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## Operation Update no. 2

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

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>Emergency appeal n° MDRVC005</b>	<b>GLIDE n° <a href="#">VO-2021-000034-VCT</a></b>
<b>Date of issue:</b> 11 June 2021	<b>Timeframe covered by this update:</b> 14 May – 5 June 2021
<b>Operation start date:</b> 19 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>Appeal Coverage:</b> 78% For the <a href="#">Donor Response click here</a>
<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



From left: Ash on a roof in Rose Hall, a community in the Orange Zone; IFRC operations manager surveys a collapsed food storage building during an assessment in an agricultural area in the Red Zone on the Leeward side of St. Vincent. Source: Angela Hill/IFRC.

### 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 persisted with the increased rainfall.

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 had 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 were displaced to the southern end of St Vincent and the Grenadine and some neighbouring countries. They were originally received in 85 government-run formal collective shelters (4,417 persons) and informal collective shelters like hotels and rented residences. Many are private homes hosted by family and friends (18,927 persons). Unfortunately, the data provided by NEMO was not desegregated, making the identification of more specific needs of the population more difficult without further inquiry. These numbers were challenging to track at the onset of the disaster with multiple registration sources but have since been centralized, verified, and corrected by the Ministry of National Mobilization and NEMO.

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 since the April 22 eruptions. Accordingly, school resumed on May 17 for students scheduled to write external examinations this year.

On 20 May, the Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines announced that persons displaced from most of the orange and some parts of the red volcano hazard zones could return home (except Chateaubelair and Fitz-Hughes communities in the Orange Zone). In addition, the community of Georgetown in the Red Zone was to be returning home by 1 June. However, access to the Red Zone areas north of Georgetown on the Windward side of St. Vincent remains hazardous, and the potential for injury remains. Residents are also asked not to visit the La Soufrière volcano.

According to the 31 May UWI Seismic Research Centre update, persistent steaming is observable from the observatory once the cloud cover is high enough. The volcano continues to be in a state of unrest. Escalation inactivity can still take place with little or no warning. NEMO is looking to re-establish remote sensors on the volcanoes to help determine the hazard and potentially open the last zones to returns.

As of 1 June, 72 collective shelters managed by the Ministry of Education (MoE) are still open (two of these are expected to relocate remaining families). The Ministry of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Local Government, Gender Affairs, Family Affairs, Housing, and Informal Settlement (MoNM), who manages all other evacuees residing in informal shelters and with host families, is facilitating the returns of families by providing food packs or vouchers, as well as transportation back to communities in the Orange and Yellow zone. Buildings, Roads, and General Services Authority (BRAGSA) is the lead agency to clean the ash load on public roads, properties, and facilities. Main roads were prioritized, then essential services offices like police, health services, and then schools. But work is progressing very slowly, and wind and rain often decontaminate areas though to be cleaned. Many families have visited their impacted homes and are not willing to leave the shelters because of the workload or damaged homes.

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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.](#)

Assessment of the impact of the eruptions on neighbouring countries is still ongoing. Their preparation to receive evacuees was seen as a success, and fortunately, was not required. To date, St Lucia has 72 registered evacuees and another informal group (still being assessed). Barbados relies heavily on food production from St Vincent and the Grenadines, but this need may have been lessened by reducing tourism with the COVID travel restrictions. This will be confirmed in a future revision of the Plan of Action.

## Summary of current response



*St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross during distributions of food and other emergency items to people returning home to Rose Hall (left) and those still evacuated in the Green Zone near Kingstown (right). Angela Hill/IFRC*

## Overview of Host National Societies Response Action

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross (SVGRC) completed initial planning and has its teams executing multiple bilateral response commitments in coordination with the activities supported by this EA. The following actions have been implemented by the National Society so far:

- After supporting evacuee registration at the onset of the emergency, the teams are now referring missed evacuees to be registered into a central system administered by the Ministry of Social Mobilization (MoSM) through the National Emergency Management Organization.
- Large numbers of SVGRC volunteers are working on eruption-related Government initiatives, including with shelters. Many volunteers that were trained in Shelter managers are working in Government shelters.
- SVGRC continues to be a key partner to the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) in delivering help to specific groups like early returnees. The Community Disaster Response teams and volunteers network ensures flexible and immediate access to the affected population and reports their evolving situation and needs.
- SVGRC has become the go-to organization for help to the MoNM for reaching families with mobility challenges with their food pack distributions.
- Ongoing communication campaigns for safe handling of ash during clean up.
- Ongoing distributions of PPE items, including face masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer, ensure a COVID19-safe environment for SVGRC staff, volunteers, and affected families.
- Ongoing prioritized distribution of relief items collected through bilateral donations.
- Volunteers support the multipurpose cash grant program with calls and scheduling of people who were impacted and selected to receive a debit card. Volunteers also participated in the door-to-door distributions.
- Post-distribution monitoring and reporting for relief supplies and the creation of the CEA operational plan
- Start a Food voucher distribution activity for 250 families through a USAID/BHA-funded bilateral agreement. The team is looking at expanding this activity through Appeal funding.

- SVGRC continues distribution food parcels in coordination with NEMO/ Ministry of Mobilization distributions through their bilateral agreements
- SVGRC volunteers continue to apply basic principles of Psychologic First Aid in their interactions with the persons they are assisting.
- The SVGRC is proposing readiness preparations for the hurricane season.
- **1,151 families (3,453 persons) have been supported to date.**

Item (funded through this appeal)	# of kits/ items distributed
Cleaning kits	<b>1,151</b>
Kitchen sets	0
Shelter tool kits	190
Tarpaulins	185
Clearing kits	0
Blankets (including masks, sanitizer, and face shields)	474
Hygiene kits	<b>1,099</b>
Buckets 14 l	0
Jerry cans (10l)	829
PPE Kits (masks, face shields, sanitizer)	<b>262</b>
Item (Bilateral funds and in-kind donations)	# of kits/ items distributed
Mattresses	35
Cots	36
Baby supplies	29
Food parcels	1,158
Water bottles	2,595

### Disaggregated distribution results<sup>5</sup>

Indicator	Female 0-4	Male 0-4	Female 5-17	Male 5-17	Female 18-59	Male 18-59	Female 60+	Male 60+	Total persons
Received essential Shelter support	152	76	493	379	1138	797	266	152	<b>3,453</b>
Received essential WASH support	145	72	471	362	1087	761	254	145	<b>3,297</b>
Received essential Health support	35	17	112	86	259	181	60	35	<b>785</b>

The Saint Lucia Red Cross (SLRC) is deploying teams to register and assess the needs of St. Vincent evacuees in the country.

- The SVGRC is cooperating with faith-based organizations to fill the gap in assistance to 72 known evacuees.
- Has a team registering evacuees that arrive by small boat on the southern shores of the country. These families are likely to reside in the Red zone of St Lucia and would not be returning for some time. Their fishing activities have been impacted and may need help with basic needs.
- Completed dissemination of protection messages for living around ash and cleaning it.
- Preparation to receive evacuees has been stood down as alert levels are scaled down.
- Constant coordination with authorities as a member of the National Emergency Management Committee.

