

SITUATION REPORT	No. 1
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## Context situation

### Situation

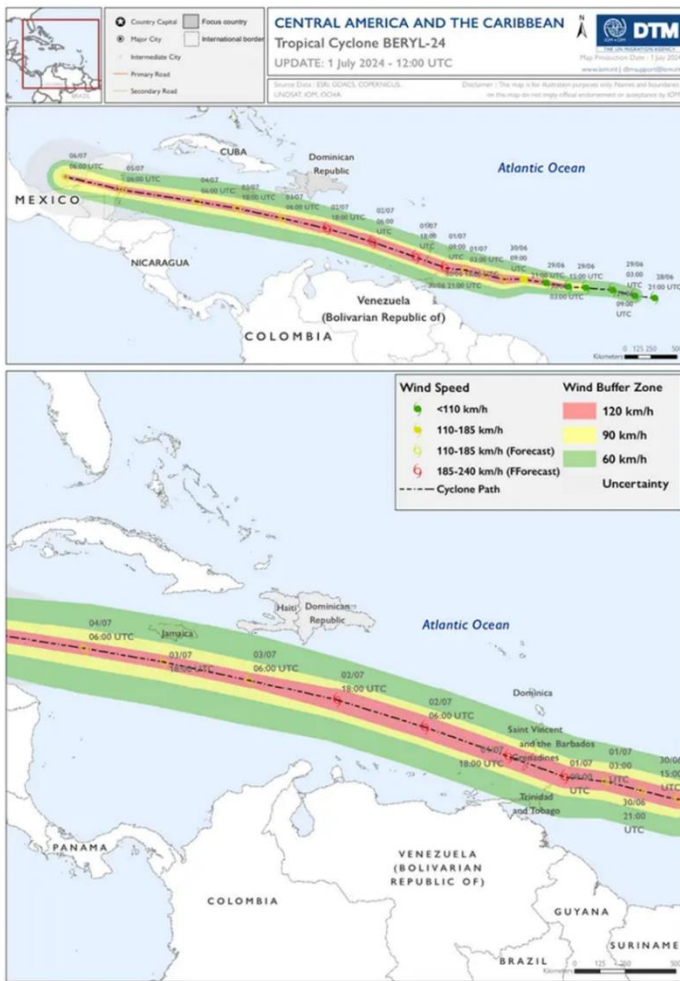


Figure 1: The map produced by IOM, published on [ReliefWeb](https://reliefweb.int) and depicts the hurricane way as of July 1.

Hurricane Beryl, a record-breaking early Category 4 storm, passed south of Barbados with limited impact before directly hitting the Grenadine islands on July 1, causing extensive damage. It briefly intensified to Category 5 strength on July 2 before striking Jamaica as a Category 4 on July 3. Beryl is expected to continue westward, potentially affecting the Cayman Islands, Belize, and Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula.

In the Eastern Caribbean, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines faced strong winds and flooding, prompting a national level 1 emergency response with CDEMA support. Carriacou and Petit Martinique, part of Grenada, saw most buildings, including schools and petrol stations, damaged or destroyed. Union Island, part of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, suffered near-total devastation, with 98% of housing destroyed, no sanitation facilities, limited water, and extensive damage to its airport and power plant. Evacuations to St. Vincent are ongoing despite limited accommodation due to the Vincy Mas carnival. Jamaica is currently experiencing the hurricane's impact, with damages yet to be fully assessed.

## Damages and Persons in Need

### Grenada

Hurricane Beryl caused extreme damage to Carriacou and Petit Martinique, with **70% and 97% of buildings damaged**, respectively, and severe agricultural destruction. Satellite images from the Copernicus damage assessment highlight the widespread devastation. **On July 2, about 400 people were in evacuation centers in Grenada**, peaking at 3,000 during the storm. Many others are seeking shelter with relatives due to widespread housing damage in closer islands. The northern parishes of St. Patrick, St. David, and St. Andrew on Grenada's main island also experienced significant housing and agricultural losses.

Emergency relief items are urgently needed, significantly as water supplies have been disrupted since Sunday and shelter. Grenada's Prime Minister's Ministry and NADMA are expecting diaspora support for the response.

### Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Hurricane Beryl caused widespread devastation across St. Vincent and the Grenadines, with Union Island, Canouan and Mayreau bearing the brunt of the impact. In Union Island's Clifton, critical infrastructure such as schools and hospitals were destroyed, leaving residents without essential services like electricity, water, and communication. The destruction of rainwater harvesting systems has exacerbated the humanitarian crisis, leaving many vulnerable to health risks. On Canouan, almost all buildings sustained damage, with roofs ripped off and severe shortages of water and electricity affecting daily life. Essential services like ATMs and supermarkets are closed, forcing residents to seek shelter in compromised locations such as leaking buildings.



