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Operations Update – 12 months

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

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



Photo: Spring Village, Georgetown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines: St Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross members looks over the community of Spring Village on 21 June 2021, as the ash is removed, and things slowly return to normal. Source: St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross Society, June 2021.

Emergency Appeal n°	MDRVC005	Glide n°:	VO-2021-000034-VCT
Date of issue:	19 July 2022	Expected timeframe:	20 months
Appeal launched:	19 April 2021	Expected end date:	31 December 2022
IFRC Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: Orange			
DREF allocated: 266,000 Swiss francs (CHF)		Funding Requirements: 2,000,000 (CHF)	
Total number of people affected:	More than 13,300 people evacuated, with most of St. Vincent's 110,600 population indirectly affected by ashfall and water restrictions.	Number of people to be assisted	5,400 people (1,800 families).
Regions affected:	St. Vincent Island and outer islands	Regions targeted:	This response focuses on providing services to evacuees and people affected by ashfall on St. Vincent and outer islands.
Host National Societies' presence:			

Saint Vincent and Grenadines Red Cross (SVGRC), Saint Lucia Red Cross (SLRC), Grenada Red Cross Society (GRCS), and Barbados Red Cross Society (BRCS).

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:

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.

Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:

United Nations agencies, Ministry of Social Development, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMO), and Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

Summary of revisions made to the emergency plan of action:

This operation update documents the following changes to the emergency plan of action:

Scope:

- When the operation began, there were reports of effects on other islands, and it was included as part of the operation to provide services in St. Lucia, Barbados, and Grenada. After further needs assessments, it was decided to limit the response to St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and support was not required on other islands.
- Appeal is extended by 2 months and will be implemented through to 31 December 2022.

Budget:

- The total Funding Requirement has not been changed, but a review of the needs for each area has been made considering the scope revision. See the budget details for each area [here](#).

Livelihoods and basic needs:

- An increased target from 150 to 300 small and medium enterprises.

Shelter:

- Decreased target for the rental assistance program, up to 100 households to be supported for three months dependent upon circumstances and needs.
- Minor house repairs for 50 households to be supported with materials and “safer construction awareness training”.

National Society Development:

- A budget for the repair and minor renovation of the SVGRC headquarters in Kingstown has been increased from CHF 4,000 to CHF 40,000. Additional funds for the installation of solar panels are also being sought as part of improving the financial sustainability of SVGRC and reducing its carbon footprint. Installation of solar panels will allow the National Society to reduce its current monthly electricity cost by over 80%.
- Support will be provided to the National Society to organize elections and the revision of the Society's statutes as part of the NSD (National Society Development) component for the Emergency Appeal.
- Increase income through first aid training and develop this activity as a consistent revenue stream.
- Finalize a Digital Transformation strategy, and support SVGRC to establish MS365 for the office, including the migration of all staff emails to this new platform.

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Since 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, causing government authorities to issue immediate evacuation orders. On 9 April 2021, La Soufrière erupted for the first time after 40 years, sending an ash plume of 10km into the sky. Subsequent multiple eruptions occurred, and several severe tropical storms and rain events initially hampered the clean-up activities and slowed down the recovery phase of the operation.

Heavy ashfall initially impacted the neighbouring islands of Barbados, Grenada, and St. Lucia. The ashfall however neither caused considerable damage nor required evacuation on those islands.

At its peak, the eruption displaced over 13,300 people who sheltered in public and private collective centres, with most of St. Vincent's 110,600 population being indirectly affected by ashfall, water restrictions, loss of income, and house rental shortages.

The red and orange zones were designated as safe for people to return in September 2021 by NEMO, and all government managed collective shelters were closed by 31 March 2022. Despite the significant amount of work that was completed, some families continued to live with host families, or in transitional housing while they repair or rebuild their damaged homes. Furthermore, livelihood activities were severely constrained in 2021, and were compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic which placed a greater burden on households' livelihood and earning potentials.

Among the government's efforts to support households in St Vincent & the Grenadines to recover in the aftermath of the eruption were:

- Cleaning and clearing of ash from all roadways
- Support to the agriculture sector through monthly payments of 500 Eastern Caribbean Dollars (XCD)
- Support to farmers to clear ash from land and carry out mechanical tilling
- Construction of several transitional schools to fill the gap created by permanent schools that remain damaged
- Provision of food parcels (with SVGRC supported distributions)
- Supply of construction materials for house repairs
- Construction of 27 homes in Orange Hill for households that could not return to their pre-eruption home.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Societies Response Action

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross (SVGRC) worked in collaboration with the national authorities by supporting families to evacuate from the red and orange zones and providing food parcels and other in-kind donations. The following actions were implemented by the National Society so far:

