

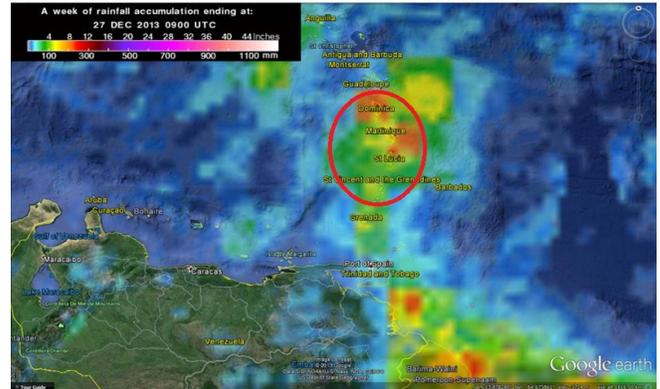
Situation Report #1

LOW-LEVEL TROUGH SYSTEM EVENT IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN

Report date: 27 December 2013

HIGHLIGHTS

- Severe rains and high winds due to a Low Level Trough System impacted Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, and Grenada, 23rd to 25th December 2013.
- Reports of severe damage due to high winds, torrential rains and overflowing rivers received from Dominica, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. This type of flooding was a 100 year cycle event.
- Fourteen confirmed dead (Saint Lucia: 8; St. Vincent and the Grenadines: 6), five missing and several persons displaced to shelter.
- Some health facilities are damaged (including loss of supplies and equipment) and inoperable.
- Access to potable water is a major concern. There is no piped water in Saint Lucia and many persons in St. Vincent and the Grenadines are without piped water, a situation which is expected to continue at least until Saturday.
- The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has declared a level two (2) Disaster for St. Vincent and the Grenadines. A number of disaster areas have also been declared.
- Several communities in Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines remain isolated due to damaged bridges and blocked roads.
- Damage assessments continue.



General Health Priorities

- Re-establishing health services and emergency medical care in affected areas
- Ensuring access to clean water and sanitation measures
- Reinforcing disease surveillance and vector control measures
- The psycho-social support

SAINT VINCENT:

Health Impact

- 8 dead, 5 missing, 5 injured and 156 in shelters. Fifty percent (50%) of consumers in the Vermont and impacted areas are without pipe-borne water and it is expected that residents between Layou and Prospect will be without water until at least Saturday.

Response

- Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has declared a Level II Disaster. Disaster area has been



declared for:

- The Vermont Valley, all the way down to Buccament Bay; Spring Village, Rose Bank and Dark View on the Leeward Side; South Rivers; O’Briens Valley Georgetown and Spring Village Georgetown.
- A number of Ministries have commenced initial damage assessments.
- The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) remains partially activated and a number of key agencies and volunteers are involved in the operations. The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) has provided sleeping bags, comfort kits and jerry cans to those affected.
- Two emergency shelters have been activated in Buccament and Chateaubelair.
- The SVG Red Cross Society has been distributing jerry cans in affected areas.
- The Roads Building and General Services Authority (BRAGSA), Ministry of Transport and Works and the Forestry Department continue their road clearing operations.
- The Ministry of Health has conducted several emergency meetings with the Health Emergency Committee.
- The psycho-social support team led by the Ministry of Health is providing support to those persons injured during the event.
- The Ministry of Health has conducted an initial damage assessment of the damages sustained at the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital (MCMH) and the estimate cost of damage to the facility is EC\$2 million. A number of records and essential pieces of equipment were damaged. The pediatric, male medical, maternity (delivery), and the neonatal intensive care units of the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital have been temporary relocated as clean- up operations continue. Various clinics have also suffered damage, as well as Chateubelair hospital.
- Georgetown Hospital (which is a part of PAHO’s SMART hospital project) is in good condition

Immediate Needs

- Provision of water tanks and water for two hospitals and three health clinics
- Selected equipment, furniture, and supplies for the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital.

DOMINICA:

Health Impact

- No direct health impact has been reported to date. The Office of Disaster Management reports that the southern part of the island from Scotshead to Laudat and Canefield was the most affected by the heavy rains and flash flooding resulting in a number of roads intercepted and homes impacted.

Response

- Shelter opened at Bath Estate.
- Roads are being restored (even if only partially) and most are passable by vehicular traffic. Final clearing works i.e. clearing of drains and other related works are on-going.
- Electricity has been restored to most parts of the island. Bagatel, Fond St Jean, Soufriere continue to experience some electrical disruptions with staff from DOMLEC taking remedial action.

Immediate needs

- The immediate needs for the affected families are food and clothing, particularly in the Newtown area, as



well as water storage and potable water treatment distribution plants and mobile flood lighting.

SAINT LUCIA

Health Impact

- There are six confirmed deaths.
- Widespread interruption of water supply; no piped water island wide. Potential WASH issues as a result, especially in emergency shelters. However water tanks at the Victoria and St Jude Hospitals can provide water for approximately two weeks while the Saint Lucia National Mental Wellness Center has bottled water which has been distributed to patients.
- Health Centers in Anse-La-Raye and Canaries are inoperable and water levels of up to 4-6 feet with total or near total destruction of all contents within these facilities.
- The temporary site for “Dennerly Hospital” has no electricity or generator capacity and can only function in daylight.
- Tanks are being refilled with water providing essential water services to that community.
- No contact has yet been established with staff in the Soufriere/Choiseul region to determine the impact. There is no roadway access to this area given that both the Piaye and Canaries bridges are down. The Royal Saint Lucia Police Force has deployed a team by sea to assess the area.

Response

- The National Emergency Operations Center is activated.
- The Ministry of Health had issued a press release advising the public on emergency water safety and sanitation measures.
- Damage assessments and situation monitoring continues.
- The aerial recon is complete and a preliminary damage assessment report shall be prepared.

Immediate Needs

- Health related needs include provision of potable water for the entire population, water bladders, pumps, and purification tablets, hygiene kits and three generators.

PAHO Actions

- PAHO’s CPC will declare an administrative emergency
- Five PAHO’s Regional Response Team (RRT) experts will be deployed to St Vincent and the Grenadines as soon as possible to support the Ministry of Health in needs assessment, water and sanitation, health and water facilities structural/nonstructural assessments, psycho-social support. Other RRT personnel are on standby.
- PAHO’s EOC has been activated and is supporting and monitoring the event.
- An appeal to donors to support the response operations is being prepared.

Sources: CDEMA, National Disaster Office of Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, MOH of Saint Lucia, CPC