

# PAHO

Pan American Health Organization  
World Health Organization  
Regional Office for the Americas

# La Soufrière Volcano

## St. Vincent & the Grenadines

### Situation Report #24



Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries

14 May 2021



## 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 based on recommendation from The University of the West Indies Seismic Research Centre (UWI-SRC).
- Lahars (mudflows) continue to pose a dangerous threat in river valleys surrounding the volcano. (UWI-SRC)
- On May 6, 2021, NEMO announced that residents who evacuated from the Yellow and Orange Zones and residents who are in emergency shelters in Petit Bordel- Gordon Yard on the Leeward side of the island and communities as far as the Mt. Young River on the Windward side can now return to their homes.

### HIGHLIGHTS

Estimated # of affected persons/evacuees (total displaced)	25, 592
# of villages evacuated	30*
# of public shelters	84
# persons in public shelters (government)	4,409
# displaced families (households)	6,771
# displaced persons in private shelters (private residence)	21,153
# of displaced vulnerable persons	4,669
# of displaced elderly	2,992
# Missing persons	0
# Injured persons	0
# Deaths	0
# medevacs	0
# evacuated health facilities (2 hospitals, 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 <sup>3</sup>	152
Total vaccines administered - 12 May 2021	16,726

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.

1 & 2 Total capacity of beds, not # of available beds based on occupancy  
3 As of 12 May, 2021

## Health Situation

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- On May 12, 2021, two (2) new COVID-19 cases were reported from samples processed on May 11, 2021. Sixteen (16) recoveries were also reported.
  - The Ministry of Health (MoH) urges 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.
  - The Covid-19 outbreak in eight emergency shelters and relative increase in reported cases intertwined with vaccine hesitancy and refusal for SARS-CoV-2 screening at shelters is a great concern to PAHO as this fuels further spread.
  - MoH also informed the public that outpatient Clinics and Community Mental Health Services outside the red zone continue. Persons who were displaced without their medication are advised to contact the Mental Health Rehabilitation Center or nearest health center. MoH urges the public to keep children safe while in shelters, and to protect their homes from ash.
  - With the closure/evacuation of the Modern Medical and Diagnostic Centre (Georgetown), hemodialysis services were relocated to Evesham Health Centre, which started providing such service from April 29, 2021. Hemodialysis services are also being provided at the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital, as well as a private facility in the green zone in the immediate term.

## PAHO Response Actions

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- PAHO has distributed a tool to be used for “Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Rapid Mapping Evaluation”. The survey was shared with key stakeholders and will provide information on who is doing where, when and doing what (4Ws). The tool will be useful in identifying gaps in the MHPSS response to enable coordinated action and referral. Results are expected by the end of next week.
- PAHO supported the temporary relocation of the Health EOC from the current location and assist in the health emergency coordination led by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and MoH Health Disaster Coordinator. The keys to this facility were turned over to the PS in the MOH on 13 May 2021. See picture on next page.
- Additional health supplies and commodities storage/logistics facility for MoH operation is still being explored, to be located next to Health EOC.
- Purchase of vector control items, including rodenticides and bait stations, for shelters in progress.
- Health alert and awareness messaging in health care facilities and shelters continued. Multiple media platform campaign messages are being developed (which include video, radio, social media, posters and development of Public Service Announcement (PSAs) on COVID-19 vaccination, safe water use, cleaning of ash, maintaining hygiene and sanitation, preventing communicable diseases, disasters and their impact on mental health).

