



Precautionary measures and behaviour in crisis situations in Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, St. Lucia, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago and St. Vincent and the Grenadines

1. Introduction

The [Swiss Abroad Act](#) stipulates the principle of the **personal responsibility** of Swiss citizens abroad. Every individual shall exercise personal responsibility when planning or undertaking a stay abroad or when working abroad. Swiss abroad assume personal responsibility for carrying out any kind of activity, **behave in a way that is appropriate** to the risks and cope with any difficulties that may arise primarily with their own means.

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) may support Swiss abroad if they cannot reasonably or are not in a position to safeguard their interests on their own or with the help of third parties.

Consular protection may be granted to Swiss citizens when they have tried to do everything possible to overcome the emergency situation, with the help of the local authorities, their insurance companies and by other means. There is no legal entitlement to consular protection.

2. Sources of information

Local authorities are primarily responsible for the security of their inhabitants, including the Swiss community. In the event of a crisis, they have first-hand information on the current situation, can provide recommendations for protecting the population and can take anti-crisis measures.

The websites of the following organizations provide specific information on crisis preparedness and information in the event of a crisis:

- Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA): <http://www.cdema.org/>
- Caribbean Disaster Information Network (CARDIN): <https://www.mona.uwi.edu/cardin/>
- National Hurricane Center: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

The FDFA's travel advice at www.eda.admin.ch contains the current assessment of the security situation in your country. If you have any questions or queries regarding travel advice, please contact the competent Swiss Embassy.

3. Important preparatory measures

In case of emergency, you should always have the following at hand (non-exhaustive list):

- Important documents (incl. copies of these documents): valid travel documents, driver's licence and vehicle documentation, identity documents for foreigners and exit visa, valid entry visa, vaccination card, etc.
- Financial: cash in local and foreign currency, credit card(s), bank card(s), etc.
- Information and communication: list of important telephone numbers, mobile phone with power bank and sufficient credit for calls, battery-powered (shortwave) radio with back-up batteries, etc.
- Health: travel kit with the medicines you need, blood group card, vaccination card, insurance documents (sickness, accident, repatriation), etc.
- Emergency supplies: drinking water, food (if necessary, portable heater), gasoline, etc.

You can reduce the risk of damage by taking preventive measures (non-exhaustive list):

- Have your home and installations checked for risks of **earthquakes, floods, storms**, and install a smoke detector.
- Secure your walls, doors and windows **against intrusion**.
- Arrange an **assembly place** with your family in case it is not possible to enter your home.
- Write down **evacuation routes** to a safe refuge in the country or another safe country.
- Inform the Swiss Embassy of any **change of address, telephone numbers** and e-mail address, so that you can be reached in case of emergency. You can also do this online: www.eda.admin.ch/caracas > Services > Consular registration and deregistration, change of address or via the [Online desk](#).

4. Behaviour in case of crisis

- **Stay informed on the current situation**, especially through the media, social media of recognised organisations, institutions or digital news, messages from local authorities and the FDFA website.
- Regularly assess your **preventive measures**.
- Keep in touch with the Swiss Embassy and **inform them if you leave the country**.
- **Follow the instructions** of local authorities.
- **Avoid protests**, demonstrations and mass gatherings of any kind.
- Keep in touch with **your relatives** (in Switzerland).
- Consult the **FDFA's travel advice** regularly. The Swiss Embassy usually contacts you by email or SMS if the security situation in the country deteriorates substantially and unexpectedly.
- The FDFA may advise Swiss citizens to **leave the country / a region**, in particular in the following cases:
 - if there is a threat of a breakdown of public order;
 - in case of an armed conflict;
 - if foreigners are exposed to a particularly high risk of kidnapping by terrorist groups;
 - in the event of natural disasters, nuclear or industrial accidents which indicate that staying there could be dangerous; or
 - if there is a specific threat to Swiss citizens due to their nationality.
- It is up to Swiss citizens to make the decision to leave the country or a region of the country autonomously, voluntarily and at their own risk.

- Crises can escalate very quickly; it can happen that evacuation routes are blocked so that it is no longer possible to leave the country/region (safely). If the security situation worsens, **leave the country/region of the country as long as possible and public transport is available**.
- Be aware that, depending on the severity of the situation during the crisis, the Swiss Embassy may be able to provide only limited protection or, in the worst case, no protection at all.

5. Travel Admin: www.traveladmin.ch

You and your family members can enter information on this website about your **tourist stays, business trips and visits abroad** (only in the case of short-term stays). In the event of a serious crisis abroad, this information will enable the FDFA to better locate and contact you. If the security situation deteriorates considerably and unexpectedly, you will receive a message.

Important: However, the online registration in Travel Admin does not constitute a warning system for natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, etc. In such cases, please follow the warnings and instructions of the relevant local authorities.



- [App Travel Admin for iPhone](#)
- [App Travel Admin for Android](#)