



Situation Overview



Credit: Alex Williams, PAHO Consultant - View of Kingstown

- An estimated 16,000 - 20,000 persons affected
- Approximately 30 villages evacuated
- An estimated 75 shelters operating, with 3,200 persons
- Approximately 137 Active COVID-19 cases¹
- The entire island is covered in ash with some areas experiencing extremely poor visibility. Ash is a major concern at the moment, especially in the North of the country.
- Roofs of several houses are also collapsing due to the heavy volcanic ash particles²
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (VCT) government booked about 800 rooms across hotels and guest houses to accommodate evacuees.
- No official closure of businesses to facilitate persons accessing supermarkets and pharmacies and to allow for the continuation of essential services
- Persons are stuck in the red zone on the windward side due to poor visibility and some roads are damaged³
- Preliminary reports also indicate that a number of Ovia residents tried to evacuate by sea but conditions are not permissible.
- Health Care Facilities in the red and orange zones have been evacuated. Patients who require specialist care dialysis and chemotherapy will receive treatment at the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital in Kingstown
- Explosive volcanic ash cloud transported by wind and affected as far as Barbados since late evening Friday, April 9, 2021 and continues.

1 United Nations Emergency Technical Team
2 PAHO Consultant
3 PAHO Consultant

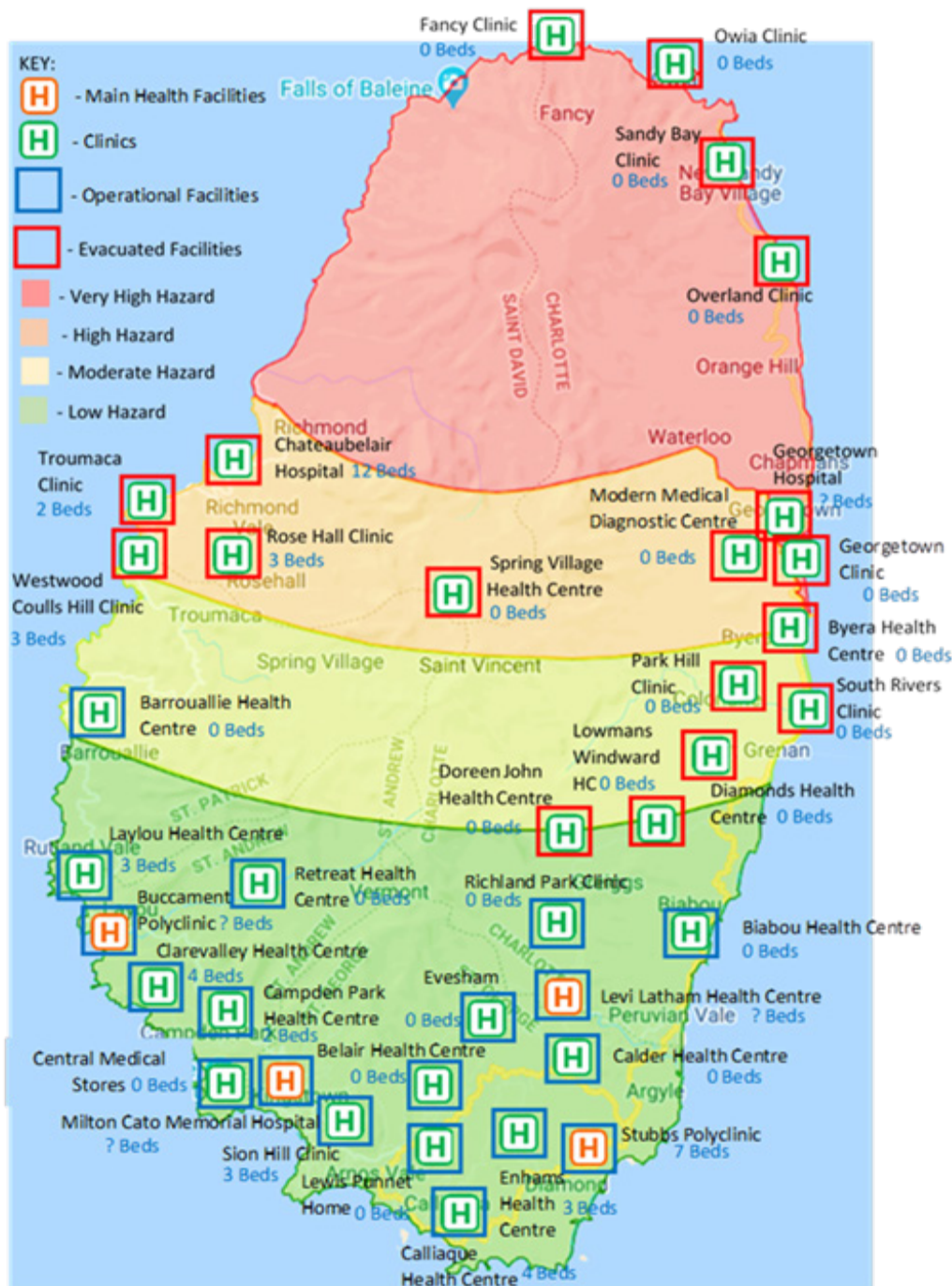


Figure 1. Map showing location of Health Care Facilities

General Challenges

- Persons to be evacuated from the red zone
- Explosive eruption/gas/ashes/tremors hampering ongoing evacuations (to the south of VCT and to neighboring member states) and humanitarian efforts
- Extensive damage/disruption to infrastructure; facilities and services (incl. airport closure)
- Extensive damage to assets and livelihoods (fisheries; agriculture)
- Insufficient/inadequate hygiene. WASH facilities at shelters to cope with number of evacuees
- Limited/temporary accommodation available to host evacuees
- Insufficient food supplies to address needs for an extended response

- Insufficient capacity of host countries to provide support to evacuees for medium-, long-term support
- Closure of Grantley Adams International Airport in Barbados until at least 6 a.m. on Sunday April 11, 2021. Further logistic challenges are foreseen.

