

HURRICANE MELISSA

Jamaica

PAHO



Pan American
Health
Organization



World Health
Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE
Americas

Situation Report #9: 04-November-2025 at 10:00 p.m.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 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.
- 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 is preparing the health sector proposal.
- One Emergency Medical Team has been deployed to the Black River hospital. Three other EMTs have been confirmed by the MOHW, with the Falmouth, Cornwall Regional and Savannah-La-Mar hospitals selected for Type 2 EMTs.
- The MOHW has requested Type 1 facilities to facilitate access to primary care services. The details will be confirmed shortly.
- As at 3 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.
- The second Hurricane Melissa Health Sector Group meeting was held for all Donor Agencies and organizations and NGOs on 4 November 2025 in Kingston. The Minister of Health, Permanent Secretary, Chief Medical Officer, other MOHW senior officials, Opposition Spokesperson on Finance and the Public Service and PWR and PAHO team members were in attendance. Over 250 donors and NGO representatives were in attendance. PAHO and MOHW co-lead the Health Sector Group. The importance of a coordinated effort was emphasized by the MOHW and PAHO's coordination role was welcomed.
- PAHO's damage assessment team conducted structural and WASH assessments at the Cornwall Regional Hospital on 4 November 2025, which revealed extensive roof damage, including loss of 50% of the roof for the functioning areas.
- 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 in Kingston; as well as the Princess Margaret Hospital, St. Thomas Hospital, the Spanish Town Hospital and St. Catherine Hospital.
 - 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

96 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 #12 (3 November 2025, 8:00 p.m.)



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Service Delivery

Primary Care:

- Western Regional Health Authority (WHRA):
 - Most of the health care centers remain closed.
 - St. James:
 - Limited services have resumed in Montego Bay Type V, Glendevon, Granville, Barrett Town, Mt. Salem, Flanker, Greenpond, which are offering basic outpatient care, vaccination services, and community health checks.
 - Vaccines are confirmed to be in stable condition at Montego Bay Type V.
 - Hanover: Health centers including Lucea, Sandy Bay, Green Island, Logwood, Cave Valley, Hopewell, and Mt. Peto are reopening on a staggered schedule.
 - Westmoreland: Savanna-la-Mar Health Centre has limited operations; others are reported to be reopening gradually. Reopening is phased and dependent on water and power restoration.
- Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA): Health care centers assessment is ongoing. Many centres remain closed, needing repairs due to roof damage and water shortages.
 - St. Elizabeth: The situation is particularly challenging as primary care is severely disrupted, with most centers closed or offering minimal services.
 - Santa Cruz Health Centre (in the parish of St. Elizabeth): This centre was recently retrofitted following smart hospital standards, ensuring resilience. It sustained no damage during Hurricane Melissa and remained fully operational, guaranteeing continuity of care. This outcome demonstrates the value of investing in resilient health infrastructure. Due to its structural integrity and strategic location, the facility is being considered to be set up as a health coordination hub. The hub would serve as an extension of the HEOC. This forward positioning will bring coordination closer to impacted communities, improving efficiency and timeliness of emergency health management.
- Southeast Regional Health Authority (SEHRA): Health centres in Kingston & St. Andrew, St. Catherine and St. Thomas resumed operations after initial closures.
- Northeast Regional Health Authority (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. Alexandria Health Facility (St. Ann): Remains impossible to contact due to inaccessible roads and no connectivity.

Secondary Care (Hospitals):

- Five hospitals in the South-East Region have resumed full services.
- All other hospitals continue to provide emergency services only.

Service delivery is severely impacted at those hospitals that have sustained the most damage:

SEHRA:

- Bustamante Children's Hospital: The intensive care unit is full.

SHRA:

- Black River, St. Elizabeth: An EMT Type 2 is being established by Samaritan's Purse.

WHRA:

- Savanna-la-Mar, Westmoreland: The Government of Jamaica is in discussion with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) for the deployment of an EMT Type 2.
- Falmouth, Trelawny: Another EMT Type 2 will be deployed.
- Cornwall Regional Hospital, St. James: Plans are ongoing to deploy an EMT Type 2.

Bed Occupancy: National: 69%

- SEHRA: 66%
- SHRA: 79%
- NEHRA: 71%
- WHRA: Data not available due to connectivity issues.

Staffing:

- SEHRA: 91%
- SHRA: 92%
- NEHRA: 96%
- WHRA: Data not available due to connectivity issues.