- Provided 291 Multipurpose cash grants to households during the emergency phase of the response.
- Issued 753 supermarket vouchers (200 of these vouchers were funded by the La Soufriere appeal)
- Distributed relief items such as blankets, water, mosquito nets, tarpaulins, and wheelbarrows to 1,713 families.
- 3,338 households were provided with cleaning kits.
- 3,231 food parcels (purchased with bilateral funds – delivered under the appeal) have been delivered to families in St Vincent and Bequia islands.
- 74 families (240 people) were supported to relocate from communal shelters into a transitional rental accommodation.
- 2,398 hygiene kits were provided to households.
- 257 shelter tool kits were distributed.
- The National Society established and supported 11 child-friendly spaces in communal shelters and reached 1018 children.
- 88 staff and volunteers were trained in Mental Health and Psycho-social Support (MHPSS) and assisted with the 'Return to Happiness' programme in collaboration with UNICEF, the Ministry of Social Development, and the Department of Child Welfare.
- 667 PSS kits were provided to support children's return to school.
- 1,713 families were reached with PPE items (face masks, gloves, and hand sanitizers) to ensure safe COVID19 practices.

- 400 wall-mounted sanitizer units were installed in classrooms, health clinics and community managed buildings.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in country

The Americas Regional Office (ARO) supports the Port of Spain Country Cluster Delegation (PoS CCD) and other regional partners. Through these offices, the IFRC continued working closely with the National Society to implement and monitor activities under the La Soufriere operation. The last remaining IFRC staff member is the Operations Manager. St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross received support to implement the remaining activities and to build capacities within the National Society. This includes the development of a plan to leave (training of staff, development of leadership and financial strategies etc.) in collaboration with the National Society Development team to assist the National Society address the issues in the closing of the appeal and beyond.

The Canadian Red Cross and the Government of Canada have been working with the National Society for the past several years on the Community Resilience Building Caribbean Region (CRB) project. This project worked with different communities, and key local stakeholders within the communities. Project staff also supported this operation immediately following the eruption on 9 April 2021. Most activities under the CRB project were implemented between September 2021 and March 2022. This project officially ended on 31 March 2022; however, the La Soufriere project team is assessing opportunities of continued engagement to ensure that unmet targets of disaster risk reduction (DRR) initiatives can be completed within the DRR component of the appeal. This is however contingent upon funding and continued interest from the identified communities.

Overview of non-RCRC actors' actions the in country

IFRC and St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross representatives attended weekly National Emergency Conference meetings chaired by the Prime Minister's office from April 2021. These meetings were moved to bi-weekly meetings in September, and as of December 2021 they were held as required or as determined by the office of the Prime Minister.

IFRC hosted and coordinated the WASH, Cash Voucher Assistance (CVA) and the Livelihoods working groups (Livelihood working group later replaced the CVA working group). The IFRC and National Society are no longer attending the WASH working group as all planned activities in the sector ended in March 2022. The IFRC National Society are in the process of exiting the Livelihood working group since associated activities will be completed by June 2022. Despite the completion of these activities, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross and IFRC remain available to attend meetings if requested.

The Ministry of Public Works completed a detailed damage assessment, including damage to major infrastructure, waterways, bridges, and homes across the island of St Vincent. This information was shared with the National Society and was used to assist in correlating information required as part of the house repair program. Further coordination meetings in Shelter (specifically house repairs) have been held with International Office of Migration (IOM) and Global Emergency Relief Recovery & Reconstruction (GER3), however these coordination meetings are now only called when new people are included in our respective home repair programs (currently no new people are expected to be registered in these programs, unless additional funding becomes available).

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

Impact and needs assessment (St Vincent and the Grenadines)

La Soufrière volcano's explosive activity continued from April through to July 2021, with pyroclastic flows being reported up to the end of June across the volcano's eastern flank. Ashfall continued through July, however it was limited to the island of St Vincent with the surrounding islands of the Grenadines, Grenada, St. Lucia, and Barbados spared the worst of ash and debris that impacted those islands in the immediate aftermath of the initial eruption. This resulted in the operation focusing its planned activities in St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

In-country transportation was initially hindered by heavy ashfall; however, roads and access became possible since September 2021. The St. Vincent Electricity (VINLEC) service had cut the power supply to the northern parts of the island (primarily the red and orange zones), however the issues associated with damaged lines and transformers were primarily repaired by September 2021. This allowed the affected families to begin returning to their homes, and to commence clean up and repairs. The Ministry of Public works also completed a detailed damage assessment of all damaged housing stock which is being used to help coordinate repair activities supported by the government and International non-governmental organizations, including IFRC/National Society.

Livelihood activities continue to be a priority for the affected communities. Severe damage to crops and land after the eruption further compounded by the lack of rainfall over the last rainy season multiplied the need for Livelihood support. While micro enterprises, fisherfolk and other small business operators may not face the same issues outlined above, the challenges for them to generate income for their families have also been severely impacted. Some of the main concerns highlighted include increased cost of food items, reduced international tourism (with COVID-19 and the eruption compounding this issue), and increased energy costs. These issues created weaker economic activities and created barriers for families to earn the required income to keep their families above the poverty line.

