



REFERENCE ACP/84/049/21
ECA/CP *cp*

NOTE VERBALE

The Secretariat of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) presents its compliments to OACPS Embassies and Missions of Member States and avails itself of the opportunity to provide advice on the eruption of La Soufriere Volcano in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, which started on the 8th April 2021, and is ongoing.

According to official reports of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), heightened seismic activity resulted in the explosive event at the volcano site, causing a volcanic ash plume to rise up to an altitude of approximately 3000 metres. On the 8th April, 2021, an emergency meeting of the Cabinet Ministers and National Emergency Council was held and the alert level was raised to Red. An Evacuation order was issued soon-after and the evacuation process of persons in the high-risk red zone on the north of the island of Saint Vincent commenced. On 9 April, the volcanic activity transitioned from effusive eruptions to an explosive eruptive phase, resulting in vertical ash rising as high as 15km into the atmosphere. Currently, several areas in St. Vincent and the Grenadines continue to experience heavy ash fall and a strong sulfur smell. The effects of several major eruptions of varying intensity are being felt way beyond the high-risk zones, including ash fall in neighbouring Caribbean states of Barbados and Saint Lucia. The airports in Saint Vincent and Barbados remain closed due to heavy ash fall. Experts predict that explosive eruptions could continue for days or possibly weeks.

The Saint Vincent and Grenadine authorities estimate that 16,000 who lived in the high risk zone need to be evacuated. They have prepared shelters for residents in the high risk zone. As of 12th April, 78 shelters have been activated to accommodate 3000 persons. It is estimated that up to 20,000 persons, representing 18% of the population, are likely to be displaced. They will need to be transported by land and marine assets to the safe zone. Major cruise lines are committed to help shuttle affected residents to Barbados, Saint Lucia, British Virgin Islands, Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Kitts and Nevis.



The OACPS is hereby launching an urgent appeal to international partners to provide humanitarian, financial and technical assistance to help address the immediate short-term needs of the people affected by the volcanic eruption in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, including emergency supplies of field tents for shelter, food supplies, buckets, water tanks, respirator masks with filters, bedding and relief necessities, including hygiene kits specifically required by women and children. A comprehensive list of immediate needs has been compiled by the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is attached.

OACPS Secretariat, in solidarity, is subsequently launching an appeal to the Members of OACPS to provide financial and technical assistance to help address the immediate short-term needs of the people affected by the volcanic eruption in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, as well as the longer term responsibility of recovery. Voluntary financial donations to address the immediate needs of the people affected by the volcanic eruption and to meet the challenges of recovery are to be made to 'Donation for victims of the eruption of La Soufriere Volcano in St. Vincent and the Grenadines' at the following OACPS Secretariat account.

Bank: **ING**
IBAN: **BE 86 3100 5209 5150**
Account N°: **ING 310-0520951-50**
BIC/SWIFT: **BBRUBEBB**

The Secretariat of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) conveys its deepest condolences to those adversely affected by this disaster and avails itself of this opportunity to renew to OACPS Embassies and Missions, the assurances of its highest consideration.

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Brussels, 13 April, 2021



All OACPS Embassies and Missions