

HURRICANE MELISSA

Jamaica

PAHO



Pan American
Health
Organization



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REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE
Americas

Situation Report #10 - 05-November-2025 @10 :00 p.m.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hurricane Melissa made landfall on Jamaica's south coast as a Category 5 hurricane at 12 noon on 28 October 2025 near New Hope, Westmoreland, with catastrophic damage sustained in the Southern and Western Regions.
- The Disaster Risk Management (Declaration of Disaster Area) (Hurricane Melissa) Order, 2025, was made by the Prime Minister for the whole of Jamaica on 28 October 2025.
- The UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is allocating US\$4 million for humanitarian operations. PAHO will submit the health sector proposal.
- Two Type 2 Emergency Medical Teams have been deployed – one each to the Black River and Falmouth hospitals. Approval is awaited for the deployment of three additional EMTs.
- As at 5 November 2025, thirty-two deaths have been confirmed due to injuries caused by the hurricane. Three of the deaths were reported prior to the hurricane making landfall. 138 injuries were reported.
- The first MHPSS TWG (Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Technical Working Group) held on 4 November 2025, with 8 agencies in attendance. PAHO's MHPSS Specialist addressed the meeting of leadership teams of MOHW and PAHO on 4 November 2025.
- PAHO and the MOHW are co-leads for the Health Cluster with the first meeting on 1 November 2025. The second meeting took place on 4 November 2025.
- PAHO's damage assessment team conducted structural and WASH assessments at the Cornwall Regional Hospital on 4 November 2025.
- Five hospitals have resumed full services in the South-East Region, including the main referral hospitals – Kingston Public Hospital, National Chest Hospital and the Victoria Jubilee hospital; as well as the Princess Margaret Hospital, St. Thomas and the Spanish Town hospital, St Catherine.
- PAHO continues to support the MOHW in the areas of continuity of health services, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, Post-Disaster Infrastructure Assessments, and coordination.
- The activation level of the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) remains at Level 3.

IN NUMBERS

Approx. 2.8m (entire population)

Potentially exposed¹

32 Deaths²

138 Injured³

N/A Missing⁴

71 Evacuated⁵

5 Major hospitals⁶ severely impacted, widespread damage to health facilities in Western and Southern Regions

1: Statistical Institute of Jamaica data

2: JISTV. Special Press Briefing. Hurricane Melissa Recovery. 3 November, 2025. 3pm.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7RP962KO1s> {timestamp 36:21 to 37:45}

3,4,5,6: Ministry of Health and Wellness HEOC report #13 (4 November 2025, 8:00 p.m.)



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Service Delivery

Primary Care:

- Western Region (WHRA): Health centers are gradually reopening to offer services as they are able. Maternal and child health and dressing are being prioritized, while curative services are offered where possible.
 - Westmoreland:
 - Savannah-la-Mar, Little London, Grange Hill, Negril and Georges Plain Health Centres are offering curative service.
 - Trelawny: All health centres remain closed due to structural damage and lack of water. Plans are in place to source trucked water to deliver some services at Duncans, Rio Bueno and Clarks Town which are least affected.
- Southern Region (SRHA):
 - Clarendon: Most Health Centres remain closed and unable to offer services due to infrastructural damage.
 - Lionel Town and Raymonds Health Centres are offering full services; while May Pen Health Centre, Mocho and Main Steet Health Centres are offering partial services, which include dressing services.
- South-East Region (SEHRA): A total of 56 health centers were opened in the region.
- North-East Region (NEHRA): Partially functional, with persisting connectivity and road access issues. The electricity is still partially restored in Portland and other parishes. Some health centres remain inaccessible.

