



FLOODS SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTED ST VINCENT & ST LUCIA

Emergency project Christmas Floods 2013 St. Vincent and the Grenadines & Saint Lucia

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The Event and immediate aftermath

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A low pressure tropical trough brought heavy rainfalls to the Eastern Caribbean on 24th December 2013, severely affecting the islands of St Vincent and the Grenadines, and St Lucia. The sustained torrential rains caused severe flooding, landslides, and damage to infrastructures including health facilities, homes, roads and bridges.

In St. Vincent & the Grenadines the rainfall totaled 310mm in a 2-3 hour period. This resulted in 9 deaths, and 3 persons unaccounted for. A national level 2 disaster was declared in accordance with the national Emergency and Disaster Management Act 2006 for 12 main areas on St. Vincent. Damage and losses were calculated at US\$108.4 million or 15% of the country's Gross Domestic Product. It was estimated that 97% of the damage was sustained in critical infrastructure, including the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital, the referral hospital in the country.

In Saint Lucia, 6 individuals lost their lives. The torrential rainfall resulted in flooding, landslides, destruction of roads and bridges, and the collapse of the pipe-borne water supply island wide. These severely impacted access to healthcare. Health Centres in the two most affected areas, Canaries and Anse La Ray, were left nonfunctional with 4-6 feet water marks and

loss of essential medical supplies and equipment.

Following the impact of the floods in both countries, sanitation at the health facilities was in a poor condition, and disease surveillance, vector control and water quality monitoring were identified as high priority.



PAHO Rapid Response Team

A PAHO Rapid Response Team, comprised of a Coordinator, Structural, Electrical, and Water and Sanitation Engineers, an Architect and an Information Manager conducted immediate needs assessments in St. Vincent and St. Lucia.

International commitment for humanitarian assistance

Following the initial health sector impact report prepared by the PAHO Emergency Health Response Team, a number of partners pledged their support. Voluntary contributions were received from various partners:



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Canada Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada Affaires étrangères, Commerce et Développement Canada

- The UK Department for International Development, DFID
- European Commission: Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, ECHO
- Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, DFAT
- Canada Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, DFATD
- PAHO regular funds

10 months after the event

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Restoring Access to Healthcare



Large steriliser in the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital (MCMH) damaged by the 4 ft high flood waters



Cold chain for immunization restored in Anse La Ray and Canaries Health Centres



Replacement Tuttnauer Steriliser of 510L capacity, installed and commissioned at the hospital, MCMH.



Secured storage facility established off-site of MCMH to store emergency medical



Testing residual chlorine in the water supply in Saint Lucia, using donated test kits

Vector Control



Handheld and truck mounted foggers, together with vector control chemicals were supplied to the Environmental Health Department of the MoH, St Vincent.



The Environmental Health Department of Saint Lucia was provided with a vehicle to intensify vector control activities.

Water and Sanitation



Water storage capacity at MCMH increased by 14,000 gallons