

# La Soufrière Volcano

St. Vincent & the Grenadines

**Situation Report #12** 

















Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries

19 April 2021



#### Situation Overview

- The swarm of long-period and hybrid earthquakes continue but the rate of occurrence dropped significantly last night, April 16, 2021 around 8:00 pm and has remained near-constant since.
- Satellite images show that the new crater measures 900m x 750m and estimated to be 100m deep. New crater has several vents but only one is clearly identified.
- Another eruption occurred on April 18, 2021 at 4:49 pm. Ash clouds were moving towards the south and west of the island.
- The volcano alert level remains RED

NAME OF SHELTER <sup>1</sup>	TOTAL # OF PERSONS	MALE	FEMALE
Lodge Village Government School	140	53	87
Kingstown Government School	88	TBC	TBC
The Latter Day Saint Church shelters	45	24	21
New Adelthy Secondary School	51	34	17
New Ground Primary School	56	31	25
Diamond Primary	34	22	12
Kingdom Life Ministries Church and School	16	9	7
Barrouallie Learning Resource Center	76	34	42
Barrouallie Technical Institute	48	24	24
Barrouallie Government School	70	45	25
Petershope Central Leeward Secondary School	114	67	47

HIGHLIGHTS		
Estimated # of affected	16,000-	
persons/evacuees	20,000	
# of villages evacuated	30	
# of public shelters	85	
# persons in public shelters	6,208	
# displaced families	1,800	
# displaced persons in private shelters	6,567	
# Missing persons	0	
# Injured persons	0	
# Deaths	0	
# medevacs	0	
# evacuated health facilities	18	
(2 hospitals, all others clinics)		
# COVID-19 isolation centres	1	
Capacity (beds) on main island <sup>1</sup> , at least	200	
Capacity (beds) in the Grenadines <sup>2</sup> , at least	21	
# Active COVID-19 cases	131	
Total vaccines administered	250	
14 April 2021		
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Teams of four nurses visit the shelters daily to administer COVID-19 vaccinations and tests; as well as carry out syndromic surveillance (Coughs, Fevers and Diarrhoea); none of these three symptoms were reported.

<sup>1 &</sup>amp; 2 Total capacity of beds, not # of available beds based on occupancy

<sup>1</sup> All shelters inspected by PAHO

Health related challenges











- No new COVID-19 positive case reported by Ministry of Health from the 43 samples processed on 18 April 2021. MOH continues to urge the public to use masks, sanitize, physically distance, and get vaccinated to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in country.
- Limited access to water supply still reported in / health care facilities, including shelters. The need to test supplementary water sources remains a concern.
- Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) released test results showing no detectable levels of iron, arsenic, copper, manganese and zinc; and very low levels of aluminium in source and treated water samples.
- Disruption of pre-existing sanitation facilities and limitations to modify existing public health pro-

- grams are factors that may potentially cause an increase in communicable diseases in the affected population.
- Resources to support environmental health in shelters is required. Waste management is critical.
- Air quality still to be evaluated and associate health risk need to be monitored.
- Mental health of affected population is of concern, considering that current disaster will continue to evolve. Consideration should be given to those with existing mental health issues. This includes mental health problems such as anxiety, neuroses and depression.
- The consumption of unhealthy foods in conjunction with food shortages and damage to crops may affect the health of the displaced populations.

#### **PAHO Response Actions**

- Coordinated with Ministry of Health on updated health needs.
- Support provided to the health sector DDSA process in VCT from April 16th - 19th to rapidly assess the health needs related to water/sanitation/hygiene (WASH), shelters, and health care facilities and to provide recommendations for immediate and long term actions.
- Arrangements with Martinique and the Central Water and Sewerage Authority (CWSA) for the testing of water samples.
- Risk communication materials on COVID-19 and health risks during volcanic eruptions continue to be published and disseminated.
- Additional (PPE) supplies are in transit to VCT (according to Health Needs List).

#### **WASH Recommendations**

- Establish national laboratory and resources for the biological and chemical testing of water samples.
- Training in laboratory training in use of field kits and bacteriological testing as well as sample taking.
- Increase in water testing and chlorine residuals for alternate/temporary water sources such as wells and springs.
- Establishing more bored wells on the island to provide drinking water as they are less vulnerable to disasters and can provide sufficient ground water for much of the population.

### **Information Management**

- 1. Ministry of Health Facebook
- 2. PAHO situation reports and donor alert
- 3. International Volcanic Health Hazard Network (IVHHN): <u>a protocol for ash collection</u>, <u>IVHHN ash protection pamphlet</u>, <u>leaflet</u>

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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### ANNEX



Figure 1. Map showing location of Health Care Facilities

## **Tracking Table of Health Needs**

PAHO is currently reviewing the revised health needs list of the Ministry of Health dated 18 April. Currently, PAHO has the following items delivered/available:

ITEM	QUANTITY	STATUS
Generator	1	
Mosquito nets	100	
Oral Hydration Salts (boxes)	3	
Aquatabs	40,000	Purchased (expected delivery to MoH 24 April)
Aquatabs 8.68g	24,480	Purchased (expected delivery to MoH 24 April)
Water testing kits	6	
Water testing kits	2	Delivered to MoH
Masks	100,000	Delivered to MoH
Streamline High-Wall Split NC System, DC Inverter 9000 BTU, 2.6KW (Installed) (OM)	4	Purchased (awaiting installation by vendor)
Streamline High-WallSplit NC System, DC Inverter 24000 BTU, 7.0KW (Installed) (OM)	2	Purchased (awaiting installation by vendor)
3M Dual Cartridge Respirator (Medium) (C12)	14	Purchased (pending delivery)
3M Pre-Filter for 51P71 & 52P71 Respirator (pack of 10)	177	Purchased (pending delivery)
3M Half Face Mask W/O Cartridges (EA) (B24)	10	Purchased (pending delivery)
3M Multiple Gas Cartridge (Multi-Acid Gas/Organic Vapour) For 6200 1/2 Mask - Pair (B30)	10	Purchased (pending delivery)
3M Filter Retainer for 51P71, 52P71, 53P71(B20)	20	Purchased (pending delivery)
Bladder tank 10m3, distrib ramp, repair kit, cover	1	Purchased (delivery to MoH 24 April)
Surgical Mask	100,000	Purchased (delivery to MoH 24 April)
Face Shield	5,000	Purchased (delivery to MoH 24 April)
First responder's trauma backpacks	30	Purchased (delivery to MoH 24 April)
Jerry cans (collapsible)	1,000	Purchased (delivery to MoH 24 April)
O2 cylinders	50	Purchased (delivery to MoH 24 April)
Bladder tank 5m3 w/accessories, 6-point distrib.Ramp	2	Purchased (delivery to MoH 24 April)
Bladder tank 10m3 w/accessories, 6-point distrib. Ramp	1	Purchased (delivery to MoH 24 April)
Aquatabs 67 mg for 10 liters, box of 1,600 blister x 10 tablets	30	Delivered to MoH
Aquatabs 8.68 gr for 1,000 liters, bottle, x60 tablets	100	Delivered to MoH
Aquatabs 33 mg for 5 liters, box of 10,000 tablets	15	Delivered to MoH
450 Gallon water tanks	10	Purchased (delivery to MoH 24 April)
Water pumps	10	Purchased (delivery to MoH 24 April)
Respirator masks dual cartridge	200	Purchased (delivery to MoH 24 April)