



IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON VOLUNTEERISM



MARCH 2023

AGENDA

- Welcome and Overview of Case Study
- The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Experience
- The Suriname Experience
- SVGGRCS Volunteer Experience
- Q & A





ABOUT THE CASE STUDY

How has COVID-19 impacted the experiences of volunteers in Suriname and St. Vincent and the Grenadines?

Key Areas:

- Volunteer Policies
- Volunteer Data Management
- **Volunteer Protection**
- Volunteer Training
- **Volunteer Motivation and Experiences During The Pandemic**
- Volunteer Reward Systems

METHODOLOGY

Policy Review

- St. Vincent and the Grenadines Draft Volunteering Policy
- IFRC Volunteering Policy

Volunteer Survey

- A survey was administered to volunteers using Kobo Collect Application.
- Understand how volunteers assisted during the pandemic
- Understand why they decided to volunteer during the pandemic
- Understand how they felt volunteering



METHODOLOGY

Interviews

- Understand how COVID-19 impacted the way in which the National Societies engaged with volunteers
- Understand the methods used to ensure Volunteer Safety

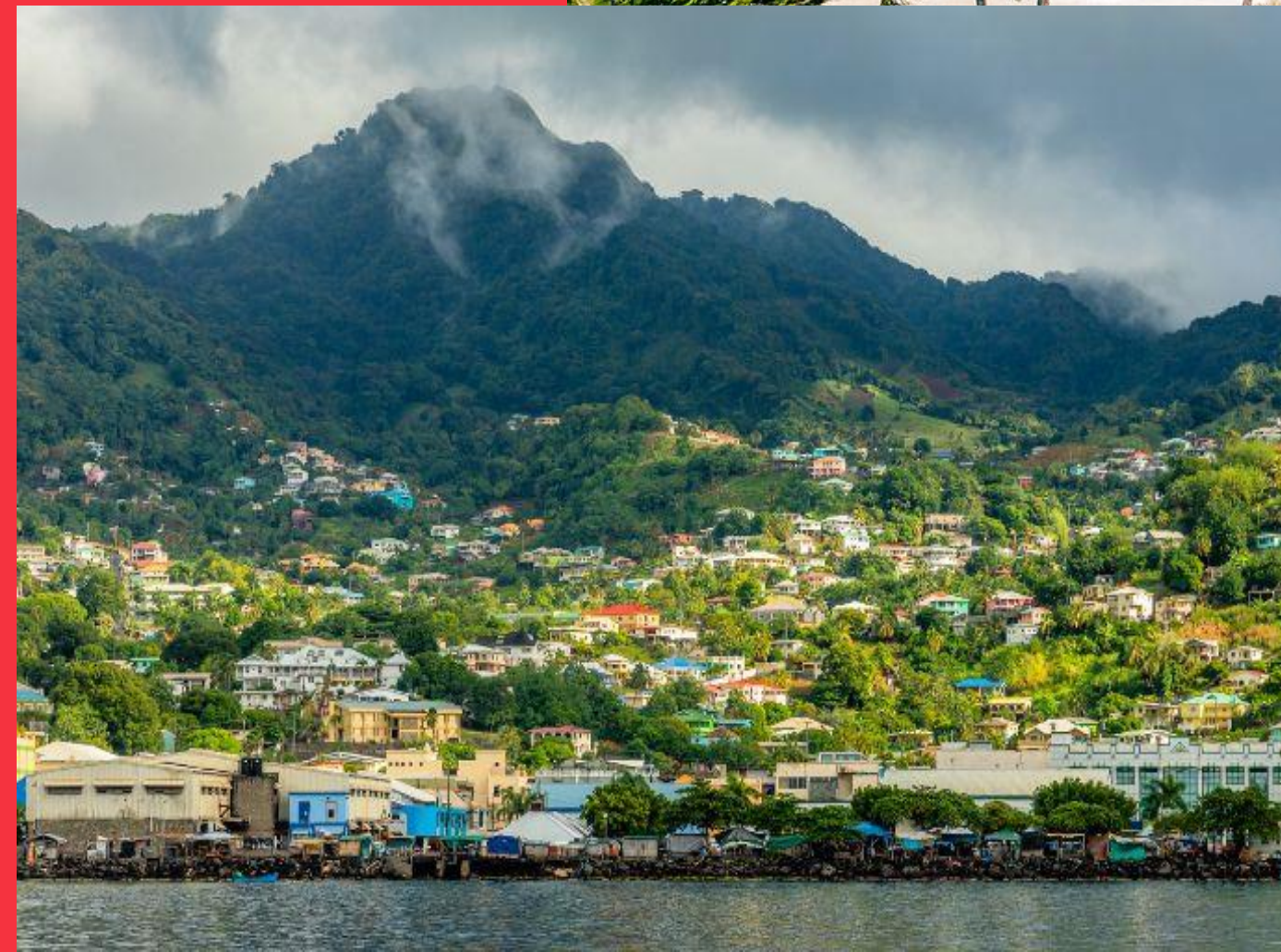
Literature Review

- Additional research and a literature review of any relevant documents were conducted.



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

- Comprises of 32 islands and cays.
- Biggest islands are St. Vincent and Bequia
- The islands have a combined size of approximately 389km².
- Population size of 110, 400