Shelter: The government requested residents in the red and orange zone to be evacuated to safer areas of the island. This resulted in displaced people being accommodated in collective centres (managed by the government), private homes (when friends and family with informal arrangements host evacuees) and in hotel accommodation (sometimes with government support).

Damage to buildings and structures did occur, with considerable damage to roofs and structures either partially or fully collapsing, damage to flooring, internal walls, and failure of mechanical, hydraulic, and electrical systems within households. The effects are varied across the island with vulnerable households being impacted at a higher rate due to the structural integrity of their home prior to the eruption.

Since September 2021, the government informed that it was safe for families to return home (within the red zones) highlighting that the threat from the eruption had subsided to an allowable level. This was supported by the National Society through the rental grant program, providing support for families to leave collective shelters into a more dignified shelter option while they work to repair their homes.

On 31 March 2022, the Government announced the closure of the last collective shelters. This also coincided with the end of the rental support program that the National Society implemented. Most families either negotiated continued rent with the proprietor, returned to their homes (if this was practical), or in some cases received continued welfare rental support from the Ministry of National Mobilisation.

Home repairs is now the priority activity for St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross. The National Society is currently seeking funding to support an additional 25 households. It is estimated that 300 families still require support for house repairs for them to be able to return home.

Livelihoods and basic needs: According to the draft Collated Sectoral Analysis (DDSA) carried out by CDEMA and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural transformation, Industry and Labor (MAFFRTIL), the estimated value of total damage and loss sustained by the crops, livestock, apiculture, fisheries, and forestry sectors is \$142,628,402.00.

The agricultural sector is by far the main source of income for the affected population. This includes fisheries, livestock, and agro-processing, and was by large, the main affected economic sector. This is mainly because of the nature of the disaster (pyroclastic eruptions, heavy ash falls, and lahars affected farming lands) and due to the forced displacement of the population.

Other affected sectors include tourism/eco-tourism, small business owners and salaried work in both public and private sectors. All the above were already in economic recession due to the world pandemic of COVID-19, and the volcanic eruption added additional challenges.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion: The Central Water and Sewerage Authority (CWSA) restored 95% of the water supply on the island, however one water treatment plant in the north was damaged and requires significant repairs to resume functioning. No further eruptions have occurred, and CWSA continued water supplies except for routine maintenance requirements. While the ashfall compromised water quality of streams in red and orange zones, testing during the initial 3 months indicated that water quality was safe. With no further major eruption from August 2021, the water supply continued with clean, safe water like pre-eruption conditions.

Main concern from CWSA is lack of rainfall during the rainy season. This resulted in restriction and conservation methods applied to the water supply. The government's solution was to initiate domestic water catchment programmes. The National Society is advocating that repairs to homes should include water catchment facilities.

Health and Psychosocial support: The main hospital in Georgetown was cleaned and repaired and is almost functioning at pre-eruption levels, with other health clinics identified in the red and orange zones receiving funds through the 'SMART' hospital program from the Pan-American Health Organization.

With the closure of all collective shelters and the red and orange zones now deemed safe to return, the health needs and the urgent nature have reduced substantially. The National Society has continued to focus on first aid, and phyco-social first aid, training volunteers and engaging communities with the knowledge and techniques needed to build resilience within the communities of these affected zones.

COVID-19 continues to be a concern for the government authorities, with constant need for personal protective equipment (PPE), hand sanitizer and continued awareness raising required to ensure COVID-19 safe practices and transmission are minimised. As schools resume face to face lessons, we expect that the needs will increase.

Protection, Gender, and Inclusion: There is a critical need to continue 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 within communities with a focus on collective centres. Community-based interventions will be done to raise awareness about violence prevention and create inclusive risk communication in different formats (for example materials for persons with disabilities, persons with low literacy, and child friendly messaging) ¹.

Actions around Protection, Gender and Inclusion will continue, as the National Society understands the need to continue to develop plans and its own capacity to address issues around violence and inclusion in future responses. The Gender Affairs Unit from the Ministry of National Mobilisation provided positive feedback for the Child Friendly Spaces that St. Vincent and the Grenadines supported in collective shelters. Further to this, the National Society was engaged in developing programs and events for '16 days of Activism'.

Disaster Risk Reduction: Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRTs) were involved since the initial 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 identifying evacuees living with host families to receive specific relief packages. Despite the subsiding eruptions of the La Soufrière, the Community Disaster Response Teams members and volunteers have continued to support distributions, assessments, and community engagement activities under the operation.

Multi-hazard risks continue to be faced by St. Vincent and the Grenadines, as are several other small island nations in the Caribbean. The need for communities to identify climate change risks and put in place climate-adaptive strategies have been identified main priority faced. This issue was exacerbated by the eruption, especially around river mouths and ravines that had changed topography caused by the significant amount of ash that ended up in these waterways.

