

Situation Report #23 – 6-12 December 2025

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) declared a **leptospirosis outbreak** on 21 November 2025 after an increase in suspected and confirmed cases. As of 6 December 2025, a total of **84 cases** were reported, including **30 confirmed cases** and **12 related deaths**, **7 of which were confirmed**, following Hurricane Melissa. The highest number of cases were reported in St. James (18), St. Ann (12) and St. Catherine (11).
- Health service restoration remains at 88.9% (305 of 343 facilities), with support from field hospitals, surge staffing, mobile clinics, temporary roofing, and alternative communication, power, and water supply arrangements.
- The 11th **Health Cluster Coordination meeting**, co-chaired by the MOHW and PAHO, was held on 9 December 2025. The MOHW Environmental Health Team presented post Hurricane Melissa response priorities and implications.
- **Emergency Medical Teams (EMT)** Barbados Defense Force and Samaritan's Purse continue providing services at the Savanna-la-Mar and Black River Hospitals, respectively. As of 12 December, all deployed international EMTs have reported 11,270 consultations, 411 surgeries and 359 admissions.



Field visit, Prospect Health Centre, St. Elizabeth. Source: PAHO/WHO Jamaica

IN NUMBERS

Approx. 2.8m (entire population)

Potentially exposed¹

45 confirmed deaths from Hurricane Melissa with 32 under investigation²

84 suspected cases of Leptospirosis (30 confirmed) post Hurricane Melissa; 12 deaths from Leptospirosis (7 confirmed)³

340 Persons injured⁴

12 Persons missing⁵

17% of customers without electricity, 15.2% without water⁶

90 of 881 Emergency shelters activated in 7 parishes; Occupancy of 968 persons⁷

1: Statistical Institute of Jamaica data

2, ,5,6,7: NEOC Situation Report #45 (11 December 2025, 10:00 p.m.)

3, 4: Health EOC Situation Report #39 (9 December 2025)

PAHO-facilitated Emergency Medical Teams Response: Clinical Activity as of 12 December 2025

HURRICANE MELISSA - JAMAICA
Emergency Medical Teams Response


(As of 12 December)

Clinical Activity (Minimum Data Set)

Figures reflect international EMTs reporting through the MDS


Emergency Medical Teams (EMT)

- **Two Type 2 EMTs still in operation:** Samaritan's Purse at Black River Hospital (St Elizabeth) and Barbados Defense Force (BDF) EMT at Savanna-la-Mar Public General Hospital (Westmoreland)
- **Several Type 1 primary care installations** continue to support community-based services across the five high-impact and adjacent parishes.
- EMT sites are integrated into local service delivery and national surveillance as sentinel facilities.
- **Surge capacity:** The MOHW continues to rely on temporary surge capacity while permanent infrastructure is being restored. However, with an imminent demobilization window as many EMTs approach their end dates, there is a significant risk to maintaining this capacity—making continued EMT support, alongside a smooth transition back to national systems, imperative.

Service delivery / Facility functionality

- Health service **restoration remains at 88.9%**: 305 facilities provide services (fully or partially), while 38 remain non-operational or not yet assessed.

Health Care workforce

- **2,619 health workers have been affected** by the hurricane.
- Recent face-to-face sessions have involved participants from all four regional health authorities and affected communities, with transport support for counsellors to reach impacted health workers.

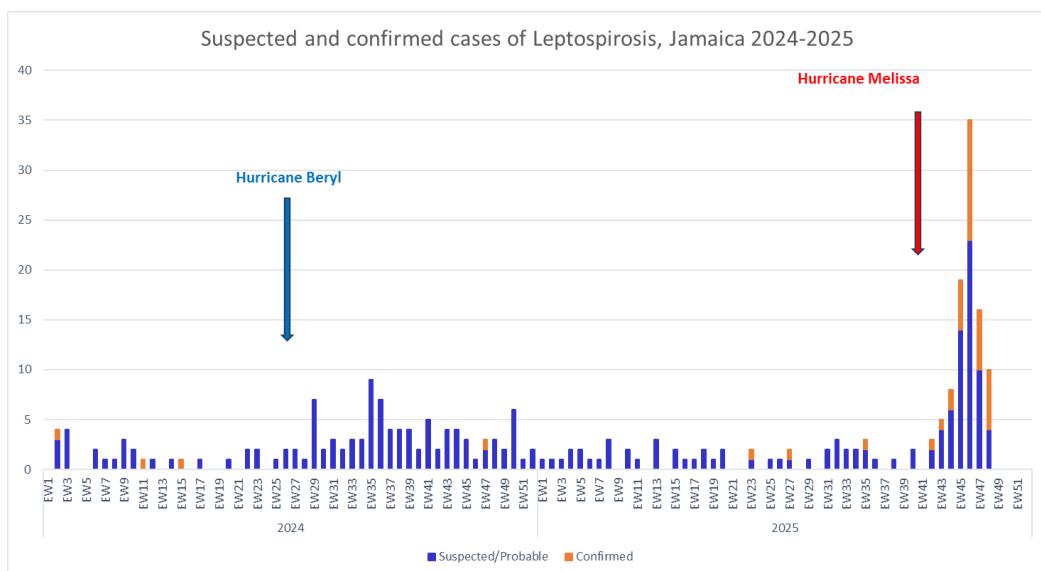
Recovery Planning / Transition:

- MOHW is implementing Phase 1 – rapid repair of priority health centers – of the HHRP (Health Hurricane Response Programme).
- The objective is to restore health services in the most affected areas, **build back better**, and reduce the risk of post-hurricane disease outbreaks.
- **The programme is anchored by 5 components:** infrastructure damage assessment, rapid repairs, enhanced surveillance and environmental health, mental health and psychosocial support, and staff welfare.