<sup>5</sup> Disaggregated results extrapolated from confirmed household data (for only part of the families that received support).

The Grenada Red Cross Society (GRCS) team is planning assessments to guide the proposals of activities to support persons affected by the ashfall, including the appointment of an Operation Manager to lead the work. Some of the main activities implemented by the National Society so far include:

- Continue to attend coordination meetings with National Authorities, now including preparation for the hurricane season.
- Dissemination of IEC material advising citizens how to protect themselves from ashfall and distribution of PPEs to the most vulnerable population affected by the ashfall in Grenada are completed.
- Preparations alongside the Government to support the reception of evacuees to the Carriacou were completed.
- GRCS conducted meeting amongst the management and governance within the organization, disseminate information statements on the situation.
- GRCS conducted a site visit to the facility dedicated to hosting evacuees in Grenada to assess the location for the installation of the handwashing stations.
- GRCS developed draft a plan of action for its response based on different scenarios.

The Barbados Red Cross (BRCS), with support from the IFRC, intends to conduct needs assessments to identify the impact of the volcanic eruption on local populations.

- While the volume of ashfall has significantly diminished, significant clean-up efforts are still underway locally.
- The NS intends to determine the impact in one key area: food security. Two key factors should be noted: (i) Barbados is heavily dependent on St. Vincent and the Grenadines for the supply of fruit and vegetables, and (ii) fruit and vegetable vendors (predominantly female) typically travel to SVG to procure production.
- The Barbados Red Cross will work with the Ministry of People's Empowerment, and Elder Affairs, the Ministry of Youth and Community Empowerment, the Department of Emergency Management and the Barbados Association for Retailers, Vendors, and Entrepreneurs to identify and provide support for identified affected persons.
- Communities will be engaged primarily through (i) identified community representatives and (ii) the Ministries of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs and Youth and Community Empowerment.
- BRCS volunteers will engage in preliminary community outreach and community town halls and workshops to engage community members and determine community needs.
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- Technical expertise will be required to support capacity building and training in water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH), Restoring Family Links (RFL), and Shelter Management.

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

The Americas Regional Office (ARO) continues to support 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. As of the start of June, the IFRC surge team in St. Vincent and the Grenadines includes an Operations Manager, two CVA officers, a Finance delegate, PGI delegate, CEA and Communication delegate, and a Livelihoods delegate.

French Red Cross' Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean (PIRAC) prepositioned stocks in-country and in the region have permitted early distribution of essential items. The PIRAC team plays an advisory role in household water treatment and storage activity if the network drinking water deteriorates further. PIRAC continues to play a role in supporting IFRC and the SVGRC with messaging and graphics on staying safe after a volcano and during flooding and other possible connected disasters.

The Community Resilience Building Caribbean Region (CRB) project supported the Canadian Red Cross. The Government of Canada continues to play a support role for the teams responding to the emergency. Their training and equipping activities are being coordinated with priority response activities and are combined whenever possible.

The IFRC team is collaborating with IOM to develop a shelter and settlements/ CCM sector emergency and recovery response strategy. The objective is to engage NEMO, the Ministry of Housing and Mobilization, in a discussion to guide organizations on the range of activities required for returns, recovery, and relocation and ensure the coordination of those activities through a working group by other sectors.

The IFRC Regional Global Shelter Cluster Coordinator co-chair the joint CCCM/Shelter working group organized by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and NEMO. This group is working on important hurricane preparedness, identifying shelter partner's responses and capacity in the country, and discussing pressing shelter needs.

On the ground, the IFRC team attends WASH, Food Security and Livelihood / CVA working groups (led by UNICEF and WFP), the Protection Working group (led by UN Women), and recently in the new Child protection coordination working group lead by the Ministry of National Mobilization and the Child Protection Division.

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

In cooperation with the Ministry of National Mobilization, WFP has started distributing monthly cash grants through Western Union to families outside formal government shelters. This program is intended to replace the delivery of food parcels, but only families with incomes below 1000 XCD qualify. The program is set to run for three months and will reach up to 4000 families. As of the end of May, 900 families had received their first grant.

The logistics hub set up with the support of WFP at the old Arnos Vale airfield has been essential in receiving relief-related shipment for the Government, organization, and a large volume of unsolicited donations that would otherwise block the port and customs offices there. The team is administrating the inventory and making it available to receivers. In addition, IOM is supporting with providing temporary accommodation for displaced health care workers.

ADRA supports the affected population and has deployed a new Response Coordinator that will identify new activity opportunities.

World Central Kitchen has ended its operations in St Vincent, reporting between 3000-6000 families supported. However, the government has stated that their food package and finance assistance can fill any gaps their departure may cause.

Caritas organizations in St Lucia, Grenada, Dominica, and Catholic Relief Services are initiating a Cash-based support program for vulnerable families from the Red Zone, has provided food, water, hygiene kits, face masks, shields, and goggles and provide emergency response expertise and support.

UNICEF is supporting the Government in establishing Child-Friendly spaces and Child protection activities in St. Vincent.

Isra Aid has already started providing PFA training and creating Child mobile Friendly Spaces in communities within government coordination.

## **Needs analysis and scenario planning**

### **Needs analysis**

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

SVGRC and IFRC team visits to both the island's leeward side and the windward side confirm that many families are now returning to their homes in the Yellow, Orange, and even the Red Zone. The Government emphasizes that the Orange Volcano Alert level means that the volcano may resume explosions with less than twenty-four

hours' notice. A police checkpoint has been set up at the Rabacca Dry River/ Yurumein bridge were permitting only residents to travel further. It has also advised of the risk and recognizing that families want to protect their assets and clean up. With the increased rains, dangerous wet crossings are a significant concern with possible lahars that continue to erode the banks of the rivers and flooding due to new deposits in the drainage paths. Main roads beyond Richmond (leeward) and Rabacca are not cleared, and the ash is now compacted and developing deep ruts impeding access by small cars. No public transit was seen being this point.

A summary of the Government-led Detailed Damage Sectoral Assessment (DDSA) Report findings is now available. In addition, with increased returns, the SVGRC volunteers returning to their homes provide increasing information on the situation in these communities. As a result, the National Emergency Operation Center is revising the humanitarian needs list to focus on reconstruction and is requesting support through monetary donations to enable recovery.

### **Shelter and settlements:**

According to the CDEMA situation report #31, on May 25, there were 80 public shelters open with 3,959 evacuees and 911 volunteers. This number was updated to 72 public shelters during a cabinet meeting on May 31. Numbers in shelters continue to fluctuate as people leave to clean their homes and return and move between public and private shelters. Recognizing the delay in shifting support activities to the returnees at their homes, the Government and organization are providing food packs and cleaning kits for those that depart.

Estimates of numbers of damaged and destroyed homes are still not available, but we know that there are some partially and/or destroyed from the weight of the ash and from lahars. For some families, this is preventing their return. Observations from the SVGRC team revealed that approximately 105 roofs were damaged or destroyed in the Chateaubelair community amongst the heavier cement block and concrete housing. In contrast, 50% of lighter rural construction (wood frame and CGI roofs) were damaged in the Chapman area north of Georgetown. Lightweight construction is heavily used for agriculture work, and this damage will impact the recovery of those activities. The heavier construction style uses concrete roof slabs or steel roof trusses. Being in urban locations, building code regulations include para seismic considerations and inspection during construction.

