

## **SVP Grenada: One Year on from Hurricane Beryl**

Grenada is a tri-island state consisting of the mainland, Carriacou (22m north-east of Grenada) and Petite Martinique, a 300-acre rock jutting out of the ocean. On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024, all three islands were hit by Hurricane Beryl.

In its wake, the category 4 hurricane damaged 98% ([source](#)) of all infrastructure on Carriacou including homes, schools, medical facilities, government offices, water sources, and more. Tragically, 5 people lost their lives.

Grenada Prime Minister, Dickon Mitchell, visited the island of Carriacou shortly after and described “Armageddon-like” scenes remaining. Mitchell reported “Almost total damage or destruction of all buildings... There is literally no vegetation left anywhere on the island”.

Mary Charles, SVP National President of Grenada at the time, shared “*The destruction caused, especially in Carriacou and Petite Martinique, is staggering and mind boggling. There is no food, water, sanitation, housing, etc*”.



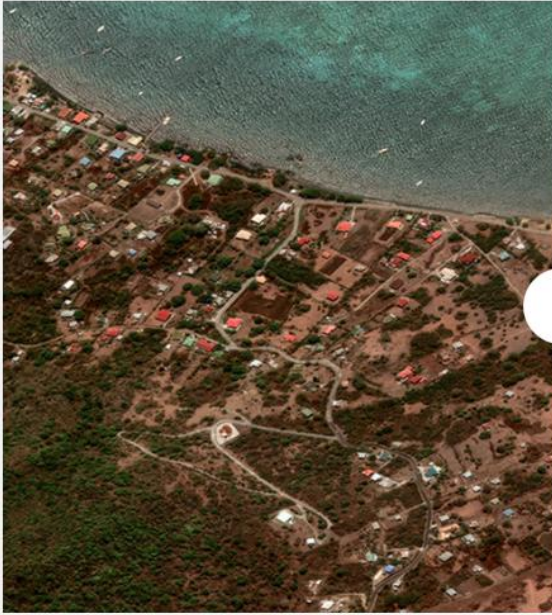
Figure 1: A map of Grenada and its sister islands Carriacou and Petite Martinique.



Figure 2: Homes on the Island of Petite Martinique pictured without roofs or windows after the Hurricane, BBC.



8 May 2024



2 July 2024

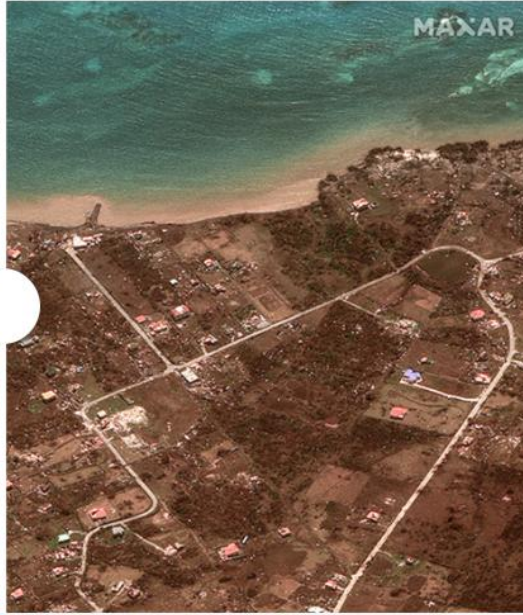


Figure 3: Damage on Carriacou after the hurricane, BBC image.



Figure 4: A house without its roof in Sauteurs, Grenada, BBC image.



## **The SVP response**

The SVP in Grenada was quick to react, with members on the mainland contacting members on the two smaller islands to check their welfare, their families, and their beneficiaries. The teams quickly began determining the necessary response.

SVP E&W sent £5000 from the disaster fund as an immediate grant and an appeal was launched for further funds.

Mary Charles responded to the initial disaster grant with “Thank you so much for your support. We are deeply grateful. The funds will be used to get much needed items to those suffering. Thanks again and many blessings to you and the team.”

Thanks to the generosity of donors, a total of £25,000 was sent by SVP E&W to SVP Grenada between July 2024 and March 2025. CGI (SSVP Global) also assisted with £5000 as a disaster grant.

## **Immediate relief efforts**

In the immediate aftermath of the hurricane, SVP Grenada assessed an urgent need for essential basics such as food, water, medicines, and shelter. The three SVP Conferences on the island of Carriacou and one island on Petite Martinique were able to provide immediate on the ground support, and they communicated to the SVP on mainland Grenada the required provision of relief needed.

Alongside responding to the humanitarian support needed, the SVP also saw a need for the provision of psychological support for traumatised adults and children.

### Essential needs

Throughout the months of July & September, the focus was on ensuring basic needs were met as residents were without secure shelter, food, or water.

On 27<sup>th</sup> July, a group of 5 members travelled with supplies from mainland Grenada to Carriacou by ferry. It is here that they met with SVP members on the island and travelled around to distribute the items. Items included groceries, water, sanitizers, bedding, solar-powered lights, umbrellas, bug spray, toiletries, and towels.



