

Grenada, St Vincent and the Grenadines: Hurricane Beryl

Flash Update No. 02

As of 02 July 2024

KEY MESSAGES

- Beryl further intensified to a category 5 hurricane and is forecasted to make landfall in Jamaica with some potential impact on the southern coasts of Haiti and the Cayman Islands by Wednesday.
- Thousands of Grenadians took refuge in emergency shelters as Hurricane Beryl, the first major storm of the 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season, passed through Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- The UN Emergency Technical Team (UNETT) for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean continues to coordinate support to the CDEMA's Coordinating Unit and The Regional Response Mechanism's relief and response efforts.
- On 2 July, the multi-disciplinary Rapid Needs Assessment Teams (RNAT) deployed to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines along with members of the UNETT. Additional members and surge deployment of the UN system are on stand-by and ready for deployment.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Hurricane Beryl impacted several countries in the southwestern Caribbean. CDEMA continues coordinating the response efforts, supported by National Emergency Management Coordinators. Various forms of support are being provided to St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, and its dependents. Assessments have commenced to determine the response level. Additionally, a Level 1 response is ongoing in Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Lucia, and Dominica.

Thousands of Grenadians took refuge in emergency shelters as Hurricane Beryl, the first major storm of the 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season made passage through the Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Over 400 people are in 20 shelters across the island of Grenada, which has a population of approximately 108,000.

The National Water and Sewerage Authority (NAWASA) in Grenada reports that 52 per cent of the water systems are operational with communication still disrupted in Carriacou, Petite Martinique, and parts of the Northern corridor of Grenada.

Union Island experienced devastating effects as Hurricane Beryl struck St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG). Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves reported that 90 per cent of houses were severely damaged or destroyed, with significant roof and structural damage.

Approximately 1,752 persons in SVG are currently in 71 public hurricane shelters. Hundreds of homes on St. Vincent were also severely affected, including government buildings and several churches. Fitz Bramble, MP for East Kingstown, witnessed the hurricane tearing off the roof of Bishop's College in Kingstown.



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. (Photo: CDEMA)

Due to telecommunication issues, the full extent of damage in Mayreau and Canouan remains unknown, but similar severe damage is expected. In contrast, Bequia in the northern Grenadines sustained less damage.

Neighbouring countries including Antigua and Barbuda have begun to show solidarity through sending tarpaulins and US\$100,000 worth of water. The Government has also sent a contingent of 19 police officers on 2 July from Antigua and Barbuda to Grenada and SVG. The team, comprised of 15 tactical unit members and 4 officers supporting the CARICOM Disaster Relief Unit, set sail around 9am aboard Coast Guard vessels from Barbados and St. Vincent. This deployment, expected to last two weeks initially, aims to assist with security, maintain law and order, and support damage assessment efforts.

RESPONSE

The Caribbean Development Partners Group for Disaster Management (CDPG-DM), co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and the Executive Director of CDEMA, held its first meeting post-impact of Hurricane Beryl on Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on 2 July to receive an update from the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology on its current path and impact on the two countries.

CDEMA deployed its first Rapid Needs Assessment Team (RNAT) to SVG focusing on Agriculture, WASH, Shelter and Debris Management to conduct assessment on mainland Saint Vincent. A second RNAT is on stand-by.

Assessments have commenced to determine the response level, and support is being provided to SVG, Grenada, and its dependents. CDEMA is coordinating the response efforts, supported by National Emergency Management Coordinators. Additionally, a Level 1 response is ongoing in Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Lucia, and Dominica.

National authorities in the respective countries are active and have begun conducting immediate assessments. UN agencies, NGO partners and the private sector CBI network are on standby, and many have initiated situational analysis reports.

SHELTER

Needs in response to Hurricane Beryl include assessments of damage to housing stock and identification of coping strategies for the affected population through the RNAT. Key actions involve the Shelter thematic group coordinating all participating organizations, overseeing information management and mapping activities to support emergency responses. It also includes prioritizing the needs of vulnerable groups, including the elderly, children, persons with disabilities, and those with chronic diseases. Logistics coordination for the Shelter sector includes deploying prepositioned stocks such as tarpaulins, ropes, solar lamps, and hygiene and dignity kits, from various organizations to efficiently meet the diverse needs of the affected population. Additionally, ensuring psychosocial support through the rollout of the Return to Happiness program and the establishment of Child-Friendly Spaces within shelters are prioritized, to foster emotional recovery and resilience among affected people. Integrating WASH considerations into shelter management and hygiene messaging remains critical.

LOGISTICS

Needs include urgent food assistance to meet the immediate needs of impacted populations, emergency coordination of food relief supplies for Grenada/Carriacou and St. Vincent & the Grenadines, and provision of emergency telecommunications and technical support for needs assessments post-hurricane. Coordination is ongoing with CDEMA to provide logistical support and emergency telecommunications in the affected islands. The Supply Chain Team is co-locating with CDEMA's Emergency Operations Centre to enhance support as required. Post-impact assessments are ongoing in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, while pre-impact assessments are underway in Jamaica to determine needs and plan interventions in preparation for the passage of Hurricane Beryl. Staff in St. Vincent and the Grenadines are assisting the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMO) with information management and digital support at the National Emergency Centre. Plans include providing cash transfers for immediate food and cash assistance in Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, based on assessed damages. Additionally, food stocks and Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) are being prepared and deployed to supplement government resources in meeting immediate food needs.

WASH

Needs include urgent support for WASH resources to prevent disease spread, emphasizing pre-positioned supplies for impacted countries and additional availability of WASH supplies. Tailored hygiene promotion and life-saving messages

specifically for shelters are being rolled out, with technical personnel conducting rapid needs assessments to guide effective response efforts.

EDUCATION

The sector has scheduled the arrival of necessary supplies early in July and is ready to deploy technical support to provide expert assistance. Collaborating with CDEMA and Safe School (CSSI) focal persons, partners will conduct a rapid assessment of the affected areas. In partnership with the Ministry of Education, plans include providing immediate relief to all children in shelters and incorporating the assessment findings into the response plan for effective implementation of relief and rehabilitation activities. Efforts will include supporting educational activities to offer psychosocial support and establish routine and normalcy for children, as well as refurbishing schools and making minor repairs to enable reopening after the summer break.

PROTECTION

The sector will work with national systems to conduct a comprehensive child protection rapid needs assessment to identify vulnerabilities and tailor interventions accordingly. It will establish coordinating mechanisms in both Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, collaborating with local authorities, NGOs, and international agencies, for an effective child protection response. Measures will be implemented to mitigate risks of gender-based violence (GBV), including creating safe spaces for children, providing support services for survivors, and integrating child protection standards in all shelters to ensure safety and prevent exploitation and abuse. Additionally, partners will ensure mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in shelters, support scaling up cash transfer programs, and coordinate social protection mechanisms to address the serious impact on children's psychosocial well-being.

Other sectors are still awaiting the priority needs of the affected countries. In the meantime, all sectors have been activated and relief items are being pre-identified in response to a provisional needs list.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Relevant links related to this emergency:

[Hurricane Beryl \(cdema.org\)](#)
[Latin America and the Caribbean: Caribbean - Reports | ReliefWeb Response](#)
[National Disaster Management Agency - Grenada](#)
[National Emergency Management Organization - Saint Vincent and the Grenadines](#)
[Barbados RCO | ReliefWeb Response](#)
[Registration Beryl Response Coordination Meeting Shelter - NFI Thematic Group](#)

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For more information, please visit [Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency - CDEMA](#)