

# La Soufrière Volcano St. Vincent & the Grenadines

**Situation Report #31** 

02 July 2021

Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries



## **Situation Overview**

- Seismic activity at La Soufrière, St Vincent has remained low since the tremor associated with the explosion and ash venting on 22 April.
- The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has lowered the volcanic alert level at La Soufrière to ORANGE on 6th May 2021, based on recommendation from The University of the West Indies Seismic Research Centre (UWI-SRC).
- Impact of passage Hurricane Elsa (just north of St. Vincent) on 2nd July 2021 will be included in next SITREP

HIGHLIGHTS	
Estimated # of affected persons/evacuees (total displaced)	24,651
# of villages evacuated	30
# of active public shelters	50
# persons in public shelters (government)	2,047
# of adults in public shelters	1,286
# of displaced children (under 18)	621
# evacuated health facilities (1 hospital, all others are clinics)	13
# COVID-19 isolation centres	3
Hospital bed Capacity on main island	200
Hospital bed Capacity in the Grenadines	21
# Active COVID-19 cases (as of June 30, 2021) <sup>1</sup>	209
Total vaccines administered (as of June 30, 2021) - <sup>1</sup>	24,902

# **Health Situation**



- Teams of health personnel 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.
- COVID-19 case reporting:

Report Date	New COVID-19 Cases	Recoveries	Active Cases
June 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2021	0	4	250
June 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	9	22	237
June 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	2	1	238
June 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	1	19	220
June 27th, 2021	0	0	220
June 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	0	8	212
June 29 <sup>th,</sup> 2021	6	7	211
June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	2	4	209

- The Ministry of Health (MoH) continues its campaign to urge the public to exercise public health and social measures; to wear masks, practice hand hygiene, keep physical distance, and people with high-risk conditions and vulnerable for severe illness to receive vaccines to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- PAHO continues to support MOH in its vaccination campaign, including through the use of social media and other assistance as requested.
- Hemodialysis services continue to be provided by Evesham Health Centre, as well as at the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital, and a private facility in the green zone in the immediate term. MoH SVG requested support from PAHO to purchase dialysis equipment for the Modern Medical Centre (see details below)
- Three health care facilities in Georgetown have re-opened:
  - Georgetown SMART Hospital
  - Georgetown Clinic
  - Modern Medical Clinic
- The Chateaubeliar Smart Hospital is currently being cleaned
- The official handover of the Barrouallie Smart Health Centre is planned for Friday 16th July 2021.

# PAHO Response Actions (currently in progress)

#### Health Coordination/Logistics/General Assistance



- Hurricane Elsa formed in the Atlantic and SVG, as well as Barbados, were under a hurricane warning as the storm moved over the islands on Friday 2nd July. PAHO will continue to monitor, support damage assessments and provide additional assistance as necessary.
- Environmental Health (SVG) received 14 HACH water test kits, procured through PAHO, capable of conducting 350 tests for free chlorine. PAHO will also procure an additional 5,000 tests to provision Environment Health for 12 months of testing.
- Outcomes from the meeting between PAHO and the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and other key members of the MOH team on Tuesday, 22nd June 2021:
  - PAHO presentation of the WASH database and associated draft WASH workplan
    - MOH hosted detailed conversation on final selection of priority health facilities for WASH repairs on Thursday, 1st July, 2021 but final decisions remain pending data clarification for some facilities and further analysis.
  - PAHO led an Early Warning Alert and Response System (EWARS-in-a-box) demonstration at the request of MOH to the surveillance team at their meeting, Friday, 25 June 2021 at 10:00 am.
    - PAHO is collaborating with the MOH and CARPHA to establish an early warning system to aide in rapidly detecting and responding to outbreaks and other public health events in the shelters and other areas affected by the volcanic eruption or future disasters. The collection of essential, minimal data on selected diseases and the timely, rapid analysis of trends is key to this activity. Joint PAHO/MOH/ CARPHA training is planned for mid-July in SVG for the deployment of EWARSin-a-box field-based system, specifically designed to be rapidly established during

emergencies. MOH will benefit with real-time reporting and analysis of early warning data related to the emergency. It will also support the more systematic registering of alerts and strengthen the role of rapid response teams in the verification, risk assessment and response.