Secondary Care:

- Western Region (WHRA):
 - Trelawny: Falmouth General Hospital:
 - One operating theatre is now cleaned and functional for emergency surgery (still no air conditioning).
 - Outpatient services are suspended, except for antenatal services and chemotherapy.
 - A Type 2 EMT operated by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) has been assigned to the hospital
 - St. James: Cornwall Regional Hospital
 - The dialysis unit operates two shifts (12 patients/session) and electrical work is in progress.
 - Oncology and radiotherapy have resumed, but radiotherapy may face staffing issues.
 - Radiology is in full service for in-patients only.
 - 40% of medical records are reported to be damaged by flooding.
 - Hanover: Noel Holmes Hospital
 - The general ward has reopened, despite some persistent leaks.
 - The maternity patients are housed in the isolation unit.
 - Westmoreland: Savanna-la-Mar Public General Hospital
 - Laboratory services have been outsourced to Noel Holmes Hospital due to electrical issues, but repairs are ongoing.
 - The pharmacy is operational but awaiting a generator from the National Health Fund.
- Southern Region (SRHA):
 - St. Elizabeth:
 - Black River Hospital (BRH): is still not functioning. Samaritan's Purse EMT Type 2 hospital is in place and operational.
- South East Region (SERHA):
 - Kingston & St. Andrew:
 - Kingston Public Hospital (KPH): Full operations have resumed, but roof leaks are reported in multiple areas (Learning Center, Medical Records, Wards 3A & 3N). ICU occupancy is sustainable at 67% but general wards are over capacity (103%).
 - Bustamante Hospital for Children (BHC): full operations have resumed.

- St. Joseph's Hospital: all staff members have reported for duty; the cancer treatment unit still non-operational (pre-storm), and staff has been redeployed to A&E.
- University Hospital of West Indies (UHWI): Is affected by persistent water shortage, with only emergency areas receiving water. Water is trucked, but quantities are inadequate.
- St. Catherine:
 - Spanish Town Hospital (STH): Is experiencing prolonged A&E wait times and the HVAC is under repair. 14 critically ill patients were admitted, while A&E experienced a 66% increase in visits.

Bed Occupancy: National: 69%

- SEHRA: 65%
- SHRA: 88%
- NEHRA: 71%
- WHRA: Data not available due to connectivity issues.

Staffing: National: 92%

- SEHRA: 92%
- SHRA: 88%
- NEHRA: 91%
- WHRA: Data not available due to connectivity issues.

Surveillance

- The death toll in Jamaica remains at 32 persons, as reported by the Minister of Education, Skills, Youth and Information during the government Special Press Briefing at 3 p.m. on 3 November 2025. An additional eight deaths are being verified.
- As at 4 November 2025, there was no change in health conditions for the persons in shelters across all parishes.

Vaccination Services

- On-going efforts are being made to ensure that vaccines are adequately stored, and the cold chain is effectively monitored.

Nutrition

- Nutrition and dietetic services continue to report at least a 3 to 5-day food supply for some hospitals for all staff and patients.
- Food packages are listed among the priority needs for 12 of the 14 parishes

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

- First MHPSS TWG meeting was held on 4 November 2025. Multiple stakeholders representing 8 agencies were in attendance. Online form for the completion of the 4Ws dispersed (**Who** is providing services, **Where** they are located, **When** they are active, and **What** specific activities they are doing).
- Meeting held with the leadership team in the MOHW (Minister of Health, Permanent Secretary and Chief Medical Officer) on 4 November to discuss the strategy in the provision of MHPSS to the affected areas.
- Mapping of operational and non-operational mental health services within the affected zone commenced.

Environmental Health

- Response efforts remain concentrated on five key areas: food safety, general sanitation, water quality (potable and wastewater), shelter management, and vector control.
- Food establishment inspections, water quality checks and other environmental health monitoring continue ongoing.

Imaging services

There have been no changes since the previous situation report.

Laboratory Services

- The National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) and the National Blood Transfusion Services (NBTS) remain functional.
- In the Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA), laboratory services were impacted across the four parishes.
 - Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH): Offers emergency complete blood count (CBC) and urea and electrolytes (U&E) testing, and full microbiology services. Other services are affected due to damage to major machines.
 - Falmouth Public General Hospital: Only group and crossmatch services are provided
 - Savanna-la-Mar: No services are offered due to lack of electricity.
 - Noel Holmes Hospital: provides services, as well as for Falmouth.
- In the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA), laboratory services continue to be disrupted due to severe damage, including at the Black River Hospital which will depend on a field hospital with laboratory capacity.
- NBTS has indicated that the current national blood collection efforts have provided 307 units of blood.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

Social Media

- All social media cards have been shared with community-based partners and all other key stakeholders for further circulation and active engagement with community groups.

