

HURRICANE MELISSA

Jamaica

PAHO



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Health
Organization



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REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE
Americas

Situation Report #13 - 8 to 10-November-2025

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Landfall:** Category 5 hurricane at 12:00 on **28 Oct 2025**, south coast near **New Hope, Westmoreland**; catastrophic damage in the **Southern** and **Western** Regions.
- **Mortality & injuries:** **32 deaths** confirmed by ODPEM (as of **6 Nov.**). Injury figures vary by reporting stream: **210 injured** (MOHW HEOC Report #17, **8 Nov, 8:00 p.m.**); surveillance line list notes **197 cumulative injuries** (**8 Nov, 10:00 p.m.**). Reporting remains constrained by access and communications.
- **3 Smart Health Centers: Mandeville, Santa Cruz and St Ann's Bay Centre are all fully functional.** Port Antonio, not in the impacted area, is functional.
- **Hospitals: Cornwall Regional** remains operational; **Falmouth Hospital** is resuming services with **Spanish EMT** support (from 10 Nov.), while **Black River Hospital** remains non-functional, however, with support from **EMT, Samaritan Purse**.
- Primary health care facilities: several **PHCs in Trelawny and St. Elizabeth** are damaged and partially/non-functional, with priority needs including **roof repairs, power and water restoration, and essential supplies**.
- **PAHO field teams continue conducting on-site WASH and infrastructure assessments** to verify facility conditions and support coordination of response actions with health authorities and partners.
- As of 6 November 2025, two Type 2 Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) have been deployed – one each to the Black River and Falmouth Hospitals. Four Type 1 EMTs have been set up to support Primary Care services with five Type 1 EMTs mobilizing.
- The fourth meeting of the Health Cluster Coordination Group was held on 8 November 2025, where PAHO serves as Co-Chair alongside the MOHW.
- PAHO supported the transportation of a **Reefer Container** (refrigerated container) to the National Health Fund. Initially intended for Santa Cruz Health Center, it will instead be installed at **Mandeville Regional Hospital** due to power issues, to support cold storage of pharmaceuticals for St. Elizabeth.
- 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

210 Injured³

N/A Missing⁴

71 Evacuated⁵

5 Major hospitals⁶ severely impacted, widespread damage across Western and Southern Regions

1: Statistical Institute of Jamaica data

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

3,4,5,6: Ministry of Health and Wellness HEOC report #17 (8 November 2025, 8:00 p.m.)



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Service Delivery- Primary Health Care:

National: 47 primary care facilities unable to offer services (as of 9 Nov.).

SERHA:

- **St. Catherine:** 24 HCs open.
- **Kingston & St. Andrew (KSA):** 34/40 open; 6 closed.
- **St. Thomas:** 13 open; 3 closed (2 pre-existing).
- **Mandeville:** Smart Health Centre is in use.

SRHA

- **Clarendon:** 29 HCs open (3 partial).
- **Manchester:** 13/18 open; 2 under renovation, 3 partial.
- **St. Elizabeth:** 9/25 open (emergency services only); 16 closed.
- **Santa Cruz Smart Health Centre:** Fully functional

WRHA

- **St. James:** Granville & Montego Bay Type 5 HCs operational.
- **Hanover:** All 6 HCs open (curative; MCH).
- **Westmoreland:** 7 HCs open; field HC to be set up in Whitehouse.
- **Trelawny:** 4 HCs open.

NERHA: 33/36 facilities open

- **St Ann's Bay:** only damage to the walkway roof and fencing. The main building undamaged.

Secondary Care:

WRHA:

- **Cornwall Regional Hospital (St. James):** 250-bed facility **operational** with **196 inpatients** despite structural damage and overcrowding. Emergency surgeries, dialysis, and radiotherapy have resumed, though major laboratory equipment remains damaged. The hospital sustained **roof damage in 50 areas**; PAHO supplied materials and is procuring dialysis machines, while Doctors Without Borders and the private sector are supporting ongoing repairs since 8 November.
- **Falmouth Public General Hospital (Trelawny):** **Partially functional**, 130-bed facility with **widespread roof damage** and flooding from storm surge. **PAHO**, in coordination with **Americares**, the **UK military**, and **WRHA**, supported **clean-up and emergency repairs** to the laundry, dental, kitchen, and COVID buildings and lab is partially functional. EMT Type 2 (AECID) being installed to support services.
- **Noel Holmes Hospital (Hanover):** Functional; lab and pharmacy operational.
- **Savanna-La-Mar Public General Hospital (Westmoreland):** The hospital remains **partially operational** following **significant loss of medical equipment, water leaks, and severe damage to staff housing**. Repairs are planned for staff housing and the isolation and outpatient wards, with **PAHO** requested to provide a tent for outpatient services. **Team Rubicon** is supporting outpatient and emergency services as well as clean-up.

