



## Latin America and the Caribbean

Catholic Relief Services is supporting local partners across Latin America and the Caribbean as the start of the hurricane season weaves a path of destruction across several Caribbean islands.



*Photo courtesy of Caritas Grenada*

### Context

Catholic Relief Services is supporting local partners across Latin America and the Caribbean as Hurricane Beryl causes destruction across several southeast Caribbean islands. What started as a Category 5 storm reportedly “flattened” Grenada’s Carriacou island after making landfall on July 1, bringing storm surges and strong winds. Communities across Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, Antilles, Jamaica, Haiti, Mexico and other countries in the storm’s path will need emergency relief, protection and recovery.

Across affected areas, homes and infrastructure are suffering severe damage from the heavy rains, winds, flooding and landslides. Fallen trees have cut power lines. Many roads remain damaged, leading to transportation difficulties.

In Grenada, a reported 98% of buildings—home to some 6,000 people—are damaged or destroyed. Most families there collect rain from rooftops, which is a low-cost way to store drinking water. With such extreme damage to homes, drinking water is now running out. Families who have left the islands in search of shelter are waiting to return to see what has become of their homes.

Hurricane Beryl is unusually strong for this early in the season. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, high ocean temperatures driven by climate change are likely to result in a highly active Atlantic hurricane season, which spans June through November.

### HOW TO HELP

**Donate online:**

[support.crs.org/donate/hurricanes](https://support.crs.org/donate/hurricanes)

**Donate by phone:** 1-877-HELP-CRS

**Donate by check:** Hurricane response, Catholic Relief Services, PO Box 5200, Harlan, IA 51593-0700

Faith knows  
no bounds™



---

## Priority Needs

People are in urgent need of shelter support, clean water, hygiene supplies, food and other assistance. For those families who have lost their homes and assets, immediate protection from the elements, access to food and clean water, and longer-term support for rebuilding and recovery is especially critical.

## CRS and Partner Response

CRS is working with our local partners to provide immediate assistance and to meet the needs for long-term recovery. Already, partners are shipping in pre-positioned emergency supplies. CRS and our partners across affected areas will deliver support tailored to the local context. Likely priorities are:

- **Shelter**  
Provision of shelter supplies, bedding, tarps and other key materials for emergency protection from the elements, as well as equipment and support for shelter providers to care for those who have taken refuge.
- **Food and essential supplies**  
Cash assistance and direct distribution of food and critical items.
- **Water, sanitation and hygiene**  
Hygiene kits and sanitation supplies for families, information to prevent illness, and access to clean water.
- **Long-term rebuilding, recovery**  
For long-term rebuilding, support for families to repair and rebuild their homes and for communities to restore their infrastructure.

## The Unique Role of Caritas

Local Church partners, communities and organizations are often the first to respond in times of emergency—and sometimes the only responders with access to people in need. CRS' Caritas partners are able to leverage years of programming and relationships to respond in ways that are relevant, trusted and effective.

The approach of CRS is grounded in the dignity of the person, and the holistic needs they face. We recognize that being displaced in a moment of crisis can change the trajectory of people's lives and have ripple effects that last years. Marginalized individuals and groups—including women, children, older adults, people with disabilities, and minority religious or ethnic groups—often face heightened risks and barriers to support in times of crisis.

With the increased frequency and complexity of emergencies in Latin America and the Caribbean, CRS has been expanding our support to Caritas and our local partners in their leading role to assist communities through the Empowering Partner Organizations Working on Emergency Responses, or EMPOWER, program. CRS will continue to support our partners to meet the most urgent needs and prepare for a long-term response that will assist families and communities through their full recovery.