The persistent layer of ash is also a deterrent to returns. Cleaning of roads and the public building is the priority, with small equipment also deployed to collect the piles of ash left in the streets by families that have started their property clean-up on their own. The Government proposes a drain and footpath cleanings program through social programs geared primarily at people in vulnerable situations. The SVGRC society advocates that these programs be based on mobilizing the community that will also need temporary financial assistance while they recover their livelihoods. The cost of road clearing is estimated at over CHF 12.7 million.<sup>6</sup> Observations in the communities have exposed that many workers are not protecting themselves from the corrosive ash (masking and clothing) and are putting themselves in a dangerous situation, climbing onto roofs without fall protection.

The Red Zone communities have not been reconnected to the electrical grid to discourage return and permit minor repairs to the supply network. Estimated costs for repairing the damages are minimal, but the clean-up needs to be carried out with extreme caution not to damage equipment further. This is the same concern for all private household electrical systems and appliances where ash has entered the inner workings. To ensure temporary electrical supply during clean-up and with the interruptions required for repairs, the Government is proposing the distribution of household solar lights and charging systems, as well as consideration for large-scale projects to integrate solar power for desalination.

With the distribution of household items for evacuees in shelters and hosted families nearing completion, attention is shifting to providing a different set of Household Items (HHIs) that will support returnees. Clearing and cleaning are the main activities prioritized by returnees, with repairs and reconstruction planned. Some families are paying for cleaning their homes, while BRAGSA is taking charge of removing ash brought to the road's

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<sup>6</sup>Detailed Damage Sectoral Assessment (DDSA) Report of the Explosive Eruption of La Soufriere, St. Vincent, Presented to the Caribbean Development Partners Group, May 20, 2021

edge. However, some families cannot afford the labor and do not have fit family members to take on the task. Community members are being urged to share tools and help their neighbors.

Support to families with unclear return plans due to the continued hazard will need to consider dignified longer-term housing options. Those with the financial means have rented accommodation in safer zones, but many continue to live with host families or are still in collective centers. Actors are waiting for government direction on this point to start proposing solutions. A working group could help bring together key Ministers and NGOs to build a strategy to address temporary housing and the repair and reconstruction load that we anticipate in the communities nearer to the volcano. A proposed damage assessment of housing would help understand the scope of this work.

### Proposed shelter and settlements support activities

	Temporary displaced		Not returning	Non-displaced and returned	
	Gov and informal collective centers	Hosted families and their hosts	Continued displacement	Damaged homes with access to materials/ labour	Destroyed homes without access to materials/ labour
Essential HH items distribution					
Ash clearing kit distribution					
Safe ash clearing messages					
Shelter kit distribution					
HLP support					
BBS dissemination					
Conditional owner driven repair support					
Technical training for builders				<i>To ensure skilled workforce is available and as indirect financial support</i>	
Temporary rental support					

### Livelihoods and basic needs:

With the evolving displacement situation of the evacuated populations changing daily as returns become possible, it is difficult to evaluate their immediate needs. Some families are divided, with one part returned to start the clean-up or for income generation, while the other remains in shelters where their food and different needs are assured. Many have not yet seen the level of damage to their homes and cannot say if they will return. For those residing near, the return may only happen in 2-3 months, if at all. The Government addresses this evolving situation with a flexible approach that combines continued temporary shelter and basic needs provision, and basic needs support those returning to cover them until support can be set up in the community. For this reason, many organizations are shifting away from kind support to Cash and voucher mechanisms. As soon as goods and services are available closer to the population, they can contribute to the recovery of those local economies.

The priority concerns of returnees for the recovery phase when people return home are:

- Ash cleaning of their homes and properties
- Cover basic needs (food and day to day expenses)
- Home repairs or community infrastructure damage

- Recovery and strengthening of income generation activities

The Detailed Damage Sectoral Assessment (DDSA) Report of the Explosive Eruption of La Soufriere estimates that the loss and damage to the agriculture sector are valued at CHF 57.4 million.<sup>7</sup>

A review of secondary data and initial interview for the detailed assessment found that the most affected livelihoods are the agriculture, fishing sectors, and small agroindustry business. In the red zone, there are 1850 farmers and 125 fishers. In the Orange zone, there are 1023 farmers and 153 fishers. But it's important to note that persons across the country have had their livelihood affected. For example, some fishermen travel to the shores of the red zone for their work, and several farmworkers travel to the affected zones to work but live in the green area.

Ministry of Agriculture report shows that in the Red and Orange zones, vegetable production saw 100% loss, 98 of 163 acres of estimated arrowroot for 2021 were damaged, 80% of root crops damaged, 1129 acres of bananas, and plantain also damaged. An estimated 1,233 livestock farmers were affected in the red and orange zones. The affected population in the red zone for small ruminants is 4990, cattle 684, and approximately 400 pigs. Livestock in the evacuated zones was let loose to forage on of the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation Industry and Labour (MAFFRTIL), and approximately 800 fishers from the red and orange zones have been affected, with 278 relocated, including some nearby islands. Lahars and the ashfall also damaged irrigation and agriculture infrastructure. Agriculture and fisheries suppliers and merchants who purchase production have not returned to the impacted areas as goods to buy are limited.

To help recover from the impacts, the following activities are proposed:

- Ash cleaning: The Government is working to clean the ash of the roads and standard services and areas.
- Roof repair or infrastructure damage: We are not aware that there is any plan to work on this
- Cover basic needs: The Government will allocate money to cover the basic needs of farmers and fishermen throughout the island. There is a concern on the evacuated person if they will receive support when they return to their houses.
- Recovery and strengthening of livelihoods. The Government wants to define a plan to work in the recovery livelihoods of the farmers and fisherfolks. Still, they have nothing defined yet, and in the meetings with the Government, they emphasize that this support will not be sufficient for the recovery of livelihoods, and they need extra support.

It is crucial to start with early recovery activities for the fishing and agriculture sectors to avoid the persons resorting to negative coping strategies like asset sales or fishing further from shore without safety equipment. Farmers have an opportunity to use the rainy season to kick start some essential crops while they work on infrastructure for the coming harvests. Starting support at the production level will trickle to the transformation/processing and then market sales levels.

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

Community members are reporting that people do not trust the water supply – there are rumors that the piped water is making some children sick in some areas and as a result the request for bottled water persists. The Government assessment teams also observed water quality issues. The main concern is unknown chemical contamination of the source water, clogging of the treatment plant filters and tanks by the ash, and leaks in the water distribution system, and leaking tanks in shelters. Testing revealed low free residual chlorine at distribution points in tank trucks and storage tanks to bolster the water supply grid. The CWWA reports that testing results are within WHO standards. The IFRC WASH Coordinator participated in sampling in April and reported positive water quality results.

If water quality is confirmed to be good, there is a need for a risk communication campaign that will address these concerns and return the confidence of the users to return to piped water as a trusted water source. The team is

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<sup>7</sup> Detailed Damage Sectoral Assessment (DDSA) Report of the Explosive Eruption of La Soufriere, St. Vincent, Presented to the Caribbean Development Partners Group, May 20, 2021.

checking with government representatives to see how recent the latest testing is and will convey the population's concerns on the matter of water quality.