Figure 2: Union Island images from the RNAT, 2 July 2024. (C) IOM/ Jaleesa CRICHLAW-AUGUSTINE

Approximately **1,750 people are currently housed in 71 public evacuation centers** across the islands, underscoring the urgent need for humanitarian aid. Ongoing assessments led by CARICOM's Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), including FAO, PAHO, IOM And UNEP, are critical to understanding the full extent of the damage and coordinating effective relief efforts. So far it is estimated that **90% of the housing stock is damaged in the most affected islands, with 100% of the people in need.**

These communities urgently require tarpaulins, roofing materials, and basic supplies to address immediate needs and ensure safety.

### Jamaica

Jamaica's disaster agency has reported **dozens of flooded and blocked roadways**, fallen trees and landslides as Hurricane Beryl lashed the island. Thousands of Jamaicans could spend the night in darkness after the main power provider paused efforts to restore electricity. "We are on standby to start power restoration as soon as it is safe to do so," Jamaica Public Service said Wednesday afternoon. The blackout covers significant areas of the capital Kingston and several other parishes. Airports remains close. Assessments to start on 4 July.

## Inter-agency coordination and IOM role

The UN Emergency Technical Teams (UNETT) are active in the Eastern Caribbean and Jamaica. In the Eastern Caribbean, CDEMA appointed IOM on July 1st to lead an Emergency Shelter / NFI working group, focusing on needs assessments and distributions, emergency shelter management and coordination for the evacuation centers and other potential sites. For Eastern Caribbean, an Emergency Shelter / NFI coordination meeting with 55 participants was held online on July 3rd.

The Resident Coordinator for Barbados and Eastern Caribbean visited Grenada on July 3rd and is scheduled to visit St. Vincent and The Grenadines on July 5th to discuss UN support with local authorities. In Jamaica, as of July 3rd, no specific sectors have been activated, with the first post-disaster UNCT-UNETT meeting set for July 4th early morning.

## Operations – Eastern Caribbean

### DTM

- Temporary activation of pre-evacuation portal. Geolocation and update of evacuation centers in affected islands: Barbados, Grenada (including Carriacou & Petit Martinique), Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- Outreach and data sharing to relevant data stakeholders: CDEMA, OCHA-UNDAC, UNFPA, PDC, MapAction...
- Mapping using Copernicus satellite imagery and Static map production: [hurricane path](#), shelters in countries
- Temporary activation of pre-evacuation portal
- Shelter / housing damage analysis combining Microsoft and Planet Lens and Copernicus satellite imagery
- Inter-agency Rapid Aerial Needs Assessment Team includes 1 IOM staff collecting information via key informants on main shelter and NFI needs in the Grenadines, focused on Union, Mayreau and Canouan Islands.

## Emergency Shelter and NFI\*

*\*In the Caribbean, Emergency Shelter refers to traditional Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and includes also the Shelter response in affected areas and host communities. The whole is named Shelter Management.*

### Coordination

- IOM was tasked by CDEMA to provide emergency shelter and NFI coordination and response, including CCCM. IOM keeps close coordination with IFRC.
- The first meeting for Eastern Caribbean was held on 3 July online, led by IOM Emergency Coordinator in Barbados.

### Operations

- Participation as Emergency Shelter expert agency on inter-sectoral assessments coordinated by CDEMA/OCHA.
- Airbnb funding is available for short-term accommodation programmes through Airbnb.org for most vulnerable groups. It must serve as a pathway to a long-term solution for the affected population.
- Mobilizing Emergency Shelter and NFI items from IOM warehouse in CDEMA/WFP logistics hub in Barbados.
  - Stocks of IOM in Barbados: 1000 solar lamps, 67 bales of rope, 250 indoor modular tents, 5 multipurpose tents and 1000 tarpaulins. These stocks are planned to be transported via WFP to affected islands ultimately on the 5th of July and will be distributed via local partners.
  - Stock of IOM in the UNHRD in Panama, available for mobilization: 7.680 Blankets - medium thermal resist, 10.675 tarpaulin woven plastic (4x6mt); 5 High performance tent 72 sq.m, 5 High performance tent 24 sq.m., 309 internal partition for tent; 3 multipurpose tents; 16.000 mosquito nets; 10.000 polyprop ropes; 7.505 Jerrycan 10 lt and 3.823 kitchen set.



