

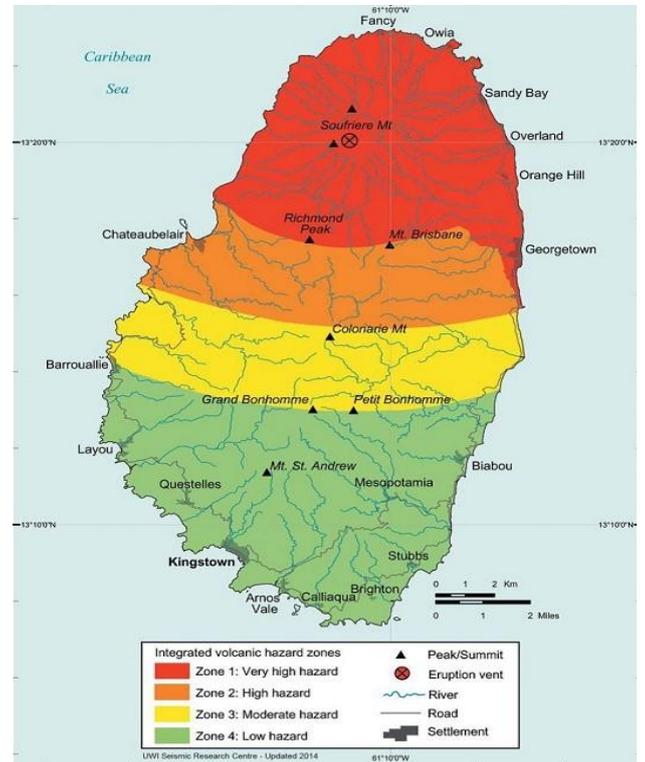


# St. Vincent & the Grenadines: Volcano

As of 9 April 2021

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

- On 9 April at 8:41 am an explosive eruption began at the La Soufrière Volcano in Saint. Vincent. This is a culmination of the seismic activity that began on April 8 and ash plumes of up to 20,000 feet are heading east.<sup>1</sup> Satellite imagery can be seen [here](#).
- On the morning of April 9, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) indicated that fifty-seven (57) shelters have been activated with forty-nine (49) being occupied with 1,800 persons and eight (8) other shelters are activated but unoccupied. On April 8 over 600 persons were moved by maritime assets.
- On 8 April 2021, Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves issued an immediate evacuation order for those persons living in the red zones and raised the alert level to red, indicating that an eruption is in progress or likely without warning.<sup>2</sup>
- On 8 April 2021, seismic activity at La Soufrière Volcano changed significantly when the seismic station closest to the summit began recording low-level seismic tremors. The volcano entered a heightened period of activity indicative of a fresh batch of magma either near to or approaching the surface. The possibility for activity to move to an explosive phase increased significantly.



## COORDINATION & RESPONSE

### Coordination

- PM Ralph Gonsalves indicated that Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, and Grenada will be ready by Sunday to receive evacuees.
- CDEMA has activated its regional support operation and is providing technical assistance to NEMO with Evacuation and Logistics Planning.
- The Argyle International Airport and AIA Cargo Terminal are currently closed until further notice.
- Cruise ships are being used as offshore facilities for evacuees.

### Response

- PAHO is supporting the Barbados Defense Force (Emergency Medical Team - EMT) by providing supplies, mainly masks, so they are equipped in case of deployment. PAHO is following-up on quarantine requirements. The Emergency Team are on standby and the WASH Expert is available to support health messages.