¹ [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](#)

Targeting

According to St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Volcano Hazard Plan, approximately 5,062 persons live in the red zone and 10,577 in the orange. Evacuation orders were issued for all residents living in the red and orange zones; however, this belies the impact that this movement of people had on the residents and school children of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. This was seen with the closure of schools, activated as collective centres, and not reopened until October or later in 2021. Based on these points and discussions with UNICEF, NEMO, the Ministry of National Mobilisation and other key agencies, a target of 1,800 families with an average of 3 persons per family (5,400 persons) was set by the National Society.

NEMO initially requested that the National Society focus on supporting families living in informal shelters/host families through the relief phase, with all initial household items (HHIs) and cash support provided to people reached that had evacuated to these communal shelters. This request subsequently changed with the National Society requested to provide support for families to transition out of government managed communal shelters through the provision of rental support so that schools could be re-opened.

Livelihood interventions implemented aided small and micro enterprises across multiple sectors, including farmers, fisherfolk, tourism operators, sellers, and coconut oil producers, with a focus on households micro-enterprises in the red and orange zones.

Scenario planning

In September, the government announced that the La Soufriere volcano effusive phase had ended and that was deemed safe for affected households to return to their homes in the red and orange zones. This was followed by the closure of all government managed collective shelters in March 2022, and the need for support to be provided to families who continued repairing homes or sought other longer term and sustainable housing options.

Capacity analysis of the National Societies

The response involved a collaborative effort between IFRC and the National Society, with over 200 volunteers and 17 full time staff engaged through the first 6 months of the operation. St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross also supported the trainings and provision of equipment to 5 CDRTs in various parts of the island and can provide support to their respective communities.

In 2018, the National Society conducted an Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) to assess the performance and capacity of the National Society and received a rating of 66 per cent. Although this assessment identified important strengths, several weaknesses were identified, which will be addressed within the La Soufriere response. This includes strengthening the human resource structure and allowing the National Society to use the La Soufriere response as a tool to build their capacity. This has allowed the National Society to increase the staff count from 3 to 17 to effectively implement the La Soufriere eruption. This approach increased the National Society's capacity to manage a larger team and focusing efforts to enhance their capacities so that the National Society becomes more resilient due to this response.

With most activities associated with the emergency response well underway, efforts with the current team have begun to support developing policies and management structures for volunteers, as well as for Human Resource, Finance, and Procurement policies. Further to this, discussions with St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross' leadership were held to assist with the revision of statutes, begin a Strategic Planning process, Digital Transformation and Finance sustainability (through cost recovery, income models, and reduction of core costs) by the end of the Emergency Appeal.

B. Operational Strategy

Overall Operational objective:

Provide emergency assistance and recovery support to 5,400 people (1,800 families) affected by the La Soufriere volcanic eruption in St. Vincent and the Grenadines with a specific focus on Shelter and Essential Household Items (EHI), Livelihood & Basic Needs, Psychosocial support (PSS), Protection, Gender & Inclusion (PGI), and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

Proposed Strategy:

The general response strategy targeted affected families from vulnerable groups who evacuated due to the eruption and were living in collective shelters, with host families or in private shelters and support families included in the rental program and/or house repair activities. This support included Cash and Voucher Assistance to over 500 households, and the distributions of HHIs, food parcels, cleaning kits and tools associated with ash removal to more than 1800 households.

Since September 2021, 400 monthly grants have been provided to families that facilitated them transitioning from collective shelters into more dignified housing solutions. As part the rental program, the National Society coordinated with the Ministry of National Mobilisation and the Ministry of Education. This collaboration allowed for collective shelters in schools to be prioritised for closure (allowing schools to reopen sooner) and linked the most vulnerable households to government managed rental support through a welfare program.

Evaluations completed in November 2021 highlighted the need for livelihood support with farmers, tourist operators and fisherfolk from the red and oranges zones, although it is felt that the entire island of St Vincent lost income due to the eruption and the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 312 people were targeted to participate in the Livelihood program that is focused on improving income generation for the households involved.

Operational Support Services:

Community Engagement and Accountability

The capacity of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross to manage Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) throughout the emergency response was increased with designated hotlines created for direct communication with people reached through the Cash Assistance program and constant engagement with people involved in the rental activities, house repairs and the livelihoods program. CEA is also supported by collaborating working through Red Cross groups, and CDRTs in their respective communities. This provided both the community and the Red Cross with opportunities to identify issues, gather feedback and to adjust services and delivery for greater efficiency and effectiveness.

Administration and Finance

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross hired a Finance Manager and Administration Officer to manage the operation and ensure IFRC financial procedures were followed. The IFRC also appointed an Operation Manager who is working with the National Society to ensure effective implementation of the operations. IFRC continues to provide the necessary operational support for budget review, validation, bank transfers and other technical assistance to National Societies.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER)

Reporting on the operation is done following the IFRC's minimum reporting standards. PMER provides support at the Country Cluster Delegation in Port of Spain and the Americas Regional Office in Panama. This support includes guiding the National Society's PMER Officer and validating reports.

