

# CARIBBEAN REGIONAL RESILIENCE BUILDING FACILITY



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



**WORLD BANK GROUP**

## Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems and the Climate and Disaster Resilience of Critical Infrastructure Services in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

### Country

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

### Caribbean Regional Resilience Building Facility Component

Regional Technical Assistance Facility to Mainstream Resilience

### Amount Approved

€237,652 / \$269,654

### Duration

12/2021 – 12/2023

### Context and Objectives

On 9 April 2021, a series of explosive eruptions occurred at *La Soufriere* Volcano on the island of Saint Vincent. Immediately following the eruption, the SVG government took measures to secure emergency funding and increase its financial liquidity by triggering and drawing down \$20 million through the World Bank's Development Policy Loan with a Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option, as well as \$50 million through the World Bank's Supplemental Financing to the Fiscal Reform and Resilience DPC Series project.

Despite these rapid response measures, SVG's need for a resilient recovery remained significant. The World Bank committed to supporting the SVG through the \$40 million [Volcanic Eruption Emergency Project](#) (VEEP), which is aimed at restoring critical services, including debris

management, and support to emergency social protection programs, and at the resilient reconstruction of key sectors and strengthening of the Government's capacity to deliver infrastructure services. The VEEP was also co-financed by a recipient-executed grant under the Caribbean Regional Resilience Building Facility.

The objective of this project was to provide technical assistance to some of the work under the VEEP, specifically by supporting the government in its efforts to enhance its emergency preparedness and response systems, and by embedding climate and disaster resilience into critical infrastructure. Progress was accomplished in coordination with the 'Preparing for Compounding Emergencies' grant, also in SVG.

### Main Activities

- Strengthening the resilience of critical sectors and infrastructure services impacted by the volcanic eruption.
- Enhancing emergency preparedness and response systems.

### Results

Technical assistance was provided to ensure water, transport and agriculture infrastructure investments were informed by climate and disaster risk information and designed to resilient standards. Activities also investigated how resilience can be built through flood mitigation measures, integrated watershed management, and slope stabilization.

These activities supported the application of disaster and climate resilience measures in the retrofitting of key infrastructural assets, including public buildings, water supply, agriculture production and transport infrastructure. The results were the strengthened resilience of critical sectors and infrastructure services impacted by the volcanic eruption and the prioritized rehabilitation of critical infrastructure services.

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The project also to improved institutional knowledge concerning emergency preparedness and response systems, frameworks, and plans. This was achieved via World Bank teams reviewing national disaster preparedness plans and institutional arrangements, updating Emergency Operation Center standard operating procedures and protocols, and supporting the development of guidance and recommendations to improve emergency shelters and data collection systems.

### **Partnerships and Coordination**

The World Bank implemented this project in close collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Information Technology; the Ministry of Transport, Works, Lands, and Physical Planning; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Security, Legal Affairs, and Information; the Ministry of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Youth, Housing, and Informal Human Settlement; and the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO).

The team also coordinated with regional donors and entities such as the Caribbean Development Bank and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, and others where appropriate, to ensure that activities aligned with and supported the country's overall reconstruction efforts.

Progress made under this project was achieved in coordination with several other CRRBF grants in SVG and built on worked financed by the EU in the frame of the [ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program](#).