- Air Quality monitoring project has received MOH approval. The company will send a representative to SVG in July 2021 to install the monitoring equipment and provide support to the local team. PAHO will provide on-the-ground support to this project as necessary. This project will also be duplicated in Barbados to monitor air quality in that location.
- MHPSS work is ongoing. PAHO is supporting two interventions and working with MOH Focal Point:
  - Support mechanism for HCW
  - Identification of referral pathways
- Both ECHO and USAID grants support logistics.
  - PAHO is preparing the presentation on LSS/SUMA as requested by PS-MOH
  - With currently available funding PAHO can support only solutions for the short term.
  - Long-term solution to Central Medical Stores (CMS) storage capacity will require development of a strategic plan and identification of additional funding streams.
- PAHO has budgeted US\$178.000 to support the procurement of equipment to re-establish hemodialysis at the Georgetown Modern Medical Clinic.
  - PAHO to procure 4 dialysis machines, 8 dialysis chairs, and pre-dialysis equipment to operationalize the unit.
- Dialysis services continue at Evesham Health Facility.
- PAHO continues to support the MOH is researching solutions for medical/surgical supply management.
- PAHO is assisting to identifying additional temporary and, for the longer term, permanent storage solutions.

- PAHO is providing support, along with UNICEF, through a social media campaign to decrease vaccine hesitancy as part of the MoH Communication Plan to decrease vaccine hesitancy.
- PAHO facilitates the use of the annex building to the H-EOC for coordination of the health response and has supplied the furniture and several appliances.
- PAHO is working with the World Food Program (WFP) to facilitate the distribution of cash assistance vouchers to an estimated 180 displaced health care workers and their families. To date, approximately 100 of the 120 identified persons have been serviced. This number will be updated as personal information is provided and additional persons are added to the list.
- PAHO has commissioned a videographer to produce three (3) Public Service Announcements (PSA's) to support MOH Risk Communication on hygiene and sanitation, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and healthy eating

for diabetics and hypertensives during disasters. PAHO has reviewed the scripts and will facilitate the production and airing of these PSAs.

- PAHO has facilitated the printing of posters for health care facilities and shelters:
  - 3 vehicle wraps for MHPSS
  - 13 COVID-19 posters
  - 23 volcanic ash posters
  - 80 mental health wellness cards
- As requested by SVG government, PAHO, CARPHA and UNFPA will support MoH SVG with the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (Health) conducted by UNDP. This virtual training for the assessment began on 29th June 2021. The assessment process and report writing is anticipated to last approximately 8 weeks.

### Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MPHSS)

- PAHO is working with Ministry of Health on the implementation of the proposed MHPSS strategy.
- A mapping exercise to identify MHPSS support provided by supporting organizations was finalized to improve coordination. Report will be shared with MoH and health partners when finalized.
- MHPSS and Psychological First Aid (PFA): A capacity building session is being organized for frontline workers on the provision of psychosocial support and basic self-care principles. Thirty-six (36) participants completed an online Psychological First Aid (PFA) course, a 12-hour self-paced training that was a pre-requisite for the Webinar. (PFA course is available at: https://www.campusvirtualsp.org/en/course/psychological-first-aid-pfa-disaster-managementcaribbean-second-edition-2020). A series of three webinars followed and have been attended by a diverse range of participants counsellors, teachers, shelter managers, social workers, volunteers, Child Protection Officers, radio communication and secretaries. The majority of attendees were from the Mental Health Rehabilitation Centre, the Red Cross and Liberty Lodge. The following documents attendance in the webinars to date:

Monday, 14th June 2021, 2:30-3:30pm	Webinar 1. Coordination and follow up session, at- tended by 34 participants
Wednesday, 16th June 2021, 2:30-3:30pm	Webinar 2. Presentation on MHPSS intervention, attended by 29 participants
Wednesday, 23rd June 2021, 10:00-11:00am	Webinar 3 Presentation on Self-Care Training: Doing what matters in times of stress

#### Non-communicable Diseases (NCD)

PAHO purchased 3 Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) kits. Each kit is estimated to provide medicines and medical supplies for a population of 10,000 persons for 3 months for the management of diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease. The estimated date of delivery is 16th August, 2021 for the first component and PAHO will provide necessary training for MOH.