C. Detailed Operational Plan



Shelter

People targeted: 3,930 (1,310 unique families)

Male: 1,465

Female: 1,465

Requirements (CHF): 304,988

Shelter 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	Achieved
# of families living in safe and dignified collective centres in secure settlements (families provided with kitchen sets, blankets, rental support, or other household items while living in non-government managed shelters/host families – No double counting)	1,500	1,459

Shelter 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)	1,500	1,385
# Households supported by rental support grants	100	74
# Households provided with support for home repairs	50	13

Shelter 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
# Volunteers and staff trained in distribution and best use of shelter & household items	20	Currently unfunded

Progress towards outcomes

Emergency Shelter Response

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross supported over 1,385 (1,128 blankets + shelter tool kits) evacuee's and host families in emergency collective centres. These households received a minimum of 1 additional shelter related item aside from blankets or shelter tool kits as indicated above.

Kitchen sets	117
Water bottles (purchased with bilateral funds - distributed by the Appeal)	20,037
Mosquito nets	324
Cleaning kits	3,348
Hygiene kits	2,398
Shelter tool kits	257
Jerry cans	1,713
Tarpaulins	191
Buckets	200
Blankets	1,128
Rental grants (XCD800/grant)	400

Rental Grants

Rental grants were provided to 74 families (240 people) to aid smooth transitioning from emergency collective centres. Provisional rental assistance (Cash and Voucher Assistance - CVA) at XCD800/month for 2 – 6 months was implemented. A total of 400 grants were distributed (191 by the Emergency Appeal + 209 with bilateral funds).

Throughout the rental program, the National Society remained in contact with all households and property owners through monthly face to face meetings. The meetings mitigated issues between the parties and ensured that the families supported were aware of the end date. The rental program ended on 31 March 2022, with the Ministry of National Mobilisation continued support with households needing further assistance. Subsequently, other families found shelter options without the need of further support from the Red Cross or the Government of St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

House Repairs

The last major output related to shelter is to provide support to 50 households to complete minor repairs (currently the appeal has funds to cover 25 house repairs). The National Society used bilateral funds received for the repair of 13 homes. It is with the experience gained that the National Society would oversee the repairing of an additional 25 homes and if funding permits an additional 12 homes, to realize the reduced target of 50 homes.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 2,283 people

Male: 1,142

Female: 1,141

Requirements (CHF): 403,400

Livelihoods and basic needs Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods.

Indicators:	Target	Achieved
# targeted households have enough food, cash or incomes to meet their survival threshold	600	491
# of people whose livelihoods are restored to pre-disaster level	150	This figure will be captured once PDM + LH evaluation is completed.

Livelihoods and basic needs Output 1.1: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities

# of households supported with cash assistance.	300	291
# of households supported with supermarket voucher assistance.	309	200

Livelihoods and basic needs Output 1.2: Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production, increased productivity and post-harvest management (agriculture-based livelihoods)

# of targeted household that receive livelihood grants ²	300	312
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² Indicator has been revised to capture persons that have received at least 1 x LH grant

Livelihoods and basic needs Output 1.3: Community awareness activities on livelihoods strengthening and protection are carried out with target communities and public actors.

# of targeted population that stabilize their net income through skill building, improved assets, micro-finance support, job creation, etc (Trainer of Trainers + 80 beneficiaries trained by trainers)	100	Planned training has been put on hold.
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Progress towards outcomes

Cash and Voucher Assistance

291 households received a cash grant valued at XCD880 to support needs following evacuation from the red and orange zones after the eruption of 9 April. This activity ceased in July due to the expanded cash assistance program implemented by the World Food Programme in partnership with the Ministry of National Mobilisation.

200 people received supermarket vouchers valued at XCD300 each. This activity will be continued throughout the response and is now targeting vulnerable households being supported by the National Society through livelihoods, house repairs, and the remaining people in the rental program.

Livelihood grants supporting small enterprises, farmers and fisherfolk

To ensure effective implementation, and to strengthen the National Society's capacity to implement the livelihood component, a Livelihood Delegate was deployed to St. Vincent and the Grenadines from September 2021 to March 2022. The delegate led an assessment and designed the livelihood programme. This concluded with a revised target from 150 people to 300 people as part of the Livelihood cash grant program, targeting small agro-producers, farmers, fisherfolk and micro enterprises.

