



**GFDRR**  
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery



**WORLD BANK GROUP**

## Saint Vincent and the Grenadines - Preparing for compounding emergencies

### Context and Objectives

Following the explosive eruption of La Soufriere volcano in April 2021, this project aims to support the government of Saint Vincent & the Grenadines in its efforts to respond to the emergency caused by the eruption. It also aims to focus on enhancing emergency preparedness in the country by improving the operational frameworks for DRM and climate resilience. Specifically, the project focuses on strengthening the operational framework for school infrastructure resilience in order to allow for education continuity in light of the volcanic eruption and the COVID-19 crisis.

### Main Activities

- Strengthening the National Emergency Management Organization's (NEMO) operational framework for disaster management by revising its National Disaster Response Plan in light of the volcanic eruption and COVID-19 pandemic and providing capacity-building opportunities to NEMO and its key stakeholders.
- Bolstering the operational framework for school infrastructure resilience by supporting education continuity and enabling select schools to serve as both educational institutions and emergency shelters.
- Developing communications and knowledge management materials to capture and disseminate lessons learned and best practices.

### Results

Activities have supported NEMO in developing an emergency communications campaign, days following the first eruption, to build awareness of the potential harmful impacts of volcanic ash. Public service announcements video and social media content, including three videos (see links below), were rapidly produced to provide useful tips on ways to safely interact with ash and protect children, homes, and vehicles. These were disseminated by NEMO, the CDEMA, the World Bank/GFDRR, and local media via television, radio, and social media channels. In addition, several social media cards were developed to disseminate important messages to the population from various government and stakeholder accounts about how to enhance preparedness and the population's protection in the midst of this disaster event.

In addition, the project has supported NEMO in developing an Emergency Shelter Management (ESM) policy, an ESM plan and assistance guidelines. These included COVID-19 protocols in the shelter management policy, and the development of a training program and manual for shelter managers.



*Ash cloud from the La Soufrière volcano.*

*Source: CDEMA.*

# CARIBBEAN REGIONAL RESILIENCE BUILDING FACILITY



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## **Partnerships and Coordination**

This project is being implemented by the World Bank in close collaboration with NEMO; MoE; and Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Information Technology, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

## **Useful Links**

Videos from the communications campaign were developed: *Breathing Ash* available at <https://bit.ly/3zk6GyZ>; *Protect Home* available at <https://bit.ly/3zsNaQC>; and *Local Calypsonian* available at <https://bit.ly/3wnYBqR>. The social media cards are available at: <https://bit.ly/3vzdHIR>.

### **Country**

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

### **Caribbean Regional Resilience Building Facility component**

Regional Technical Assistance Facility to Mainstream Resilience

### **Amount approved**

EUR 126,136 / \$150,000

### **Duration**

04/2021-06/2022