Due to the time of year, river levels are deficient, reducing availability and potential quality in some areas. CWSA is now reporting its capacity at 70% as of the mid-May DDSA Report<sup>8</sup>. This is a lowering from 90% reported in late April. At some shelters, water continues to be brought in by truck to compensate for insufficient supply from the taps. Combined with inadequate physical facilities, residents used water from the sea and nearby streams for bathing, laundry, and general hygiene. Solid waste is being collected very often, but bins are in short supply.

The issue of reliable water quality and quantity is coming up on discussions for the areas in the red zone where returns are just beginning. Temporary access to water will need to be provided for those working in the area. The use of disposable bottles should be avoided. With the increase in rain and soil erosion, the Government is expecting disruptions. Families should be prepared to deal with these temporary shortages with a supply of clean water in their homes. Any rainwater catchment systems will need cleaning from ash contamination, and the screens used to prevent mosquito habitat should be repaired.

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

Long-term living in collective shelters and congested host family situations have associated risks for physical and mental health. The transient nature of shelters does not foster a supportive living situation and can make access to services difficult in new and changing environments. The Government is however deploying nurses to the shelters to look after more vulnerable persons and has a initiative that permits late stage pregnancies to be accommodated in informal shelters like hotels and apartments. As ash cleaning efforts continue, the incidence of respiratory injuries along with skin and eye issues will increase if safe practices and PPE are not used. Additionally, the burden of chronic and non-communicable diseases will grow due to interruptions in the continuum of care.

The eruption caused minor immediate, direct damage to the healthcare infrastructure. Still, the ashfall has rendered facilities unusable until they are thoroughly cleaned, and all equipment is also cleaned and tested. Four Red zone facilities are under threat of damage from the heavy ashfall layer and prioritized for cleaning. The government uses existing teams and considers the contracting of further work to be initiated before the heavy rainfall season. Support includes international help to work on medical equipment impacted by the fine dust. Repair to electrical supply and protection systems will also take time to complete.

Although no deaths are directly attributed to the eruption and evacuation, some deaths may be related to the disruption to the continuum of care for chronic diseases such as cancer and diabetes.

A lack of adherence to COVID-19 prevention protocols due to lack of supplies like hand sanitizer and masks and density of accommodations is observed in shelters, religious services, and schools. In addition, 200 healthcare workers have been displaced and are in shelters<sup>9</sup> but continue working. Dengue cases are expected to rise soon, and treatment will be required to put an additional burden on the limited health care infrastructure.

There continues to be a need for risk communication campaigns to encourage people to use PPEs for ash clean up and to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Online feedback to early messaging about managing stress and coping with the aftermath of a disaster shows that continued messaging in this area also remains a priority.

With the use of schools as shelters, and the displacement of students, there is no doubt learning and annual testing and graduation have been interrupted, putting additional mental stress on young people.

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<sup>8</sup> Detailed Damage Sectoral Assessment (DDSA) Report of the Explosive Eruption of La Soufriere, St. Vincent, Presented to the Caribbean Development Partners Group, May 20, 2021

<sup>9</sup> Detailed Damage Sectoral Assessment (DDSA) Report of the Explosive Eruption of La Soufriere, St. Vincent, Presented to the Caribbean Development Partners Group, May 20, 2021

The rapid needs assessment based on perceptions by general community members on MHPSS done by the Ministry of Health with individuals and groups of adults and separately for adolescents in the public Shelters (Richland Park Government School, Layou Government School, Sion Hill Government School, Questelles Learning Resource Center, Mt. Coke Methodist, and New Grounds Government School) relates that: The identified physical needs have outweighed the need for psychological intervention and the acute psychological responses were concerning the unmet physical needs. Programmes at the shelter should be geared toward purposeful engagement for all populations, especially children and vulnerable populations, to address safety and security. Also, the engagement of families in planning for recovery and the possible needs.<sup>10</sup>

Before the disaster, there have been significant challenges related to women and children's health and well-being, particularly in delivering health care to the indigenous, the poor, and vulnerable and migrant communities. The public hospital's capacity to provide secondary and tertiary care increased but so has demand for such care due to the rise in chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) together with the unacceptable level of gender-based violence in SVG places that further stress on the health-care system<sup>11</sup>.

Emergency contraception is not available in the public system, not even in cases of sexual assault. In addition, access to Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services by adolescents given the restrictive legal framework is a challenge<sup>12</sup>.

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

Desegregated data of the residents of the collective shelters suggests that there is a predominance of women, elderly persons, and children in the shelters. This is similar to the SVGRC distribution results. This is in line with observations that many male family members either never left their homes or returned to protect their assets and begin the clean-up work. Preliminary shelter audits by the Bureau of Gender Affairs of the Ministry of National Mobilization revealed that within the 63 shelters observed, there is a potential for family separation, posing a risk for vulnerable groups. In addition, women and men within the shelters indicated an increase in mental instability, anxiety, and psychosocial need. Although there are no official reports of GBV within shelters, residents are concerned about their safety<sup>13</sup>.

Although there are no reported incidences of GBV yet in public shelters, there is a need for capacity-building and psychosocial and mental health support for survivors. The causes of violence are prevalent and include reduced income because of unemployment. In addition, these shelters are not designed with gender considerations and increased vulnerabilities for women, children, people with disabilities, and older adults.

The recommendations are to design and implement guidelines for preventing GBV within shelter settings and introduce awareness and prevention messages. Gender-sensitivity and child protection training for shelter managers and sector workers include the police, social services, health, and economic sectors. Strengthen referral pathways and coordinated services for GBV with special reference to child protection and simultaneous mental health response systems. Provide transitional housing for vulnerable populations.

Children are more affected than adults by the discrimination and marginalization they endure because of deprivation and poverty. The shame, abuse, psychological stress, exclusion, and stigma they experience diminish their self-esteem, confidence, and ability to function socially, often leaving psychological footprints affecting their personal growth and development.

Before the disaster and as per the Country poverty assessment 2007-2008 Government St Vincent and Grenadines and the UNICEF Situation Analysis of Children 2017, most of the people in a vulnerable situation are located in

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<sup>10</sup> Mental Health and Psychosocial Support. La Soufriere Eruption. Assessment for Baseline Needs

<sup>11</sup> Unicef Situation Analysis of Children St Vincent and Grenadines 2017

<sup>12</sup> UN 14 May Sit Report n7 St Vincent & Grenadines. La Soufriere

<sup>13</sup> Detailed Damage Sectoral Assessment (DDSA) Report of the Explosive Eruption of La Soufriere, St. Vincent, Presented to the Caribbean Development Partners Group, May 20, 2021

Georgetown, Sandy Bay, and Chateaubelair, the areas more affected by the volcano which have been displaced in private and public shelters.