Figure 3: Verification status of IOM NFI stock at the UNHRD Panamá. July 3rd, 2024 (C) IOM

## Planned Response – Eastern Caribbean

In addition to scaling up current operations, IOM is planning to:

### DTM

- Activate the DTM for displaced people assessments and profiling,
- and multisectoral needs assessments (MSNA) in evacuation centers.



Figure 4: IOM Evacuation Platform Mapping

### Emergency Shelters and NFI

- Provide Emergency Shelter Management Support in established evacuation centers, used as temporary accommodations for people in needs.
- Capacity development programmes to national and local authorities, as well as to key stakeholders to support con emergency shelter management.
- Temporary Rental Assistance Programmes for the most vulnerable that have lost their houses staying on the affected islands, if the housing stock allows, as well as those evacuated to closer non or less-affected islands.
- Recovery efforts for shelter repairs to transition to durable solutions for most vulnerable affected households.

### Evacuations

- Apart from provision of temporary shelter, mentioned above, if requested by local authorities, support with evacuations between affected and non or less-affected islands.

## Capacity / IOM Staff

As a preventive measure, IOM has been working on capacity building in some of the affected countries from 2022.

- All IOM Caribbean staff: 2022 and 2023 dedicated IOM Emergency Response Induction Training, as well as con Camp Management and Camp Coordination. Emergency Preparedness webinar in 2024.
- IOM Caribbean Emergency Focal points: 2024, Caribbean selected emergency response focal points on Emergency Preparedness.
- Jamaica: September 2023, three workshops were held on the topics of Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) and Emergency Shelter Management and Coordination for displaced population. The workshops targeted emergency response personnel such as OPDEM shelter managers, parish disaster coordinators, Red Cross shelter managers and key authorities.

In addition, the current capacity has been activated for emergency:

#### Eastern Caribbean:

- Emergency coordinator (Barbados)
- Emergency coordinator support (Barbados)
- Information Manager (Barbados)
- Project Support (Remote) in Barbados
- Communications (Dominica)

#### Jamaica

- Emergency Coordination (landing July 4<sup>th</sup>)
- Emergency Coordination support (landing July 4<sup>th</sup>)

**Regional Support is also activated from Panama and Costa Rica:** Regional Emergency Preparedness and Response Support (Panama), Regional Data Hub (Costa Rica), Resource Management Unit (Panama) and a GIS Information Manager (Panama).

Further capacity will be deployed in the following days based on further assessments.

## Proposal development / Resource mobilization

### Proposal development / Mission budget

IOM Caribbean has drafted a response Strategy plan based on the IOM Contingency Plan with the following sectors: CCCM, Emergency Shelter and NFI, WASH, DTM, Movement Assistance/Planned Relocation and Protection.

IOM has mobilized internal ESFM (Emergency Surge Funding Mechanism) and MEFM (Migration Crisis Funding Mecanism) resources for the initial response of the emergency. From the private sector, IOM has mobilized AirBnB funding for the whole of the Hurricane Season to support short-term accommodation Programming to affected population, as well as for accommodation of IOM 1<sup>st</sup> responders.

IOM is part of the Flash Appeal that OCHA is coordinating and will participate in the CERF proposal and continue to search for additional donors.

## Identified Gaps and Challenges



Figure 5: Union Island images form the RNAT, 2 July 2024. (C) IOM/ Jaleesa CRICHLAW-AUGUSTINE.

- Currently the islands are being affected by a tropical depression. This combination of factors makes relief operation very complicated. Travel between islands is quite challenging due to airport closures, as well as logistics arrangements for relief items transportation. Access is via sea, or a helicopter provided to the government by the Government of St Lucia.
- Limited space in accommodations due to limited hotels space (St. Vincent) and no housing stock available (Grenada and Southern Grenadines)
- There are not enough non-food items available in the region and needs to be brought in from Panama or other global stocks.
- The crucial communications infrastructure has been destroyed, which is also preventing regular channels updating and gathering data.

IOM continues monitoring the situation on those countries already affected by Hurricane Beryl: Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Tobago, Jamaica, Colombia and Venezuela, as well as on further impact in the Cayman Island, México, Belize and Guatemala.

IOM is thankful to its donors for all their support:



Through the Western Hemisphere Programme, preparedness actions were implemented.



IOM unearmarked funding:  
Emergency Migration Fund Mechanism  
The Emergency Surge Fund Mechanism  
MIRAC (Preparedness Actions)

