

# HURRICANE MELISSA

Jamaica

# PAHO



Pan American  
Health  
Organization



World Health  
Organization  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE  
Americas

## Situation Report #11 - 06-November-2025

### 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 UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is allocating US\$4 million for humanitarian operations. PAHO has prepared the proposal for the health sector.
- 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 additional Type 1 and Type 2 EMTs.
- As at 6 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.
- More than 27 communities islandwide remain marooned by flooding and landslides. The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, National Works Agency, Jamaica Defence Force, Jamaica Fire Brigade and the Jamaica Constabulary Force are leading the coordination for clearing blocked roadways and airlifting food and relief supplies to the affected areas.
- The third Health Sector Group Coordination Meeting was held on 6 November 2025 in Kingston. The partners and organizations present shared information about their capacity and commitments. Those offering Emergency Medical Teams were directed to enter this information on the Virtual CICOM platform (<https://www.virtualcicom.org/login>) to facilitate the process of matching capacity to needs, led by the MOHW and PAHO.
- 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.
- As at 6 November 2025, the Mandeville, Santa Cruz, St. Ann's Bay and Port Antonio Health Centres, which were retrofitted to the Smart 'gold' standard, are operational and currently providing health services to patients.
- The National Health Fund (NHF) has sufficient stocks of essential medicines to meet prescription needs.
- 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 exposed<sup>1</sup>**

**32 Deaths<sup>2</sup>**

**171 Injured<sup>3</sup>**

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

**71 Evacuated<sup>5</sup>**

**5 Major hospitals<sup>6</sup> 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 #14 (5 November 2025, 8:00 p.m.)



Pan American  
Health  
Organization



World Health  
Organization  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE  
Americas

## Service Delivery

### Primary Care:

- Western Region (WHRA): Health care 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.
  - St. James:
    - Roehampton, Mt. Carey, Salt Spring, CRH, Cambridge, Adelphi, Catherine Hall, Somerton, Goodwill, Maroon Town, Lottery, Tower, Tower Hill, Johns Hall, Garlands, Springfield Health Centres (HCs) remain closed.
    - Type 5 (Montego Bay), Mt. Salem, Green Pond, Glendevon, Granville, Barrett Town, Flankers HCs are reported to be open.
  - Westmoreland:
    - Savannah-La-Mar HC has re-opened.
    - Darliston, Petersfield, Negril, Whitehouse, Bluefields, Baulk, Georges Plain, Little London (HCs) remain closed.
    - A field health centre is being set up at Whitehouse for surge capacity.
  - Trelawny:
    - Curative services and high-risk antenatal services are now offered at Duncans, Ulster Spring and Falmouth HCs.
    - The Rio Bueno and Clarks Town Health Centres will re-open during this week.
  - Hanover:
    - Hopewell, Sandy Bay, Lucea, Green Island, Logwood, Cave Valley, Mt. Peto HCs are open.
    - Ramble, Chester Castle, Grange Kendall, Nyerere HCs remained closed.
- Southern Region (SRHA): 38 Health Centres remain closed and 32 are open. In addition to yesterday's updates:
  - Clarendon: Most Health Centres remain closed and unable to offer services due to infrastructural damage.
  - Manchester:
    - Most health centres are open, offering at least partial services with priority to dressing and child health, with some exceptions.
  - St. Elizabeth: The situation remains challenging, with 75% of the centers in the parishes still closed.
    - Santa Cruz Health Centre (Smart hospital standards) remains the most active health centre.
- South East Region (SEHRA): 56 of 101 (55%) primary care facilities are operational: 23 of 36 (63%) in St Catherine, 22 of 48 (45%) in Kingston and Sant Andrews, 11 of 17 (64%) in St Thomas. Waterford is closed due to live wires. Mavis Bank HC remains inaccessible.
- North East Region (NEHRA):
  - Partially functional, with persisting connectivity and road access issues.
  - 13 health centers have been opened in Portland.
  - Port Antonio Primary, Cascade and Chepstowe remain closed.

