



Ireland: Storm Éowyn Response 2025

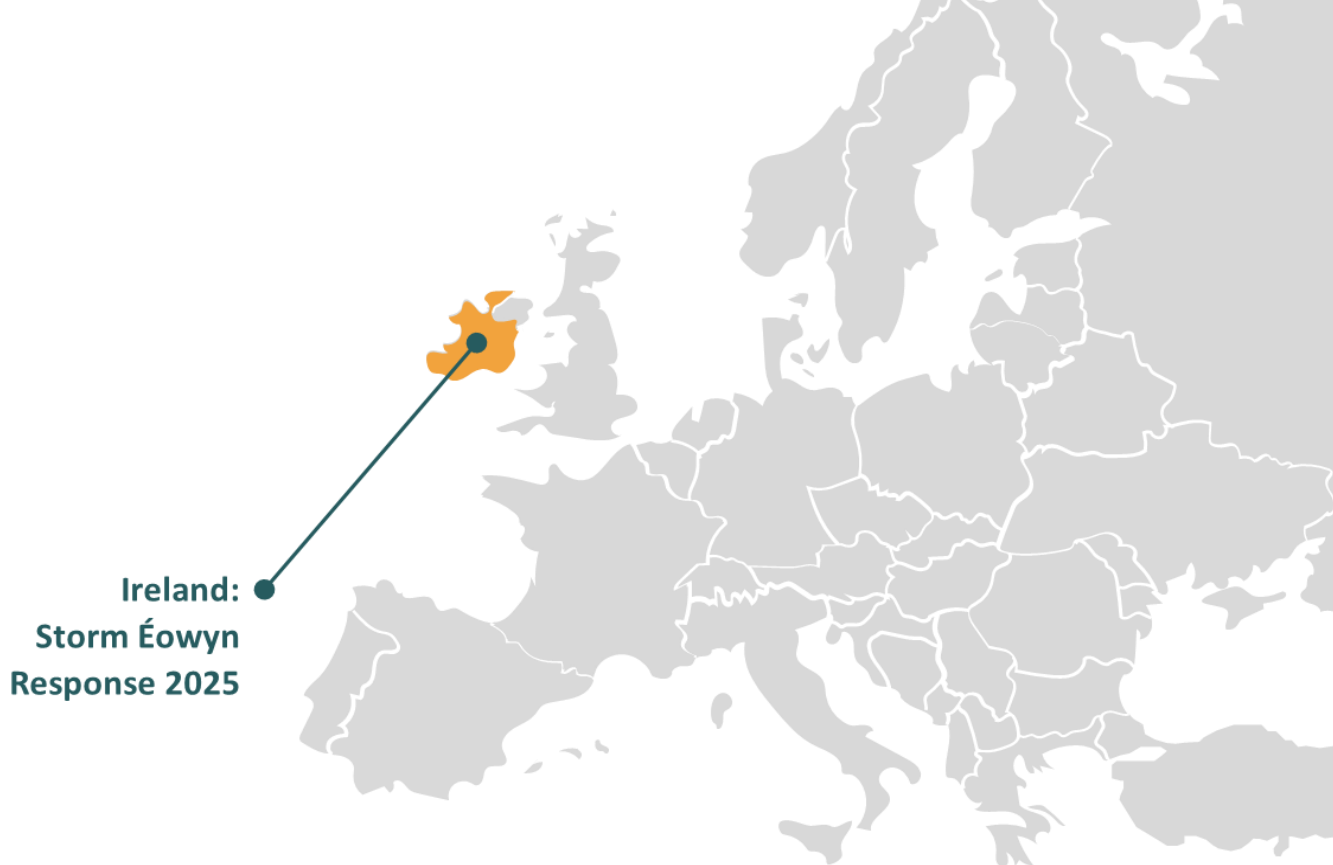
Community Hubs as
Resilience Centers

Storm Éowyn brought severe winds and widespread power outages to Ireland. County Leitrim demonstrated how community centers, when prepared and resourced, serve as critical resilience hubs - providing warmth, power, information, and social support during storms.

The Storm

Storm Éowyn hit with winds exceeding 100 mph in some areas. Thousands of trees fell, blocking roads and damaging power lines. Over 700,000 homes lost electricity, some for several days. In rural areas like Leitrim, residents faced cold homes, no water pumps, and isolation as roads became impassable.





Community Support Hubs in Action

Learning from previous storms, Leitrim communities had prepared. Local education centers and community buildings activated as support hubs, offering power and warmth through buildings with generators, information centers with updates on power restoration and road clearances, social connection spaces for isolated elderly residents, hot meals from community kitchens, and coordination points for volunteer tree-clearing efforts.

Preparedness Made the Difference

Effectiveness came from advance preparation: community centers invested in generators and backup power, emergency plans identified which buildings would serve as hubs, volunteer networks were established before the storm, communication systems were tested and ready, supplies were pre-positioned, and vulnerable residents were registered and checked on systematically.

Key Lesson

Community buildings equipped with backup power and emergency supplies serve as critical resilience infrastructure during severe weather. The key is preparing before disasters strike - investing in equipment, training staff and volunteers, and establishing coordination systems. Small investments in community preparedness yield major benefits when storms hit.