



HURRICANE BERYL: Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

UNITED NATIONS – Flash Note I

As of 01 July 2024

This report covers the period 30 June to 01 July 2024. This report is not exhaustive, but it compiles the reported efforts of agencies in Barbados, Grenada and Saint Vincent and Grenadines to support the regional operation.

KEY MESSAGES

Beryl has become the strongest hurricane ever recorded in June, reaching major category 4 (in a scale of 5).

While the passage of Hurricane Beryl has not caused major infrastructural destruction in Barbados, it is estimated that 200k people, the equivalent of the entire populations of both Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, have been exposed and potentially affected by the impacts of the hurricane.

The Sub-regional UN response mechanism (UNETT) is in place and remains in close coordination with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) through the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) is a network of CDEMA Participating States, and national, regional and international disaster stakeholders, through which external response and relief operations in support of an impacted CDEMA Participating State are coordinated.

CDEMA has been working on the composition of the multidisciplinary Rapid Needs Assessment Teams (RNAT) which will be deployed to most impacted areas, UN staff will join these teams.



Coastal streets in Barbados were impacted by the passage of Hurricane Beryl during the night of 30 June but did not cause massive destruction. Beryl was major hurricane at category 4, (on a scale of 5) and is now impacting Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. (Photo: UN RCO)

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Hurricane Beryl made landfall on 1 July as a category 4, moving west-northwest at approximately 20 mph with maximum sustained winds of 140 mph.

An estimated 200,000 people, representing 100 per cent of the population in both Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, have been affected by Hurricane Beryl. According to the International Federation of the Red Cross a total of 40 shelters have been opened in Grenada and 68 in St Vincent and the Grenadines. Several smaller islands such as Carriacou and Petit Martinique in Grenada, and five of the thirty-two Grenadines islands: Union Island, Bequia, Canouan, Palm Island, and Meru were also impacted.

The small size and dispersed nature of many of the affected islands present significant logistical challenges. Providing aid and conducting relief operations is complicated by the geographical spread and limited infrastructure. Many of the smaller islands have limited accessibility, which could adversely impact and delay the arrival of emergency supplies and aid workers. Transportation via air and sea will need to be carefully coordinated to ensure timely and efficient delivery of assistance.

COORDINATION MECHANISMS IN PLACE

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) is leading coordination efforts. This includes coordinating relief and response activities across the impacted countries. OCHA is supporting these efforts through coordination mechanisms, including the Caribbean Development Partners Group for Disaster Management and the UN Emergency Technical Team (UNETT).

WFP and IOM, along with CDEMA, are co-leading the logistics and shelter sectors respectively, to support the streamlining of transportation and aid distribution, as well as efforts to ensure that displaced individuals have access to safe and secure accommodations.

Both sector leads are operating within the CDEMA Coordination Unit to provide support. Interested partners can contact any of the focal points contacting rccuser@cdema.org.

Assessment teams coordinated through CDEMA, are scheduled for deployment through the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM). UN agencies will be supporting various teams with technical staff. These teams will evaluate the extent of the damage and identify specific needs in the affected countries. The planned deployment considers the potential development of another tropical weather system, which currently has a 70 per cent chance of cyclone formation.

The UN has seven agencies and 20 personnel based in Grenada and nine agencies and 21 personnel based in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, working with government in support of relief efforts and planning.

PREPAREDNESS MEASURES & RESPONSE

SHELTER AND OTHER NON-FOOD ITEMS

With the eye of Hurricane Beryl passing over the islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique, Grenada has indicated the need for shelter material and non-food items and with the anticipation that 10,000 inhabitants may be affected. Needs in other affected areas are pending further information from the affected countries of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (103,000 people) and Grenada (125,000 people). Shelter materials, particularly tarpaulins and ropes, will be prioritized along with other essential non-food items such as solar lamps and hygiene and dignity kits. The shelter sector is working closely with the logistics sector, led by WFP, to assess scenarios for the deployment of relief items. Key actions planned include agencies and partners supporting CDEMA to coordinate the deployment of non-food items already available and prepositioned in close coordination with the logistics sector; participation in RNAT deployed by CDEMA; coordination of the procurement of non-food items expected to be requested by partners based on identified needs; and assessment of needs for support to the national disaster agencies in the management of emergency shelters and collective centers. Ensuring child-friendly and safe spaces in shelters is paramount, alongside ensuring that WASH considerations are integrated into shelter management and included in hygiene messaging.

AGRICULTURE/FOOD SECURITY

The agriculture sector, including fisheries, crops, and livestock, requires a clear understanding of the system's impacts and the identification of the most urgent interventions to restore and protect food availability and livelihoods for the most vulnerable. Specialists will join the CDEMA RNAT deployments to conduct comprehensive assessments in agriculture. They will support the identification of the most affected and vulnerable communities and households and design context-appropriate, life-saving interventions.

HEALTH

The health sector is focused on mapping health facilities and collecting status information in collaboration with health authorities. No immediate assistance requests have been received, but preparations include deploying health experts as part of RNAT, coordinating with the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) for support, and following up on the status of health facilities. Technical expertise in sexual and reproductive health (SRH) is on stand-by.

LOGISTICS

The logistics sector aims to enhance the transportation and distribution of relief supplies efficiently. Urgent needs from national partners include mobilizing food and providing logistics services to Grenadines, Carriacou, and Petite Martinique. Key actions planned include sourcing ready-to-eat meals and organizing food distributions.

The most urgent needs or requests by national partners include emergency coordination of food relief supplies for Grenada/Carriacou and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Key actions planned include co-locating with CDEMA HQ in Barbados to provide coordination support, including the aggregation of needs and available supplies in the region. The team is currently exploring transport options to support affected islands, including the potential for in-kind food options.

WATER AND SANITATION

Key actions planned involve providing immediate assistance once the all-clear is given, with pre-positioned supplies expected to arrive by 3 July. Additionally, hygiene promotion and life-saving messages are being tailored for shelters. A technical support team is ready to conduct rapid needs assessments to further guide response efforts.

PROTECTION

In addressing urgent needs within this sector, priorities include rapid technical support for needs assessments with protection, gender and gender-based violence in emergencies (GBViE) experts, identifying needed relief supplies, supporting safe shelter options, facilitating transformative procurement from local women and youth-led businesses, maintaining robust GBV referral pathways, rolling out self-care toolkits, and providing gender-responsive support to relevant ministries and organizations. Specific urgent needs include clothing, hygiene products, food, water, medical supplies, childcare supplies, emergency kits, transportation, emergency housing, and safety planning. Requests and needs are being identified for Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Barbados. Additional priorities include ensuring mental health and psychosocial support in shelters, and effectively coordinating social protection mechanisms for this emergency.

EDUCATION

Key life-saving messages have been shared with education officials for broad dissemination, ensuring communities are well-informed. Additionally, supplies have been pre-positioned to arrive the week of 1 July, providing necessary resources promptly. Furthermore, technical support is readily available for deployment, offering expert assistance where needed.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Relevant links related to this emergency:

[Hurricane Beryl \(cdema.org\)](https://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](#)

All requests for mapping (AA, IM, GIS, data) can be sent to: beryl2024@mapaction.org

For further information, please contact:

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