

REGIONAL LOGISTICS CENTER FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

La Soufrière Volcanic Eruption – St. Vincent & the Grenadines

Report of Response Operations No. 1

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Description of the event

After months of eruption activity since December 2020, La Soufrière volcano in the island of Saint Vincent began explosive eruptions on April 9, and continues to erupt explosively posing danger to zones near the volcano. According to IFRC reports, approximately 16,000 people have been evacuated from communities located at the red and orange zones. UN OCHA reports that St. Vincent Island continues without electricity and water, and some houses have collapsed under the weight of the intense ashfall. There are also growing concerns on the diminishing of air quality, possible contamination of water supply, health risks due to COVID-19, as well as the basic needs of the displaced population.

Response at the CLRAH

At the Regional Logistics Center for Humanitarian Assistance (CLRAH), located in the Republic of Panama, its international members have begun preparations for this emergency.

The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) will provide support to St. Vincent & the Granadines National Society, through the dispatch of humanitarian assistance in aid to the displaced families at the critical danger zones. Among the humanitarian items are jerrycans, blankets, cleaning kits, kitchen sets, personal protective equipment against COVID-19 (face masks, face shields, goggles) as well as debit cards for 200 displaced families to cover food security and essential needs. It is also important to note that the National Society has pre-positioned inventory in the island, which consists of jerrycans, kitchen sets, cleaning and hygiene kits, and blankets.

The United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) has begun communications and coordinations with its partners for possible shipments. Two United Nations partners, the Pan American Health Organization and the World Food Programme, are currently evaluating possible dispatches of humanitarian aid.

Source: Information based on public reports, as well as data provided by the IFRC and UNHRD (located at the CLRAH).

Data reported on April 12, 5:00 p.m. (Panama)