Surveillance

- As at 2 November 2025 at 8:00 p.m., there were no updated reports of injuries or deaths for people treated in the Accident & Emergency Department of hospitals in all four regions. A total of 96 injuries were reported since 25 October 2025.
- During the Special Press Briefing at 3 p.m. on 3 November 2025, the Minister of Education, Skills, Youth and Information reported that a total of 32 deaths had been confirmed. The Jamaica Constabulary Force and the Jamaica Defense Force are in the process of verifying eight additional unconfirmed deaths.
- 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.
- Information on non-communicable disease surveillance in shelters was available for the parish of Clarendon. Of 688 persons in shelters, there were five persons with a history of non-communicable diseases: 2 persons with diabetes mellitus, one with hypertension, one with stroke and one with physical disability.

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.
- 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. It also calls for targeted support to meet the heightened nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women, who are among the most vulnerable in emergency settings.
- The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining has warned that the country's food supply has suffered a major blow².
- Food packages are listed among the priority needs for 12 of the 14 parishes

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

- The MHPSS specialist (PAHO consultant) arrived in country yesterday, 3 November 2025 and is scheduled to meet with the national MHPSS Technical Working Group on Tuesday, 4 November 2025.

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.

Imaging services

SERHA (South East Regional Health Authority)

- St. Catherine:
 - Spanish Town Hospital (STH) and Linstead Hospital (LPH): X-ray services are operational.

² Jamaica Gleaner – 01 November 2025

- Kingston & St. Andrews:
 - Victoria Jubilee Hospital (VJH) and Kingston Public Hospital (KPH): X-Ray and CT machine functional.
 - Bustamante Hospital for Children (BHC): imaging services normal.

NERHA (North East Regional Health Authority)

- St. Mary:
 - Annotto Bay Hospital (ABH): Radiology generator operational with 24-hour fuel supply; imaging services partially functional.
 - Port Maria Hospital (PtMH): Imaging services operational.

WRHA (Western Regional Health Authority)

- St. James:
 - Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH): Emergency imaging services offered only, including CT scans.
 - Falmouth Public General Hospital (FPGH): No imaging services available
- Westmoreland:
 - Savanna-la-Mar & Noel Holmes Hospitals: Imaging services impacted by infrastructure damage.

Laboratory Services

- The National Laboratory Services (NLS) remain fully operational, with electricity, supplies and general operations intact 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 the Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA) laboratory services have been reported to be impacted across the four parishes.
 - Cornwall Regional Hospital can process urgent samples, such as for microbiology and chemistry departments, if there is enough water and no rain.
- In the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA), severe damage has disrupted laboratory services, including at the Falmouth General Hospital and Black River Hospital.
- NBTS has indicated that the current national blood collection efforts have been successful. There is ongoing monitoring of the supply of blood and blood products by NLS. NBTS has reaffirmed ongoing supply readiness based on national and international collections.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Communication materials are being adapted by PAHO from previous campaigns to support mental health wellness during this time.



HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT

- There is a heightened risk of transmission of respiratory, vector-borne, food-borne and water-borne diseases due to the impacts of running water, pooling of water, lack of electricity, displacement of persons, 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 the 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

Facility Damage:

- The following five major hospitals were reported as having sustained the worse level of damages.
St. Elizabeth (SRHA): Black River Hospital (BRH)

- Roof loss on inpatient blocks and surgical block.
- Laboratory completely destroyed.
- Operating theatre and administrative buildings roofless and unusable.
- Trelawny (WRHA): Falmouth General Hospital (FGH)
 - Catastrophic damage: 60–70% roof loss.
 - Flooded main operating theatre; AC units shifted.
 - Surgical block and pediatric ward roof gone.
 - Dietary/storage areas destroyed (staff cooking outdoors).
 - A&E block roof lost; administrative building roof damaged.
 - Health Centre roof lost (records saved).
- St. James (WRHA): Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH)
 - Major leaks and damages in A&E and radiotherapy.
 - Lack of space for patients.
- Hanover (WRHA): Noel Holmes Hospital
 - Roof damage on male ward and outpatient block (manageable with tarpaulin).
- Westmoreland (WRHA): Savanna-la-Mar Hospital
 - Outpatient structure destroyed; leaks in inpatient areas.
- SERHA (Southeast Regional Health Authority)
 - Kingston & St. Andrew:
 - Kingston Public Hospital (KPH): Roof leaks in multiple wards.
 - Victoria Jubilee Hospital (VJH): Leaks in labour room.
 - Bustamante Hospital for Children (BHC): ICU full; the functionality of the operating theatre is partial; roof leaks.
 - National Chest Hospital (NCH): The absorption pit collapsed, disrupting wastewater disposal, creating risks of overflow, contamination and sanitation hazards.
 - St. Catherine:
 - Spanish Town Hospital (STH): reports leaks.
 - Linstead Hospital (LPH): Minor leaks.
 - St. Thomas
 - Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH): Roof sections were blown away.
- SRHA (Southern Regional Health Authority)
 - Clarendon
 - May Pen Hospital (MPH): Minimal structural damage.
 - Lionel Town Hospital (LTH): Major roof loss; severe leakage.
 - Manchester
 - Mandeville Regional Hospital (MRH): Minimal structural damage; the mental health/adolescent areas were flooded.
- NERHA (Northeast Regional Health Authority)
 - St. Mary
 - Annotto Bay Hospital (ABH): Zinc damage in A&E; leaks.
 - Maria Hospital (PtMH): Minor leaks.
 - Portland
 - Port Antonio Hospital (PAH): No major structural update.