- As requested by MoH and in collaboration with UNEP, IVHHN and UNU a draft concept note on Air quality evaluation, including short, mid and long-term recommendation was shared. IVHHN also provided a preliminary report on ash samples and potential health impacts. A follow up discussion with MoH and other stakeholders will be facilitated by PAHO.
- PAHO provided support in close collaboration with the Shelter working group to shelters assessments, including the use of the App.
- Provision of (medical) supplies according to the Health Needs List from MoH (see final page of this sitrep). Shipment of urgent N95 masks, face shields and gowns is currently being prepared as requested by MoH.
- Delivery of three NCD-kits and training on the usage of these kits is in progress.
- The retrofitting of the Mayreau Health Centre, as part of the Smart Hospital Project is finished. Planning of the handover to MoH is ongoing. The Barrouallie Smart Health Centre will be finished by the end of May 2021 to be handed over to MoH in June 2021.
- In support of MoH PAHO discussed priority health care facilities in orange zone to be cleaned and priority health care facilities for WASH interventions and provision of backup power.
- PAHO facilitates accommodation for 160 displaced health care workers and their families (with IOM)
- PAHO facilitates food vouchers and cash transfers for health care workers and vulnerable groups (via WFP)
- When requested PAHO can provide nutrition specialist so support special diet needs for displaced persons in shelters.

**On 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021 the keys to the new location for the H-EOC were handed over by PAHO Country Program Specialist Nicole Slack-Liburd to Permanent Secretary MoH Cuthbert Knights. Also in the picture are PAHO WASH expert Ton Vlugman and his successor Melvin Tebbutt.**



## Reference

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

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Incident Manager**, Mr. Clemens Buter | [butercl@paho.org](mailto:butercl@paho.org) | (246) 826-5808

**Health Working Group Lead**, Dr. Yitades Gebre | [gebrey@paho.org](mailto:gebrey@paho.org) | (246) 836-5497

**Senior Advisor Coordination Support**, Dr. Dana van Alphen | [vanalphd@paho.org](mailto:vanalphd@paho.org) | (+31) 683426260

**PAHO Contact in St. Vincent & the Grenadines**, Mrs. Nicole Slack-Liburd | [slacklnic@paho.org](mailto:slacklnic@paho.org) | (784) 526-6000