- SVG is prone to hurricanes, landslides, coastal flooding and drought
- The presence of the La Soufriere volcano also poses further risks



SURINAME

- Is located on the South American mainland
- Size of approximately 163,820 km²
- Small population size of 621 900
- The country is only a few metres above sea level. It is prone to river and coastal flooding and wildfires



SVGRCS VOLUNTEER SYSTEM



There are approximately 300 active volunteers.

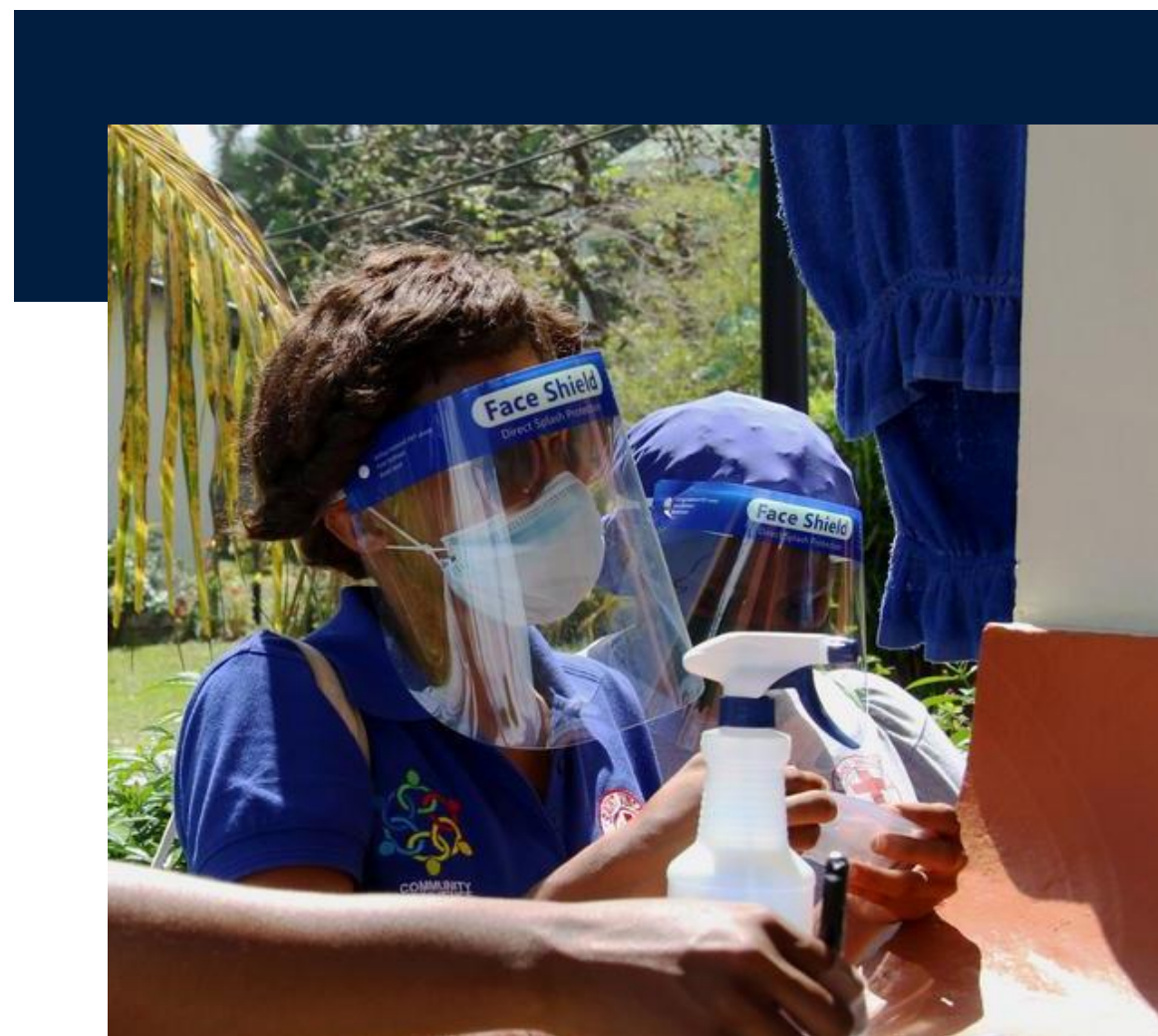
- Volunteer groups based on geographic location
- Volunteers are generally asked to assist with the national response
- National Society reached out to volunteers via the leaders of each group
- Volunteers also reach out to the National Society to lend support