# Water, Sanitation and Health (WASH)

- PAHO team has completed the update to the health care facilities database for WASH were presented to MoH SVG at a meeting with the Chief Medical Officer, June 22nd, 2021, as noted above in PAHO Response Actions. MOH Team identification of priorities for WASH (and backup power) interventions remains outstanding as additional information is provided and the database is updated to reflect needs.
- WASH Coordination meeting led by the SVG Public Health team is held on Friday mornings. The location
  of the meeting moved to Health EOC from 11 June 2021. Meeting received general WASH sector updates
  from NGO partners. Partners are discussing cleaning operations for returning families, cleaning kits and
  cash grants.

### Health Partner Activities

- UNFPA has provided guidance tools for distribution of Dignity Kits and strongly advises all partners who
  are planning on distributing the kits to follow this guidance, as well as global guidelines and minimum standards.
- UNFPA has been providing ongoing technical guidance to the Ministry of Health and the Family Planning Association on provision and access to SRH services and information for the affected populations .
- UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health to map the health facilities to emergency shelters. An assessment report was prepared with key recommendations for further action.
- UNFPA partnered with the OECS Commission to train 11 key personnel from health, gender, emergency and civil society on the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Reproductive Health in emergencies. An Action Plan was developed with key interventions to inform both response and recovery phases.
- UNFPA is supporting strengthening of the health system to provide comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services as part of the recovery phase.
- WFP is supporting PAHO logistics and providing food vouchers, cash transfers to displaced health care workers and vulnerable groups.
- IOM is supporting assistance in MHPSS.
- UNWOMAN, UNICEF, IOM and IFRC are also helping in MHPSS

### Reference

- 1. Saint Vincent and The Grenadines Ministry of Health Facebook
- 2. <u>NEMO Facebook</u>
- 3. UWI Seismic Research Unit
- 4. <u>CWSA Facebook</u>
- 5. PAHO <u>Situation Reports</u>, Donor Alert and MoH VCT updated COVID-19 travel protocol.
- 6. International Volcanic Health Hazard Network (IVHHN): <u>a protocol for ash collection, IVHHN ash protection</u> <u>pamphlet, leaflet</u>
- 7. Protocol for the Entry of Travelers to St. Vincent and the Grenadines Revised 06/05/2021

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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# ANNEX

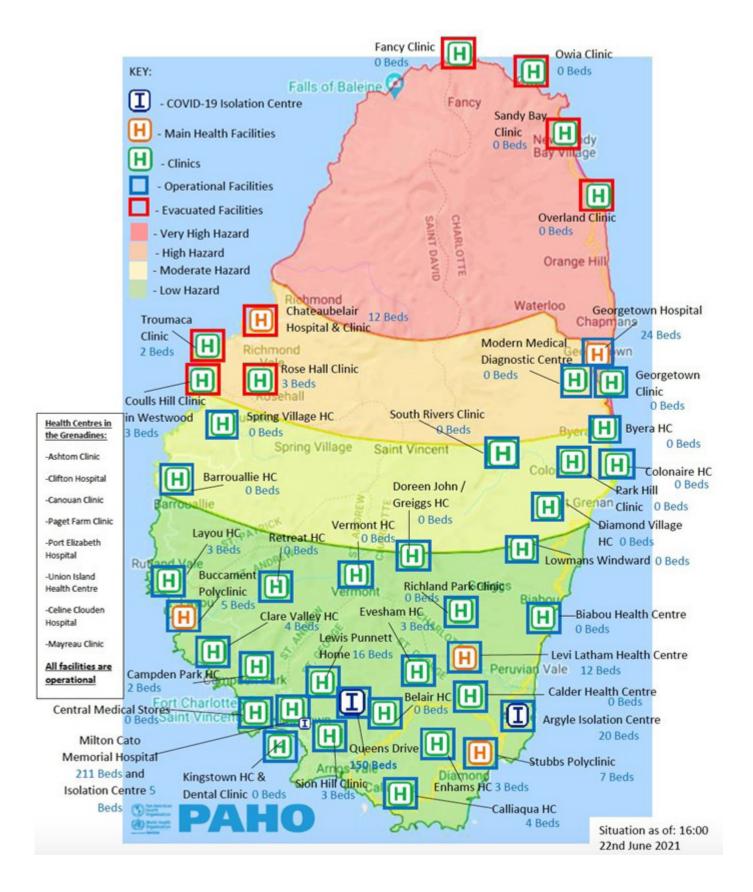


Figure 1. Map showing location of Health Care Facilities

# Tracking Table of Health Needs

PAHO is reviewing the health needs list of the Ministry of Health dated April 18, 2021 and updating the UN/ CDEMA tracking excel. The following items have been delivered or are pending delivery by PAHO.