### Secondary Care:

#### Western Region (WRHA):

Trelawny: Falmouth General Hospital: updates provided yesterday are still relevant.

- Emergency Medical Team (EMT) services support is being deployed by the Spanish Agency for Development Cooperation to support the area.

St. James: Cornwall Regional Hospital: updates provided yesterday are still relevant.

- Outpatient surgical clinic resumed at West Jamaica Conference Centre.
- LINAC machine: Testing is underway with an expected re-start next week.

Hanover: Noel Holmes Hospital: updates provided yesterday are still relevant

Westmoreland: Savanna-la-Mar Public General Hospital: updates provided yesterday are still relevant

- Emergency Medical Team (EMT) services are still recommended.

#### Southern Region (SRHA):

St. Elizabeth:

- Black River Hospital (BRH): Destroyed by the hurricane. Samaritan's Purse Type 2 EMT hospital provides services.

Southeast Region (SERHA): The Kingston Public and Victoria Jubilee hospitals and Bustamante Hospital for Children in Kingston (main referral hospitals) have resumed duties.

North East Region (NERHA):

St. Ann:

- St. Ann's Bay Regional Hospital (SABRH): Remains operational with challenges including lack of A/C in the Emergency Department.

Bed Occupancy: National: 71%

- SEHRA: 69%
- SHRA: 120%
- NEHRA: 75%
- WHRA: 17% (now data are available for CRH, NHH, SPGH)

Staffing: National: 94%

- SERHA: 95%
- SRHA: 96% (excluding Black River Hospital)
- NERHA: 94%
- WRHA: 92% (based on data from Noel Holmes and Cornwall Regional Hospitals; Savanna-la-Mar and Falmouth did not submit data)

### Surveillance

- The Director General of ODPEM reported that the number of confirmed deaths in Jamaica stands at 32 persons, as reported during the government Special Press Briefing on Hurricane Melissa Recovery at 3 p.m. on 6 November 2025<sup>2</sup>.
- As at 5 November 2025 at 3:00 p.m., there were 171 cumulative injuries reported for people treated in the Accident & Emergency Department of hospitals in all four regions.
- Surveillance in shelters is ongoing. As at 5 November 2025, there were no adverse health conditions reported for 1515 persons in shelter.
- Blocked roads, debris and flooding continue to hamper access to affected communities by emergency responders and rescue teams, limiting the accurate number of deaths and injuries attributable to Hurricane Melissa.

### Vaccination Services

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

### Nutrition

- Food packages are listed among the priority needs for 12 of the 14 parishes
- Relief agencies are distributing food packages and are also providing some hot meals.

### Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

- Mapping of operational and non-operational mental health services within the affected communities commenced.
- The 4Ws form was finalized for distribution.

### Environmental health:

- Current response efforts remain focused on five critical areas: food safety, general sanitation, water quality (potable and wastewater), shelter management, and vector control
- Food safety inspections have been conducted in multiple parishes with no major concerns identified.

<sup>2</sup> JISTV, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9Hgy12AR-U>

- Environmental health monitoring, including food establishment inspections and water quality checks, continues under WRHA, although staff turnout remains low.

### Imaging services

- South East Regional Health Authority (SERHA): Imaging equipment checks completed and functional at all hospitals
- Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA): no updates.
- North East Regional Health Authority (NERHA): no updates.
- Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA)
- St. James: Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH): Radiology Department: Full service for inpatients only.
- Trelawny – Falmouth Public General Hospital (FPGH): X-ray Unit: Damaged, patients relocated; imaging services disrupted

### Laboratory Services

- The National Laboratory Services (NLS) remain fully operational for the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) and the National Blood Transfusion Services (NBTS). NLS continue to rely on the HEOC for transportation services.
- The level of operations of laboratories at hospitals remains unchanged, in the Western Region, as below:
  - Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH) laboratory continues to offer emergency Complete Blood Count (CBC) and urea and electrolytes (U&E) testing, and full microbiology services.
  - Falmouth Public General Hospital: The laboratory is operational only for grouping and crossmatch (for blood compatibility testing) and HIV testing.
  - Noel Holmes Hospital (NHH): The laboratory is fully functional and assisting with the processing of chemistry and hematology samples for inpatients.
  - Savanna-la-Mar: Laboratory services continue to be outsourced to NHH.