SVGRCS COVID-19 ONSET ACTIVITIES



Awareness Sessions and Clinic Visits

COVID-19 awareness and hand washing sessions



Distribution of Hygiene Kits

Distributed to communities



MHPSS Community Sessions

Provided to communities

LA SOUFRIERE ERUPTION



REMEMBERING LA SOUFRIERE

1914



SVGRCS VOLUNTEER PROTECTION



Provision of PPE

Face Masks & Shields
Hand Sanitizer
Gloves



Detailed Safety Briefs

Reiterate safety measures



Check-Ins With Volunteers

Via Volunteer Group Leaders
WhatsApp
Survey



SVGRCS VOLUNTEER PROTECTION

New Contact Methods

Dedicated WhatsApp
Dedicated Volunteer
Manager

SRC VOLUNTEER SYSTEM



There are approximately 300 active volunteers.

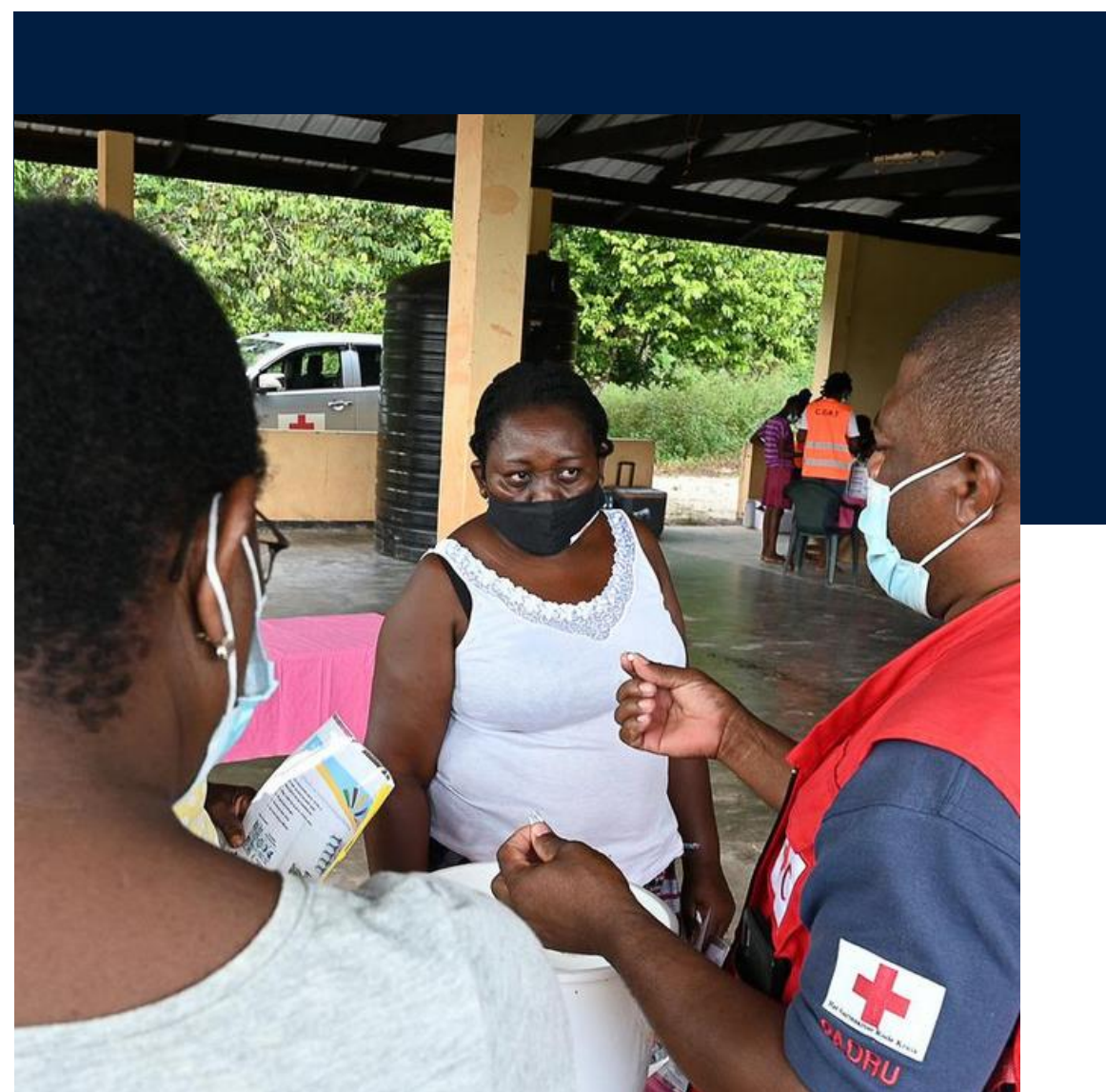
- Volunteer groups: Youth, Disaster Management, Health, Welfare and COVID-19
- Volunteers are generally asked to assist with the national response
- National Society reach out to volunteers via the WhatsApp Groups, and Phone Calls
- Volunteers also meet monthly basis

