



## 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 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021, based on recommendation from The University of the West Indies Seismic Research Centre (UWI-SRC).

### HIGHLIGHTS

Estimated # of affected persons/evacuees (total displaced)	24,651
# of villages evacuated	30*
# of active public shelters	51
# persons in public shelters (government)	2,047
# of adults in public shelters	1286
# 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 21, 2021) <sup>1</sup>	248
Total vaccines administered (as of June 21, 2021) - <sup>1</sup>	23,640

## 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	# new cases in Shelters	Recoveries	Active Cases
June 14th, 2021	2	-	2	246
June 15th, 2021	14	-	20	240
June 16th, 2021	6	-	5	241
June 17th, 2021	5	-	9	237
June 18th, 2021	9	-	-	246
June 19th, 2021	2	-	1	247
June 20th, 2021	1	-	-	248
June 21st, 2021	1	-	1	248
June 22nd, 2021	11	-	5	254

- The Ministry of Health (MOH) reported 19 cases of COVID-19 of the 31 cases reported by MOH on June 10th, 2021 were identified in Bequia.
- 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.
- 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.
- Three health care facilities in Georgetown have re-opened:
  - Georgetown SMART Hospital
  - Georgetown Clinic
  - Modern Medical Clinic

## PAHO Response Actions (currently in progress)

### Health Coordination/Logistics/General Assistance

- The PAHO team met with the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and other key members of the MOH team on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021:
  - PAHO presentation on the overview of the draft workplan for ECHO, USAID, and Republic of Malta grant monies with 4 service lines:
    - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
    - Surveillance
    - Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)
    - Logistics
  - PAHO presentation of the WASH database and associated draft WASH workplan

- MOH (David Latchman-lead) to host detailed conversation on final selection of selected health facilities for WASH repairs on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021.
  - PAHO led discussion on possible introduction of Early Warning Alert and Response System (EWARS) to assist with post-disaster surveillance which could be integrated into current surveillance system
    - CMO invited PAHO to present EWARS demonstration to the surveillance team at their surveillance meeting, Friday, 25 June 2021 at 10:00 am.
  - Air Quality Monitoring project previously proposed awaiting MOH approval discussed. PAHO can provide on-the-ground support to this project. CMO proposed to finalize arrangements for Air Quality Monitoring Project at the WASH meeting, Friday, 25 June 2021.
  - 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 support logistics.
    - PAHO is preparing the presentation on LSS/SUMA as requested by PS-MOH
    - With currently available funding PAHO can support solution only for the short term.
    - Long-term solution to CMS storage capacity will require development of a strategic plan and identification of additional funding streams
  - Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)
    - PDNA is the proposed follow-up to the original needs assessment, but broader in scope. Government of SVG requested UNDP to facilitate. CMO has expressed interest on the part of MOH to participate with support from PAHO.
  - PAHO is 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
- PAHO facilitated the analyses of the volcanic ash which is summarized below, the complete document of which will be shared with MOH:
  - “The International Volcanic Health Hazard Network (IVHHN) hosted by Durham University (<http://www.ivhnn.org/>) has completed the geochemical analyses of volcanic ash collected after the explosions of La Soufriere Volcano in April 2021. These analyses were delivered in two (2) parts: analyses conducted to assess respiratory hazard of inhalation of the ash; and analyses conducted to assess potential for contamination of water sources and ingestion hazards for livestock.
  - PART 1 reveals the main characteristic of respiratory concern is the presence of fine-grained particulate matter (PM) in the ash. PM may cause respiratory and cardiovascular morbidity and mortality. Efforts should be made to reduce exposures to ash particularly for those in vulnerable groups or who work in outdoor occupations. Other analyses of potentially hazardous characteristics showed that the crystalline silica component is reassuringly low, particles are not of concerning shape (i.e. fibrous), and there is a low concentration of potentially toxic soluble elements.
  - PART 2 reveals concentrations of water-extractable elements were low in comparison to global median values, implying a low potential to contaminate water sources. Concentrations of potentially toxic elements extracted by a gastric leach were also low indicating that livestock would have to ingest large quantities of ash to reach toxicological thresholds. It is more likely that animals will suffer physical problems, such as tooth abrasion, irritant effects and intestinal blockages before any toxicological impacts can manifest.”
- PAHO facilitated a meeting Friday, 14 June 2021 between MOH (PS)/Central Medical Stores (CMS)/PAHO consultant Derek Hardy to discuss the logistics of supplies being provided or facilitated by PAHO on behalf of MOH which highlighted some of the challenges being faced, particularly lack of storage space available to the CMS and HEOC, both of which are being used to store emergency supplies and are at full capacity. PAHO is assisting to identify 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 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 will support Post Disaster Needs Assessment (Health) conducted by UNDP. This virtual training for the assessment is scheduled to begin 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021. The assessment process and report writing is anticipated to approximately 8 weeks. PAHO, along with UNFPA, will be responsible for the health sector assessment.