Health Related Challenges

- Heightened risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission.
- Water supply has been shut off. Central Water and Sewerage Authority (CWSA) advises the general public against using stored water supply or the pipe borne supply for anything other than drinking or cooking. The use of hoses is strictly prohibited at this time. The CWSA will provide further updates regarding water reopening and the plans for scheduled distribution.
- Water contamination could result in outbreak of water-borne illnesses
- Identify difference between COVID-19 and asthma symptoms
- Increased risk of asthma and respiratory symptoms especially in children
- PAHO in contact with Health authorities Martinique to provide support for possible burn victims. Official requests for medevac to Guadeloupe by PAHO or MoH will be required.
- Potential need for Mass Casualty plan
- Entry requirement for emergency and relief workers on COVID-19 deployment protocol, including requirements for vaccination and quarantining.
- Need for safe water and food in shelters, Medical Oxygen Cylinders and PPEs

PAHO Priority Response Actions

1. Damage assessment of health facilities including assessing structural and functional integrity of facilities; assessing water quality
2. Strengthening of health emergency operation centres including support to establish alternative medical care sites
3. Support to MoH for coordination of international health response
4. Assisting with coordination of personnel for provision of psychosocial support
5. Maintenance of essential health services, including coordination with Primary Health Care facilities
6. Support with shelter management including assisting with set up in line with shelter management guidelines in context of COVID-19
7. Infection prevention control through provision of PPEs and medical masks
8. Provision of communications materials

PAHO Barbados Response Actions

1. Facilitate shipment of 100,000 masks from Barbados to VCT
2. Clear container with 60,000 masks, 7,000 N95 masks and 60,000 gowns. To be delivered to Barbados Defense Force.
3. Identify available military ships in the region (CMCOORD)
4. Review updated COVID-19 protocols for evacuees and deployment of aid workers as shared by CARPHA
5. Prepositioning of Non communicable Diseases treatment kits
6. Finalize preparations for deployment of 1x WASH expert (Deploy on Sunday April 11, 6.00 am from Barbados to VCT; transport by WFP)
7. Ongoing discussions with Hospitals in French Islands to provide services for:
 - a. Burns
 - b. Trauma
 - c. Respiratory services

Available Assets PAHO

ITEM	QUANTITY	LOCATION
Generator	1	PAHO Barbados Office
Mosquito nets	100	PAHO Barbados Office
Oral Hydration Salts (boxes)	3	PAHO Barbados Office
Aquatabs	40,000	PAHO Barbados Office
Aquatabs 8.68g	24,480	PAHO Barbados Office
Deployment bags	150	PAHO Barbados Office
Water testing kits	6	PAHO Barbados Office
Masks	100,000	PAHO Barbados Office
SAT phones	4	PAHO Barbados Office
Gas Masks	15	PAHO Barbados Office
Masks	60,000	in container with broker for BDF
Gowns	60,000	in container with broker for BDF
N95 Mask	7,000	in container with broker for BDF
Streamline High-Wall Split NC System, DC Inverter 9000 BTU, 2.6KW (Installed) (OM)	4	Vendor in VCT
Streamline High-Wall Split NC System, DC Inverter 24000 BTU, 7.0KW (Installed) (OM)	2	Vendor in VCT
3M Dual Cartridge Respirator (Medium) (C12)	14	Vendor in VCT
3M Pre-Filter for 51P71 & 52P71 Respirator (pack of 10)	177	Vendor in VCT
3M Half Face Mask W/O Cartridges (EA) (B24)	10	Vendor in VCT
3M Multiple Gas Cartridge (Multi-Acid Gas/Organic Vapour) For 6200 1/2 Mask - Pair (B30)	10	Vendor in VCT
3M Filter Retainer for 51P71, 52P71, 53P71(B20)	20	Vendor in VCT
Bladder tank 10m3, distrib ramp, repair kit, cover	1	Panama
Surgical Mask	100,000	Panama
Face Shield	5,000	Panama
First responders trauma backpacks	30	Panama
Jerry cans	1,000	Panama
Bladder tank 5m3 w/accessories, 6 point distrib. Ramp	2	Panama
Bladder tank 10m3 w/accessories, 6 point distrib. Ramp	1	Panama
Aquatabs 67 mg for 10 liters, box of 1,600 blister x 10 tablets	30	Panama
Aquatabs 8.68 gr for 1,000 liters, bottle, x60 tablets	100	Panama
Aquatabs 33 mg for 5 liters, box of 10,000 tablets	15	Panama

Wildfire kits are available via Direct Relief

The items in Panama and are being prepared for shipment. Items in green will be purchased.



Credit: Alex Williams, PAHO Consultant

HEALTH CONCERN

Breathing volcanic ash can be a nuisance, cause discomfort, and may have more serious health effects for some people. You may wish to reduce your exposure to volcanic ash, or you may have been advised to do so.

The most effective way to reduce exposure, especially for people at particular risk (e.g., children and infants, older people and those with existing respiratory (lung) or cardiovascular (heart and blood vessels) disease) is to shelter where there is no exposure to ash, ideally inside a building where you can stay indoors for some time, if necessary. If you are very concerned about your health, take advice from a health professional.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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