

LA SOUFRIÈRE VOLCANO, ST. VINCENT

SITUATION REPORT No. 26

AS OF 8:00 PM ON 29 APRIL, 2021

Heavy rainfall resulted in lahars (mudflows) in red and orange zones

The 6:00PM Scientific Advisory from the UWI Seismic Research Centre (SRC) issued on 29th April 2021, reported the following:

- Seismic activity at La Soufrière, St Vincent has remained low since the tremor associated with the explosion and ash venting on 22 April.
- In the last 24 hours, only a few long-period, hybrid and volcano-tectonic earthquakes have been recorded and there was no further tremor.
- The seismic stations recorded signals from multiple lahars during a 12-hour period starting at 9 p.m. on 28 April.
- Lahars seem to have taken place in all the valleys that drain from La Soufrière and caused considerable erosion and damage. Some of these were hot lahars which were visibly steaming, having passed through hot volcanic deposits. So many trees were brought down by the lahars that floating logs are a hazard to small craft near shore.
- The volcano continues to be in a state of unrest. Explosions with accompanying ashfall, of similar or larger magnitude to those that have already occurred in this eruption, can take place with little or no warning.
- The volcano is at alert level Red.



ALERT LEVEL REMAINS RED

Evacuation Orders have been issued. Access to the volcano is strictly prohibited.

Updates from Impacted CDEMA Participating State

CDEMA has been in regular contact with NEMO St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the following was reported by the COST as of April 29, 2021. Note that these numbers are subject to change as more data and information are collected.

NEMO EMERGENCY: (784) 458-6366

nemosvg@gov.vc

NEMO HOTLINE: (784) 526-3000



- 85 public shelters with 4,456 occupants
- 17,932 persons are registered in private homes
- Total of 22, 440 persons displaced
- The National Emergency Operations Center continues to be fully functional operating on a twenty-four hour, around the clock basis.
- NEMO will continue to provide regular updates on activities at the Volcano as they occur.

The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), St. Vincent and the Grenadines reported that flooding and landslides have occurred in several areas on mainland St. Vincent as a result of heavy rainfall.



- The Red Zone is likely to be impacted by mudflows as ash deposits are thickest in these areas and the absence of trees means that all of the material will find its way down the valleys.



- There are also several reports of flooding and landslides in and around Kingstown and its surroundings as well as in other areas prone to landslides and flooding.
- The public is asked to exercise caution especially persons living near rivers and streams and in areas prone to landslides as flood waters are dangerous and can result in loss of lives and property.
- Rainfall accumulations ranging from 75 to 125 mm (3 to 5 inches) have already occurred over some parts of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- A weather advisory remains in effect and residents and motorists are urged to exercise extreme caution in areas prone flooding and landslides or near rivers and streams.
- The Met Office is urging residents to be alert for possible impacts resulting from rain-soaked ash. In addition, residents especially in the Yellow, Orange and Red Zones should avoid areas within the vicinity of rivers due to destructive mudflows (Lahars).



Coordination of the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM)

- The Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) provided the CDPG meeting on April 29, 2021 with a briefing of the excess rainfall affecting St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- COST team continues to provide direct support to the NEMO operations, particularly NEOC, coordination and Logistics management.
- The CDRU continues to provide support by receiving and accounting for relief items at the Arnos Vale Logistics Hub from ports of entry. The Unit will also facilitate the construction of five (5) additional MSUs and continue to assist with the personnel/volunteer registration process at the Arnos Vale Logistics Hub
- The DDSA report is being finalized after being presented to the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Members of the DDSA team are addressing the initial feedback received from the Government representatives.
- The public is being advised to coordinate relief supplies with their National Disaster Office in country, cash donations are strongly recommended and banking details are provided on page 4.
- For further information please contact the Regional Coordination Center via rcuser@cdema.org



Photos: The Red Zone on the Windward side of St.Vincent & the Grenadines, from Georgetown to Owia. The CARICOM Operation Support Team (COST) visited the area on April 28.



ENVIRONMENT

UNEP updates:

- Experts have been taking samples of the ash for analysis. The results are expected to be made available soon.
- The analysis of the ash will determine how it could impact the soil and environment and whether there are chemicals present in the ash that could adversely react with water or air.
- Additionally, guidance is being provided on the disposal of the ash to ensure that groundwater sources are not compromised.



WASH

CAWASA updates:

- CAWASA is currently awaiting reports on the situation of water facilities.
- The turbidity caused by the rainfall, mudflows and landslides could present significant risk to infrastructure.
- Shutting off the systems to ensure appropriate water treatment and quality drinking water are some of the mitigation actions taken.
- Water production capacity was up to 90% in the yellow and green zones before the rainfall.



