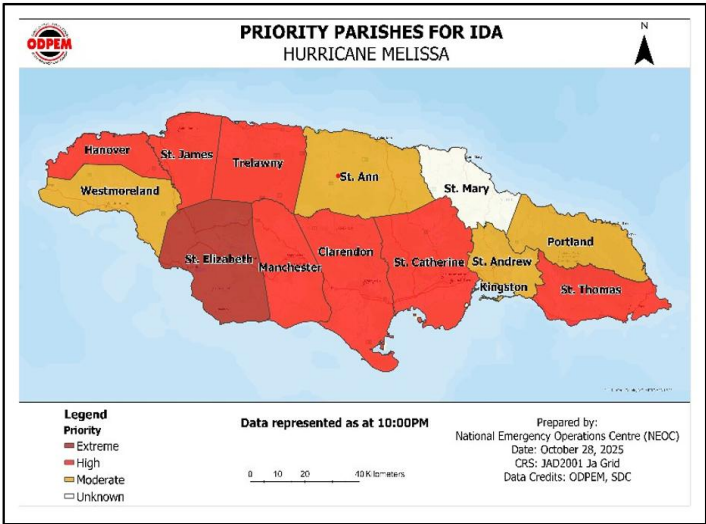


## Situation Report #4 - 30-October-2025

### HIGHLIGHTS

- At 8:00 a.m. EST on 29 October 2025, the Government of Jamaica issued the All Clear following the passage of Hurricane Melissa.
- The Meteorological Service discontinued the Flash Flood Watch for low-lying and flood-prone areas for all parishes effective 5:00 p.m. on 29 October 2025.
- Hurricane Melissa made landfall as a Category 5 hurricane at 12:00 p.m. on the south coast of Jamaica near New Hope, Westmoreland, with catastrophic winds, heavy rainfall and storm surges.
- All public hospitals continue to offer emergency services only, except five with further reduction of services due to major damage – Black River, Savanna-la-Mar, Cornwall Regional, Noel Holmes and Falmouth.
- As at 30 October 2025, nineteen deaths have been confirmed due to injuries sustained during the approach and passage of the hurricane.
- PAHO is working 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. Experts are being deployed to Jamaica in these areas.
- The priority parishes for initial damage assessments (IDAs) have been determined. (See map below)
- 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>**

**19 Deaths<sup>2</sup>**

**96 Injured<sup>3</sup>**

**00 Missing<sup>4</sup>**

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

**05 Hospitals<sup>6</sup>  
with major  
damage**

1: Statistical Institute of  
Jamaica data

2: <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20251031/death-toll-likely-rise-five-more-bodies-reported-western-jamaica-morris-dixon>

3,4,5,6: Ministry of Health and  
Wellness HEOC report #8  
(30 October 2025, 8pm)

\*Seventeen communities have been  
evacuated



## Service Delivery

### Primary Care:

- All health centres have remained closed since 24 October 2025. No re-opening updates have been issued. However, 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.
- Services at five hospitals which suffered major damage – Black River, Savanna-La-Mar, Cornwall Regional, Noel Holmes and Falmouth - were further curtailed due to damage to the facilities, equipment and furniture.

### Staffing updates:

- National nursing staff coverage: 54%

### Regional coverage:

- WHRA: 52%
- NEHRA: 52%
- SHRA: 59%
- SEHRA: 60%

Staff from previous shift remained at work until additional staff members were able to report for duties.

## Surveillance

- Ongoing surveillance in shelters is being conducted. Data collection tools have been updated to include age breakdowns (under 5 years and 5 years and over) for better accuracy. Disaggregated data are also available by sex.
- Data on demographics and health conditions as at 7:00 p.m. on 29 October 2025 were available for 586 persons in shelter.
  - One case of fever with rash has been reported in a female 5 years of age and over. The case is currently under investigation.
- Nineteen deaths and ninety-six injuries have been reported between 24 October 2025 and 30 October 2025, at 8:00 pm local time.

## Vaccination Services

- There has been a decrease in the number of sites storing vaccines across the island from 39 to 31 and all sites have generators. There have been no reports of cold chain excursions, and all vaccines remain safe.
- On-going efforts are being made to ensure that vaccines are adequately stored, and the cold chain is effectively monitored.

## Nutrition

- UN Agencies have published a joint statement which highlights urgent nutrition priorities and calls for the protection and support of breastfeeding, the safe feeding of non-breastfed infants, and the prevention of inappropriate donations and distributions of breast-milk substitutes (BMS), including infant formula and feeding equipment. It also emphasizes the importance of ensuring access to safe, age-appropriate complementary foods for older infants and young children and calls for targeted support to meet the heightened nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women, who are among the most vulnerable in emergency settings.
- Nutrition and dietetic services continue to report at least a 3 to 5-day food supply for hospitals for all staff and patients.