SRHA

- **Black River Hospital (St. Elizabeth):** Sustained **catastrophic storm-surge damage**, with all buildings lost except the **A&E**, where staff are currently sheltering. **NHF** continues dispensing medicines daily from a **refrigerated container**. **PAHO's damage and WASH assessment** informed the **MOHW's request** to the **UK High Commission** for military support in debris removal. **Samaritan's Purse EMT Type 2** began operations last week and is **currently treating patients**. The facility remains **non-functional**. Lab destroyed and operating theatre unusable.
- **Mandeville Regional Hospital (Manchester):** Over capacity (162%); emergency services only.
- **May Pen Hospital (Clarendon):** Over capacity (146%); emergency services only.

SERHA

- **Kingston Public Hospital:** Full operation; roof leaks; ICU 100% occupancy; general wards 107%.
- **Spanish Town Hospital:** Full operation; HVAC issues in A&E; circuit board repairs ongoing.



- **Bustamante Hospital for Children:** Full operation; ICU full. *(no new information)*
- **UHWI:** Full operation; water shortages persist. *(no new information)*

NERHA

- **St. Ann's Bay Regional Hospital:** 85% occupancy; roof damage; dietary department compromised. *(no new information since the prior update)*
- **Port Maria Hospital:** Operating on generator; NWC restored; 5-day fuel reserve.
- **Annotto Bay Hospital:** Leak detected in water system; generator for radiology; elective surgeries on hold until JPS returns

Bed occupancy:

- National Average: 70% (excluding Black River Hospital and 3 WRHA hospitals)
- By Region:
 - SERHA: 70%
 - SRHA: 122%
 - NERHA: 64%
 - WRHA: 62% (Cornwall Regional Hospital 74% and Noel Holmes 52%)

Hospitals Over Capacity:

- Mandeville Regional Hospital (SRHA): 111 patients above capacity (162%)
- May Pen Hospital (SHRA): 39 patients above capacity (146%)
- Kingston Public Hospital (SEHRA): 35 patients above capacity
- Spanish Town Hospital (SERHA): At capacity or slightly above (bed occupancy 87%, but A&E overcrowded)

Staffing:

- National: 93% - Excludes Black River Hospital (SRHA) and Savanna-la-Mar and Falmouth (WRHA)
- By Region:
 - SERHA: 94%
 - SRHA: 91% (excluding Black River Hospital)
 - NERHA: 97%
 - WRHA: 91% (Noel Holmes, Cornwall Regional)

Surveillance

- Thirty-two (32) deaths associated with Hurricane Melissa were confirmed by ODPEM on 6 November 2025.
- As at 8 November at 10pm, there were 197 cumulative injuries reported for people treated in the Accident & Emergency Department of hospitals in all four regions.
- There were no adverse health conditions reported for 1215 persons in shelter as of the last report on 7 November.
- Challenges with communication and access to affected communities persist, limiting reporting of accurate number of deaths and injuries.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

- Sixteen Problem Management Plus local providers have indicated their interest in providing voluntary MHPSS support for the open shelters. Their refresher training is scheduled for the week of 10-15 November 2025, in which period the coordination and logistical arrangements would be made for their deployment.
- Based on the MHPSS 4Ws active data collection is ongoing on the availability and functioning of mental health services in affected areas and closed communities.
- As of 10 November 2025, a Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) 3-Month Action Plan and the complementary 1-Month Operational Plan are available and being implemented. Discussions are ongoing to provide immediate support for carers or first responders and the displaced members of the community in shelters

Environmental Health:

