



BRIEFING NOTE FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR

REGIONAL OVERVIEW AND PLANNED RESPONSE: HURRICANE BERYL

CARIBBEAN HURRICANE SEASON 2024

JULY 2024

Photo: UNICEF Eastern Caribbean

PEOPLE POTENTIALLY AFFECTED
IN BOTH COUNTRIES



82k

PEOPLE POTENTIALLY IN NEED IN
BOTH COUNTRIES



59k

PEOPLE TARGETED
IN BOTH COUNTRIES



43k

TOTAL
REQUIREMENTS (US\$)



9M

CRISIS OVERVIEW

Hurricane Beryl hit Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada on 1 July as a Category 4 hurricane, increasing to a Category 5 thereafter.

This makes it the earliest Category 5 Atlantic hurricane on record, and among the worst storms to hit both countries since recordkeeping began in 1851. Over 80,000 people were potentially affected by Hurricane Beryl across Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and nearly 60,000 people are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance.

The response to Hurricane Beryl is led by the Governments of the affected countries, with support from the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and international partners. In support of the Government-led and regional relief efforts, humanitarian partners are ramping up lifesaving and

life-sustaining assistance. The [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#) (OCHA) has published a Regional Overview and Planned Response plan that outlines the strategic objectives, timeline, and priority activities by sector which can be downloaded at t.ly/ON7ZR.

What are humanitarian clusters?

Humanitarian clusters are groups of organizations working in the main sectors of humanitarian action – for example, providing shelter, promoting food security, or ensuring access to water, sanitation, and hygiene.

The [Regional Overview and Planned Response to Hurricane Beryl](#) is organized around sectors including education, health, logistics, nutrition, temporary shelter and non-food items, and more.

ACCESSING RELIABLE, ACCURATE, AND UP-TO-DATE DATA AND INFORMATION

Access to trustworthy and timely data and information is the key to effective humanitarian response, ensuring that affected people and responding organizations alike can target their efforts precisely, allocate resources efficiently, and respond promptly to urgent needs.

ReliefWeb Response is a specialised digital service from OCHA that aggregates information from multiple trusted sources and platforms to provide an authoritative source of knowledge in humanitarian emergencies to facilitate situational understanding and decision-making. Visit the ReliefWeb Response Hurricane Beryl emergency page at response.reliefweb.int/latin-america-and-caribbean/hurricane-beryl for the latest situation reports, flash updates, maps, infographics, and more.

OCHA Flash Updates are published daily and summarize key developments as well as relief operation highlights. [Click here to view all published Flash Updates for Hurricane Beryl.](#)

HOW THE PRIVATE SECTOR CAN HELP

Local, regional, and global businesses and private foundations have long played a critical role in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies. This is not surprising – businesses of every size have a clear interest in making themselves more resilient to disasters, and a clear desire to support their customers, employees, and suppliers during times of crisis. The United Nations encourages the private sector to engage as a partner in humanitarian response, and OCHA has established a dedicated Private Sector Unit to provide neutral advice and facilitate public-private partnerships and collaboration.

1 MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

Financial contributions to reputable aid agencies are one of the most valuable and effective forms of help during humanitarian emergencies. For information on trusted humanitarian organizations operating on the front lines of the Hurricane Beryl response, please write to OCHAPrivateSector@un.org.

- **UN Central Emergency Response Fund:** The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is one of the fastest and most effective ways to ensure that urgently needed humanitarian assistance reaches people caught up in crises. Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005, CERF enables humanitarian responders to deliver life-saving assistance whenever and wherever crises strike. The CERF has already [made an initial grant of US \\$4 million](#) to kickstart humanitarian operations in Grenada, Jamaica, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Learn more or make a donation online at crisisrelief.un.org/donate.

- **International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC):** The IFRC has published an Emergency Appeal for CHF 4.5 million to provide urgently-needed support to 25,000 people across Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Barbados, and Jamaica. Learn more or make a donation online at ifrc.org/emergency/caribbean-islands-hurricane-beryl.

Resources for Local and Regional Businesses

The [Connecting Business initiative](#) (CBI) is a joint programme established by OCHA and the [United Nations Development Programme](#) (UNDP) to partner with local businesses to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. CBI's Member Networks are independent chambers of commerce and business federations that are ready, willing, and able to lead local private sector engagement and collaboration in humanitarian emergencies.