HEALTH

PAHO updates:

- Regarding flooding, the cleanup of health centers will be reviewed, with emphasis on a facility vulnerable to flooding and providing health and dialysis services.
- Additional supplies from Dominica will be delivered via RSS including testing kits, medications and PPEs.
- Air quality assessments are ongoing in coordination with UNEP.

CARPHA update:

- Reinforcement of COVID-19 protocols through the strengthening of information campaigns, with the intensification of vaccination campaigns and testing in shelters to contain the spread of COVID-19



PROTECTION

- UNFPA is continuing the GBV audits and the report will be shared with the government as soon as possible.
- UNICEF's report will include a report relating to specific needs of children.



SHELTER

- There are two (2) IOM staff members on the ground who are participating in the shelter sub-committee and meeting with shelter managers.
- Meetings were conducted with the shelter working group and consideration is being given to merging shelter working groups with the shelter sub-committee within the NEOC.
- Discussion is ongoing with the Ministry of Education to better mobilize assistance from the private sector and international cooperation to support national relief actions.
- There are also ongoing discussions on the best ways to transition from emergency shelters to longer-term temporary housing.



RELIEF SUPPORT

UK support for the SVG volcano emergency:

- The UK will give a further £550,000 via the World Food Programme (WFP) to deliver urgent cash and voucher assistance to help families displaced by the volcano meet their immediate nutrition, hygiene and other essential needs for three months. This announcement towards the UN appeal follows the UK's earlier commitment of £200,000 to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), which enabled the immediate mobilisation of regional support teams (viz. COST, CDRU, Sector experts) and urgent supplies for the initial relief effort.
- Prior to the explosive eruption, the UK also provided £51,000 for aerial helicopter surveillance and equipment installations to help analyse changes in the volcano and boost early warning for a timely evacuation. This takes the total UK funding to over £800,000 since the eruption began on April 9th.
- In addition to providing bilateral support, the UK is also supporting the international response - UK is a major donor to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which has so far allocated \$1m (approximately £719,000) for water, sanitation and hygiene, and supporting livelihoods.
- The UK is a donor to the International Federation of the Red Cross Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), which has allocated funding to the Red Cross response.
- Alongside this emergency support, the UK has an ongoing programme of development assistance to the St Vincent and Grenadines totalling over £40m.
- This will make a critical contribution to the country's longer-term recovery from the eruption and includes funding for critical infrastructure projects, upgrading health care facilities, supporting disaster management systems, green energy and youth employment programmes. The UK also continues to support St Vincent and the Grenadines and the wider Caribbean region in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sol Caribbean Ltd. support to the SVG volcano emergency:

- Sol Team has approved a direct contribution to \$10,000 USD cash to the Community Relief Efforts in St. Vincent.



CASH & LIVELIHOODS

- Agencies are working to support the upcoming household verification exercise led by the Ministry of National Mobilization, administered in private homes to capture needs and vulnerabilities.
- WFP is supporting the Ministry of National Mobilization on training and development of the assessment tools, and support in the design of cash-based assistance interventions and design elements of the programs and transfers.
- UNDP is in the final stage of the emergency recovery programme.
- UNICEF exploring how to provide assistance in the interim between response and recovery.
- FAO is finalizing the agriculture damage assessments, which will inform potential programs to support livelihoods recovery.

List of preparatory actions being undertaken by RRM and other Partners



DONATIONS (*monetary donations rather than relief supplies are encouraged at this time*)

The Office of the Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has provided banking information for donations to be made for disaster relief.

For further credit to:

Bank of America
SWIFT Code: BOFAUS3M

Name: Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Accountant General - Disaster Relief Fund

Bank of New York
SWIFT Code: IRVTUS3N

Bank: Bank of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Address: Bedford Street, Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Account No.: 137741

Swift Code: NCBVVC22

Donations may also be given through CDEMA La Soufriere Donation Facility via the banking details below:

Company Name and Address

CARIBBEAN DISASTER EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY (CDEMA)
Address: Resilience Way, Lower Estate,
St. Michael, Barbados, West Indies

For persons outside of Barbados:

Intermediary Bank: Wells Fargo Bank, NA
SWIFT Code: PNBUS3NNYC
ABA Routing #: 026 005 092
Account Number: 2000192003913
Bank Address: 11 Penn Plaza, 4th Floor, New York, NY

For persons in Barbados:

Beneficiary Bank: CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank
Bank Address: Warrens, St. Michael, Barbados
Swift Code: FCIBBBBB
Name of Beneficiary: CDEMA La Soufriere Relief
Account Number: 1001206239
Currency of Account: BARBADOS DOLLARS

Beneficiary Bank: CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank
Bank Address: Warrens, St. Michael, Barbados
Swift Code: FCIBBBBB
Name of Beneficiary: CDEMA La Soufriere Relief
Account Number: 1001206240
Currency of Account: UNITED STATES DOLLARS