As women generally support larger households than men, they are more at risk of suffering economic backlash and carry greater responsibilities for caring for and maintaining the family. Many women resort to negative survival strategies that may include illegal activities and/or transactional sex. There are many single-parent households with low school attendance rates among children living in the household and limited access to basic health care.<sup>14</sup>

There is an urgent need of enhancing the provision of short-term income support to displaced families to cushion the impact of livelihood lost. Design community engagement strategies that propose integrative Life and Social Skills activities that seeks to build esteem, pride, and reshape lives of transitioning displaced families, as well as aid in redefining the new community spaces for the recovery and reconstruction phases. Establish Family Life Education initiatives focused on resilience building for families and communities. Establish a national counselling component of the hotline service with access to psychosocial services for women, men, and children.<sup>15</sup>

Due to the disruption in the educator sector because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the use of schools as shelters with the eruption of the volcano, learning outcomes are impacted. The Ministry of Education (MoE) is currently providing the Continuity of Learning Programme school-age children in 83 of the 84 shelters supported by UNICEF.

#### **Disaster Risk Reduction:**

St. Vincent and the Grenadines supported Community Disaster Response Team (CDRT) volunteers play an important role in the eruption response. These volunteers work with the National Society office to streamline distribution in their respective communities by helping to identify impacted people with needs and share information about upcoming distributions. At the end of May, a new CDRT team was launched in Buccament. This will strengthen the NS's capacity not only for the response to the Volcano but also for the preparedness for the upcoming hurricane season. It remains essential for these teams to continue to strengthen and expand their knowledge and multi-hazard preparedness capacities. Also, recruiting new communities and new volunteers into CDRT programs is crucial to the National Society's ability to prepare for and respond to disasters across the islands.

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

Assessments of the impact of the ashfall on nearby islands, particularly for Barbados, are underway. With the urgency of preparing to receive evacuees over and clean up well underway, the countries can look at the other impacts like reduced agriculture imports from St. Vincent and the Grenadines. For merchants who travel to the island to source these goods, and the recent slowdown in tourism also impact their markets, a significant income source has been lost.

In nearby St Lucia, fisher folks who evacuated during the eruption have not returned and continue traveling daily back to their fishing grounds. Others are being assisted with shelter and essential items by faith-based organisations, but we are not sure how long.

No other negative impact is noted on the water sources of these countries.

#### **Operation Risk Assessment**

The volcano's activity is less of a concern but still has an impact on free access to carry out assessments and distributions on the north end of the island. The risk has shifted to the rain on the accumulated ash load, causing lahars, disruption roads, and flooding areas close to the drainage zones.

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<sup>14</sup> UNICEF Situation Analysis of Children St Vincent and Grenadines 2017

<sup>15</sup> Detailed Damage Sectoral Assessment (DDSA) Report of the Explosive Eruption of La Soufriere, St. Vincent, Presented to the Caribbean Development Partners Group, May 20, 2021

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

- The tension and stress for returning families can create frustration during assessment and distribution work. Joint delivery of goods should be scheduled to meet the needs of the community in a timely manner. CEA best practices ensure the families are listened to, informed and engaged helping to reduce anxiety around support activities.
- Difficulty engaging previously existing community structures (formal and informal) as they did not evacuate together and are not staying in the same locations. The National Society can help mitigate this risk by tapping into remote community networks of CDRT volunteers and social media platforms.
- The need to share results and planning, to better coordinate assistance, avoid gaps and duplications can delay action. Collaboration and the use of a single household reference list are essential to make this work efficiently. NEMO is responsible for this comprehensive list and should make it available to implementing partners. The content has to be protected to assure confidentiality.
- Some families never left the Red zone, and some, growing impatient, are returning before the government confirms it is safe to go home. Unfortunately, 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.
- SGBV and/or Child protection issues are expected 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. Information sessions and trainings are the first step and should be prioritized for the teams.
- Targeted 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.
- The ramp-up of activities needs to consider the HR capacity of the SVGRC and the fatigue that their members are experiencing as we enter the 3<sup>rd</sup> month of operations. Ongoing recruitment and training of volunteers will permit the delegation of responsibility.

## 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 St Vincent and the Grenadines, 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 hosting them. Within the evacuees can be grouped into two sub-groups with particular needs, the families returning to their original residences, those who, due to the volcanoes hazard, or their homes are no longer habitable and will continue to be displaced. The displaced population is accommodated in collective centers, 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.

This evolving situation requires a flexible approach to providing support, with ongoing assessments through observations and interviews of those affected and their representatives. The SVGRC is ideally placed for this data collection, having a network of volunteers that reside throughout the islands.

In-depth evaluations will constantly improve the operational plan but will be constructed based on two phases, which are expected to overlap: the emergency relief phase and the 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). The SVGRC is delivering essential items and services to this caseload and has recently begun covering those returning to their homes. This work is only possible through local volunteers and a team of staff that trains, coordinates, and deploys them. The IFRC Surge team has been integrated into this team and works closely with them.

The National Society works from a central office in the capital plans to improve to accommodate this increase in activity and personnel working there. Minor rehabilitation such as a designated secure finance office improved the IT network, painting and window repair, and air conditioning units for main workstations. Software systems (MS 365) are planned to be purchased and upgraded to improve accountability systems, verification, and coordination between staff and volunteers. A central warehouse has been rented for six months in Kingstown to permit safe storage of incoming HHIs and the preparation of distribution packages efficiently (both from the appeal and many bilateral donations). Two additional temporary hubs are set up to dispatch volunteers and goods to each side of the island. With the opening of the Red Zone, a third hub is being planned for Georgetown to receive a large delivery in late June. The National Society has only two vehicles available for the activities, and there are limitations to transport personnel to communities to start implementing activities. An IFRC fleet lease vehicle brought from the Country Cluster delegation will be purchased to augment transport. The teams use two additional rental cars for the different activities throughout the island.

#### 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. Household items (HHIs) have been mobilized from Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, and PIRAC. Three HHIs shipments have been received to date, and two more are expected in the coming month. All procurement related to this operation will follow the IFRC's standards procurement procedures and sphere standards for household items purchases.

The Mobilization table managed by the Regional Logistics Unit at the Panama office is on its 4th revision, capturing the operation's evolving funding capacity and needs. SVGRC has been efficient at receiving the goods in the country. A limited number of urgent HHIs are being procured in the country, but these are at a higher cost and with limited amounts.

#### 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 SVGRC with updated equipment like laptops and printers.

### ***Grenada***

The Grenada Red Cross Society (GRCS) will continue coordinating its volcano eruption-related work with the local National Emergency Advisory Council (NEAC). This relationship is important to ensure collaboration for work

proposed to receive evacuees and could happen again if the volcano acts up similarly. Based on their assessments, the GRCS will draft an action plan to be implemented by their staff and volunteers. This may include support to any evacuees that are staying on the island.

### **St Lucia**

The St. Lucia Red Cross has identified evacuees that will require support and is currently assessing their numbers and need to build a response plan. With markets fully functional, the response will likely be through flexible cash and voucher mechanisms. However, the SVGRC also recognizes that these families may need PFA and other protection-related services like support to communication costs so they can stay in touch with family back in SVG. The detailed assessments will consider collecting and analyzing sex and age disaggregated data to understand their potential needs better. 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 response activities in Barbados are likely to respond to the impact of the ash on the population and the impact of lost income for merchants that source agriculture products from SVG. The assessments and activities 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. These activities will be carried out in parallel to hurricane season preparedness.



