



Situation Overview

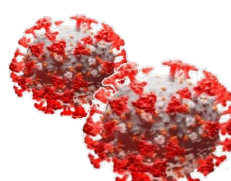
- Seismic activity at La Soufrière, St Vincent has remained low since the tremor associated with the explosion and ash venting on 22 April.
- The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has lowered the volcanic alert level at La Soufrière to **ORANGE** on 6th May 2021, based on recommendation from The University of the West Indies Seismic Research Centre (UWI-SRC).

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.
- 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.

HIGHLIGHTS

Estimated # of affected persons/ evacuees (total displaced)	24,651
# of villages evacuated	30
# of active public shelters	44
# persons in public shelters (government)	1,989
# of adults in public shelters	1,361
# of displaced children (under 18)	653
# evacuated health facilities (1 hospital, all others are clinics)	8
# 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 July 18, 2021) ¹	54



- COVID-19 case reporting:

Report Date	New COVID-19 Cases	Recoveries	Active Cases
July 10, 2021	0	0	84
July 11, 2021	2	3	83
July 12, 2021	1	0	84
July 13, 2021	4**	10	78
July 14, 2021	9	20	67
July 15, 2021	0	9	58
July 16, 2021	2*	8	52
July 17, 2021	3	1	54
July 18, 2021	0	0	54

* 1 imported case **2 imported cases

PAHO Response Actions

Health Coordination/Logistics/General Assistance



Meeting at the Prime Minister's office. Left photo, Prime Minister Dr. Hon. Ralph Gonsalves and PWR-ECC, Dr. Yitades Gebre. In right photo is PAHO Country Program Specialist, Mrs. Nicole Slack-Liburd. Photo credit: Brenda Lashley

- Dr. Yitades Gebre, PAHO/WHO Representative for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries (PWR) made a site visit to SVG. During that visit the PWR met with the Minister of Health, Wellnes and the Environment, Permanent Secretary, and the Chief Medical Officer on July 15th, 2021 to discuss the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO), and Malta (Republic of)

donor grants and the challenges encountered in implementing the grants thus far. Discussions also centred around the logistics challenges related to storage of supplies, the upcoming air quality project, the implementation of Early Warning Alert and Response System (EWARS), and the purchase of a 4-wheel drive vehicle to facilitate the implementation of the programmes.



From left: Dr. Yitades Gebre, PAHO/WHO Representative for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries, Mrs. Nicole Slack-Libur, PAHO Country Program Specialist for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Hon. St. Clair Prince, Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment, Mr. Cuthbert Knight, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment and Dr. Simone Keizer Beache, Chief Medical Officer. Photo credit: Brenda Lashley

- The Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) has facilitated the shipment of one hundred thousand (100,000) face masks to arrive in SVG. The face masks are a humanitarian donation from the German Government via the PAHO/WHO Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries to MOH and is intended to support SVG in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- PAHO is supporting the MOH through a collaborative effort with CARPHA to establish an Early Warning Alert and Response System (EWARS-in-a-box) 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. PAHO will provide the equipment and a technical expert arrived in SVG on July 17th, 2021 to conduct training in a joint PAHO/MOH/CARPHA programme. PAHO and CARPHA will be meeting with the Ministry of Health colleagues on 20-21 July for a preliminary coordination meeting to discuss the strategy and other details of the training which will begin at the end of this week and last through the end of next week.
- A total of 38 participants – 21 from the 9 health districts, 5 from selected shelters, and 12 from various Units at the Ministry of Health – have been selected to participate in the EWARS training in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The participants will be composed of District Medical Officers, Nurses, Epidemiologists, Surveillance Officers, Laboratory Technicians, Environmental Health Officers, Disaster coordinators, and officers from the Health Security Unit.
- The deployment of EWARS-in-a-box field-based system will benefit MOH 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 August with the equipment conduct the installation 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 health care workers (HCW)
 - Identification of referral pathways
- 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
- PAHO continues to support the MOH is researching solutions for medical/surgical supply management. 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.



These communication materials include videos, social media cards, and radio public service announcements. The main topics covered are:

- How vaccines are developed
 - How vaccines work
 - Vaccine safety
 - Side effects of vaccines
 - The benefits of vaccines
- PAHO facilitates the use of the Annex to the Health Emergency Operations Center (H-EOC) for coordination of the health response and has supplied the furniture and several appliances.



H-EOC Photo credit: Brenda Lashley

- PAHO has commissioned a videographer who produced 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 facilitated the production and airing of these PSAs. All videos are airing on the Ministry of Health Facebook page and as of July 19th, 2021 the hygiene and sanitation video has been viewed 1.7K times, the MPHSS viewed 5.3K times, and healthy eating 1.9K times.

- 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
- PAHO supports MoH with Post Disaster Needs Assessment (Health), conducted by UNDP as requested by the Government of SVG. Representative UNDP arrived in SVG on 6th July, 2021 and will met with the appropriate MOH and PAHO staff to collect the necessary information and data. The assessment process and report writing is anticipated to last till mid-August 2021.

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): PFA is fundamentally about providing humane and compassionate care. It is a primary tool for supporting people after an emergency and is delivered as a community-based strategy.
 - 35 persons participated in the seminars overall. Some persons attended two out of the three sessions. The majority of attendees were from the Mental Health Rehabilitation Centre, the Red Cross and Liberty Lodge
 - The series of webinars is expected to equip community leaders and front line workers who interact with the public during an emergency with the knowledge of PFA; establish a database of persons trained in PFA which will be useful during a major disaster where a coordinated approach to MHPSS is required; and Form part of the preparedness response for the Hurricane Season.