SRC COVID-19 ONSET ACTIVITIES



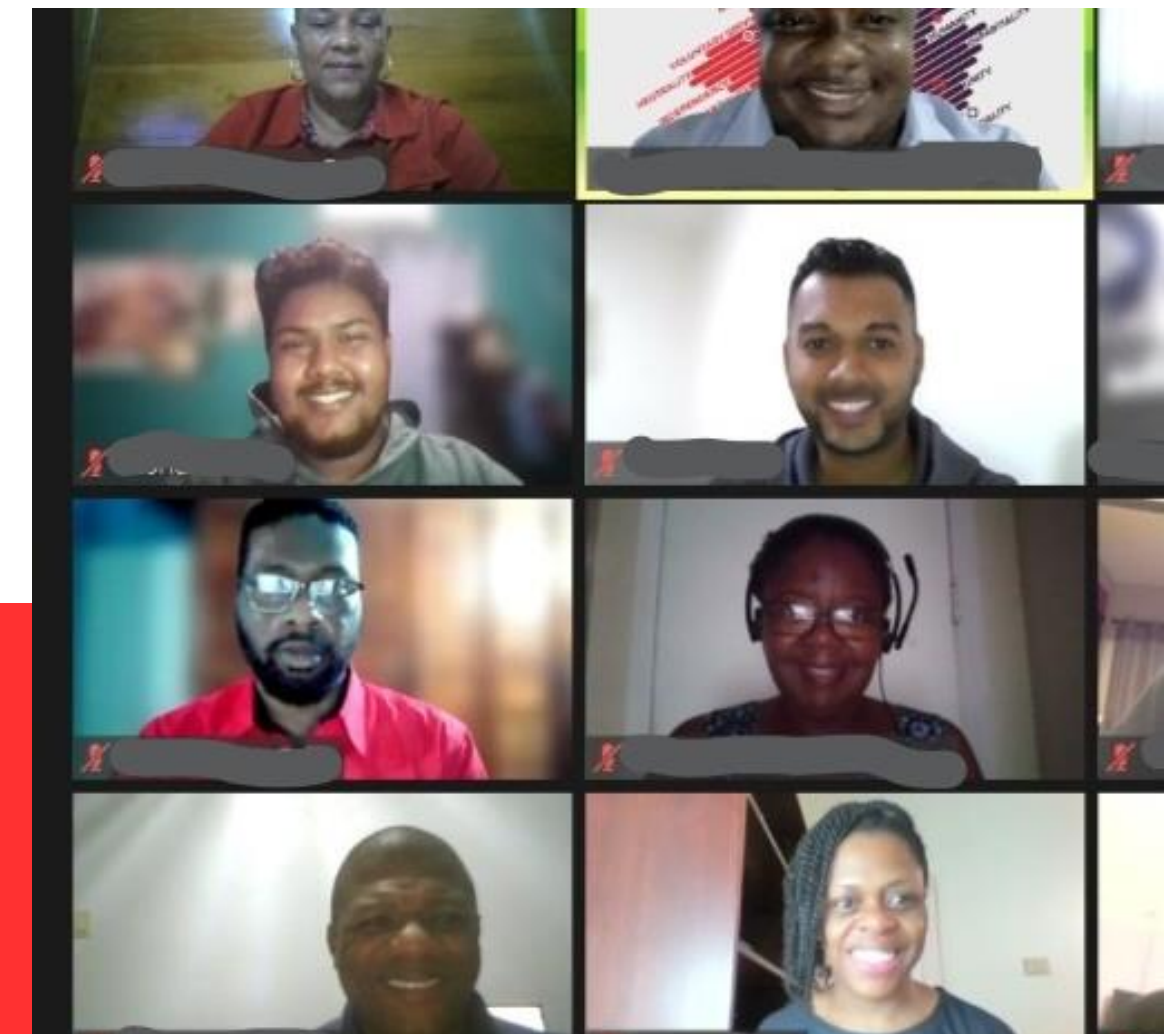
Awareness Sessions

COVID-19 awareness and hand washing sessions



Check-Ins With Volunteers

WhatsApp Groups
Phone Calls



Monthly Meeting of Volunteers

Volunteers would meet virtually

SRC COVID-19 ONSET ACTIVITIES



COVID-19 Patient Checks

Home checks made to COVID-19 positive persons



Food Distribution

Food distributed to COVID-19 positive persons



COVID-19 Screening

Screening done to persons crossing district borders

SURINAME NATIONAL HEALTH RESPONSE

- Third wave of COVID-19 started in April 2021
- 13,720 cumulative cases, 268 deaths. Average of 150-200 new cases per day.
- Overcrowding in intensive care units of the 6 hospitals responsible for COVID
- Shortage of health personnel
- Health care system was at a code black

