with staff and volunteers to heighten their awareness of the situation in preparation for possible response by the GRCS. The Grenada Red Cross proposes to meet the immediate needs of approximately one hundred (100) displaced families affected by the volcanic eruption in St. Vincent and the Grenadines that will be evacuated to Grenada and have plans to launch an appeal to support their work further.

One critical area of focus for the NS will be on Carriacou island. In this regard, the GRCS office has been relocated to facilitate the preparation of the facility to host evacuees.

### *St Lucia*

The St. Lucia Red Cross has had discussions with NEMO regarding the NS support to evacuees from SVG. They have been asked to provide support in collective centres that host evacuees as well as host families. Ongoing assessment and analysis of the situation will be necessary to ensure that the plan foreseen meets the needs of the most vulnerable people. These detailed assessments will consider the collection and analysis of sex and age disaggregated data. Additionally, dissemination of key health messages focusing on volcanic-ash-related ailments and COVID-19 prevention, including the use of masks, will be shared with beneficiaries and personnel involved in the response.

### *Barbados*

The activities in Barbados will be carried out by the community Red Cross Units and Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRTs) under the supervision of a Project Manager and support from the national headquarters. An administrative-financial assistant and CEA Officer will also be hired for this operation. Assessments continue to be carried out, and work will be done on the activities to be included according to the people affected.

See the [Emergency Plan of Action](#) for more information.

Red Cross volunteer Carol Stapleton was evacuated from Rose Hall in the Orange Zone, the morning of La Soufriere. She left in one of the evacuation vans with a few pieces of clothing and essential papers in her go-bag. The next day she came into St. Vincent and the Red Cross like she does every day, “because you know work is here to be done,” she said. For the last month, Carol has been helping the office maintain measures for protecting the team against COVID-19, running errands for the administration team, and packing emergency relief items for distributions for people who cannot yet go home.



“I just want everything to go back to normal,” she said. But until then, she will keep coming to the Red Cross to volunteer.

“It keeps me occupied and [it helps] the children and the young babies and the old people who cannot help themselves.”

## C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



### Shelter

**People reached: 2,358 persons**

Male: 1,200

Female: 1,158

\*Calculated on at 3 person/family<sup>7</sup> and 50.9% male population ratio.

#### ***Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions***

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people evacuated provided with safe, adequate and durable recovery shelter and settlement assistance <sup>8</sup>	5,400	2,358

#### ***Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families.***

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# households provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance (kitchen sets, jerrycans, blankets)	1,800	786
# households provided with rental assistance for up to two months.	250	Not started
# households provided with Long-Term shelter and settlement through cash and in-kind assistance: cash for roof repairs or the procurement and/or provision of roof/shelter kits	250	Not started

#### ***Output 1.2: Technical support, guidance and awareness raising in safe shelter design and settlement planning and improved building techniques are provided to affected households***

Indicators:	Target	Actual
	250	Not started

<sup>7</sup> 2012 SVG census report, Statistical Office, Ministry of Finance

<sup>8</sup> This indicator was modified to align it with the latest programmatic changes.

# of households that receive technical support for safe repairs to their homes <sup>9</sup>		
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**Progress towards outcomes**

The last distribution of essential items to families was on May 8th. Shelter-related items include the cleaning kits and bilateral donations such as mattresses and blankets. An important shipment of household items is arriving this week into SVG and the next at the end of the month. These will cover the immediate household needs of 1,500 families.

The recent lowering of the alert from Red to Orange is permitting families to return, and they are finding that the clean-up of thick covering of ash is dangerous and challenging work. Some families do not have members who can carry out this work, and many do not have the tools to collect, transport, and dispose of the ash safely. They are asking for advice on how to manage this work best. The government is disseminating messages on the safe handling of ash that needs to reach all families. After removing the bulk ash layer, the water authority has said that water from the supply system can be used to carry out a final clean and get rid of the fine dust that affects the respiratory system. The team is will disseminate messages on safe clearing and has started the procurement of cleaning kits to be distributed to groups of 5 families. Each kit will consist of 2 shovels, one wheelbarrow, and two lengths of water hose for the final cleaning of homes and kitchen gardens. Volunteers will encourage teams to help those more vulnerable families with the clearing.