Monday, 14th June 2021, 2:30-3:30pm	Webinar 1. Coordination and follow up session, attended 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, attended by 23 participants

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. MOH Team identification of priorities for WASH (and backup power) interventions remains outstanding.

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.
- UNWOMAN, UNICEF, IOM and IFRC are also helping in MHPSS
- USAID Representative Doug Mercado made a site visit to SVG, met with health officials and PAHO staff, and visited Evesham Health Facility on 9th July 2021.

Scenes from PWR-ECC's visit to SVG



Meeting with PAHO personnel. From left, Mr. Melvin Tebbutt, WASH Consultant with PWR-ECC. Photo credit: Brenda Lashley



PWR-ECC visits Evesham Health Centre where hemodialysis services are provided. Photo credit: Brenda Lashley



Meeting at Central Medical Stores. From left: Mr. Steve Millington, Manager, Central Medical Stores, Mrs. Nicole Slack-Liburd, PAHO Country Program Specialist, Mr. Derek Hardy, Logistics Consultant and PWR-ECC, Dr. Yitades Gebre
Photo credit: Brenda Lashley



Storage of supplies on the compound of the central medical stores
Photo credit: Brenda Lashley



PWR-ECC, Dr. Yitades Gebre handing over the vehicle keys to Mr. Cuthbert Knight, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment.
Photo credit: Brenda Lashley



Visit to Molecular laboratory, water drums provided by PAHO. From left PWR-ECC, Dr. Yitades Gebre and Chief Laboratory Technologist, Mr. Elliot Samuel. Photo credit: Brenda Lashley

ANNEX

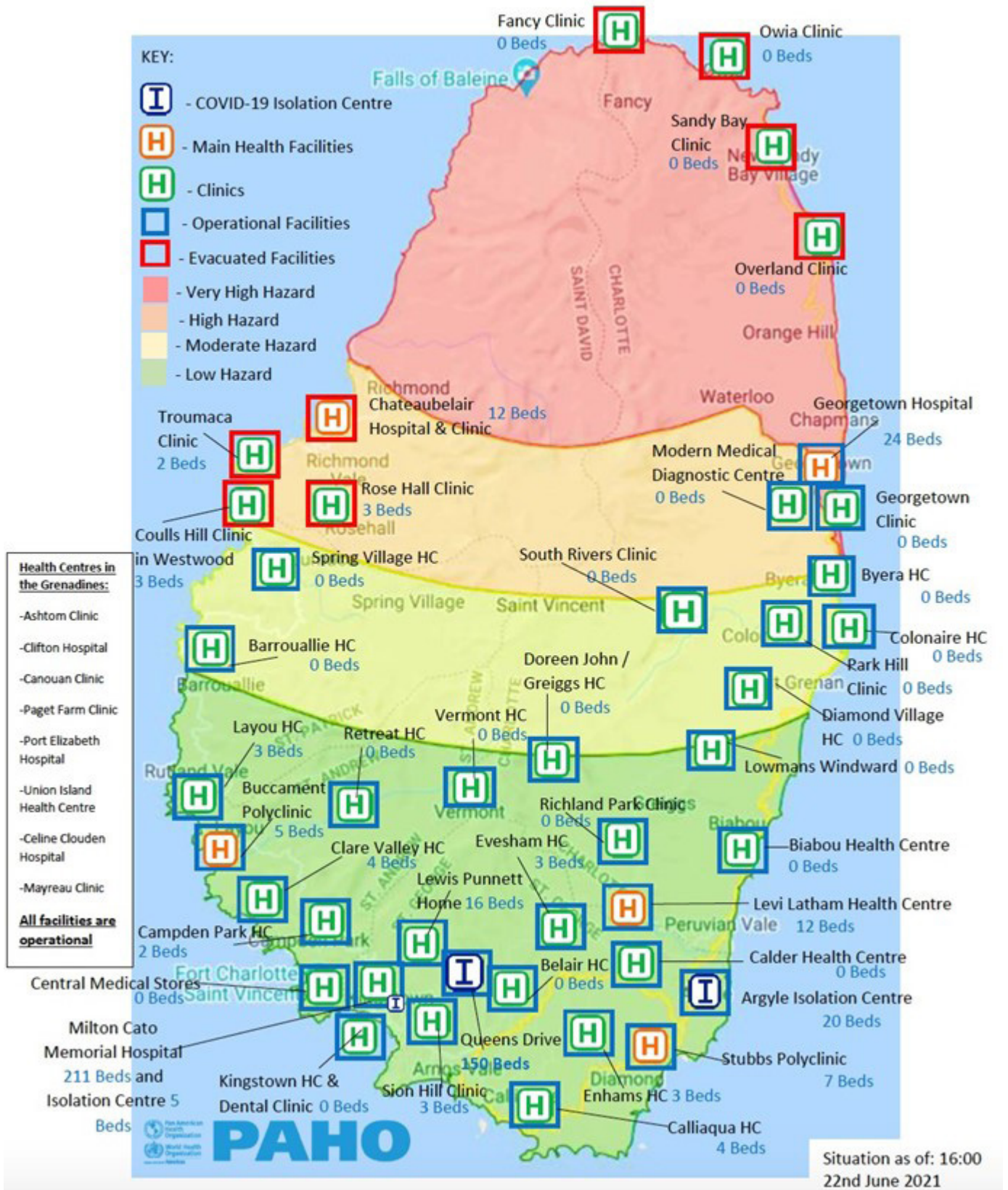


Figure 1. Map showing location of Health Care Facilities

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	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
Surgical Masks	100,000	Delivered to H-EOC Annex 17 July 2021

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

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