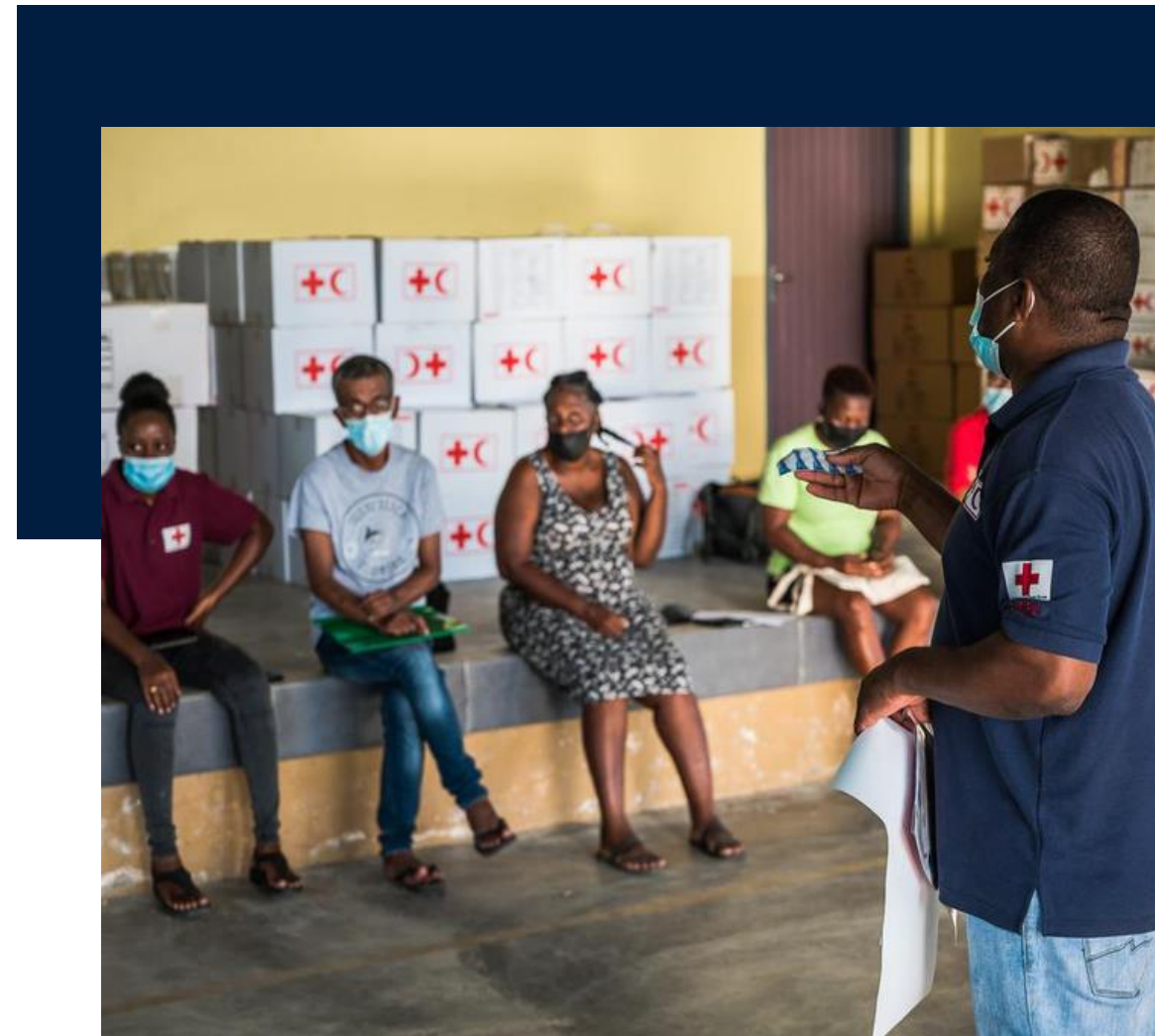


SRC VOLUNTEER PROTECTION



Provision of PPE

- Face Masks & Shields
- Hand Sanitizer
- Gloves
- Long Sleeve Gowns



Detailed Safety Briefs

- Reiterate safety measures
- Safe ways to interact with COVID-19 positive persons



