

Hurricane Beryl Situational Report 2

Report time & Date: Friday, August 2, 2024 | 12:00 PM (EST)

Report Distribution: NYU GPH PiR2 & PHEER

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, 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 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.⁵ 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

- 64 deaths have been confirmed across all affected regions, including 39 in the US, 6 in Grenada, 4 in Jamaica, and 8 in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.⁷
- US morbidities of Beryl are more commonly associated with heat and power outages, whereas the fatalities faced by Caribbean communities are more frequently linked with injuries caused by flooding and other major infrastructural damages.⁷
- A limited capacity of sanitation and health facilities and infrastructure has led to an increased risk of water- and vector-borne disease (e.g. dengue fever, Zika virus, West Nile virus) transmission, and health complications associated with pre-existing or chronic medical conditions.^{3,7}

Health Systems Impacts

- Particularly in Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, overcrowding and power outages in hospitals have contributed to reduced capacity and operations.³
- Food and water shortages have caused households, health facilities, and shelters— many of which are informal or temporary— to rely on limited battery-powered appliances, bottled water, generators to address basic health needs.⁴
- In Jamaica, many patients and services have been redirected to other health centers and temporary facilities in order to compensate for the reduced or destroyed capacities of 82 hospitals.⁷

Critical Infrastructure Impacts

- Fallen trees, downed wires and poles in neighborhoods, highway closures, and varying restoration times for power outages contributed to over 1,016,000 outages in Texas.^{7,8}
- Highway closures in Texas and infrastructural damage to airports in St. Vincent and the Grenadines have severely reduced the operations of these communities' transportation systems.⁴
- 34 schools have been damaged in Grenada, while 26 schools have been damaged in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.^{4,5}

Social Impacts

- 1,369 people have been relocated in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, either to official or informal shelters, whereas 302 people have been relocated to shelters in Grenada.⁴
- Over 700 people in St. Vincent and the Grenadines have been forced to evacuate, elevating the risk for gender-based violence and family separations, and consequently a need for social protection assistance.⁴
- Strain on the disaster safety nets, health systems, banana and plantain production, and lobster and fishery sectors of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada have led to food and agricultural insecurity, lost wages, and damages of up to a third of these countries' economies.⁵

References

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