**Livelihoods and basic needs**

**People reached: 0**

Male: 0

Female: 0

***Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods***

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people whose livelihoods are restored to pre-disaster level <sup>10</sup>	150	Not started

***Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities***

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# targeted households have enough food, cash or incomes to meet their survival threshold	700	0

***Output 1.3: Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production, increased productivity and post-harvest management (agriculture-based livelihoods)***

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of targeted households whose livelihoods are restored to pre-disaster level	100	Not started

***Output 1.4: Community awareness activities on livelihoods strengthening and protection are carried out with target communities and public actors***

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with information to strengthen productive capacities <sup>11</sup>	5,400	Not started

**Progress towards outcomes**

Families living away from their social and economic networks will continue to require support to meet household expenditures. The first returnees report that their income-generating activities have been impacted, and for sectors like farming, they will take time to recover. The SVGRC has managed to support

<sup>9</sup> This indicator was modified to align it with the latest programmatic changes.

<sup>10</sup> One indicator was removed and included under Output 1.2

<sup>11</sup> This indicator was modified to align it with the latest programmatic changes.

the urgent food needs of the evacuated families through bilateral food donations and is working on a food voucher activity to continue this support.

Final planning for a cash program to cover basic needs is underway and will include unconditional cash through a prepaid card. Current funding will permit the distribution of 300 one-time, multi-purpose grants to families unable to return to their homes (Red Zone residents). The debit cards can be used to withdraw cash at any ATM that accepts VISA cards or any store carrying VISA cards at their PoS machine. A work plan was defined to identify all the steps that have to be followed to deliver assistance. The evacuee registration lists collected by the SVGRC are being used to prioritize the most vulnerable households for distribution of the one-time, multi-purpose cash assistance program, and the team is working to finalize the selection criteria and planning for the future distribution. The activity includes community engagements and accountability best practices like verbal and printed information, an information and feedback hotline, and an exit survey at the distribution points.

An integrated needs assessment is being prepared with a vital component of livelihood with all the steps to follow to identify the impact of the disaster on families returning to their homes.

This assessment is being coordinated with different public and private stakeholders such as: UNPD, WFP, ADRA, FAO, Windwards Islands farmers association, National SVG fisherfolk, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries Rural transformation, Industry and Labour.



## Health

**People reached: 825 persons**

Male: 420

Female: 405

\*Calculated on at 3 person/family<sup>12</sup> and 50.9% male population ratio.

### ***Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment***

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# people reached with first aid assistance	5,400	0
#number of active first aid volunteers	20	0
#volunteers trained in first aid	20	Not started

### ***Output 1.1: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities.***

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of first aid kits delivered	62	0
# of PPE kits delivered to families	1,800	275
# of PPE delivered to frontline volunteers	100	

### ***Outcome 2: The psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened***

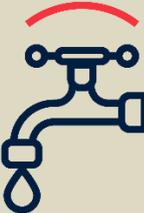
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# people reached with interventions (included volunteers and staff)	TBD	Not started

### ***Output 2.1: Psychosocial support provided to the target population as well as to RCRC volunteers and staff***

Indicators:	Target	Actual
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<sup>12</sup> 2012 SVG census report, Statistical Office, Ministry of Finance.

# volunteers and staff NSs trained in PSS community based and PFA	50	Not started
# people reached with PSS services	1000	No data
# PSS kits delivered for children, teenagers, and adults	1,000	Not started
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>		
<p>With volunteer involvement from the start of evacuations in April, they provided the affected population with informal Psychosocial Support that they learned about in Community Disaster Response Team training.</p> <p>Thirty-one first aid kits are due to arrive and will be assigned to the SBGRC volunteers with training to respond to emergencies in the communities they are assisting. A PFA training for volunteers working in the operation is planned to be realized in the following weeks.</p> <p>A PSS training, in a short format, will be incorporated into the training for the volunteers working in the CVA activity, that will oversee the feedback mechanism as well as the distributions and direct contact with beneficiaries to provide with abilities to be sensitive, identify and refer to the proper services. The IFRC surge PGI Coordinator will support the SVGRC in the design and implementation of health and PSS response.</p>		