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: May Pen and Mandeville Hospitals have JPS restored; generator operational; Lionel Town Hospital (LTH) and Percy Junor hospital are on generator.
- NERHA: All 4 hospitals in the Region are on generator.
- WRHA: All four hospitals in the Region are on generator.

Water:

- SERHA
 - PMH, VJH, KPH, NCH: regular water supply restored.
 - Linstead Hospital (LPH) & Hope Institute: Still receiving trucked water.
- SRHA
 - May Pen Hospital (MPH): 30% water supply.
 - Mandeville Regional Hospital (MRH): Tank and generator operational.
 - Lionel Town Hospital (LTH): Trucking ongoing.
- NERHA
 - Port Maria Hospital (PtMH) and St. Ann's Bay: : NWC restored.
 - Annotto Bay Hospital (ABH): NWC restored but leak detected.
- WRHA
 - Trucking of water continues for all four hospitals-Cornwall Regional, Falmouth, Noel Homes and Sav-La-Mar hospitals.

Telecommunications:

- SERHA
 - KPH, VJH & BHC: The switchboards are down
- SRHA
 - May Pen Hospital (MPH) & Mandeville Regional Hospital (MRH): Telephone and internet operational.
- NERHA
 - Annotto Bay Hospital (ABH) & Port Maria Hospital (PtMH): Partial telephone and internet.
 - Port Antonio Hospital (PAH): Limited updates; connectivity issues persist.
 - Alexandria: No contact; 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.



WASH

- One of the current critical needs is the removal of clinical waste from several facilities.
- 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.
- The PAHO expert has performed a field visit to the Cornwall Regional Hospital and Noel Holmes Hospital for the WASH assessment of the facilities.



SHELTERS

- NEOC report of 1 November 2025 informed of 513 active shelters, housing 7,208 individuals.
- Of 75 shelters assessed: 2 reported unsatisfactory solid waste management; 5 reported unsatisfactory water quality (chlorine-negative).
- 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 months³.

³ 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 is providing support to shelter needs estimations and distribution tracking⁴.



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 Operations Center (NEOC) remains activated at Level 3.
- The 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 remain 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 for 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 and the MOHW are co-leads for the Health Cluster with the second meeting held on 4 November 2025. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 6 November 2025.
- 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) carried out rapid infrastructure damage assessments on 2 November 2025 at Falmouth hospital and 4 November 2025 at the Cornwall Regional 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 and continued at the CRH on 4 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.

⁴ Ibid

- 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).
- PAHO prepared the draft Medical Needs List for the response on 1 November 2025 and is awaiting review and approval by the MOHW.
- PAHO staff supported the hospital clean-up initiative led by MOHW and SERHA employees on 2 November 2025 at the Falmouth Hospital.
- 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.
- The second Hurricane Melissa Health Sector Group meeting was held for all Donor Agencies and organizations and NGOs on 4 November 2025 in Kingston. The Minister of Health, Permanent Secretary, Chief Medical Officer, other MOHW senior officials, Opposition Spokesperson on Finance and the Public Service and PWR and PAHO team members were in attendance. Over 250 donors and NGO representatives were in attendance. PAHO and MOHW co-lead the Health Sector Group. The importance of a coordinated effort was emphasized by the MOHW and PAHO's coordination role welcomed.

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 first Health Cluster Group meeting was convened on 1 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 4 November 2025.
- Regular contact is established with key health sector partners.



PHOTOS



The second Hurricane Melissa Health Cluster meeting was held with all Donor Agencies /Groups and NGOs on 4 November 2025 in Kingston. Left photo: Chief Medical Officer of Jamaica, Dr. Jacqueline Bisasor-McKenzie addressing the audience. Right photo: PAHO/WHO PWR, Mr. Ian Stein, Moderator addressing the audience.