ITEM	QUANTITY	STATUS
Aquatabs	40,000	Delivered to CWSA 24 April 2021
Aquatabs 8.68g	24,480	Delivered to CWSA 24 April 2021
Water testing kits	2	Delivered to CWSA 16 April 2021
Surgical Masks	100,000	Delivered to MoH (50000) and Ministry of Mobiliza- tion (50000) for families in shelters on 16 April 2021
Streamline High-Wall Split NC System, DC Inverter 9000 BTU, 2.6KW (Installed) (OM)	4	Purchased VCT (Awaiting installation by vendor)
Streamline High-WallSplit NC System, DC Inverter 24000 BTU, 7.0KW (Installed) (OM)	2	Purchased VCT (Awaiting installation by vendor)
3M Dual Cartridge Respirator (Medium) (C12)	14	Purchased VCT (Pending delivery)
3M Pre-Filter for 51P71 & 52P71 Respirator (pack of 10)	177	Purchased VCT (Pending delivery)
3M Half Face Mask W/O Cartridges (EA) (B24)	10	Purchased VCT (Pending delivery)
3M Multiple Gas Cartridge (Multi-Acid Gas/Organic Vapour) For 6200 1/2 Mask - Pair (B30)	10	Purchased VCT (Pending delivery)
3M Filter Retainer for 51P71, 52P71, 53P71(B20)	20	Purchased VCT (Pending delivery)
Face Shield	12,000	Delivered to Health EOC 24 April 2021
Jerry cans (collapsible)	1,000	Delivered to Health EOC 24 April 2021
O2 cylinders	50	Delivered to Milton Cato Memorial Hospital 24 April 2021
Aquatabs 67 mg for 10 liters, box of 1,600 blister x 10 tablets	30	Delivered to CWSA 16 April 2021
Aquatabs 8.68 gr for 1,000 liters, bottle, x60 tablets	100	Delivered to CWSA 16 April 2021
Aquatabs 33 mg for 5 liters, box of 10,000 tablets	15	Delivered to CWSA 16 April 2021
450 Gallon water tanks	10	Delivered to MoH 24 April 2021
Water pumps	10	Delivered to MoH 24 April 2021
Respirator masks dual cartridge	200	Purchased VCT (Pending delivery)
Male urinals	30	Delivered to Health EOC 24 April 2021
Buckets with covers	125	Delivered to Health EOC 24 April 2021
Caution tape	15	Delivered to Health EOC 24 April 2021
Reflective vests	48	Delivered to Health EOC 24 April 2021
Working gloves	143	Delivered to Health EOC 24 April 2021
PCR test kits	10	Delivered to Laboratory 30 April 2021
Nitrile gloves	2,000	Delivered to Health EOC 30 April 2021
Rainboots (PVC)	50	Delivered to Health EOC 24 April 2021
Gas masks with 30 filters	15	Delivered to Health EOC 24 April 2021
Goggles	200	Delivered to Health EOC 24 April 2021
Helmets	80	Delivered to Health EOC 24 April 2021
Pulse oximeter, portable handheld, plug B	2	Delivered to H-EOC Annex 21 April 2021
Pulse oximeters - fingertips	32	Delivered to H-EOC Annex 21 April 2021
Gowns	7,520	Delivered to H-EOC Annex 21 April 2021
Surgical masks	7,500	Delivered to H-EOC Annex 21 April 2021
Face shields	900	Delivered to H-EOC Annex 21 April 2021
Mask Respirators KN95	300	Delivered to H-EOC Annex 21 April 2021

ITEM	QUANTITY	STATUS
Gloves examination, latex	15,000	Delivered to H-EOC Annex 21 April 2021
Respirators face mate	750	Delivered to H-EOC Annex 21 April 2021
Chlorine Test Kits, Model CN66 Hatch Kits	10	Arrived SVG with RFA Wave Knight 11 June 2021
KN95 Respirators	8,000	Arrived SVG with RFA Wave Knight 11 June 2021