- Response efforts focus on five critical areas: food safety, general sanitation, water quality (potable and wastewater), shelter management, and vector control.
- Potable water has been restored **54% (382 of 700 systems)** through electricity restoration and generator, although some **high turbidity and power issues** persist; **water trucking and purification tools** are urgently needed.
- Environmental health monitoring, including food establishment inspections and water quality checks, continues under WRHA. Vector control activities have resumed in less affected parishes.
- **Seventeen (17)** facilities were closed due to public health concerns, and over 1,200 kg of food condemned, primarily due to contamination from power outages.
- Over 21 communities islandwide remain isolated by flooding and landslides. **NWA, JDF, JFB, JCF and ODPEM** continue clearance and relief operations with significant challenges in reaching the Western and Southern Regions, and parts of St. Ann. Coordination of response operations in these areas is ongoing.
- As of 9 November 2025, the vessel MV Dawn is currently docked at Falmouth Pier and has begun operations to supply potable water to the National Water Commission through a desalination system.
- **Manchester Parish** is experiencing rising water levels, marking the first such occurrence in Jamaica. This has led to flooding in homes and the displacement of residents.

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.
- In WRHA, there has been no reported change to disruptions in laboratory services at the major hospitals damaged. Support is being provided by non-affected laboratories to ensure continuity of services.
- SRHA reports that laboratory services across the region have adequate staffing and sufficient reagents available. All equipment remains functional. A field hospital that has been set up in Black River is equipped with a laboratory.
- NLS are continuously monitoring the supply of blood and blood products.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- As of 9 November 2025, the Ministry of Health and Wellness is currently developing a MHPSS communication strategy. Disbursement of MHPSS messaging is ongoing.

PAHO Response

- **PAHO Jamaica EOC** continues coordinating with **PAHO WDC** on donor appeals and the **CERF Application**.
- The **UK FCDO** has pledged **£750,000** toward the first appeal launched on **4 November 2025**.
- PAHO continues to support the MOHW with EMTs coordination and deployment, while surge capacity is being considered to support the hospitals and health centre that sustained the worse damage.
- The MOHW has received the donation of four EMTs Type 1 Mobile by Samaritan's Purse, currently operated by MOHW personnel and deployed to health centre.



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- Structural Damages

WRHA:

- **Cornwall Regional Hospital (St. James):** Structural damage and overcrowding. The hospital sustained **roof damage in 50 areas**. MSF and the private sector are supporting ongoing repairs since 8 November.
- **Falmouth Public General Hospital (Trelawny):** **Widespread roof damage** and flooding from storm surge. **PAHO**, in coordination with **Americares**, the **UK military**, and **WRHA**, supported **clean-up and emergency repairs** to the laundry, dental, kitchen, and COVID buildings. Lab partially functional; EMT Type 2 (AECID) being installed to support services.
- **Savanna-la-Mar Public General Hospital (Westmoreland):** **Water leaks, and severe damage to staff housing**. Repairs are planned for staff housing and the isolation and outpatient wards, with **PAHO** requested to provide a tent for outpatient services.

SRHA

- **Black River Hospital (St. Elizabeth):** Sustained **catastrophic storm-surge damage**, with all buildings lost except the **A&E**. **PAHO's damage and WASH assessment** informed the **MOHW's request** to the **UK High Commission** for military support in debris removal. The facility remains **non-functional**. Lab destroyed; operating theatre unusable; EMT Type 2 set up by Samaritan's Purse.
- **Mandeville Regional Hospital (Manchester):** Minimal infrastructure damage, and flooding of two areas Mental Health and adolescent area. Over capacity (162%); emergency services only.

SERHA

- **Kingston Public Hospital:** Full operation; roof leaks.
- **Bluefield Health Centre:** Non-operational, restoration of electricity (or temporary standby generator), water mains to be checked and the tank to be filled. Support with solar panel installation for sustainability.
- **The Whitehouse Health Centre:** Suffered catastrophic damage and is inoperable. A temporary Clinic on a nearby sports field can be contemplated.

