

IFRC Review of Emergency Decrees: ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

AS AT 22 APRIL 2020

Overview

There was limited accessibility to St Vincent and the Grenadines ('SVG') legislation online, especially the most recent instruments. This review therefore needs to be treated with some caution as it may not have identified all relevant legislation.

Indeed, it has not been possible to establish if any emergency measures have been taken.

The website of the SVG National Emergency Management Organisation ('NEMO') appears to be the main central source of information: <http://nemo.gov.vc/nemo/>. This site also has links to the National Emergency and Disaster Management Act 2006 ('NEDMA')¹ and the 2005 National Disaster Plan.² There is reference in the National Disaster Plan to an Emergency Powers Act 1970 and to a National Emergency Management Organization Act 2006,³ although the latter is not mentioned on the NEMO website and it is not clear why it would be necessary as there are provisions for the establishment of NEMO in NEDMA.⁴

SVG is a member of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency ('CDEMA') and the Caribbean Public Health Agency ('CARPHA').

1. Is there coordination between state and non-state actors, e.g. through a national emergency response mechanism?

In the absence of any emergency measures -or at least access to them- this is impossible to answer.

The NEDMA and National Disaster Plan put in place standing arrangements for response to disaster and NEDMA establishes NEMO. NEMO is the central agency for coordinating disaster management.⁵

Under NEDMA, a representative of the St Vincent and Grenadines Red Cross Society is a member of the National Emergency Council and the Council is in turn a core part of NEMO. The functions of the National Emergency Council include ensuring that NEMO effectively performs its functions; assisting in the preparation and review of the National Disaster

¹ <http://nemo.gov.vc/nemo/images/PoliciesActsAndBills/National-Emergency-Act06.pdf>

² <http://nemo.gov.vc/nemo/images/PoliciesActsAndBills/NationalDisasterPlan.pdf>

³ See UNISDR St Vincent and Grenadines Country Profile 2014

<http://nemo.gov.vc/nemo/images/PoliciesActsAndBills/Final-Country-Profile-SVG-DEC2014.pdf>

⁴ See NEDMA, Part II.

⁵ NEDMA, s 5(2).

Management Plan; and making requests for assistance from any Government, agency, organisation or person.⁶

A representative of the SVG Red Cross Society is also a member of the National Emergency Executive Committee.⁷

The SVG Red Cross is recorded as having participated in the review of the National Disaster Plan and is on its permanent review committee.⁸ The SVG Red Cross is also a member of a number of sub-committees of the National Emergency Executive Committee and is an agency with assigned responsibilities under the Plan. The Plan has specific subplans for storms/ hurricanes and volcanoes but not for pandemics.

There will also be regional cooperation and coordination through CDEMA and CARPHA.

2. Is there mention of the role of Red Cross (RC) or humanitarian actors? In what areas/sectors? What responsibilities are ascribed to RC?

Emergency measures appear not to have been made or, if they have, cannot be located online.

The SVG RC has specific responsibilities under the National Disaster Plan (see above).

3. Are there exceptions to travel restrictions that will facilitate the movement of RC/humanitarian relief teams and/or aid across borders? What (if any) quarantine requirements or other conditions are attached?

Formal emergency measures appear not to have been made or, if they have, cannot be located online. The SVG Cabinet appears to have approved quarantining and/or active surveillance of travellers from a number of specified countries and countries with community transmission.⁹

It is noted, though that the National Disaster Plan contains an annex on the management of donations and relief supplies.¹⁰

4. Are there exceptions to quarantines, curfews and other restrictions on movement that allow RC/humanitarian organizations access to vulnerable populations (including for psychosocial or non-medical aid)?

⁶ NEDMA, s 7.

⁷ NEDMA, s 8.

⁸ National Disaster Plan, p2.

⁹ <https://www.gov.vc/index.php/media-center/1213-covid-19-pandemic>

¹⁰ National Disaster Plan, Annex 5.

Emergency measures introducing restrictions on movement appear not to have been made or, if they have, cannot be located online.

5. Have any special legal facilities or exemptions been put in place for the importation of medical aid or other relief items or personnel (International Disaster Response Law)? What (if any) quarantine requirements or other conditions are attached?

No provision of this nature appears to have been made.

6. Is the RC (or humanitarian organizations) categorized as 'essential' or 'emergency' services, for the purposes of exemptions to restrictions on business operations and opening hours?

Emergency measures appear not to have been made or, if they have, cannot be located online.

7. What other measures are provided in the emergency decrees? (for governmental actors, for communities, for health workers, etc).

Emergency measures appear not to have been made or, if they have, cannot be located online.

8. Have restrictions been adopted or put in place that ban the export of protective medical equipment?

No provision of this nature appears to have been made.

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