Annalie Neroshearman was heading into town on a Thursday in April and had just reached the airport when she heard that La Soufriere was smoking. So, she turned around to meet her 15-year-old daughter, who was at home, and they started packing. But unfortunately, when they evacuated, there had begun to be ash.

"I was a bit scared because I saw it was coming over here, and I keep telling the children they need to put on their mask."

She rented a small house that she is sharing with 20 people, her daughters, and extended family, including her siblings, partners and children, and mom and dad.

"It was really, really difficult for so many of us,"

The Red Cross supported her family with food parcels, hygiene kits, diapers, and cleaning supplies.

## C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



### Shelter

People reached: 3,453 persons

Male: 1,404

Female: 2,049

**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	5,400	3,453

**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 (cleaning kit, kitchen sets, jerrycans, blankets or combination of)	1,800	1,151
# households provided with rental assistance for up to two months.	250	Planned
# 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	Planned

**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
# of households that receive technical support for safe repairs to their homes <sup>16</sup>	250	Planned

#### Progress towards outcomes

Distributions of combinations of essential household items continue to families in shelters but have pivoted to prioritize families leaving shelters to return to their homes. For example, the cleaning kits and buckets are combined with food packs or vouchers and ensure the families have what they need when arriving home. Some are delivered to their residence, and some are given at the shelter before departure. The Government has organized transportation for returnees recognizing that they are leaving with these goods and what they had initially been evacuated. The team does not have official numbers for returnees, but visits to Georgetown revealed that more residents are back that are away, or at least part of the family is at their home to start the clean-up.

To support the clean-up, the SVGRC distributes 30 locally purchased wheelbarrows with shovels and the IFRC shelter tool kit to community leaders to organize groups to help with home cleanings. Kits also include PPE (masks and goggles) and safe ash handling messages. An additional 270 kits have been ordered from Panama and will arrive in time to support the opening of the last communities in the Red Zone.

A limited number of tarps have been provided to families needing urgent protection. Still, the SVGRC is advocating for a strategy to support families that need repairs with permanent solutions like CGI sheets and financial assistance.

Post distribution monitoring of the relief program was carried out during the last two weeks in May. Feedback was recorded from 100 families who received food and emergency assistance from the Red Cross during the

<sup>16</sup> This indicator was modified to align it with the latest programmatic changes.

first months after the eruption. This information was analyzed and compiled into a report to be used to understand what worked well and the ongoing needs of the impacted community.



## Livelihoods and basic needs

**People reached: 560**

Male: 285

Female: 275

\*Calculated on at 3 person/family<sup>17</sup> and 50.9% male population ratio.

### **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>18</sup>	150	Planned

### **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	140

### **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	Planned

### **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>19</sup>	5,400	Planned

### **Progress towards outcomes**

140 one-time multi-purpose cash grants have been distributed to evacuated families. The selection criteria for cash support have been established. This will be destined for families evacuated from the Red Zone with 4 or more family members in their household. A team of volunteers was trained in the CVA program & systems, selection criteria, distribution methodology, feedback mechanism, and approach beneficiaries. In coordination with the CEA delegate, varied materials were designed to inform the population regarding the program and defined a CVA support line and feedback mechanism form and PSEA information document. A satisfaction survey was also used in the distribution, and a PDM is being drafted.

Following security concerns about using a distribution point for the Kingstown area that would bring together clusters of 20-30 assistance recipients, the team is delivering cards to the homes, explaining the process of withdrawing to the family. Standard Operating Procedures for the activity have been drafted to help the SVGRC use this toll in the future. The team worked closely with the ARO to set up the program and rely of daily support for the team to process the card activation.

Concerns about duplication of assistance dissuade the team from identifying further families as numerous agencies are proposing support for the same target group. Instead, the team is considering using the CVA team to implement an urgent livelihood support program for fishers and farmers to replace assets quickly or pay for tilling by machine. These activities are needed immediately and could be managed through the Debit Card modality.

<sup>17</sup> 2012 SVG census report, Statistical Office, Ministry of Finance

<sup>18</sup> One indicator was removed and included under Output 1.2

<sup>19</sup> This indicator was modified to align it with the latest programmatic changes.

After analysing secondary data, the most affected livelihood sectors appear to be agriculture and fishing. There is a notable COVID-related impact in the country that concerns the population, particularly the tourism sector, which could slow the country's overall recovery. With this information, it was decided to validate these findings and collect further data through primary sources to understand the impact and populations' needs better. Interviews were conducted with key informants such as: Ministry of Agriculture, Chief of the Fisheries Division, President of Windwards Islands farmers association, President with the National SVG, meeting with the board of the 3 different fisheries cooperatives, focus group with farmers and interviews with fish vendors in the market. Also was conducting bilateral meetings with the following organizations: WFP, UNPD, and ADRA. In the coming weeks, the team will finalize the assessment report to include more detailed proposals for the support activities.

A job description has been drafted for hiring the SVGRC a livelihood project officer and a second Livelihoods Surge rotation that will initiate the community level assessments and support the SVGRC in implementing the early recovery activities.



## Health

**People reached: 846 persons**

Male: 333

Female: 522

\*See desegregated data in results table

### ***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	Planned
# number of active first aid volunteers	20	Planned
# volunteers trained in first aid	20	Planned

### ***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	Planned
# of PPE kits delivered to families	1,800	262
# of PPE delivered to frontline volunteers	100	Planned

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# people reached with interventions (included volunteers and staff)	TBD	60

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# volunteers and staff NSs trained in PSS community based and PFA	50	60
# people reached with PSS services	1000	Planned
# PSS kits delivered for children, teenagers, and adults	1,000	Planned

### **Progress towards outcomes**

PPE kits related to the prevention of COVID infection continue to be included for families receiving essential food and HHIs distributions. In addition, with the start of support to families returning to their homes, the SVGRC is delivering goggles and N95 masks along with messages to help persons take on cleaning the ash load safely and avoiding irritation to eyes, lungs, and skin from exposure to the fine dust.

A PSS Focal Point has been identified in the SVGRC and is facilitating coordination with the Government and the development of a learning path in PSS and developing the strategy for activities for the population affected. In addition, 10 volunteers and staff of different sectors from the NS with background on PGI and PSS have been identified to support and eventually roll-out of mandatory trainings related to PFA and stress management for all volunteers and continue the learning path to incorporate the PSS as volunteers.

The ToT for this first level of mandatory trainings on PSS (Together with the PGI trainings) was provided in 3 short sessions for **10 volunteers and staff (9 women 1 men)** the following days:

- 20 and 23 May for PSS sessions.
- On 24 May, there was an Introduction to PGI, safeguarding protection Policies, survivor centre approach and reporting mechanisms session.

This group will support the training online and face-to-face and involved in supervising and developing the activities.

The Roll-out of trainings on PFA (Psychological First Aid) and stress management (4 hours) for all volunteers started and **60 volunteers and staff (47 women 13 men)** have been trained already:

1. 21 volunteers, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June Bequia (19 women 2 men)
2. 27 volunteers, 2<sup>nd</sup> online training (20 women 7 men)
3. 12 volunteers, 5<sup>th</sup> June face to face training (8 women 4 men)

Together with the trainings in stress management is included a specific part related to caring for volunteers, which is an important part that needs to be more developed within the SVGRC.