Communication Materials

- Communication materials are being adapted by PAHO from previous campaigns to support mental health wellness during this time.
- Existing PAHO communication materials identified and shared with the MOHW for review and adaptation.



HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT

- There is a heightened risk of transmission of respiratory, vector-borne, food-borne and water-borne diseases due to the impacts on running water, pooling of water, lack of electricity, displacement of people, and disruptions to health interventions and service provision. Health risks assessments are ongoing and/or planned to start shortly. MOHW continues to closely monitor the response of surveillance and laboratory systems and impacts on continuity of health services and case management.
- MOHW continues to monitor burn-out of staff and impacts on health infrastructure to inform staff-wellbeing and service continuity during the emergency response period.



INFRASTRUCTURE

General Facility Damage:

Five major hospitals were reported as having sustained the most severe level of damage, of which 1 was destroyed. Health Centres:

- Manchester: Flooding on compounds and inside Health Centres was reported with minor structural damage in Mile Gully. Royal Flat, Porus and Christiana Health Centres.
- Mandeville Health Centre: Flooded area in Clinical Health, Adolescent section, and records room.
- St. Elizabeth: St. Elizabeth Health Department (High Street): Facility severely damaged. Roof severely damaged over most offices.

- The Black River, Springfield, Fyffes Pen and Prospect Health Centres lost their roofs. Middle Quarters Health Centre: Facility severely damaged. Roof is damaged.
- Santa Cruz Health Centre: Building and leakage issues. Membranes have lifted. Care Centre roof is gone. Perimeter fence is broken down. Tank road impassable but can access through police station route.

Electricity:

- SERHA
 - All major hospitals (KPH, VJH, BHC, PMH, STH, LPH, UHWI, St. Joseph's, SJGRC, Hope Institute) have electricity restored, generators fully functional.
- SRHA
 - Clarendon, Thompson Town Health Centre: solar panel disconnected, JPS cables disconnected.
 - St. Elizabeth:
 - Santa Cruz Health Centre: generator to be assessed.
 - Southfield Health Centre: Generator to be assessed. Damage to generator house
- NERHA
 - St. Ann's Bay Regional Hospital (SABRH): The generator for the radiology unit has a 24-hour supply.
 - Anoto Bay Hospital (ABH): the elevator continues to be out of service.
- WRHA
 - Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH): On generator; adequate diesel.
 - Falmouth Public General Hospital (FPGH): Two generators; 200 gallons diesel delivered.
 - Noel Holmes Hospital (NHH): On generator.
 - Savanna-la-Mar Public General Hospital (SPGH): On generator.

Communications:

- SERHA: KPH, VJH & BHC: The switchboards continue to be down; the UPS batteries need urgent replacement.
- NERHA: Alexandria: No contact; remains inaccessible.



WASH

WASH

- The WASH Cluster Meeting held its first hybrid session, merging participants from the CDPG WASH Thematic Working Group, the National WASH Collaboration Group and other stakeholders. The WASH Cluster is coordinated by UNICEF, with participation from PAHO, to support ongoing health response efforts.
- SRHA: Clarendon reported damage to water tanks at 2 health centres and 1 tank was blown away.
- PAHO support on medical and WASH supplies has arrived in Kingston this morning, and the final delivery of supplies to the MOHE has been arranged
- The PAHO expert has performed a field visit to the Black River Hospital for the WASH assessment of the facilities.



SHELTERS

Shelters

- NEOC Report of 1 November 2025 informed 513 active shelters, housing 7,208 individuals.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been asked to support the Government of Jamaica with developing short and medium-term shelter plans, focusing on immediate housing solutions for periods of one, two, and four months².

² CDEMA HURRICANE MELISSA SITUATION REPORT No. 8 AS OF 5:00PM AST on NOVEMBER 3rd, 2025

- Efforts are underway to assess the level of infrastructural damage and identify priority needs. MapAction provides support to shelter needs estimations and distribution tracking³.



HEALTH NEEDS

Immediate needs

- MOHW has issued a national call for doctors and nurses to volunteer for the Black River Hospital and other affected areas.
- MOHW has issued a call for blood donations.
- The Preliminary National Needs List published by ODPEM, including detailed health needs, is available ODPEM at <https://supportjamaica.gov.jm/needs> . The list is based on support for response and recovery for an estimated 400,000 people affected by the hurricane.
- Assessments are ongoing to determine priority health needs.



