

PAHO’s Strategic Reserve Center for Emergencies in Panama mobilizes vital supplies for the response to Hurricane

MELISSA

November 13, 2025

PAHO



Pan American
Health
Organization



World Health
Organization
Americas Region



Hurricane Melissa (Category 5) formed on **October 21, 2025**, and made landfall in **Jamaica on October 28**, becoming one of the most intense storms in the Caribbean in decades.



It severely impacted **Jamaica, Haiti, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic**



Leaving behind:

- Damaged hospitals and health centers with limited medical care services
- Disrupted basic services
- Isolated and displaced communities
- Increased risk of vector-borne and acute diarrheal diseases following the hurricane

Regional logistics to save lives



From the **PAHO’s Strategic Reserve Center for Emergencies** in Panama, essential medical supplies were immediately airlifted to affected areas.

“Each shipment represents the difference between **waiting for help and receiving timely care.**”

— *Ciro Ugarte. Director, PAHO Health Emergencies Department*

Shipment from PAHO’s Strategic Reserve Center for Emergencies in Panama



Essential medical kits (Interagency Emergency Health Kit – IEHK, Noncommunicable Disease Kit – NCDK, and Hurricane Kits) to restore immediate care in response to the surge demand for medical services.



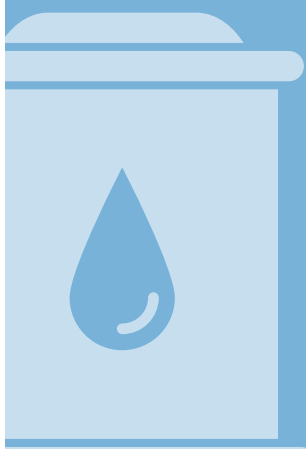
Electric generators to enable the continued operation of health facilities and medical equipment affected by the storm.



Surgical kits (TESK – Trauma and Emergency Surgery Kits) to support urgent surgical procedures and clinical diagnosis of medical conditions.



Medical backpacks with supplies for first responders and primary health care services in the field.



Mosquito nets and water tanks to prevent vector-borne diseases and ensure access to safe water.



Personal protective equipment (PPE) to safeguard frontline and laboratory health personnel.

These efforts were made possible by countries’ commitment to **strategic prepositioning and logistics systems** that ensure supplies are dispatched, transported, received, and delivered to people affected by the emergency.

Timeline of shipments

PRE-IMPACT PREPAREDNESS



- **Emergency kits (IEHK)** distributed to *Choscal Hospital, Chapi Hospital, and Bethanie Hospital* in the Ouest Department, in cooperation with PROMESS and the PAHO Country Office in Haiti.
- **Trauma kits and hurricane kits** with the capacity to serve approximately **11,100 people**.
- **Basic medical equipment:** stethoscopes, thermometers, oximeters, and rapid diagnostic backpacks.
- **45 boxes (1 metric ton)** airlifted to *PROMESS*, Haiti’s central warehouse for essential medicines.
- **Hurricane kits (3,000 patients for 30 days).**
- **20 emergency medical backpacks** with primary health care equipment (stethoscopes, oximeters, thermometers).

September 9 – Haiti



October 28 – Cuba

ACTION

- **IEHK kits** (5,000 people for 3 months).
- **TESK kits** (100 surgical interventions), medical backpacks, generators, and surgical equipment.
- **6 pallets** (2.6 t) delivered in Havana.

POST-IMPACT HEALTH SUPPORT



- **IEHK** (10,000 people for 3 months).
- **NCDK** (10,000 people for 3 months).
- **TESK** (100 surgical interventions).
- **Hurricane kits** (3,000 patients for 30 days).
- **PPE, mosquito nets.**
- **Water tanks and tents.**
- **22 pallets (5.5 t)** airlifted.

November 1 – Jamaica



November 4 – Jamaica



In coordination with the **Royal Netherlands Navy**, backpacks for first responders, deployment bags, water testing kits, and other complementary supplies were delivered, including PAHO blue vests for ground operations visibility, and logistical support materials.

November 6 – Haiti



ONGOING REPLENISHMENT

- **IEHK** (10,000 people for 3 months).
- **NCDK** (10,000 people for 3 months).
- **Hurricane kits** (3,000 patients for 30 days).
- **10 emergency medical backpacks.**
- **24 primary care backpacks.**
- **PPE kits, mosquito nets, among others.**



Regional impact

- **15 tons of supplies deployed** for the response.
- **USD 340,000 worth** of essential supplies mobilized.
- **Rapid air shipments from Panama.**
- **Coordination with national authorities and humanitarian partners.**

Funding and cooperation

Operation made possible with the support of **Direct Relief, ECHO, UN-OCHA, and WHO’s Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE)**

+ **Información**
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