Electricity:

- WRHA hospitals mostly on generators:
 - JPS restored at Falmouth PGH.
 - Cornwall Regional Hospital and Savanna-la-Mar PGH still on generators.
 - Noel Holmes is using three small temporary generators due to main generator failure.
- SRHA: 78% HCs are without JPS, major hospitals are operating on generator.
 - Clarendon:
 - MPH's generator got burned, leaving the hospital without electricity.
 - 21 HCs (66%) had power and were providing full services. Of these 21, 10 were connected to the JPS.
 - 11 HCs (34%) had no power. Prattville HC reported having a generator but no electricity due to lack of fuel. They continued to provide full service.
 - Manchester:
 - 7 centres have power (38%), majority are on generator.
 - Mandeville HC has connection to JPS.
 - 11 HC reported having no power.
 - St. Elizabeth:
 - 20 out of the 25 centres who submitted reports (80%) has no power connection.
 - 5 HCs are functioning on generator, none on JPS.
- SERHA: Most facilities restored; minor outages in rural clinics.
 - St. Catherine: 10 HCs (Browns Hall HC, Bog Walk HC, Connors HC, Ewarton HC, Glengoffe HC, Guys Hill HC, Harker's Hall HC, Lluidas Vale HC, Point Hill HC, Redwood HC, Riversdale HC) have no JPS connection.

- Kingston and St. Andrew: 3 HCs without electricity: Dallas, Lawrence Tavern, Parks Road.
- St. Thomas: 2 HCs are still without electricity: Font Hill and Rowlandsfield.
- NERHA: No updates.

Water:

- SEHRA:
 - St. Catherine: 13 HC remain without access to NWC water.
 - Kingston and St. Andrew: 5 HCs are still without water: Seaview Gardens, Sunrise, Gordon Town , Dallas, Lawrence Tavern
 - St. Thomas: 7 HCs are still without water: Cedar Valley, Font Hill, Hagley Gap, Llandewey, Rowlandsfield, Seaforth, White Hall
- SRHA:
 - Clarendon:
 - 30/32 HC facilities (93%) recuperated access to water, most HC operating on tanks.
 - Croftshill and Rock River HC have no water nor tanks.
 - Manchester: All facilities depend on water tank.
 - St. Elizabeth:
 - 23/25 centres is on tank.
 - 2 HCs have damaged tanks.
- WRHA: Adequate reserves at most hospitals; private trucking contracts in place. No updates.
- NERHA: 8 HCs in Portland without water; Annotto Bay leak detected.

Communication:

- Coordination notes for Emergency Medical Teams will be relaying on PAHO's licensed virtual platform (Virtual CICOM).
- Severe disruption continue in WRHA.
- The emergency radios (ODPEM DECOM system) are being used across all regions as backup, but response rates remain low.
- Starlink systems were handed over to MOHW through UNICEF (50 kits) for deployment in hardest-hit areas. No further updates.
- SERHA and NERHA have communication largely restored. Most facilities back on JPS and telecom networks.
- SHRA:
 - Clarendon HCs reported functional CUGs.
 - Manchester has no functioning phone services.
 - St. Elizabeth has no phone connection.

PAHO Response

- PAHO supplied galvanized sheets to **Cornwall Regional Hospital (St. James)** and PAHO receive technical specs and will procure some dialysis machines
- On 7 November, the PAHO WASH Specialist provided an assessment of the Savanna-la-Mar hospital and the Bluefield and Whitehouse Health Centres, which all sustained infrastructure damage and other losses.



WASH:

- Water supply assessments performed in some parishes in SERHA and SRHA showed mixed results.
 - In Kingston and St. Andrew, most supplies assessed by the National Water Commission (84 out of 104 assessed supplies) and private providers (13 out of 15) were satisfactory, while municipal sources had a few issues (7 out of 10).
 - In St. Thomas, the NWC assessed 3 supplies (1 satisfactory, 2 unsatisfactory), with no data reported for municipal or private sources.
 - In St. Catherine, the NWC assessed 31 out of 44 supplies as satisfactory, with no data from other providers.

- In Manchester, 11 out of 24 supplies assessed were satisfactory.
- Data for St. Elizabeth and Clarendon were not available.
- Overall, while the NWC conducted most assessments, water quality varied across regions, with some notable concerns in Manchester and St. Thomas.