The conditional cash grants were transacted through two instalments of 60% and 40%, with the second disbursement released after 80% of the first tranche was spent and verified with receipts, photos, and field visits by the National Society's Livelihood Officers. The conditional purchases could include but not limited to the following:

- Replenishing stock
- Repair livestock sheds
- Livestock and livestock food
- Repair or improvement to a shopfront/restaurant
- Boat repairs, fishing equipment and tools, outboard engines
- Agriculture tools and equipment
- Labour to clear farmland from ash and prepare land for farming

To date, 312 people were registered and accepted according to the following livelihood groups:

- **Group #1: Cash grant value of XCD2,000**
179 farmers and 83 fishermen
- **Group #2: Cash grant value of XCD1,500**
20 small business owners
- **Group #3: Cash grant value of XC1,000**
30 agriculture-processors

Of the 312 people, 291 received their 2nd cash grant, with 21 people not receiving their final tranches because of non-submission of their receipts as per the program requirements. All second tranche payments are now finalised, and post-distribution monitoring is currently being done by St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross.

Livelihood training

The Richmond Vale Academy ([Richmond Vale Academy - Volunteer in Latin America & the Caribbean](#)) was identified and contracted to provide training for up to 20 farmers as part of the Trainer of Trainer strategy. The

goal of this activity was to provide the knowledge and capacity to improve farming practises in an environmentally sustainable way and encourage farmers to apply their experience and mentor other farmers.

The training commenced on 3 February with only 3 of the selected 10 farmers attending the class. Discussions with the farmers and trainers were carried out and a new date of 6 March was determined. Once again, a small group of 4 farmers attended, all of whom could not commit to the 4-week training schedule. Due to these challenges, the proposed training with Richmond Vale Academy was cancelled. The National Society is currently working with farmers, and fisherfolk to ascertain training needs or support mechanisms that are of priority to the livelihood groups.



Health

People reached: 12,061

Male: 6,000

Female: 6,061

Requirements (CHF): 114,312

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

Indicators:	Target	Achieved
# number of active first aid volunteers	20	16
# volunteers trained in first aid (and staff)	20	21
# people trained in first aid (not RC staff)	100	89
# First Aid kits provided (individual kits)	100	0

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

# of first aid kits delivered (large first aid kits)	20	26
# of PPE kits delivered to families	1,800	1,713
# of PPE delivered to frontline volunteers	100	213
# of students provided with hygiene and COVID-19 safe protocol information (new indicator)	2,000	9,660

Health Outcome 2: The psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened

# people reached with PSS interventions (PSS kits for schools).	600	667
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Health Output 2.1: Psychosocial support provided to the target population as well as to RCRC volunteers and staff.

# people reached with interventions (including volunteers and staff)	1,000	775
# volunteers and staff NSs trained in PSS community-based and PFA	20	88
# people reached with PSS services	50	21
# PSS kits delivered for children, teenagers, and adults	1,000	This indicator is a repeat of outcome 2.

Progress towards outcomes

Improved Health

The National Society provided 26 large first aid kits for use in collective shelters, with these kits being transferred to the schools once the collective shelters were closed.

COVID-19 mitigation & protection

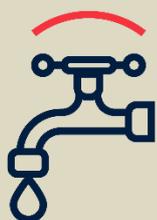
COVID-19 issues were addressed by providing PPE items with the distribution of all HHIs and to persons included in the livelihood and shelter recovery programs. The figure of 1713 is based upon the number of jerry cans distributed to families as captured under the shelter section. Additionally, all volunteers and staff involved in the implementation were provided with personal protective equipment (PPE) items, hand sanitizer and face shields. To mitigate the COVID-19 transmission, and to support the Ministry of Education to reopen schools, the National Society installed 385 sanitizer units, across 20 public schools and 365 classrooms with a total school population 9,660 students.

MHPSS activities

In response to the need to address mental health issues, the National Society collaborated with UNICEF and the Ministry of Education to establish and support 11 Child Friendly Spaces in collective shelters throughout the emergency response period.

667 MHPSS Children School kits were prepared and distributed to school children along with additional information to families about “how to manage stress” for kids, how to access MHPSS services provided by the government and general hygiene and COVID awareness materials.

88 volunteers and staff were provided with the following trainings; How to manage stress, MHPSS in emergencies and PFA.

**Water, sanitation, and hygiene**

People reached: 16,194

Male: 8,097

Female: 8,097

Requirements (CHF): 202,994

WASH Outcome1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities.

Indicators:	Target	Achieved
# people reached with WASH support during the emergency phase	5,400	7,194
WASH Output 1.1: Continuous assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation is carried out in targeted communities		
# of people provided with safe water during the emergency phase	5,400	9,000
# of Hygiene kits distributed	1,800	2,398

Progress towards outcomes

A detailed assessment of the water treatment plants network and supply reservoirs was completed with the support of technicians and WASH delegate from the PIRAC office. This assessment was carried out in collaboration with CWCA and found that the water supplying Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was not contaminated and was considered safe to drink and use within the first month after the main eruption.

2,398 Hygiene Kits (7,194 persons) were distributed with a focus on households residing with host families and at private collective centres.

1,713 (4,662 persons) water storage buckets were distributed to households, providing these households with the equipment to collect and store safe and affordable drinking water during the immediate aftermath of the eruption.