### **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support**

- Continued efforts in risk communication and community engagement aim to keep the public well-informed about where and how to access mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), if needed.
- In response to the official MOHW request for support received on 27 October 2025, PAHO will deploy a MHPSS Specialist, arriving on Monday, 3 November 2025, to guide the response to the anticipated trauma and psychological impact on affected communities.

### **Environmental Health**

- The Environmental Health Team is targeting five (5) critical areas in response to the impact of Hurricane Melissa - Food Safety, Water Quality – Potable and Wastewater, General Sanitation, Shelters and Vector Control.

### **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 fully operational, with electricity and general operations intact for both the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) and the National Blood Transfusion Services (NBTS). All necessary supplies are available with sufficient stock in place. Staff are ready and in place, and the NLS continues to rely on the Health Emergency Operations Centre (HEOC) for transportation services.
- There are 7 platelet units remaining, a change from 15 units reported in the previous report. Blood stock remains adequate for three days.
- The Kingston Public Hospital analyzer remains out of service; therefore, samples are processed at the NPHL with daily transportation support.

### **Risk Communication and Community Engagement**

- Press releases, Public Service Announcements, radio and social media posts continue to advise the public in the critical areas of preparedness and response, including:
  - Medication Safety
  - Instructions to pregnant women, persons experiencing disability, and older persons
  - Safe storage of food and water
  - Access to services from health facilities
  - Mental health
  - Vector control disruptions
  - Emergency readiness checklists, contact numbers and guidance for evacuations
- A social media video was developed with the Minister of Health and Wellness, acknowledging the three storm-related deaths in preparation for Hurricane Melissa. The opportunity was used to urge the public to exercise extreme caution in preparedness activities.



### **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 and disruptions to vector control activities. MOHW continues to closely monitor preparedness and response of surveillance and laboratory systems and impacts on continuity of health services and case management.
- Telephone services and internet connectivity are being monitored to ensure timeliness of alerts and reports. No issues have been noted for attention.
- MOHW continues to monitor burn-out of staff and impacts on health infrastructure to inform service continuity during the emergency preparedness/response period.



## INFRASTRUCTURE

- A few hospitals have sustained important damage.
- Black River Hospital (St. Elizabeth): severe structural damage due to wind and flooding, with no electricity. 71 patients are awaiting emergency evacuation and preparations are underway.
- Cornwall Regional Hospital (St. James): Roof damage reported due to wind. Patients were relocated internally.
- Noel Holmes Hospital (Hanover): Severely impacted. 18 patients had to be transferred to Cornwall Regional Hospital and Savanna-La-Mar Hospital.
- Savanna-la-Mar Hospital (Westmoreland): Roof loss was reported, but the exact extent of damage is still unclear due to communication issues.
- Unspecified damages rendered the St. Thomas Health Department Emergency Operations Centre inoperative, which is affecting communication and coordination related to the health response in the parish.

### Water and Power:

- Challenges continue with water and power supply due to outages and high turbidity.
- Most hospitals rely on backup generators and water tanks.

### Phone and Radio communications:

- Connectivity issues were experienced at Black River Hospital (total loss), Lionel Town (Clarendon) and Percy Junor Hospitals (Manchester/Clarendon).
- Some hospitals are using alternative phone lines due to switchboard failures.



## WASH

- High turbidity and power outages are affecting water systems in the parishes of Portland, Clarendon, and Manchester.
- Impacts on water supply have also been reported due to power outages.
- Chlorine residuals and other water quality surveillance activities were at a minimum due to increased levels of rainfall.
- 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.



## SHELTERS

- Approximately 900 emergency shelters have been prepared island-wide, with 694 of all shelters deemed satisfactory for occupancy, considering their public health status for housing members of the public in a disaster situation.
- Seven thousand two hundred and eight (7,208) persons were reported to be housed in five hundred and thirteen shelters as at 8:00 p.m. on 29 October 2025.
- Daily monitoring by the public health team continues.



## HEALTH NEEDS

### Immediate needs

- A preliminary health needs list was developed by MOHW as part of preparedness activities, focusing on support for field hospital equipment, cold chain and service delivery equipment, protective gear and equipment for personnel, consumables, laptops and environmental health equipment. An updated health

list is anticipated to be developed based on needs that will be identified during post-impact needs assessments.



## RESPONSE

### GOVERNMENT RESPONSE:

- The National Emergency Operation Center remains activated at Level 3.
- The MOHW HEOC remains activated, with twice daily briefing meetings at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to facilitate decision-making for the health response. The national and sub-national level EOCs are represented.
- 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 remain activated since 26 October 2025.
- PAHO continues to provide technical guidance to the MOHW HEOC and maintains dialogue with the HDC.
- PAHO is represented at the Caribbean Development Partner Group – Disaster Management meetings, with the last meeting on 29 October.
- 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 partners and Emergency Medical Teams.
- 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 30 October 2025.
- Regular contact is established with key health sector partners.