### Risk Communication and Community Engagement

The MOHW continues with an active programme, including regularly scheduled press briefings, press releases, Public Service Announcements (PSAs) and radio and social media posts to advise and update the public in critical areas of response. Since 28 October 2025, information was included on Emergency Medical Teams.

### Social Media

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

- Five major hospitals were reported as having sustained the most severe damages – Black River, St. Elizabeth (destroyed), Savannah-La-Mar, Westmoreland, Noel Holmes, Lucea, Hanover, Cornwall Regional, Montego Bay and Falmouth, Trelawny.

An update on infrastructure damage will be provided at the end of the week.

### Electricity:

The majority of health facilities remain without power from the national grid.

Facilities continue to utilize generators.

### Communications:

- As connectivity remains a major challenge island-wide, HEOC daily radio checks show low response volume.
- SERHA
  - KPH, VJH & BHC, Princess Margaret Hospitals: The switchboards continue to be down; the UPS batteries need urgent replacement.
- NERHA
  - Alexandria: No contact; remains inaccessible.
- WRHA
  - Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH), Falmouth Public General Hospital (FPGH), Noel Holmes Hospital (NHH), Savanna-la-Mar Public General Hospital (SPGH): Poor phone service; Starlink installed at CRH and SPGH.
  - Falmouth Public General Hospital (FPGH) reports a server is damaged.



## 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.
- PAHO support on medical and WASH suppliers was completely cleared from customs and collected from the port to the PAHO Office in Kingston this morning. Final delivery of supplies to the MOHW has been arranged.



## SHELTERS

### Shelters:

As of 4 November, the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) reported that 184 of 881 Emergency Shelters remain activated island wide, accommodating 2,487 persons. Although updated figures are unavailable, occupancy is reportedly declining.



## 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.
- The third Health Sector Group Coordination Meeting was held on 6 November 2025 in Kingston. The partners and organizations present shared information about their capacity and commitments. Those offering Emergency Medical Teams were directed to enter this information on the Virtual CICOM platform (<https://www.virtualcicom.org/login>) to facilitate the process of matching capacity to needs, led by the MOHW and PAHO.
- PAHO JAM EOC continues to collaborate with PAHO WDC on donor appeal documents and CERF application.
- Through the PAHO EMT Regional Advisor, now acting EMT Coordinator on the ground, PAHO continues to support the MOHW with EMTs coordination and deployment, while surge capacity is being considered to support the hospitals and health centers that sustained the most severe damages. The 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 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 standards.
- PAHO is supporting a WASH damage assessment, which started at the Falmouth Hospital on 2 November 2025. An International Consultant is providing support to WASH assessments and services at health care facilities.
- WASH supplies arrived in 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 third Health Cluster Group meeting was convened on 6 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 8 November 2025.
- Regular contact is established and maintained with key health sector partners.

## Photos



The third Health Cluster Coordination Meeting took place on 6 November 2025 in Kingston. Seated at the head table from L to R are the PAHO JAM Health Cluster Co-Chair, PAHO EMT Regional Advisor and MOHW Health Cluster representative and Co-Chair,



The third Health Cluster Coordination Meeting took place on 6 November 2025 in Kingston. Partners and organizational representatives were invited to share their capacity and intended commitment. EMTs were asked to record their offers in the PAHO Virtual CICOM online system. Standing is the Jamaica EMT Military Focal Point and representative of the Jamaica Defence Force addressing the audience about their relief operations.