PAHO Response

- Collaboration between PAHO, UNICEF, and the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) on health facilities continues. On 7 November, the PAHO WASH Expert and PAHO WASH Focal Point conducted field visits to assess WASH conditions at Savanna-la-Mar Hospital and Lamb's River Health Centre in one of the most affected parishes, Westmoreland.
- The Lamb's River Health Centre, located in a community marooned by the hurricane, was visited in collaboration with MOHW and the USAID-led Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART). In addition to the assessments, a clean-up and rehabilitation activity was carried out at Lamb's River Health Centre with support from the visiting team and healthcare workers.
- PAHO's shipment of medical and WASH supplies from Barbados was cleared from customs and collected from the port to the PAHO Office in Kingston on 6 November. Final delivery to the MOHW is currently being arranged.



SHELTERS

- As of 6 November, the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) reported 75 of 881 Emergency Shelters remain activated islandwide, accommodating 814 persons.



HEALTH 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

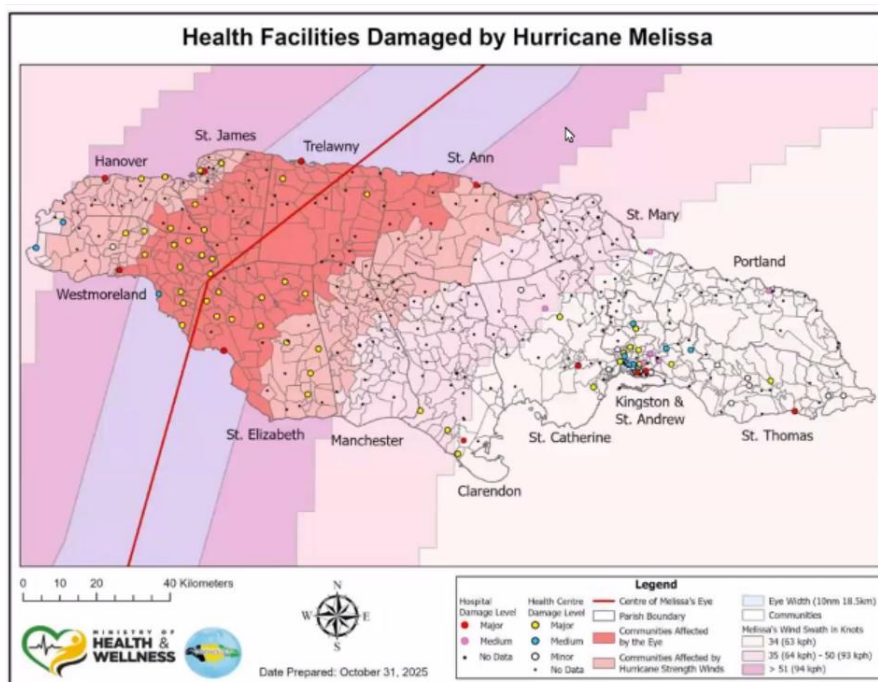
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE:

- 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 EMT Regional Advisor serves as EMT Coordinator within the HEOC, supporting MOHW with EMT coordination and deployment.
- MOHW reviewing deployment of **7 additional Type 1 EMTs** to less-affected areas.
- **Virtual CICOM** platform activated for EMT coordination and information management.
- **Structural Engineer Consultant** began infrastructure damage assessments on **2 Nov** at **Falmouth Hospital**; national plan in preparation with MOHW, including **SMART Facilities**.
- **WASH damage assessments** initiated **2 Nov** at Falmouth Hospital; international consultant providing support.

- **WASH supplies** received: water testing kits, multi-parameter meters, coliform test kits, and incubators.
- **Personnel deployments:** WASH (1 Nov), MHPSS (3 Nov), EMT Coordination (3 Nov), Health Cluster & EOC (4 Nov), Information Management (4 Nov), Logistics (4 Nov).
- Ongoing technical support in **surveillance, nutrition, vector control, continuity of health services**.
- **Draft Medical Needs List** prepared **1 Nov**, pending **MOHW review and approval**.



MOHW graphic of the Health Facilities damaged by Hurricane Melissa.
Prepared October 31, 2025.



Coordination with the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoHW) was established to facilitate the donation and delivery of essential medical and response supplies to support the disaster response teams. The consignment included trauma backpacks, emergency medical kits, gloves, deployment bags, a generator, and water testing equipment. These items were prioritized to strengthen field response capacity and ensure continuity of critical health services in the affected areas.