	<h2 style="color: red;">Water, sanitation and hygiene</h2> <p><b>People reached: 1,974 persons</b>  Male: 1,005  Female: 969  *Calculated on at 3 person/family<sup>13</sup> and 50.9% male population ratio.</p>									
<b>Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities</b>										
<b>Indicators:</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">Target</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td># people reached with WASH support during the emergency phase</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5,400</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1,974</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Target	Actual	# people reached with WASH support during the emergency phase	5,400	1,974			
	Target	Actual								
# people reached with WASH support during the emergency phase	5,400	1,974								
<b>Output 1.1: Continuous assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation is carried out in targeted communities</b>										
<b>Indicators:</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">Target</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td># of people provided with safe water during the emergency phase</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5,400</td> <td style="text-align: center;">No data</td> </tr> <tr> <td># of cleaning kits distributed</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1,800</td> <td style="text-align: center;">658</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Target	Actual	# of people provided with safe water during the emergency phase	5,400	No data	# of cleaning kits distributed	1,800	658
	Target	Actual								
# of people provided with safe water during the emergency phase	5,400	No data								
# of cleaning kits distributed	1,800	658								
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>										
<p>Large quantities of bottled water received as bilateral donations have been distributed to the affected population. But with disruptions to the water supply system in the Green zone over, everyone has returned to using the trusted water supply system. Joint assessments by the IFRC / PIRAC team that included testing confirm the quality. Water supply equipment and activities are ready but not needed for the moment.</p> <p>Distributions of essential items, including hygiene parcels, have reached 1974 persons. With the shipment arriving this week, families will receive jerry cans that will permit them to store water in case of water supply interruptions or if the water supply is not repaired on return to the homes. Volunteers are preparing to deliver hygiene promotion that will be combined with Protection and COVID prevention.</p> <p>With some families experiencing congested conditions, hygiene is essential in preventing common illnesses. Cleaning and repairs to affected water supply systems are near complete for the areas that families are returning. A portable water filtration system has been tested and is ready to deploy if returning families require this support in their communities.</p> <p>The SVGRC is discussing supporting shelter resident-based recycling initiatives with a partner association to help collect large quantities of used bottles left from the distribution in the emergency. Government and</p>										

<sup>13</sup> 2012 SVG census report, Statistical Office, Ministry of Finance

organizations have pivoted completely away from bottle distribution but are prepositioning when returning families require when they reach their homes.



## Protection, Gender and Inclusion

**People reached: 0**

Male: 0

Female: 0

***Outcome 1: Communities become more peaceful, safe and inclusive through meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.***

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# people reached with PGI actions	5400	No data

***Output 1.1: Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.***

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of key actions of PGI mainstreaming made in collaboration with other sectors of intervention	35	1

***Output 1.2: Programmes and operations prevent and respond to sexual- and gender-based violence and other forms of violence especially against children.***

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# people reached through community-based protection activities (disaggregated by sex and age)	5,400	No data

***Output 1.3: Advocacy initiatives contribute to preventing and responding to all forms of violence especially SGBV and against children.***

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of persons reached through informative and awareness raising session with communities (disaggregated by sex and age)	2000	Planned

### **Progress towards outcomes**

A PGI Coordinator has been deployed to support SVGRC, however, for the moment. The work is still remote due to the Government's quarantine established by the Government and the current COVID-19 restrictions for new arrivals, although expecting to be lifted for a working quarantine soon.

The work at this moment is focusing on identifying the immediate protection, gender, and inclusion needs and changes in the situation, as well as collecting all the information related to capacities that the NS has already built and opportunities to work in the longer term with the NS.

Supporting the Program sectors to incorporate PGI into their interventions is one of the main activities in this operation. For this reason, it is key to close collaboration with the Coordinators of each sector. Due to the close distribution of unconditional CASH, the PGI Delegate is working with the LLH Coordinator regarding the PGI minimum standards in emergencies and safeguarding internal policies to incorporate into the training for the volunteers responsible for all the different actions involving the CASH distribution. A poster for the CASH Distribution regarding PSEA has been developed in collaboration with CEA.

Coordination with the movement and with the UN agencies regarding Child Protection and SGBV:

- Meetings with UNICEF and UNFPA to initiate coordination and to receive the information related to referral pathways and safe referrals have been conducted. The Government is validating the referral pathway and still has not been released to the public.
- Coordination with UNFPA is going on for the local procurement of dignity kits, targeted population, and MHM information.