Check-Ins With Volunteers

- Phone calls
- WhatsApp
- Volunteer Visits

SRC VOLUNTEER PROTECTION



Provision of MHPSS

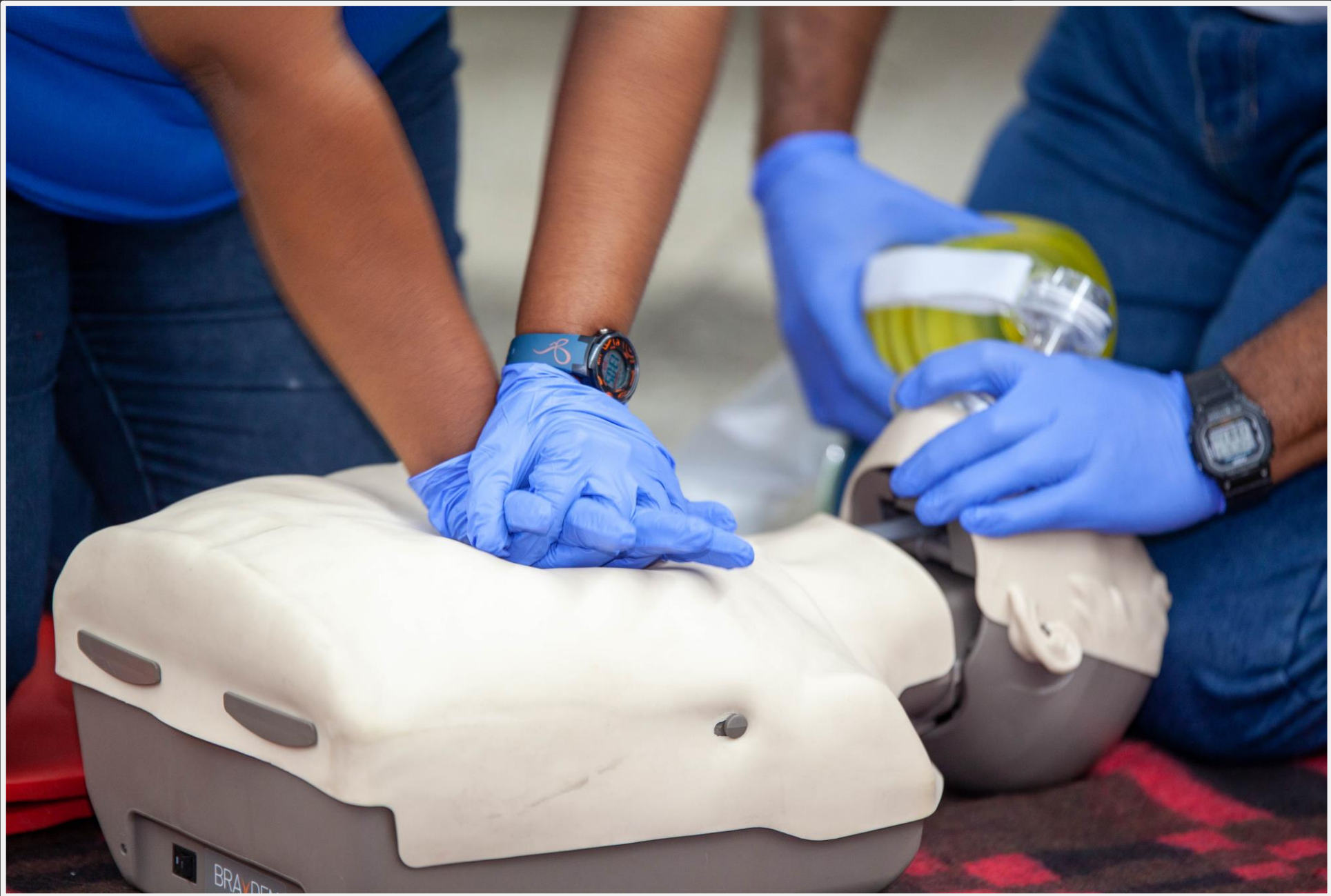
Offered psychosocial support to volunteers

Vaccinated Volunteers

Only vaccinated persons were allowed to volunteer at hospitals



New Ways Of Engaging With Volunteers



Digital Volunteering



LET'S HEAR
FROM A
SVGRCS
VOLUNTEER



YOUR FEEDBACK

- Ask Questions
- Make Comments
- Share Your experience



THANK YOU!