A further 20,037 cases of drinking water were supplied bilaterally to St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross and were distributed to approximately 3,000 families (6 cases per family of 3).

Water treatment equipment was removed from storage and checked for serviceability. General maintenance was carried out and the unit is confirmed as operational.



Protection, Gender, and Inclusion

People reached: 1,135

Male: 454

Female: 681

Requirements (CHF): 104,000

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

Indicators:	Target	Achieved
# people reached with PGI actions	200	1,135

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

# of key actions of PGI included mainstreaming made in collaboration with other sectors of intervention (Key activities/meetings held to ensure marginalised people are included in response activities)	5	5
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Protection, gender and inclusion Output 1.2: Programmes and operations prevent and respond to sexual- and gender-based violence and other forms of violence especially against children.

# people reached through community-based protection activities	100	117
# Staff and volunteers trained in PGI, Code of Conduct, PSEA trainings	120	123

Protection, gender and inclusion Output 1.3: Advocacy initiatives contribute to preventing and responding to all forms of violence especially SGBV (Sexual Gender Based Violence) and against children

# of children reached through Child Friendly Spaces	500	1,018
# of events that Red Cross led to promote awareness on child protection, GBV etc	15	13

Progress towards outcomes

PGI mainstreaming

PGI approaches were used throughout the operation, with minimum standards implemented where possible. A strong focus on awareness raising and training for the National Society's staff and volunteers aimed at building the capacity to continue addressing issues of PGI beyond the La Soufriere appeal.

Further coordinating effort for PGI activities included the Ministry of National Mobilisation, the Gender Affairs Unit, the Ministry of Education, and UNICEF. This was important to create relevant referrals for people in need.

Community based PGI activities & trainings

In collaboration with the Gender Affairs Unit, local artists and community groups were engaged to create 3 murals depicting issues of GBV and Violence against women. These pieces were placed around the island of St. Vincent (45 people involved in the process).

17 survivors of violence attended awareness raising sessions held with community groups, Red Cross groups, and CDRTS, with 117 people reached.

123 staff and volunteers attended Code of Conduct training and signed the Red Cross code of conduct.

78 staff and volunteers were trained to work in Child Friendly Spaces.

89 staff and volunteers participated in PSS training (stress management, PFA, PSS in emergencies).

Preventing & responding to Sexual Gender Based Violence

11 Child Friendly Spaces were established in collective shelters with 1018 children reached during October 2021.

Between April 2021 and February 2022, 13 events were held to promote awareness and knowledge around Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence. This included training sessions with the police and ambulance workers, secondary high schools (4), GBV and PSEA awareness sessions for managers responsible for collective centres, poetry readings, round table discussion sessions and public service debates over the radio and local television.



Disaster Risk Reduction

People reached: 1,089 people

Male: 545

Female: 544

Requirements (CHF): 100,500

DRR Outcome 1: Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disasters.

Indicators:	Target	Achieved
# people reached through DRR activities (community project, trainings, awareness campaigns)	600	Discussions for funding are ongoing with potential donors

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

# of people reached through PAPE campaigns	600	0
# of cleaning kits distributed	3,000	3,348

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

# communities reached through disaster risk management and climate change activities (approx. 300 people/community)	2	Discussions for funding are ongoing with potential donors
# people trained in disaster risk management and climate change	50	Discussions for funding are ongoing with potential donors

DRR Output 2.1: Contributions to climate change mitigation are made by implementing green solutions.

One resilience and recovery plans developed	1	Discussions for funding are ongoing
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		with potential donors
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>In preparation for the hurricane season, the following equipment and items have been purchased and distributed for use by CDRTs and Red Cross groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Cordless power drills • 7 5hp generator • 30 pairs of boots for all members • 50 raincoats • 50 NEMO/SV GRC vests • 50 torches for all members • 25 metres rope • 20 shovels • wheelbarrows <p>3,265 cleaning kits were distributed to an estimated 1089 individual households (an estimated 3 cleaning kits per household).</p> <p>The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross reviewed 3 Community Disaster Response plans for the upcoming hurricane season; the plans will be printed and distributed. In addition, a Hurricane Preparedness workshop will be conducted in June 2022. This will be the first face-to-face preparedness meeting since 2019, as a result, a travel reimbursement budget was developed for the National Society's volunteers to attend the meeting.</p>		

SF1: National Society Strengthening

Requirements (CHF): 282,075

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

Progress towards outcomes

Improved infrastructure

The National Society's headquarters was renovated between the months of December 2021 and February 2022, the work included the following:

- A 15m2 extension to the rear of the building of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross Resource Center. The extended area will be used as a library.
- Air conditioning units installed in the offices on the ground floor.
- Installation of new entry doors and security entrance system with face recognition
- Installation of new windows to improve space for air conditioning
- Male & Female bathroom facilities were upgraded
- Roof repairs were completed
- New ceilings and lighting installed in the ground floor space and in the management room
- Finance office entrance door reinforced and safe installed
- Painting of all interior and exterior walls and ceilings