- Canadian Red Cross has worked for several years with the NS in the Community Resilience Program Caribbean regional Program, building capacity in PGI activities in the NS and the communities. However, the activities have been temporarily suspended because of the emergency.
- Given that the capacity and work in this sector, close coordination will be done with this PNS to ensure not duplicating the work already done and looking in the long-term strategy already built on PGI.
- Teams continue to support evacuated and host families staying in informal collective shelters and hosted families by providing basic needs, identifying, and referring cases. We are looking to strengthen data collecting and reporting as part of ongoing capacity building.



## Disaster Risk Reduction

People reached: 0

Male: 0

Female: 0

### ***Outcome 1: Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster***

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# people reached through DRR activities	5,400	Planned

### ***Output 1.1: Communities take active steps to strengthen their preparedness for timely and effective response to disasters.***

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached through PAPE campaigns	5,400	No data

### ***Outcome 2: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas adopt climate risk informed and environmentally responsible values and practices***

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# communities reached through disaster risk management and climate change activities (800 people reached)	2	Planned
# people trained in disaster risk management and climate change	50	Planned

### ***Output 2.1: Contributions to climate change mitigation are made by implementing green solutions***

Indicators:	Target	Actual
One resilience and recovery plans developed	1	Planned

### **Progress towards outcomes**

PAPE messages on protecting yourself and your family from ashfall currently being shared through Facebook and Twitter.

Planning underway for sharing preparedness messages leading up to the beginning of the hurricane season – taking care not to add additional stress to those still evacuated. The cleaning of ash supported by clearing tools will include the importance of clearing canals and drainage structures to prevent flooding or damage to infrastructure in the wet season.

## Strengthen National Society

***S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform***

***Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected***

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers insured	250	250
<b><i>Output S1.1.6: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place</i></b>		
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>		
<p>Informative sessions are designed to ensure volunteers working with the CVA activity are ready to support and answer questions from the community. This includes consideration for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. The volunteers will be trained in basic PFA, Survivor's centre approach, basic communication techniques, and confidentiality and informed consent.</p> <p>Country Cluster Program Finance Officer deployed to the operation is working closely with the SVGRC finance team to reinforce effective and timely reporting. This resulted in meeting the first deadline for the April Journal submission.</p> <p>IFRC Volunteer insurance has been secured for 250 volunteers of the SVGRC. In addition, the NS is taking steps to acquire institutional clothing and visibility elements for its personnel and volunteers.</p> <p>To help increase its profile and enhance visibility, the SVGRC team, with support from IFRC, is procuring visibility items, including shirts for volunteers and staff, and stickers with the Red Cross emblem for placement on items to be distributed.</p> <p>In addition, the SVGRC organizational structure has been adjusted to include additional positions to support the NS, including finance officer, PMER officer, and communications officer.</p>		

## **International Disaster Response**

***Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured***

***Output S2.1.1: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained***

***Outcome S2.2: The complementarity and strengths of the Movement are enhanced***

***Output S2.2.5: Shared services in areas such as IT, logistics and information management are provided***

**Progress towards outcomes**

The team is mainly assisting remote meetings for various working groups that are in place to improve coordination in activities and share information. This includes the Caribbean Development Partners Group Disaster Management (DCDPGD) meeting, The WASH working group, Regional Shelter Cluster, Food Security, the Livelihoods working for the group, and the newly formed Health working group.

The team is working cooperatively with the essential services of the Region's IT, IM, and Logistics teams through weekly virtual meetings and collaborative platforms like Teams.

## **Effective, credible and accountable IFRC**

***Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable***

***Output S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable***

**Progress towards outcomes**

The team is drafting a concept note for an integrated needs assessment to inform the development of early recovery activities proposed in this plan. The intention is to start with data collection with key informants and some of the displaced communities while are temporarily living in the green zone. As soon as access opens to

the restricted areas, the teams alongside the SGRC will carry out verification and observations of the affected areas.

The IFRC Communications team supported the national society with media relations. It secured regional and international media coverage to help highlight the humanitarian needs and how the Red Cross is addressing these needs. The IFRC CEA Delegate on the ground is also supporting the SVGRC team with communications.

## Reference documents

Click here for:

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

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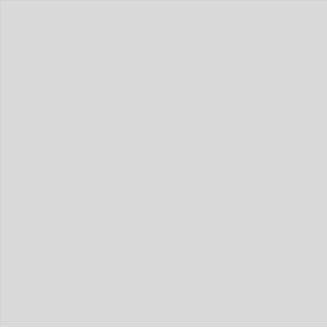
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## How we work

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.