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# Jamaica CO

## HURRICANE BERYL

### Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2


7 July 2024

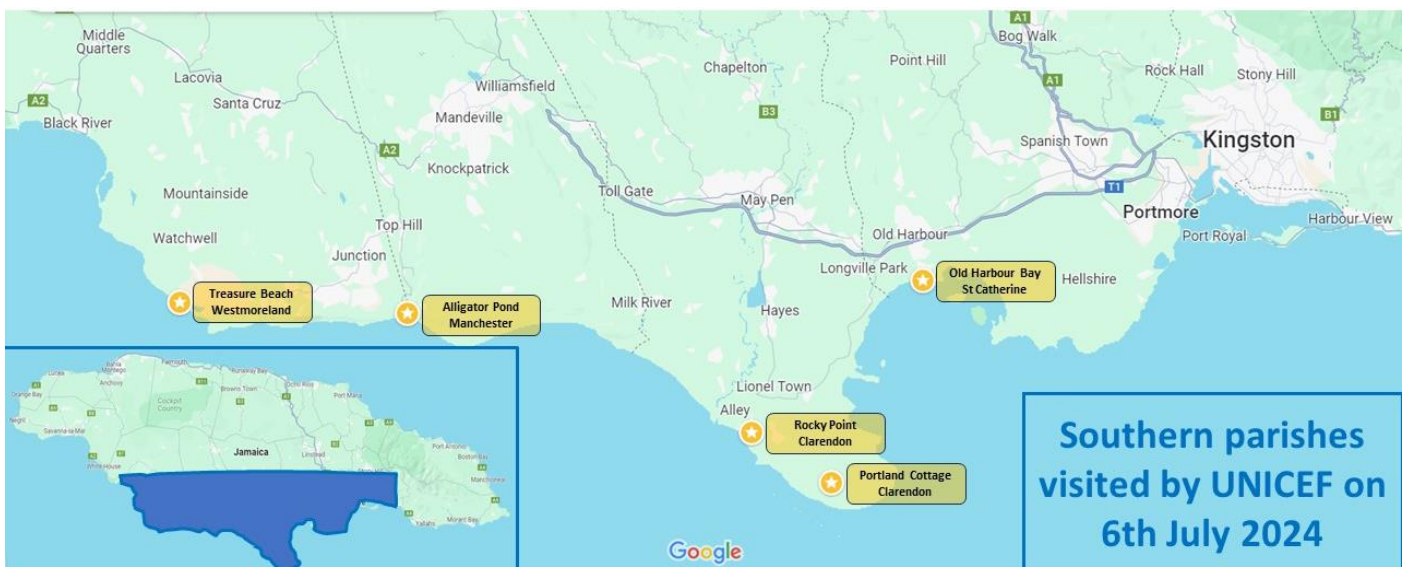


## Highlights

- The full extent of the destruction brought by Hurricane Beryl in the Island as it swept through the south-east Caribbean from mid-day of 03 July. It is a sobering picture of widespread damage and destruction as authorities work steadily to restore services such as telecommunications, electricity, road, water - and a semblance of normality - to as many communities as possible.
- There was extensive damage to utility poles and downed powerlines across parishes. Impacts across the island also included Fallen Trees, Wind damage to infrastructure and roofing, Flooding and Storm Surges. Approximately 250 reports of blocked roads were received by the NWA.
- 02 deaths have been confirmed. 1876 people including elderly plus 113 children are in 275 shelters. Severely affected Parishes are- Clarendon, Manchester, St Elizabeth, St Catherine and Trelawny.
- A joint UN mission comprising of UNICEF, WFP and OCHA visited Old Harbor Bay, Portland Cottage, Rocky Point, Alligator Pond, and Treasure Beach 06 July and witnessed many families in need of water, food, cleaning, and reconstruction supplies for their homes, as well as psychological support.
- There are children in shelters who will have to stay there while their homes are repaired or rebuilt. UNICEF observed severe damage to some schools and a significant impact on the energy system, with communities likely to be without electricity for an extended period. The effects on crops and fishing are also evident.

## Situation in Numbers

-  **37,000** children in need of humanitarian assistance (UNICEF estimation)
-  **160,000** people in need (UNICEF estimation)
-  **1,876** People in shelters  
113 children in shelters (NEOC Situation Report #3)
- 2** Confirmed deaths (ODPEM)

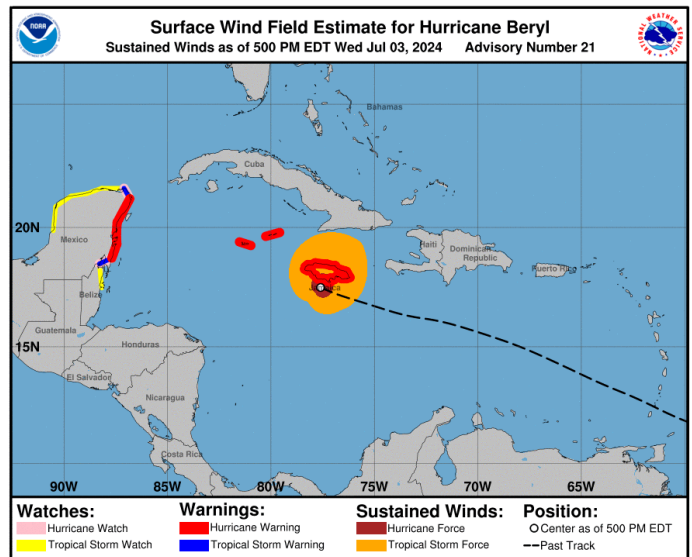


## Funding Overview and Partnerships

To meet the immediate response needs, UNICEF finalized its response plan and funding requests sent to key humanitarian donors (e.g., ECHO, BHA, etc.) for early response. UNICEF is also jointly working with other agencies under the leadership of UN RC/HC to prepare a joint appeal for Jamaica to support the response. UNICEF estimates the overall funding needs to be US\$3.5 million although this may rise considering that assessments are still ongoing.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