Financial sustainability

Further plans to support the National Society to achieve financial sustainability and retain some of the increased capacities were developed over the last 6 months. These plans include:

- Support the National Society to develop a digital transformation strategy.
- Support St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross to identify and apply for funding to implement the Digital Transformation Strategy.
- Improve financial sustainability through reduced core costs (normalising the Human Resources structure, investing in solar panels for decreased energy expenses).
- Identifying potential income generating activities and developing a business plan with board validation (Ambulance service, First Aid trainings, Certified Occupational Health & Safety training, renovate 1st floor spaces and offering the space for events rentals).
- Assist the leadership of the National Society to Identify project funding for 2022.

Executive Structure

The National Society is working towards updating its statutes as per the IFRC requirements. Subsequently, an election process will be conducted where the statutes will be heard, approved, and validated. The IFRC will provide funds and technical support for elections to be organised and for the statutes to be reviewed and updated using a consultative process. The extension of the Emergency Appeal through to 31 December 2022, will provide the additional time needed for these activities to be implemented.

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

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

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

Progress towards outcomes

The IFRC Country Delegation is supporting resource mobilization efforts and coordination with the Partnerships and Resource Development (PRD) unit of the IFRC Americas Regional Office. IFRC engaged several diplomatic missions and key donor agencies including European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), BHA/USAID, Canadian Red Cross (CRC), American Red Cross (AmCross), PIRAC to promote a shared understanding of the volcano eruption response. This engagement will continue throughout the operation.

Operations Manager, PGI, WASH, Livelihood and CVA delegates were deployed by the IFRC as part of the surge response. The recovery phase of the Emergency Appeal involved 3 delegates, Operation Manager, CVA and a Livelihood delegate. Both the CVA and Livelihood delegates departed in March 2022 after 6 months.

The IFRC Operations Manager worked closely with the National Society to develop an integrated human resources structure that provided the National Society with the capacity to implement Emergency Appeals activities, and to build capacity with the core structure such as finance, human resources management and procurement. Further to this, an exit plan for human resources was developed and is being followed to reduce staff in a coherent and cost-effective manner.

The National Society has the following operations underway in addition to the La Soufriere operation; Dengue, COVID 19, and the Hurricane Season Activation and Preparedness for the 2022 Hurricane Season. With the support of IFRC, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross has integrated the activities in the management of these projects and appeal with cost savings being achieved.

Budget

See [Annex](#).

Reference documents

Click here for:

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

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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 always promote 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	2021/4-2022/4	Operation	MDRVC005
Budget Timeframe	2021-2022	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 06 Jul 2022

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
Total Funding Requirements	2,000,000
Donor Response* as per 06 Jul 2022	1,901,157
Appeal Coverage	95.06%

II. IFRC Operating Budget Implementation

Thematic Area Code	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	39,405	0	39,405
AOF2 - Shelter	225,813	157,491	68,322
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	317,049	328,587	-11,538
AOF4 - Health	85,145	41,972	43,174
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	130,575	213,689	-83,114
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	16,604	8,071	8,533
AOF7 - Migration	0	0	0
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	796,494	545,527	250,967
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	252,606	224,349	28,257
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	20,235	0	20,235
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	0	0	0
Grand Total	1,883,926	1,519,685	364,241

III. Operating Movement & Closing Balance per 2022/04

Opening Balance	210,135
Income (includes outstanding DREF Loan per IV.)	1,504,533
Expenditure	-1,519,685
Closing Balance	194,983
Deferred Income	197,237
Funds Available	392,220

IV. DREF Loan

* not included in Donor Response	Loan :	266,000	Reimbursed :	266,000	Outstanding :	0
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Emergency Appeal

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/4-2022/4	Operation	MDRVC005
Budget Timeframe	2021-2022	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 06 Jul 2022

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	
American Red Cross	98,695				98,695		
Belize Red Cross Society	9,208				9,208		
British Red Cross	72,593	38,835			111,428		
European Commission - DG ECHO	-579				-579		
Irish Government	218,950				218,950		
Japanese Red Cross Society	41,427				41,427		
New Zealand Government	97,755				97,755		
Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government*)	136,504				136,504		
On Line donations	7,124				7,124		
Red Cross of Monaco	16,242				16,242		
Swiss Government	10,000				10,000		
Taiwan Red Cross Organisation	9,162				9,162		
The Canadian Red Cross Society (from Canadian Gov	66,190				66,190		
The Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Govern	109,715				109,715		
Turkish Red Crescent Society	10,000				10,000		
UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund	135,012				135,012	1,591	
United States Government - USAID	427,699				427,699	195,646	
Total Contributions and Other Income	1,465,698	38,835	0	0	1,504,533	197,237	
Total Income and Deferred Income					1,714,668	197,237	