



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Caribbean Country Brief October 2024



Emergency relief items being offloaded at Kingstown port.

Operational Context

The WFP Caribbean Multi-Country Office covers 22 countries and territories in the English-and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. As a collection of Small Islands Developing States and costal countries (SIDS), climate change, economic and other shocks are significant threats for the region owed to their size, location, and reliance on imports. Already weakened by high indebtedness and limited fiscal space, these compounded impacts have created significant challenges to national economies in protecting people, livelihoods, and infrastructure. The pandemic and the cost-of-living-crisis have led to an increase in vulnerability in the Caribbean negatively affecting food security, livelihoods, and incomes, with the greatest impacts on the poorest populations. In May 2024, WFP estimated that 3 million people or 43 percent of the population were moderately or severely food insecure in the sub-region. The pandemic renewed focus on the need for more resilient systems in the sub-region, including the strengthening of food systems to better withstand shocks.

The multi-Country Office was established in 2018 and assists governments and regional institutions in strengthening their emergency preparedness and resilience capacity in the face of shocks, including through social protection, disaster risk management and food systems.



Population: **7.1 million**

Income Level: **lower-middle, upper-middle, high-income**

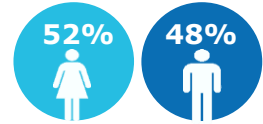
In Numbers

55 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 835,012 cash-based transfers made

USD 12.5 m six months (November 2024-April 2025) net funding requirements,

26,201 people assisted in July- October 2024



Operational Updates

- Since the start of the Hurricane Beryl response, WFP has supported 14,334 people in Grenada and Jamaica with cash assistance and 11,867 people in Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines with food kit distribution, assisting a total of 26,201 people overall.
- In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, WFP and the Government have signed an agreement to implement a cash transfer program, which will target 6,300 individuals over four distribution rounds between October and December 2024. WFP is coordinating with the Government to finalize the beneficiary lists and facilitate the transfer of the first tranche of funds.
- WFP, in partnership with the Union Island Environmental Alliance, launched a clean-up initiative in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on October 7, 2024, to provide cash assistance through the Post-Hurricane Recovery and Livelihood Assistance Project. The project has employed 25 people to complete work in Union Island since its launch in October.
- In Grenada, WFP continues to provide technical assistance for a long-term government-led cash programme. This effort follows the activation of Grenada's Caribbean Catastrophic Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) policy, which generated a USD 4.3 million payout. In collaboration with the Government of Grenada, WFP finalized the operational plan, targeting and verification strategy and applications for assistance under the programme will commence in Carriacou/Petite Martinique, St. John, St. Patrick, St. Mark simultaneously followed by St. Andrews.
- Similarly, in Jamaica, WFP is partnering with the Government to develop a distribution plan for cash transfers, using USD 760,150 in funds from the CCRIF.
- In collaboration with the Global Support Development and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, WFP conducted a 3-day sea bridge simulation exercise at Barbados' seaport from October 15-17, 2024. The exercise focused on improving regional coordination from Barbados, the primary port, to the affected islands,

WFP Country Strategy

Multi-Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
85.3 m	49.4m	12.5m

Strategic Result 1: Resilience Building

Strategic Outcome 1: National government and regional institutions in the Caribbean have strengthened capacity to prepare for, adapt and respond to shocks and climate change

Activities:

- Provide technical assistance and capacity strengthening to national governments and regional institutions in areas of WFP's expertise.

Strategic Result 2: Crisis Response

Strategic Outcome #2: Crisis affected populations in the Caribbean are able to meet their food, nutrition, and other needs during and in the aftermath of shocks.

Activities:

- Provide emergency food assistance through cash-based and/or food in-kind transfers to shock-affected populations.

Strategic Result 3: Crisis Response

Strategic Outcome #3: Common services and platforms enable government in the Caribbean to have rapid, effective, and coordinated response to shocks.

Activities:

- Provide support to nationally or regionally led emergency responses

Partnerships

- WFP participated in the 9th Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Council of Ministers on Human and Social Development, presenting on innovative partnerships and investments in shock-responsive for resilient social protection systems. Key topics included integrating digital transformation, economic empowerment, and disaster risk financing into social protection frameworks, improving data management, and financing mechanisms, and fostering collaboration among OECS Member States. The focus was on aligning social protection with disaster risk management to build resilience and designing inclusive systems for vulnerable groups.
- At the Joint Meeting of Ministers of Education, Social Development, and Health, WFP presented a paper titled "Boosting School Meals in the Eastern Caribbean: Ensuring a healthy, nutritious, and sustainable school meal for every child by 2030." WFP encouraged OECS Member States to join the Global School Meals Coalition as a key step toward improving the effectiveness and sustainability of school feeding programs in the region.

Operational Updates Continued

- with the goal of strengthening logistics management and emergency response efforts among key stakeholders in the Caribbean during disasters.
- A total of 2,900 cubic meters of supplies, equivalent to 90 20-foot containers, have been tracked through the WFP-CDEMA Logistics Control Tower and received in St. Vincent & the Grenadines and Grenada for the Beryl response, supporting 23 partners across eight delivery locations. These supplies included key items such as food, health supplies, shelter materials, water, sanitation and hygiene items, education supplies, and other operational resources.
 - WFP has loaned logistics assets valued at approximately USD 400,000 to the governments of Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to meet logistical needs.
 - WFP is assisting the Government of Grenada with a partial logistics capacity assessment, focusing on customs and logistics infrastructure to address potential bottlenecks in emergency response.
 - WFP's vessel services between mainland St. Vincent and the Grenadine islands concluded on September 30, 2024, after completing 17 trips and transporting 379 passengers over nine weeks.
 - Ongoing support is being provided to the National Emergency Management Organization in St. Vincent and the Grenadines for warehouse and inventory management, improving the efficiency of supply chain management during emergency operations.
 - WFP's logistics services have wound down in Jamaica for the Hurricane Beryl response, with current efforts now addressing key lessons learned during the Hurricane Beryl response as part of WFP's capacity strengthening programme.

Monitoring

In September 2024, the WFP conducted post-distribution monitoring in Grenada to assess cash and food assistance provided to those impacted by Hurricane Beryl. While the final report is pending, key findings include:

- 96% of respondents were satisfied with the overall assistance programme.
- 70% of respondents reported they were informed about how, when, and where to collect the assistance.
- 64% reported improved food consumption, 44% were better able to meet household needs and 40% less stress and/or worries.

Donors

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, European Union, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, Government of Canada, Government of New Zealand, the United States Agency for International Development Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, United Nations Global Emergency Response Fund, and the United Nations Joint SDG Fund.