- Hurricane Beryl almost made landfall in Jamaica at 5:00PM, July 3, 2024. As of Wednesday, July 03, 2024, southern, eastern and north-central parishes received periods of showers from the outer bands of the hurricane. At 11:00 PM July 3, 2024, the Hurricane Warning was discontinued for the island.
- The NEOC was activated at Level 3 ahead of the hurricane's impact and has been scaled down to Level 1 as assessments are being undertaken.
- The Prime Minister issued the Disaster Risk Management (Enforcement Measures) (Hurricane Beryl) Order 2024, declaring Jamaica as a disaster area in effect Wednesday, July 03, 2024, and this remains in effect for 7 days.
- RCO activated UNETT and offered UN's support to the Government of Jamaica through Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.
- ODPEM and other government agencies started rapid needs assessment on 05 July.
- ODPEM de-activated 108 shelters out of 275 shelters, and 1,876 people including 113 children are staying in them.
- UNICEF has prepositioned technical assistance as well as water, hygiene and dignity supplies ready for delivery to reach the most vulnerable children and adolescents.



## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Health

According to government reports, health services are assured, although with some difficulties. Most hospitals are currently using generators to maintain service delivery and operations. Minor damage reported for some facilities including leaks and broken windowpanes. All health facilities have at least 3 days back up of water supply. However, due to the rains, children and their caregivers are affected by water and vector-borne diseases. UNICEF stands ready to provide essential supplies for disease prevention, as repellent-impregnated mosquito nets, and water purification supplies. In addition, UNICEF will provide psycho-social support and referral for mental health to children and caregivers suffering emotional distress caused by the storm.

### Nutrition

Government authorities have anticipated difficulties for affected families accessing food with nutritional content. UNICEF will contribute to nutritional surveillance strengthening as well as prevention and treatment of most at-risk cases according to the national and international norms. UNICEF will also support the provision of Infant and Young Child Feeding counselling, including assistance and nutritional supplementations such as iron and folic acid, for breastfeeding and pregnant women. UNICEF will also support for micro-nutrient supplement, high protein biscuit to prevent malnutrition and nutrition packages for malnourished children.

### Child Protection

Children in shelters are generally more exposed to violence and abuse and often require emotional support. UNICEF will establish 10 Child-Friendly Spaces in tent settings, equipped with recreational supplies. In addition, UNICEF will also provide GBV/SEA awareness-raising activities and services to children most at-risk.

### WASH

60% of the population are without power and 70% of the population are without water supply due to power cut across the Island. This number may change as some systems are back on operation, with auxiliary storage tanks and generator



systems. Hygiene promotion will be a priority humanitarian need and UNICEF plans to deliver WASH dignity kits, cleaning kits to affected families, provide 10-liter water containers for proper water carrying and storage, and provide hand-washing stations in shelters.

### Cash-based Programming,

Families that have lost all their belongings and homes are highly vulnerable, especially in terms of securing adequate food and other essential supplies. UNICEF offered to provide assistance to the Govt through unconditional cash transfers in coordination with other humanitarian actors like WFP. UNICEF also plans to provide special food and hygiene packs to families of children with disabilities.

### Social and Behavioural Change Communication to Affected Population and Children

UNICEF planned to provide SBC messages in shelters, and through U-report, U-Chat platforms, youth networks, social media, and printed SBC materials.

### Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

Response efforts are being coordinated under the leadership UN Resident Coordinator Office. RCO activated UNETT with Co-Chairing by UNICEF and WFP. UN offered UN's support to the Government of Jamaica through Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. UN approached to the Govt with its support to be part of the detailed assessment team which will begin soon. On 06 July, a UN Joint Assessment Team led by UNICEF with OCHA, and WFP visited affected southern parishes of St Catherine, Clarendon, Manchester, and St Elizabeth to have an idea of the impacts on the ground. UNICEF offered to be part of the Govt. joint Assessment Team and planned to provide support for WASH, Child Protection, Nutrition, Social Protection and Health as well as delivery of prepositioned items like 10l-water bottles, water tanks for communities, hygiene and dignity supplies to reach the most vulnerable children and adolescents.



Photo: UN joint visit to Southern Parishes on 6<sup>th</sup> July.

### Human Interest Stories and External Media

- <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/5narjtX9TqrdKpC5/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/77VSmCCZmdFPH5RW/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/C1hNj6iqVVPemR1Z/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/DiF15sUKVR4y5pgg/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/3UZvgXPd1qhrAgEJ/>

Next SitRep: 12 July 2024

Who to contact for further information: **Olga Isabel Isaza**  
Representative  
Jamaica Country Office  
Tel.: +51997573214  
Email: oiisaza@unicef.org

**Mohammad Mohiuddin**  
Deputy Representative  
Jamaica Country Office  
Tel: +1-876-279-8336  
Email: mmohiuddin@unicef.org

**Camille Beckford - Palmer**  
Emergency Focal Point  
Jamaica Country Office  
Tel: +18766186253;ext=6253  
Email: cbeckford@unicef.org