

PAHO

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

La Soufrière Volcano

St. Vincent & the Grenadines

Situation Report #23



Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries

11 May 2021



Situation Overview

- 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)	4,423
# 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 ³	169
Total vaccines administered - 10 May 2021	16,307
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 9 May, 2021

Health Situation



- As of May 9, 2021, 10 new COVID-19 cases were reported from samples taken between May 7th and 8th. Three of those positive cases were identified in emergency shelters. To date a total of 40 covid-19 cases are linked to 8 public emergency shelters.
 - Daily surveillance visits are made to all 85 shelters with Shelter Health Teams consisting of Community Nurse, District Medical Officer (DMO), Environmental Health Officer (EHO), Community Nutrition Officer, Dentist, Pharmacist, Psychosocial Officer and Data Entry Officer. Daily reporting is done to allow for detailed monitoring of all health interventions.
 - 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. PAHO has requested for 100,000 vaccine doses as humanitarian relief.
 - The Covid-19 outbreaks in 8 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 these fuels further transmission.
 - 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.
 - The WASH assessment in shelters and health care facilities has been completed. Data is currently being analyzed and discussed with MoH.

PAHO Response Actions

- PAHO has developed a tool to be used for “Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Rapid Mapping Evaluation”. The survey will be shared with key stakeholders and will provide information on who is doing where, when and doing what (4Ws). Developing and maintaining sustainable coordination structures, which include government and civil society stakeholders. The tool will be useful in identifying gaps in the MHPSS response to enable coordinated action and referral.
- PAHO financially 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.
- Additional health supplies and commodities storage/logistics facility for MoH operation is still being explored, to be located next to Health EOC.
- Health Sector coordination meeting in Saint Vincent planned for April 29, was postponed due disruption of virtual connectivity and power outage from heavy rainfall and flooding in several areas.

- 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).
- Draft concept note, in collaboration with UNICEF and Ministry of Mobilization, on shelter improvements according to SPHERE standards.
- As requested by MoH and in collaboration with UNEP, IVHNN and UNU draft a concept note on Air quality evaluation, including short, mid and long-term recommendation. Final draft has been shared with MOH (Monday 10th May 2021) and is awaiting discussion this week.
- PAHO provided support in close collaboration with the Shelter working group to shelters assessments, including the use of new App.
- Provision of (medical) supplies according to the Health Needs List from MoH (see final page of this sitrep)
- Delivery of three NCD-kits and training on the usage of these kits is in progress.
- Shipment of additional N95 masks, face shields and gowns is currently being prepared as requested by MoH.

■ Reference

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](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ANNEX

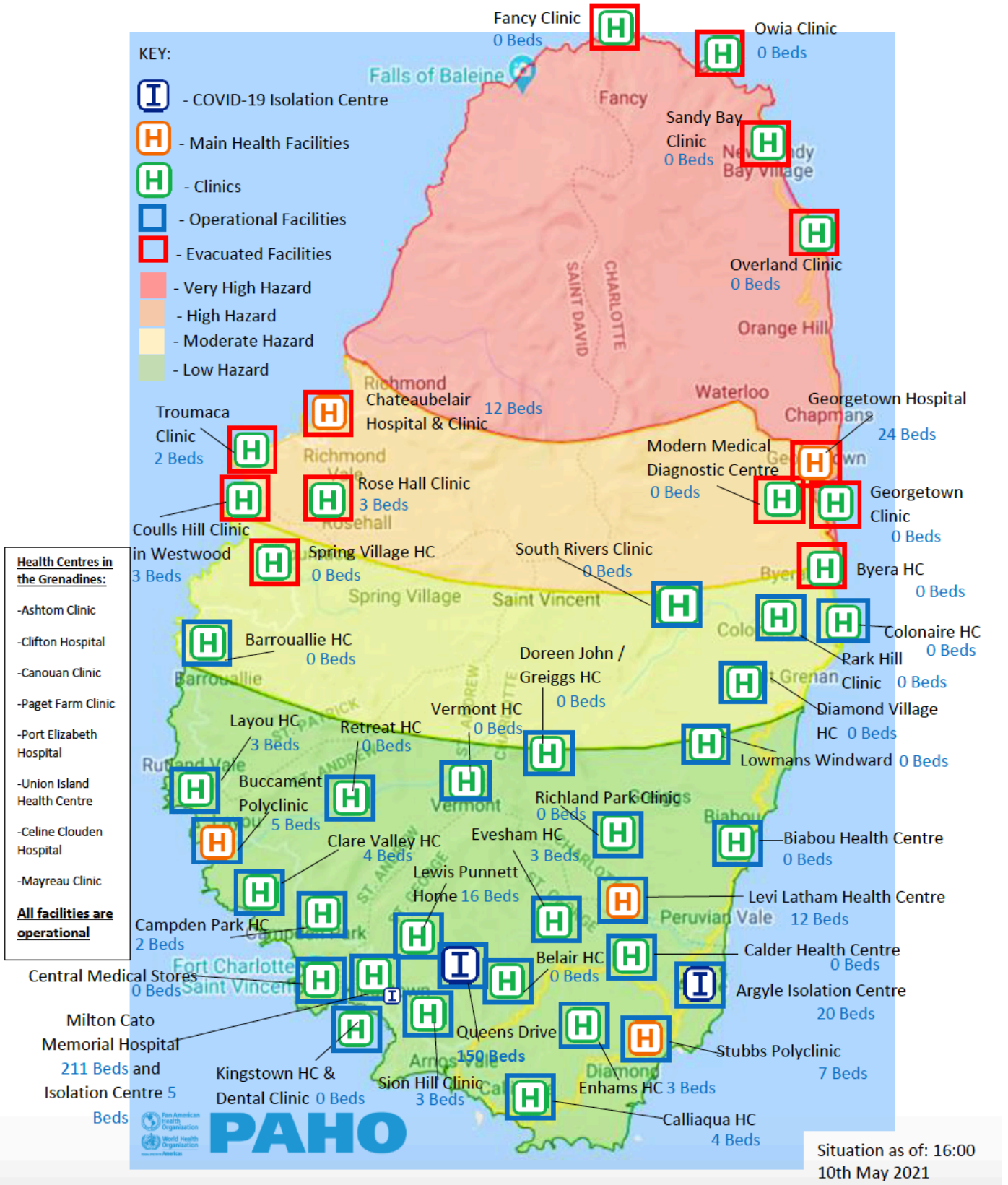


Figure 1. Map showing location of Health Care Facilities

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 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