**Communication Contact**, Ms. Brenda Lashley | [lashleyb@paho.org](mailto:lashleyb@paho.org) | (246) 836-2671

# ANNEX

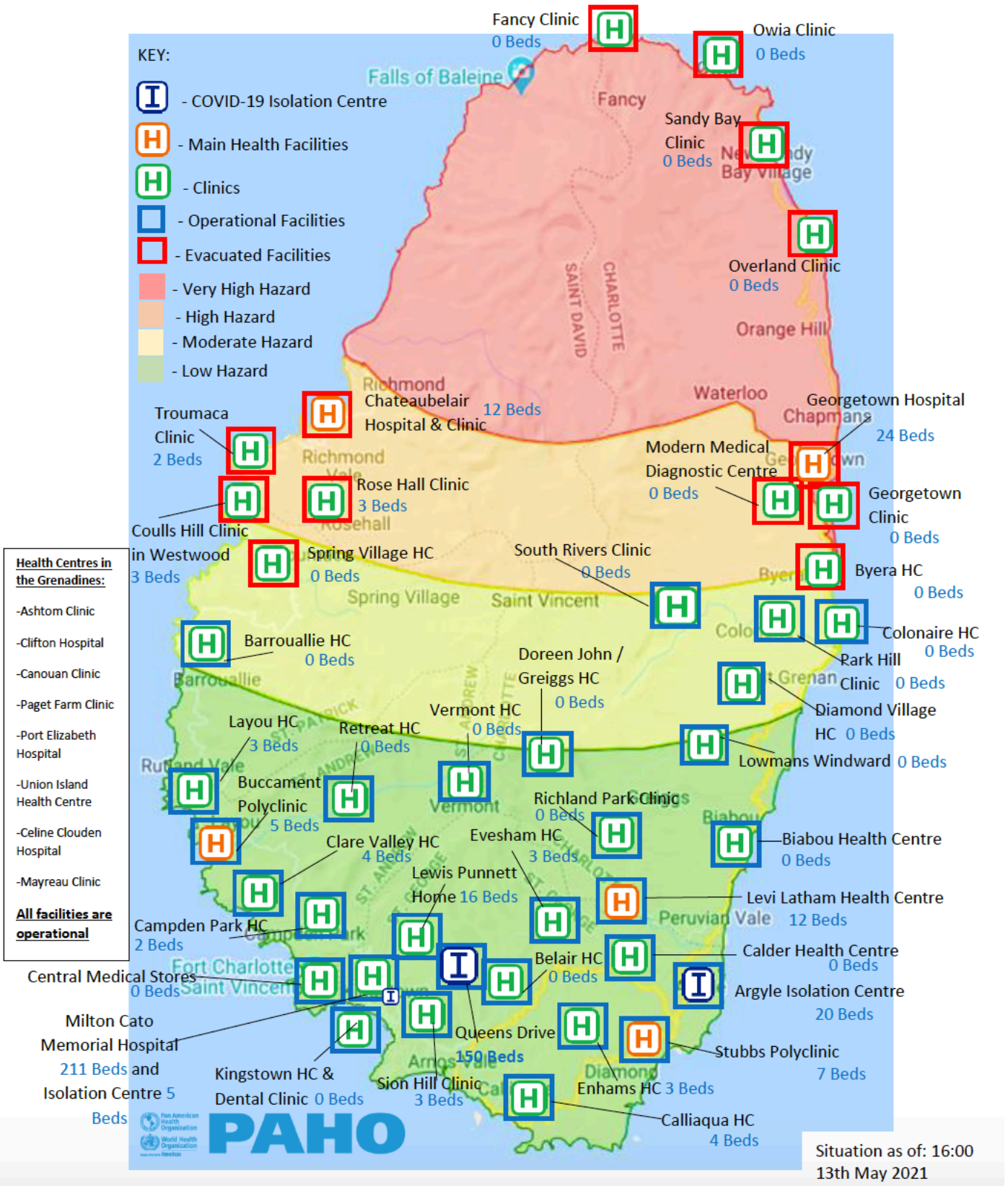


Figure 1. Map showing location of Health Care Facilities

## 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 by PAHO or available for delivery based on identified needs:

ITEM	QUANTITY	STATUS
Generator	1	In Stock PAHO Barbados
Mosquito nets	100	In Stock PAHO Barbados
Oral Hydration Salts (boxes)	3	In Stock PAHO Barbados
Aquatabs	40,000	Delivered to MoH 24 April 2021
Aquatabs 8.68g	24,480	Delivered to MoH 24 April 2021
Water testing kits	6	In Stock PAHO Barbados
Water testing kits	2	Delivered to CWSA 16 April 2021
Masks	100,000	Delivered to MoH and Ministry of Mobilization 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-Wall Split 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)
Bladder tank 10m3, distrib ramp, repair kit, cover	1	In Stock PAHO Barbados
Surgical Mask	100,000	Delivered to MoH 24 April 2021
Face Shield	12,000	Delivered to MoH 24 April 2021
First responder's trauma backpacks	30	In stock PAHO Barbados
Jerry cans (collapsible)	1,000	Delivered to MoH 24 April 2021
O2 cylinders	50	Delivered to MoH 24 April 2021
Bladder tank 5m3 w/accessories, 6-point distrib.Ramp	2	In Stock PAHO Barbados
Bladder tank 10m3 w/accessories, 6-point distrib. Ramp	1	In Stock PAHO Barbados
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 MoH 24 April 2021
Buckets with covers	125	Delivered to MoH 24 April 2021
Caution tape	15	Delivered to MoH 24 April 2021
Reflective vests	48	Delivered to MoH 24 April 2021
Working gloves	143	Delivered to MoH 24 April 2021
PCR test kits	10	Delivered to MoH 30 April 2021
Nitrile gloves	2000	Delivered to MoH 30 April 2021
Rainboots (PVC)	50	Delivered to MoH 24 April 2021
Gas masks with 30 filters	15	Delivered to MoH 24 April 2021
Goggles	200	Delivered to MoH 24 April 2021
Helmets	80	Delivered to MoH 24 April 2021