

Hurricane Beryl Situational Report 4

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Executive Summary

On July 1, 2024, Hurricane Beryl formed as a Category 4 hurricane in the Atlantic, making landfall and traveling through various Caribbean islands, including Grenada, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines (St. Vincent), Barbados, and the Cayman Islands.^{1,2} By July 8, the storm shifted northward through Mexico and the continental US, landing in Texas as a Category 1 storm.¹ After moving throughout the Northeast United States (US) and Ontario, Canada, and provoking heavy rainfall, flooding, and tornado outbreaks throughout regions including Louisiana, Mississippi, the Ohio Valley, and Vermont, Beryl dissipated in Ontario on July 11.¹ To date, over \$20 million USD in aid and personnel have been sent by various UN, international government, and non-government agencies including the UN Central Relief Funds, UNICEF, and the International Medical Corps, to provide humanitarian assistance and support restoration of telecommunications, electricity, water, and more in affected areas.³ Furthermore, Beryl has contributed to a growing tropical depression as the Atlantic hurricane season of 2024 starts, excessive heat advisories, and at least 67 tornadoes throughout Texas, Louisiana, Kentucky, Indiana, New York, and Ontario.¹

Major Health Outcomes

- Since Hurricane Beryl first formed over a month ago, the storm and its effects have resulted in at least 19 deaths throughout the Caribbean— including at least 4 in Grenada and at least 5 in St. Vincent— and 36 deaths in Texas, US.³
- Waterborne diseases, poor mental health, as well a need for greater psychosocial support and protection, comprise the largest health concerns for the storm's afflicted populations, especially among already vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly, and marginalized groups.⁴

Systems-Level & Critical Infrastructure Impacts

- Upwards of 98% of infrastructure on islands of Grenada and St. Vincent was destroyed by the cyclone, thereby closing and reducing the capacity of critical facilities such as hospitals, schools, homes, parishes, power lines, water supply chains, and telecommunications.^{4,5}
- Infrastructural damages are estimated to have affected over 6,980 individuals in Grenada, 4,800 in St. Vincent, and 400,000 in Jamaica.⁴
- In the Caribbean, the capacity of various industries that have historically supported the countries' economies and food supplies have been reduced, including the fisheries and tourism sectors of Barbados, and the fisheries and agricultural sectors of both Jamaica and Grenada.⁴

Social Impacts

- Thousands of homes have been damaged or destroyed throughout the Caribbean, including 1,258 being destroyed in St. Vincent, 374 in Grenada, 132 in Jamaica, and 55 in Barbados.⁴
- At least 1,000 individuals have been evacuated from Grenada and St. Vincent, especially from the islands of Carriacou, Petite Martinique, and the Grenadines.⁵

Post-Disaster Recovery

- Due to Hurricane Beryl dissipating and no longer being considered an official threat to either the US or the Caribbean States, further efforts have been delegated to funding recovery actions in affected areas, especially in the islands of Grenada and St. Vincent.⁶
 - Common recovery actions include teams being deployed to remove debris from infrastructurally damaged areas, restore necessary water- and food-supply chain infrastructure, and bring essential health and hygienic supplies to affected populations.
- Despite the mobilization of various global agencies to aid in the recovery of the aforementioned impacts throughout the Caribbean and US, analyses reveal that most target goals for individuals receiving support have not yet been achieved.⁴

- The prompt mobilization of Water Mission's Disaster Assistance Response Team to restore rainwater catchments and wells, and install reverse osmosis treatment systems in Grenada and St. Vincent has facilitated the recovery of both countries' own water, sanitation, and hygiene agencies, as well as increased access to potable and non-potable water for both communities.⁷
- Within populations such as that of Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, and Barbados, further assessments are currently underway to better understand what damages and recovery needs must be addressed.^{6,8}

References

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