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Press release

For immediate release: Tuesday, 20 April 2021

UNOPS Statement on the La Soufrière volcano eruption on Saint Vincent

Speaking following recent events in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Nick O'Regan, Director of Implementation Practices and Standards at UNOPS, the United Nations' infrastructure and procurement specialists, said:

"UNOPS stands in solidarity with the people and the government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, in the wake of the eruptions of the La Soufrière volcano.

"People's lives and livelihoods have been put at risk, and the extent of the damage to the island's infrastructure requires massive and urgent response and recovery efforts. All of this is further complicated by the fact that this tragedy has struck while our world still battles the COVID-19 pandemic, and ahead of a hurricane season.

"The devastation caused by the eruptions is yet another reminder of the urgent need to create resilient and sustainable infrastructure, so that people are protected from these hazards, and so they can survive and thrive. To do this, we need to plan and develop infrastructure that can withstand shocks: from natural hazards such as volcanic eruptions, to global pandemics.

"UNOPS stands ready to support our partners in these difficult times, from helping respond to the crisis, to building back for a better, more resilient future for all."

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Notes to editors:

To arrange interviews please contact Tom Collins (tomco@unops.org / +45 4533 7708) or Taraneh Dadar (taranehd@unops.org).

About UNOPS

UNOPS mission is to help people build better lives and countries achieve peace and sustainable development. We help the United Nations, governments and other partners to manage projects, and deliver sustainable infrastructure and procurement in an efficient way. With decades of practical infrastructure experience, UNOPS is committed to supporting climate action and tackling the climate emergency.

Read more: www.unops.org