The [Network of Caribbean Chambers of Commerce](#) (CARICHAM) is the regional CBI Member Network, bringing together 25 Caribbean business federations collectively representing over 160,000 local businesses. Caribbean businesses affected by Hurricane Beryl or wishing to support humanitarian relief operations are strongly encouraged to work with and through CARICHAM. For more information, contact connectingbusiness@un.org or coordinator@caribbeanchambers.net.

CBI also maintains an [online portal for Hurricane Beryl](#) consolidating information and resources for global, regional, and local businesses.



2

MAKE AN IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION OF GOODS OR SERVICES

While humanitarian aid is urgently needed, OCHA urges donors to refrain from sending unsolicited in-kind donations that may not correspond to identified needs or meet international quality standards. Donors are highly encouraged to send cash rather than in-kind donations.

In-kind donations are useful when they meet a pre-identified need on the ground for which supply through other means (procurement, prepositioned stock, logistics) is not available. In other circumstances they may not fit needs, can potentially be administratively burdensome (placing demands on thinly stretched emergency personnel), and may undermine local markets (where local supply is available).

The Grenada National Disaster Management Agency has [published a priority list](#) of needed in-kind items including tarpaulins (40 ft. x 40 ft.), baby diapers and wipes, flashlights, chainsaws, solar generators, and more.

If you wish to make an in-kind contribution of goods or services, please email OCHAPrivateSector@un.org. Provide as much detail as possible, including the item(s) and quantities you wish to donate, the estimated market value, time frame for delivery, shipping details, and any other conditions.

Please Report Your Contributions to OCHA

If your company or foundation is providing cash or in-kind contributions to any humanitarian organization responding to Hurricane Beryl, or if your organization is directly involved in delivering assistance, you are strongly encouraged to share this information with OCHA. By letting OCHA know about the assistance your organization provide, you can contribute to improved coherence and efficiency of response operations while minimizing gaps and duplication of efforts. Please reach out to OCHAPrivateSector@un.org for more information and assistance with reporting.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- **Core Humanitarian Principles and Standards:** All humanitarian response activities must be guided by the principles of **humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence**. For more information, read the [CBI Business Brief: Introduction to the Humanitarian System](#). You may also wish to consult the [Sphere Handbook](#), a detailed guide to minimum standards in humanitarian response that was initially developed by a group of prominent non-governmental organizations and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.



HUMANITY

Human suffering must be addressed wherever it is found. The purpose of humanitarian action is to protect life and health and ensure respect for human beings.



NEUTRALITY

Humanitarian actors must not take sides in hostilities or engage in controversies of a political, racial, religious, or ideological nature.



IMPARTIALITY

Humanitarian action must be carried out based on need alone, giving priority to the most urgent cases and making no distinctions based on nationality, race, gender, religion, class, or political opinions.



INDEPENDENCE

Humanitarian action must be autonomous from the political, economic, military, or other objectives that any actor may hold regarding areas where humanitarian action is being implemented.

- **Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse:** People in need of humanitarian assistance must be protected from sexual exploitation and abuse as well as have access to channels to report and address it. Private sector actors involved in humanitarian operations have the same obligations as any other humanitarian organization. For more information, download the [CBI Guidance Note on Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Private Sector Disaster Management](#).
- **Accountability to Affected People:** Accountability to affected people must be at the core of any humanitarian intervention. The basic concept is that people who receive humanitarian assistance should have the right to say what they need, receive information on what is being provided, and have an opportunity to assess and provide feedback about the assistance they receive. If your company or foundation is directly involved in delivering humanitarian assistance, learn more by downloading the [CBI Guidance Note on Accountability to Affected People in Private Sector Disaster Management](#).
- **Coordination with the United Nations:** The United Nations Secretary-General encourages companies to coordinate their response efforts with the United Nations to ensure coherence with priority needs and minimize gaps and duplications with the other responders. The response to Hurricane Beryl will be led by the Governments of the affected countries, with support from CDEMA and international partners. CDEMA has requested that any offers of assistance be forwarded to rcuser@cdema.org to ensure the streamlining of transportation and aid distribution.
- **Commercial Offers:** If you wish to make a commercial offer or otherwise do business with the United Nations, please visit the United Nations Global Marketplace at ungm.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For additional information, please email OCHAPrivateSector@un.org.