<sup>1</sup> La Soufriere Bulletin #53 APRIL 09, 2021

<sup>2</sup> NEMO La Soufriere Bulletin #52 April 08, 2021

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- ITU is ready to provide ICT-assisted-emergency BGAN phones and upon review any other emergency assistive ICT support as may be determined.
  - WFP has been in contact with the Ministry of National Mobilization and Social Development in Saint Vincent to outline support implementing food and basic needs assessment, including distribution points. In-kind and cash support, ready-to-eat meals and food kits that are available upon request. Technical assistance for recovery and resilience is available and experts on food security and livelihoods are ready to be deployed. WFP can provide common logistics services including storage facilities, response assets from Barbados; air and sea bridge and emergency telecoms equipment is also available. Logistics and supply chain staff are on stand-by to support emergency response and relief supply tracking.
  - UNFPA donated 400 dignity kits for women and families to the Bureau of Gender Affairs and has been supporting CDEMA directly on statistics and common data sets including GIS mapping. Surge deployment from Barbados and Jamaica are ready to be deployed.
  - UNWomen has provided support to the Bureau of Gender Affairs with a cash transfer to support 400 families for a period of two months.
  - UNICEF has items prepositioned in Barbados, Antigua & Barbuda and Trinidad & Tobago, through CDEMA. These WASH supplies include: Collapsible water bladders (9 x 5,000 liters; 3 x 1,500 liters, 1,500 x 10 liters collapsible water containers (HH use), purification tablets; and 750 dignity kits preposition. Action will be for transportation to locations as required by Needs Assessment.

Communication: Preparedness messages were developed in collaboration with the Government of Saint Vincent/CDEMA and will need to be printed in Saint Vincent; radio messages are transmitted today,

Protection: Funds were transferred to the Ministry of National Mobilisation (MNM) for Return to Happiness (face-to-face) training, for teachers and community members. Training (virtual) was implemented over the past 2 months. Support has been provided to replenish Return to Happiness kits and the expansion of existing UNICEF-supported Hot-line to provide psychosocial support. Preparedness for virtual child-friendly spaces in shelter arrangements. UNICEF awaits a request from MNM for PPE for some shelters.

Social protection: UNICEF is liaising with the Ministry of National Mobilisation & Social Development on cash-based support while the International Federation of the Red Cross has 300 cards which can be charged.

Education: UNICEF is awaiting feedback from Ministry of Education; may need water tanks for schools which will be used as shelters; Portable toilets - conversation ongoing with CDEMA and NEMO on provision of portable which is extremely costly.

UNICEF staff can deploy from Barbados, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad & Tobago (TBC).

- IOM indicated that they could provide support in shelter management trainings, monitoring and tracking of the affected people.
- FAO two months ago distributed ten 1,000-gallon water tanks for use in livestock evacuation centers and supported the preparation of agriculture sector volcano eruption anticipatory action, preparedness, and response protocols. FAO is liaising with the Government to support on: the retrofitting/construction of livestock emergency shelters; pre-positioning/provisions for livestock feed, water and medicaments; identification/facilitation of procurement for critical livestock feed components and medicaments that may have to be imported; technical support to AA, preparedness, impacts needs assessment; technical advice on animal emergency health measures; In touch with agencies to indicate support.
- UNDP can provide support in post-disaster assessments and provide technical support on recovery activities. A team is on standby ready to deploy if needed and satellite phones have been provided to UNDP staff in Saint Vincent.
- National Society (NS) through CDRTS and other community groups assisted NEMO with conducting an evacuation needs assessment in the red and orange zones. NS met with NEMO to discuss their roles and responsibilities under the National Volcano Response Plan and the expectations of the NS. The NS has in turn met with their volunteers to ensure that they are aware of their roles and responsibilities in the event of an eruption. In line with their roles and responsibilities under the National Volcano Response Plan, the NS is assisting in the erection of signs at evacuation

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sites, muster points and transport points. The NS has worked with the Agency of the Public Information in sharing information on putting together grab and go evacuation bags.

- IFRC has been coordinating with the NS on preparedness activities and closely monitoring updates and information messages from the Government, CDEMA and other partner organizations. Coordination between Americas Regional Office (ARO) and Country Cluster Delegation as well as sharing of an information messages.

**For further information, please contact:**

**Carol Sanchez**, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, [sanchez21@un.org](mailto:sanchez21@un.org), Tel: +1 (246) 467-6111, Cell +1 (246) 832-6111

**Randy Warner**, Information Management Assistant, [randy.warner@un.org](mailto:randy.warner@un.org), Tel: +1 (246) 467-6113, Cell +1 (246) 836-6113

For more information, please visit [Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency - CDEMA National Emergency Management Organization \(NEMO\)](http://wiseismic.com/) - <http://wiseismic.com/>