## **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)**

- 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
- MHPSS and Psychological First Aid (PFA): A capacity building session is being organized for front-line 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.campusvirtuallsp.org/en/course/psychological-first-aid-pfa-disaster-management-caribbean-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 provided attendance in the webinars to date:

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

## **Non-communicable Diseases (NCD)**

---

- PAHO purchases 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 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2021 for the first component.
- PAHO is supporting one month of transport of Public Health Teams. including support for the displaced Nutritionist who provided services at the Dialysis Unit in Georgetown. She has been provided temporary accommodation in the Argyle area, and now supports this service at Evesham. PAHO is facilitating transportation for Nutritionists to service antenatals, diabetics, hypertensives and persons with NCDs who are based in public and private shelters. Between 25 May and 24 June, the Dieticians will be transported to:
  - 1 clinic
    - 7 visits to Evesham Clinic
  - 8 shelters with an average of 3-4 hours per visit:
    - 1 - Evesham Seven Day Adventist Church
  - Evesham Methodist Church
    - 1 - Carrier Streams of Power Church
    - 1 - Evesham Learning Resource Center
    - 1 - Richland Park Government School
    - 1 - Mountain View Academy
    - 1 - Can End Government School
    - 1 - Richland Park Pentecostal
  - 1 hospital for
    - 3 - Milton Cato Memorial Hospital

## **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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, as noted above in PAHO Response Actions. MOH Team to identify priorities for WASH (and backup power) interventions on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021.
- 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. PAHO presented the WASH in clinics draft strategy and database.

## **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 with providing accommodation for displaced health care workers and 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. [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](#)

# ANNEX

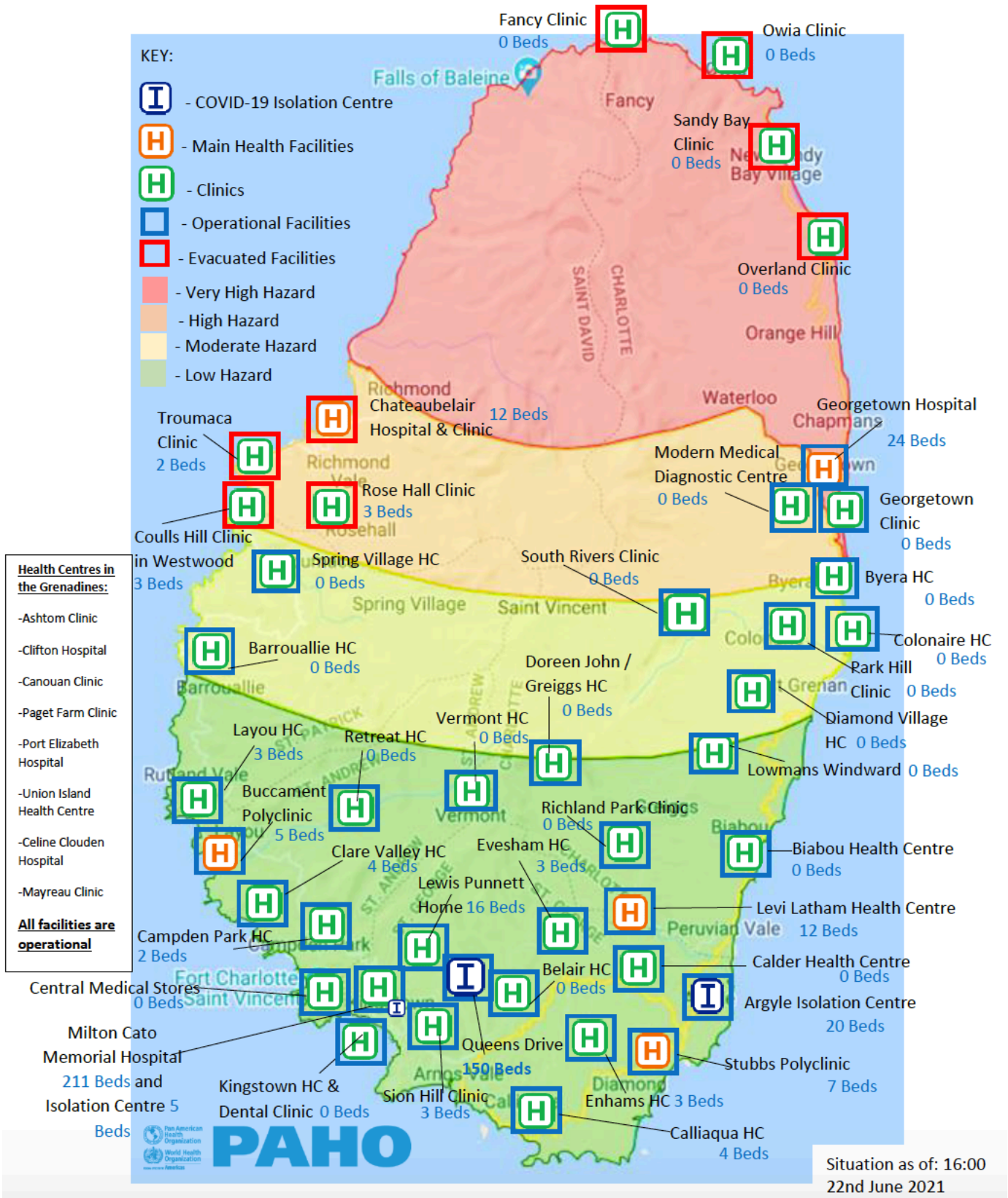


Figure 1. Map showing location of Health Care Facilities

## 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 Mobilization (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-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)
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	2000	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



ITEM	QUANTITY	STATUS
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	7520	Delivered to H-EOC Annex 21 April 2021
Surgical masks	7500	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
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

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Incident Manager**, Mr. Clemens Buter | butercle@paho.org | (246) 826-5808

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

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

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

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