The PSS team will set up Child-friendly Spaces for children evacuated. The PGI sector leads the strategy as it is a Child Protection activity and under the umbrella of the Government and the Child protection Division from the Ministry of National Mobilization. The program, materials and human resources will be harmonized for all of the spaces between government, UNICEF and IsraAid, as well as involving the Ministry of Education and Health.

Copies of the following RED CROSS materials on Child-Friendly spaces have been provided to the Child protection WG (Ministry of Education, Child Division, UNICEF, and IsraAid) to support the programming and to establish of the centres:

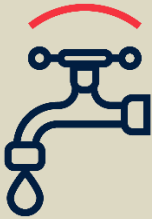
- Operational Guidance CFS
- Activity Catalogue CFS
- Manual for implementers CFS
- Manual for facilitators CFS

SVGRC is identifying the volunteers that will be selected to work in the CFS to be trained in the activities and procuring the materials for the activities.

The NS is working with the Child Protection Division of the government to identify the 600 children selected based on the suggested vulnerability criteria for distributing the Children Kits and procuring the articles based on the market capacity. The kits will add school items as the school is resuming, and there is a need to provide these items to the children of the most affected families.

The NS has received the referral document from the Child protection division shared for the emergency, which will be used for the volunteers. However, there is a need to clarify the Referral pathway related to MHPSS.

The PGI Coordinator is supporting the response in Health and specifically in PSS.



## Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 3,453 persons

Male: 1,496

Female: 1,957

**Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# people reached with WASH support during the emergency phase	5,400	3,453

**Output 1.1: Continuous assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation is carried out in targeted communities**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people provided with safe water during the emergency phase	5,400	Planned
# of hygiene kits distributed	1,800	1099

### Progress towards outcomes

Hygiene kits and essential household water storage items continue to be distributed to families in shelters to ensure their basic needs. There are limited WASH facilities at some homes, so providing the supplies is helping prevent hygiene-related issues. In addition, the SVGRC is preparing hygiene promotion material to be disseminated, and a large order of household water treatment tablets and more jerry cans have been placed. Request for potable water continues to be an issue, and bottled water continues to be distributed. This predominantly affects the returning population experiencing water supply interruptions, poor-quality issues from taps, and rumors that people are experiencing diarrhea because of contamination. It is not clear if this is specific to some areas or maybe in general. It is still the last days of the dry season, but recently heavy rains are disrupting settled materials in the supply systems.

The PGI Coordinator is supporting the response in WASH in Hygiene promotion. A Focal Point in SVGRC has been identified.



## Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People reached: 75

Male: 15

Female: 60

**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	65

**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	6
# of SVGRC and IFRC staff and volunteers and key stakeholders trained and apply PGI topics in their work	30	Planned

**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	Planned
# of SVGRC volunteers and staff trained on PSEA and Child Safeguarding Policies that sign the Code of Conduct	113	75

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached through IEC campaigns against violence specially SGBV and against children (disaggregated by sex and age)	2000	Planned

**Progress towards outcomes**

The PGI Coordinator finished the two weeks quarantine working in remote and started working with the SVGRC, focusing on strengthening the understanding of PGI in Volunteers and staff and its capacity to develop the activities.

**PGI Mainstreaming:** A focal point on PGI was identified while recruitment for a PGI Officer is in process.

Key actions:

Together with the PGI Focal Point of SVGRC was designed a learning pathway to strengthen the knowledge and capacity of PGI.

Ten key volunteers and staff of different sectors from the NS with background on PGI and PSS have been identified for supporting and eventually provide the roll-out of mandatory trainings related to PGI safeguarding policies, and in PFA and stress management, for all volunteers and continue the learning path to incorporate the PGI as volunteers.

A Training of Trainers (ToT) on PGI and PSS was provided in 3 short sessions for **10 volunteers and staff** the following days:

- 20 and 23 May for PSS sessions.
- 24 May for Introduction to PGI, safeguarding protection Policies, survivor centre approach, and reporting mechanisms.

This group will support the training online and face-to-face and involved in supervising and developing the activities.

With LLH and with the Cash Grant modality, the NS has been working in:

- In the Vulnerability criteria and improving desegregated data
- An Awareness poster on risks related to PSEA has been developed for the CVA distribution
- Integrating PGI in the need assessment and the identification of vulnerable groups and activities.

Awareness sessions on PGI in emergencies are in planning for **20 key stakeholders** (Police, health staff, NGOs, teachers) within the Protection training organized by the Community Resilience Building program of the SVGRC. In addition, the material is being printed to integrate PGI into emergencies better. (30 copies Manual on PGI minimum standards in emergencies).

**SGBV and Child Protection:** In collaboration with the Gender Division (Ministry of Mobilization) and Awareness session on Gender and SGBV was provided to **14 adolescents and young** (12 female 2 male) from Shelters in Marion House centre (21<sup>st</sup> May).

Together with the capacity building on PGI in the NS, established Child-friendly Spaces for children evacuated. The strategy is being developed jointly in the Child Protection Working Group that the Child protection Division leads from the Ministry of National Mobilization.

The program, materials, and human resources will be harmonized for all of the spaces.

Copies of the following RED CROSS materials on Child Friendly spaces have been provided to the Child protection WG (Ministry of Education, Child Division, UNICEF, and IsraAid) to support the programming and to establish the centres:

- Operational Guidance CFS
- Activity Catalogue CFS
- Manual for implementers CFS
- Manual for facilitators CFS

SVGRC is identifying the volunteers that will be selected to work in the CFS to be trained in the activities and procuring the materials for the activities. We have received the referral document from the Child protection division shared for the emergency, which will be used for the volunteers.

Children kits: The PSS Children kits for the more vulnerable families will be added with school items as the school is progressively resuming for all children. The NS is currently working with the Child Protection Division of the government to identify the 600 children selected based on the suggested vulnerability criteria for distributing the Children Kits and procuring the articles based on the market capacity.

A new long-term strategy needs to be agreed upon with the NS related to Dignity kits and menstrual hygiene management (MHM) sessions.

A briefing reinforcing PSEA and CP safeguarding Policies and the specific context in the country and mechanisms of reporting in operation has been provided to all Delegates (6 people). The PSEA Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) for this operation have been approved and presented to the operation in the following days. The Poster for the operation with information about the reporting is ready and waiting to be approved by the NS.

The Roll-out of training on PSEA and Child Protection Policies, survivor's centre approach, reporting mechanism, PFA (Psychological First Aid), and stress management (6 hours) started, and **51 volunteers and staff (39 women 12 men)** have been trained already:

1. 19 volunteers 25 and 26 June Bequia (17 women 2 men)
2. 20 volunteers, 2 and 3 June online training (14 women 6 men)
3. 12 volunteers, 5 June face to face training (8 women 4 men)

In the following days, the team will have three trainings (face to face and online) to finish all the 113 volunteers and staff active in the operation La Soufriere. In addition, copies of the Child Protection and PSEA Policy and Code of Conduct are distributed for the volunteers after the trainings (120 copies).