Donations of basic food items, water and other amenities were also sent to residents of Petite Martinique. These items were sent up on a boat from Grenada directly to Petite Martinique on 1<sup>st</sup> September, where the president of the Petite Martinique conference was able to receive them. Items included food, water, bedding, pillows, flashlights, umbrellas, bug spray, toiletries.

Neither island has natural sources of water, typically relying on harvesting rainwater via roof drainage systems and into a sterile tank. Following the hurricane's destruction of property and crucially their roofs, residents became reliant on bottled water.



Figure 5 A, B & C: Goods delivered to residents in Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

## Psychological support

It became apparent that support was needed for children, following the trauma they had endured. Children were fearful of any weather changes, particularly wind, and had been uprooted to temporary accommodation without their possessions and possibly separated from loved ones.

The SVP organised a 2-day workshop for the children affected by the hurricane, in the village of Windward in Carriacou, on 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> August. The aim of the workshop was to provide a safe space for the children to share their experiences while being involved in fun activities. A team of 3 teachers who were also members of the SSVP led the session for 20 local children aged 5 – 14.

The session provided the children with the opportunity to express their trauma through arts and crafts. There was singing, crying, laughter, and games. This workshop provided the children with a break from the recent harsh reality and the chance to just be children together again, having fun. It also provided the parents with a small break to process their own emotions following such a traumatic event. All children were provided with books and painting kits to take home.



*Figure 6 A & B: Images from the psychological support workshops in Windward, Carriacou.*



Following the success of the workshop, the event was repeated in Petite Martinique on an even larger scale for an entire school of 64 children. The workshop provided a safe space for the children to share their experiences while participating in fun filled activities. Each child was presented with a gift bag at the end of the session with items such as a skipping rope. A team of two teachers and one parent from the SSVP conducted the sessions. The workshop was very well received, and a request was made to have a similar session for parents and other adults.



Figure 7: Children in Petite Martinique receiving psychological support during the workshops.

### Educational Support

Thanks to the grants from SVP E&W, SVP Grenada provided 74 boxes of educational supplies were sent up to Carriacou for distribution by SSVP members to children in both Carriacou and Petite Martinique. These included crayons, pencils, games, book bags, books and more. These boxes not only ensured children could continue to learn whilst their schools were closed, but for many, was a small step towards replacing their possessions which had been destroyed or lost in the hurricane.

Schooling was resumed in Carriacou in October 2024 –term typically starts in September so one month of schooling was lost – but the infrastructure was still in disrepair and hygiene facilities were not suitable long-term. The government and other organisations are working to rebuild but this will be a lengthy process.

### GRAN's support

An ongoing project within SVP Grenada is their support of elderly individuals who are without family or medical help and, as a result of the lack of any adequate nationally organised social care, rely on the SSVP to ensure their necessities are met.

Following hurricane Beryl, the government arranged for elderly individuals on the island to be moved to the mainland. From there, they could access medical support and suitable accommodation. Two residents of the GRAN's scheme were part of this move, and so the local Conference's on the mainland assumed responsibility of supporting them.

### **Long-term recovery efforts**

As essential survival needs are met, attention slowly turns towards the long-term recovery plan. The government is providing funding to help with the rebuilding of infrastructure – medical facilities, schools, shops, and homes – but resources are limited and this will take time. Where possible, the SVP is stepping up to support.

## Livelihood Support

After the hurricane, a young man from Windward, Carriacou, lost his barber shop—his primary source of income and livelihood.

Thanks to generous donations from SVP E&W, he received support to purchase the materials needed to rebuild his shop. This assistance is helping him get back on his feet and return to earning a living.



## Housing Support

Another resident whose house was destroyed was given support to purchase blocks to aid in the reconstruction of her home. The image to the left shows the beginning of this construction. This support will supplement the assistance from the Government of Grenada.

## Psychological support

The impact and success from the first two trauma workshops for Children evidenced the necessity for ongoing support. The SVP has since received requests for repeat sessions alongside additional sessions in other areas.

Local SVP members continue to spend time in their villages; praying, visiting, and counselling anyone who may need it.





## **The future**

The swift action of SVP Grenada members, along with the generous support from SVP E&W donors, made a positive difference in the lives of hundreds of residents across Carriacou and Petite Martinique. Provisions to residents focused on essential necessities, providing residents with hope, and supporting the healing process for many children. It is also a testament to the collaboration and cohesion of the SVP across Grenada, traversing by boat to meet with other members and support each other through this challenging time.

On-going and future support continues to focus on the provision of basic needs but will also focus on improving housing, supporting income generation activities and the provision of psychological support for children.

As of July 2025, SVP Grenada still have funds available from the grants provided by SVP E&W and these will be used for ongoing recovery.

**Thank you to all members and donors for their support of SVP Grenada following Hurricane Beryl. It is greatly appreciated.**