

# HURRICANE MELISSA

*Jamaica*

**PAHO**



Pan American  
Health  
Organization



World Health  
Organization  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE  
Americas

## Situation Report #3 - 29-October-2025

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Hurricane Melissa made landfall as a Category 5 hurricane on the southwestern coast of Jamaica at 12:00pm local time on 28 October.
- As at 5:00am on 29 October, a tropical storm warning was in effect for the country.
- Extensive flooding has been reported island-wide, with moderate to severe impacts in 123 communities.
- Of 14 parishes in the country, the most affected were Manchester, St. Elizabeth, Trelawny, Hanover, Westmoreland and St. James.
- Three major hospitals were severely impacted. Emergency evacuations are underway for two facilities, and 71 patients of one affected hospital were awaiting emergency evacuation.
- As at 29 October, 5:00am local time, no further deaths have been reported.
- PAHO continues to support the MOHW in preparedness and response efforts, particularly in the areas of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, Post-Disaster Infrastructure Assessments, and continuity of health services.
- Airports remain closed pending completion of assessments.
- The activation level of the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) remains at Level 3.

### IN NUMBERS

**Approx. 2.8m**  
(entire population)

**Potentially  
exposed<sup>1</sup>**

**03 Deaths<sup>2</sup>**

**12 Injured<sup>3</sup>**

**N/A Missing<sup>4</sup>**

**N/A Evacuated<sup>5</sup>**

**3 Health  
facilities with  
major damage<sup>6\*</sup>**

1: Statistical Institute of  
Jamaica data

2,4,5,6: ODPEM NEOC report #5  
(29 October, 5:00am)

3: Ministry of Health and Wellness  
HEOC report #5  
(27 October 2025, 8pm)

\*Information on damage is available for  
major hospitals only



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## Service delivery

### Primary Care:

- All health centres in all 14 parishes and 4 regions have remained closed since October 24. No reopening updates have been issued.
- Damage assessments are underway, and Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) teams are being mobilized to evaluate service readiness in affected communities.

### Secondary Care:

- Public hospitals continue to be in operation for emergency services only.
- Some hospitals have sustained important damage, with confirmation of damage to three major hospitals. Reports are available for the following facilities:
  - Black River Hospital (St. Elizabeth): structural damage due to wind and flooding, with no electricity. 71 patients are awaiting emergency evacuation.
  - Cornwall Regional Hospital (St. James): roof damage reported due to wind.
  - Falmouth Hospital (Trelawny): impacted by storm surge.
  - Noel Holmes Hospital (Hanover): severely impacted. 18 patients were transferred to Cornwall Regional Hospital and Savanna-La-Mar Hospital.

## Surveillance

- Surveillance in shelters continues. Updated data on demographics and health conditions is pending.
- As at 5:00am on 29 October, no further deaths had been reported in addition to the three deaths that were reported prior to hurricane impact during preparedness activities. Updates are pending.

## Vaccination Services

- Efforts are ongoing to assess vaccination storage conditions and conduct cold chain monitoring.

## Nutrition

- Food for the Poor is packaging 1500 food and care packages for relief distribution.

## Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

- Preparations are in place for the deployment of the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) specialist to assist in assessment and coordination.

## Environmental Health

- Extensive flooding has been reported island-wide, with 123 communities severely to moderately impacted, and several households directly impacted. The worst affected parishes are Manchester, St. Elizabeth, Trelawny, Hanover, Westmoreland and St. James.

## Imaging Services

- Imaging services remain operational across most facilities. Contingency measures are in place and are being utilized. No further updates have been reported.

## Laboratory Services

- The National Laboratory Services (NLS) remain operational, with electricity and general operations intact.
- Monitoring of the supply of blood and blood products by NLS is ongoing with coordination for replenishment of stock.

## Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Press releases, Public Service Announcements, radio and social media posts continue to advise the public on:
  - Medication Safety
  - Wellness

- Mental health
- Safeguarding the health of pregnant women, children, persons experiencing disability, and older persons
- Safe storage of food and water
- Access to services of health facilities
- Vector control disruptions
- Emergency readiness checklists, contact numbers and guidance for evacuations



## HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT

- On 29 October, PAHO accompanied the Minister of Health and Wellness and the Health Disaster Coordinator (HDC), among others, to visit severely impacted health facilities in the Western Region.
- Coordination of further assessments is ongoing.



## INFRASTRUCTURE

- Forty-six (46) incidents (of 93 total) have been reported on critical infrastructure such as major roads, bridges and utilities. Two landslides, one affecting a road in Portland parish and one affecting a gully in the Kingston area, may complicate relief operations. Roads in the parishes of St. Elizabeth and St. Thomas have been impacted due to fallen trees and a downed utility pole, respectively.
- The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) is preparing to launch road clearance and damage assessments via aerial and ground reconnaissance.
- Communication has become a major challenge in the country, resulting in significant delays in information transfer. Island-wide, 537,000 persons are experiencing power outages, with restoration efforts ongoing.
- Telecommunications operators have ongoing radio checks and are collaborating to deploy solutions to maintain and enhance connectivity in critical areas (prepositioned and post deployment).



## WASH

- PAHO is part of the WASH Coordination Platform and has participated in the Caribbean Development Partners Group (CDPG) - WASH Thematic Working Group Meetings for Hurricane Melissa response. Daily WASH meetings were initiated.
- PAHO is coordinating support for response, including WASH kits, materials and deployment of a WASH specialist
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## SHELTERS

- Of 881 emergency shelters that have been prepared, 513 shelters remain activated across all 14 parishes, with total occupancy of 7208 persons.
- Daily monitoring by the public health team continues.



## HEALTH NEEDS

- On 28 October, ODPEM publicly launched a needs list, including a detailed list of health needs (<https://supportjamaica.gov.jm/needs>). The list is based on support for response and recovery for an estimated 400,000 people affected the hurricane. The list will be updated periodically.



## RESPONSE

### GOVERNMENT RESPONSE:

- The National Emergency Operation Center remains activated at Level 3.
- The MOHW HEOC remains activated, with twice daily briefing meetings to facilitate decision-making for the health response. In attendance are the Permanent Secretary, Chief Medical Officer, HDC, EOC Managers and the PAHO Incident Manager. The national and subnational level EOCs are also represented.
- Daily government press briefings continue to be conducted.
- All government ministries, departments and agencies have been in the field gathering data and information to inform response activities.

### PAHO RESPONSE:

- On 29 October, PAHO accompanied the Minister of Health and Wellness and the HDC, among others, to visit severely impacted health facilities in the Western Region.
- PAHO JAM EOC and Incident Management Team remains activated since 26 October 2025, with twice daily meetings.
- PAHO continues to provide technical guidance to the MOHW HEOC and maintains dialogue with the HDC.
- PAHO is represented at the CDPG – Disaster Management meetings, with the last meeting on 29 October, as well as in CDPG Thematic Working Groups.
- PAHO is coordinating anticipated deployment to support the MOHW requests on WASH, MHPSS and infrastructure assessments. PAHO is also supporting coordination with MOHW for the possible deployment of international health partners.
- PAHO continues to provide technical support in additional critical areas, including surveillance, vector control, and continuity of health services.

### COORDINATION

- PAHO is represented at UN meetings, including the United Nations Emergency Technical Team (UNETT), with the last meeting held on 29 October 2025. The UNETT meetings will be conducted daily moving forward.
- Regular contact is established with key health sector partners.