## Disaster Risk Reduction

**People reached: 162**

Male: 82

Female: 80

\*Calculated on at 3 person/family<sup>20</sup> and 50.9% male population ratio.

### **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
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<sup>20</sup> 2012 SVG census report, Statistical Office, Ministry of Finance

# of people reached through PAPE campaigns	5,400	247
<b>Outcome 2: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas adopt climate risk informed and environmentally responsible values and practices</b>		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# 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
<b>Output 2.1: Contributions to climate change mitigation are made by implementing green solutions</b>		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
One resilience and recovery plans developed	1	Planned
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>		
<p>Public Awareness and Public Education campaigns (PAPE) ongoing on St. Vincent and the Grenadines Facebook and Twitter with risk communications on protecting yourself and your family from ashfall; and being prepared for the hurricane season.</p> <p>Planning continues to include hurricane preparedness activities into the support that the evacuated population receives, recognizing that are particularly vulnerable as they return. Some homes could suffer further damage with heavy rains, and assets like household items could be further impacted. Communication networks are being re-established, and the communities appreciate the level of information disseminated over the radio for the volcano evacuations and are likely to use the same trusted sources for future early warning systems.</p> <p>A large essential supplies and tools order has been placed to replace prepositioned material that was used by the Eruption operation to ensure the SVGRC is ready for any future emergency.</p>		

## 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.**

<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of volunteers insured	250	250

**Output S1.1.6: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place.**

### Progress towards outcomes

Training of volunteers in mandatory PSEA and PSS are going ahead with excellent results. These trainings are coordinated with the day-to-day support activities like preparation of packages and distributions. Recruitment of staff proposed for the operation will improve their organization but also present an opportunity to reengage volunteers that are less active.

Country Cluster Finance Officer continues to work with the SVGRC finance team to equip the team and strengthen their ability to monitor all funding received by the National Society. Some of the newly implemented tools include forecasting tools, budget monitoring tools, tracking tools such as logbooks for Purchase Orders and Logistics Requisitions, and a National Society Fixed Asset Register. Creative and soluble ways are being used to strengthen team cohesion, given the new organizational structure. The Country Cluster Program Finance Officer continues to find creative ways to close any gaps identified within the finance department and feed the findings and results into the Country Cluster's NSD Assessments.

Work on an effective database for families and to report results is ongoing. ARO PMER will support the team to set up a practical indicator reporting tool and then train and work directly with a PMER officer recruited by the NS.

Further IFRC surge and long-term HR needs are planned, recognizing that the NS can strengthen technical skills if they have one on one mentoring of their teams. Example: Logistics, HR, livelihoods, and relief/ shelter.

## 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 continues to participate in various working groups that are in place to improve coordination in activities and share information.

- Caribbean Development Partners Group Disaster Management (DCDPGD) meeting,
- The WASH working group,
- Regional Shelter Cluster,
- Food Security and Livelihoods working group
- Health working group.

The team is working cooperatively with the ARO IT, IM, and Logistics teams through weekly virtual meetings and collaborative platforms like Teams.

A task force including regional department members is in working to improve this support and keep the departments updated on support opportunities.

Although no significant revisions are foreseen, the operation is planning a revision of the Emergency appeal once the integrated assessment is complete. As a result, the SVGRC has more time to be involved in the finer details of activity planning for the longer term. Following this revision, the operation will be ready to be handed over to the Country Cluster Delegation for the ARO.

## 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 IFRC Communications delegate continues to provide ongoing support to St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross with media interviews, resulting in positive local coverage on television, papers, and online highlighting the Red Cross response to humanitarian needs from the La Soufrière eruption. In addition, IFRC gathers and shares content from the response to demonstrate the Red Cross response.

The first phase of drafting an integrated assessment plan is complete, the analysis of secondary information is ongoing, and the sector leads are moving ahead with interviews of key informants. Discussions with key informants flagged that communities may not be ready yet to participate in Focus groups as many are moving. The work would only capture a part of the communities' interests. Last week, the IFRC Team had the opportunity to conduct the first observation visits to red zone communities and talk to returnees. Assessment

of the situation for the families that cannot return is ongoing with improving access to government representatives and information coming from SVGRC volunteers that work for them.

## D. Financial Report

Click [here](#) to go to the financial report.

### Reference documents

Click here for:

- Initial [DREF Operation Plan of Action](#)
- [Emergency Appeal](#)
- [Operations Update no. 1](#)

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

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

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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.

# Emergency Appeal

## INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/04	Operation	MDRVC005
Budget Timeframe	2021-2022	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 11 Jun 2021

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### MDRVC005 - St Vincent & Grenadines - La Soufrière Volcano

Operating Timeframe: 12 Apr 2021 to 31 Oct 2022; appeal launch date: 18 Apr 2021

## I. Emergency Appeal Funding Requirements

Thematic Area Code	Requirements CHF
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	150,000
AOF2 - Shelter	470,000
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	470,000
AOF4 - Health	250,000
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	200,000
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	160,000
AOF7 - Migration	0
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	150,000
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	0
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	50,000
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	100,000
<b>Total Funding Requirements</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>
<b>Donor Response* as per 11 Jun 2021</b>	<b>1,556,746</b>
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	<b>77.84%</b>

## II. IFRC Operating Budget Implementation

Thematic Area Code	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	0	0	0
AOF2 - Shelter	41,136	859	40,277
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	146,225	213	146,012
AOF4 - Health	36,175	5,230	30,945
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	115,760	0	115,760
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	5,325	0	5,325
AOF7 - Migration	0	0	0
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	112,233	51,976	60,256
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	94,323	22,085	72,238
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	0	0	0
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	0	0	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>551,176</b>	<b>80,363</b>	<b>470,813</b>

## III. Operating Movement & Closing Balance per 2021/04

Opening Balance	210,135
Income (includes outstanding DREF Loan per IV.)	216,065
Expenditure	-80,363
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>345,837</b>
Deferred Income	0
Funds Available	345,837

## IV. DREF Loan

* not included in Donor Response	Loan :	266,000	Reimbursed :	266,000	<b>Outstanding :</b>	<b>0</b>
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# Emergency Appeal

## INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/04	Operation	MDRVC005
Budget Timeframe	2021-2022	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 11 Jun 2021

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### MDRVC005 - St Vincent & Grenadines - La Soufrière Volcano

Operating Timeframe: 12 Apr 2021 to 31 Oct 2022; appeal launch date: 18 Apr 2021

#### V. Contributions by Donor and Other Income

Opening Balance							210,135
Income Type	Cash	InKind Goods	InKind Personnel	Other Income	TOTAL	Deferred Income	
European Commission - DG ECHO	-579				-579		
Japanese Red Cross Society	41,976				41,976		
New Zealand Government	99,047				99,047		
Taiwan Red Cross Organisation	9,162				9,162		
The Canadian Red Cross Society (from Canadian Gov	66,458				66,458		
<b>Total Contributions and Other Income</b>	<b>216,065</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>216,065</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Total Income and Deferred Income</b>					<b>426,199</b>	<b>0</b>	