



WFP Caribbean Multi-Country Office

COUNTRY BRIEF

April 2026



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- WFP reached 56,607 people with cash assistance under the Hurricane Melissa cash programme as of 26 March.
- WFP and CDEMA enhanced regional disaster readiness through ICT emergency response training and SCAN-driven supply-chain improvements, strengthening coordination and preparedness for the 2026 hurricane season.
- The Belize drought anticipatory action mechanism was triggered, releasing anticipatory cash assistance to pre-identified smallholder farmers.

IN NUMBERS



131,964 people assisted since start of Hurricane Melissa response



49%
Male



51%
Female



512 mt food distributed



USD 4.4M cash transferred



USD 9.6M (APR –SEP 2026) net funding requirements

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- The WFP Caribbean covers 22 English- and Dutch-speaking countries and territories, many of which are Small Island Developing States facing high vulnerability due to their small size, climate risks, import dependence, and fiscal constraints that limit governments' ability to protect people, infrastructure, and livelihoods.
- The region is experiencing a persistent food security and livelihood crisis, disproportionately affecting low-income households. As of June 2025, WFP estimated that 3.2 million people or 42 percent of the population were food insecure, reflecting no improvement from 2024 and indicating stagnation following only partial recovery from the 2022 food price shock. Continued inflation is undermining purchasing power and restricting access to nutritious diets. Concurrently, the Caribbean remains one of the most hazard-prone regions globally, with substantial exposure to hurricanes, floods, droughts, and volcanic activity. WFP's 2025, 40 percent of the population were affected by hazards, and nearly one-third of households lacked sufficient resilience to cope.
- Within this context, WFP prioritizes strengthening national and regional systems for emergency preparedness, response, and resilience, focusing on disaster risk management, shock-responsive social protection, and resilient food systems.

Reporting Period: March 2026

Photo Caption & Credit: WFP food assistance beneficiary. WFP/Rheanna Chen

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Hurricane Melissa Response

- Under the Hurricane Melissa Cash Assistance Programme, WFP has provided cash assistance to 56,607 individuals as of 26 March 2026. The programme targets 64,000 people and currently maintains a strong redemption rate of 86 percent.
- WFP has formally concluded its common services support in Jamaica, closing a key operational component of the response. Throughout the operation, WFP fulfilled 281 service requests from partners and facilitated the movement and management of 6,643 m³ of relief items across Jamaica. This support played an important role in strengthening emergency logistics coordination, ensuring timely delivery of assistance, and reinforcing national response capacities.

Regional Capacity Strengthening-Emergency Preparedness

- Ahead of the 2026 hurricane season, WFP and CDEMA conducted the first Regional ICT Emergency Response Training in Barbados from 9–13 March. Bringing together 17 participants from 12 countries, the training addressed critical capability gaps identified in the 2025 ICT Preparedness Assessment and strengthened regional digital resilience through hands-on instruction in connectivity, cybersecurity, and field communications systems.
- WFP continues to support CDEMA in strengthening disaster management through the rollout of the Supply Chain Assessment Navigator (SCAN), a self-assessment tool that helps participating states establish a baseline of their supply chain performance. The model identifies strengths, highlights bottlenecks, and guides WFP and CDEMA in prioritizing improvements. In 2026, WFP is assisting pilot countries such as Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda in implementing the second phase of SCAN, translating assessment findings into targeted, government-led capacity-strengthening initiatives designed to advance national supply chain maturity over time.

Anticipatory Action

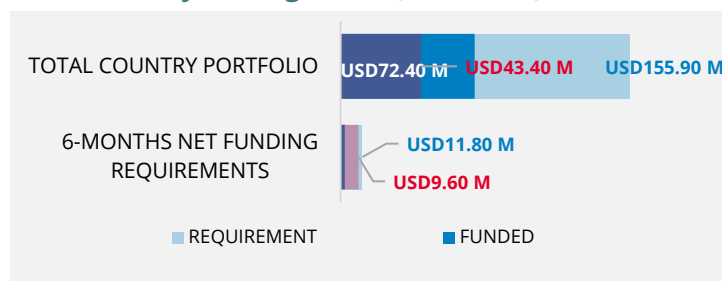
- In March 2026, WFP launched an Anticipatory Action (AA) mechanism for drought in Belize, establishing an evidence-based framework to deliver early support before impacts intensify. The mechanism has since been triggered, releasing anticipatory cash assistance to pre-identified smallholder farmers in Orange Walk, Corozal, and Cayo districts who face high drought exposure and depend on rain-fed agriculture. Targeting these vulnerable farmers ensures assistance reaches those most at risk ahead of production losses. This activation is the first drought-related anticipatory action trigger for Belize and the CARICOM region, signaling a strategic shift from reactive crisis response to forecast-based risk management within agriculture.

Early Warning Systems

- WFP, in partnership with Belize’s National Meteorological Service (NMS) and with technical support from Columbia University’s International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), convened a national workshop on 18 March to advance the co-design of impact-based, multi-hazard early warning systems. Government agencies, community representatives, and technical partners reviewed IRI’s climate-risk analysis for Orange Walk and Toledo Districts, linking historical impacts with observed and forecasted hazard data to strengthen early-warning protocols. WFP and the NMS are also crowdsourcing community-level impact information to inform user-centred thresholds. All analytical tools use open-source platforms, enabling long-term national ownership.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Multi-Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)



Donors:

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, European Union, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office,

WFP Caribbean Multi-Country Office **Country Brief**

April 2026

Government of Canada, Government of Greece,
Government of Japan, Human Appeal, International
Development Bank, KOICA, United Nations Global
Emergency Response Fund, United Nations Joint SDG Fund
and United States Government.