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.
- All government ministries, departments and agencies have been in the field gathering data and information to inform ongoing preparedness activities and upcoming response activities.

PAHO RESPONSE:

- PAHO JAM EOC and Incident Management Team remains activated since 26 October 2025.
- PAHO continues to provide technical guidance to the MOHW HEOC and maintains dialogue with the HDC.
- PAHO JAM EOC is collaborating with the PAHO WDC to prepare donor appeal documents related to resource mobilization, which include participating in the UNRCO-coordinated Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Rapid Response proposal to support recovery within the health sector.
- PAHO EMT Regional Advisor is now acting as EMT Coordinator in the HEOC. The Medical Information and Coordination Cell (CICOM) has been established in the HEOC. MOHW and all EMTs now have access to the Virtual CICOM, a PAHO/WHO-designed online tool to streamline information management and coordination for the EMTs.
- PAHO and MOHW hosted the second Health Sector Group - Hurricane Melissa Response Meeting with all Donor Agencies and NGOs on 4 November 2025 in Kingston. The Minister of Health, Permanent Secretary, Chief Medical Officer and other senior officials from the Ministry of Health and Wellness and Opposition Spokesperson on Finance and Planning participated, along with many donors and NGO representatives. PAHO will coordinate the donor and NGO support offered to the MOHW by way of the international online platform called CICOM, where donors and NGOs can register an account and access information. PAHO will work closely with the MOHW in this coordination role.
- PAHO is represented at the Caribbean Development Partner Group – Disaster Management Meetings, as well as in CDPG Thematic Working Groups.
- PAHO is a member of the UNETT and collaborates with other sector groups, such as WASH.
- The PAHO International Consultant (Structural Engineer) started infrastructure damage assessments on 2 November 2025 at Falmouth hospital. The plan of action for damage assessments islandwide is being prepared in collaboration with the MOHW and will include health care facilities retrofitted to SMART

³ Ibid

standards.

- PAHO is supporting a WASH damage assessment, which started at the Falmouth Hospital on 2 November 2025. An International Consultant arrived in Jamaica on 31 October to support WASH assessment and services at health care facilities.
- WASH supplies are en-route to Jamaica, such as potable water testing kits, multi-parameter meters for pH, turbidity, chlorine, and salinity, coliform test kits, and incubators.
- PAHO continues to support the MOHW with the deployment of international partners and Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs).
- PAHO continues to coordinate deployments of its personnel and other experts to the Jamaica Country Office to support areas, including WASH, EMT Coordinator, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), Infrastructure, Damage Assessment, Environmental Health, Information Management, Risk Communications and Community Engagement and Logistics. The list of personnel to be deployed was updated on 1 November 2025.
 - Personnel have been deployed for WASH (1 November 2025); MHPSS (3 November 2025); EMT Coordinator (3 November 2025), Support for Health Cluster and PAHO JAM EOC (4 November 2025), Information Management (4 November 2025) and Logistics (4 November 2025).
- PAHO prepared the draft Medical Needs List for the response on 1 November 2025 and is awaiting review and approval by the MOHW.
- PAHO continues to provide on-going technical support in additional critical areas, including surveillance, nutrition, vector control, and continuity of health services.
- PAHO is making use of social media to deliver key messages related to priority health needs and response.

COORDINATION

- PAHO is represented at UN meetings, including the United Nations Emergency Technical Team (UNETT) which is held every other day. The next meeting is scheduled for 3 November 2025.
- PAHO participates in the Caribbean Development Partners Group-Disaster Management and the Thematic Working Groups
- The second Health Cluster Group meeting was convened on 4 November 2025 and focused on receiving input from international partners supporting the health sector on their areas and scope of planned support and resources available. The next meeting is scheduled for 6 November 2025.
- Regular contact is established with key health sector partners.



First meeting of the MHPSS TWG (Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Technical Working Group), 4 November 2025 in Kingston. In attendance are the leadership teams of the MOHW and PAHO. Shown at table facing out (L to R) are the PAHO MHPSS Specialist, PAHO JAM MHPSS Focal Point, PAHO JAM PWR, the JAM MOHW Permanent Secretary and the Minister of Health.