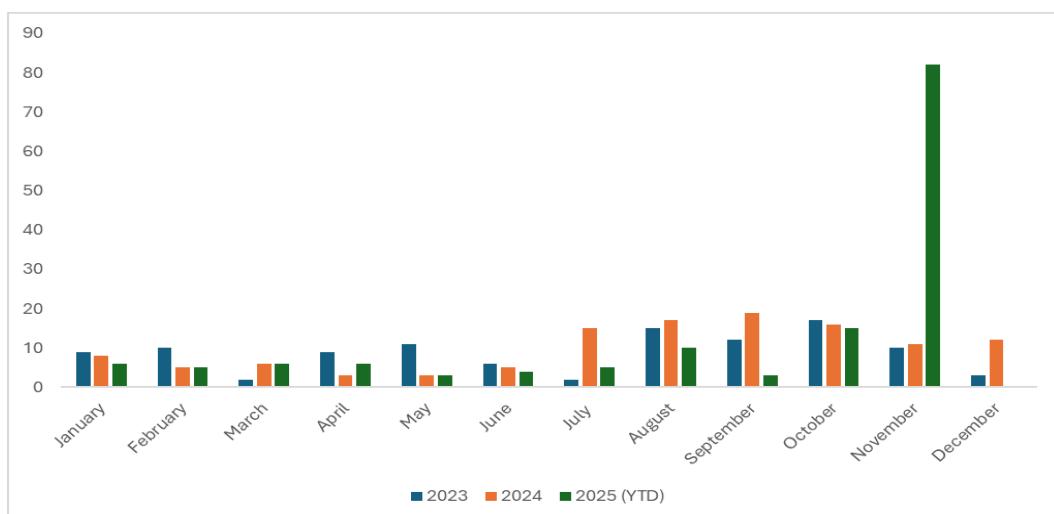
LEPTOSPIROSIS

- Hurricane Melissa caused widespread flooding, increasing leptospirosis transmission risk. Following a rise in suspected and confirmed cases, an outbreak was declared on 21 November 2025.
- According to the HEOC Report #39, as of 6 December, the following leptospirosis figures were reported:
 - **Cases:** 84 suspected/probable/confirmed cases recorded, of which, 30 were RT-PCR confirmed cases.
 - **Deaths:** 12 leptospirosis-related deaths, of which, 7 were confirmed by RT-PCR
 - The highest number of suspected/probable/confirmed cases were in St. James (18), St. Ann (12) and St. Catherine (11).
 - Ongoing monitoring of diarrheal and febrile illness, and continued risk communication (e.g., leptospirosis safety flyers).

Suspected and confirmed cases of Leptospirosis by EW, Jamaica 2024 - 2025



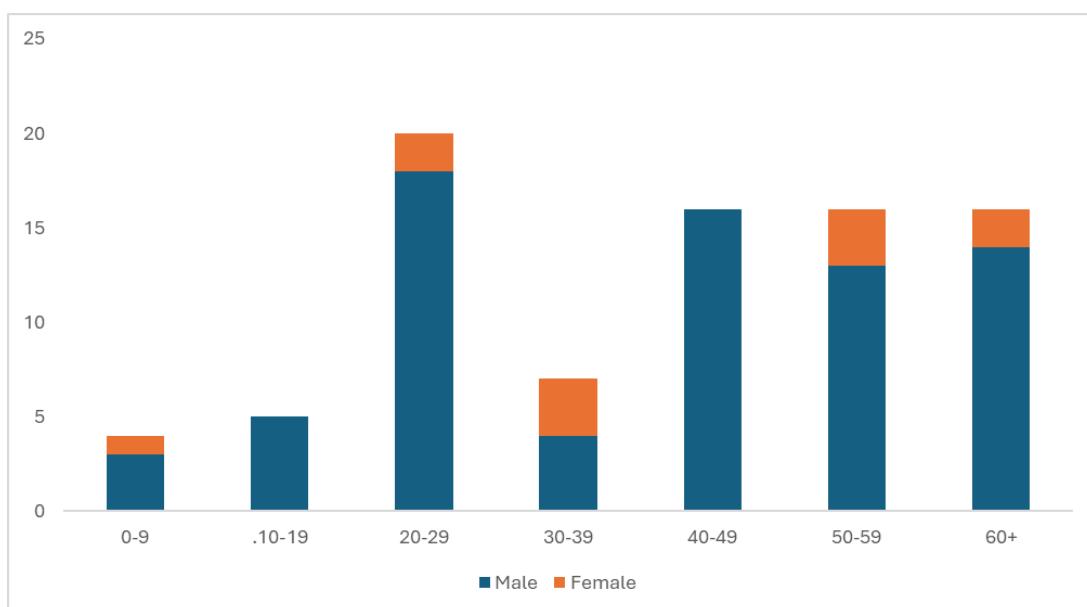
Suspected/Probable/Confirmed Leptospirosis cases by month of onset of symptoms, Jamaica, 2023 to 2025, as of December 6, 2025



Suspected/Probable/Confirmed Leptospirosis cases and related deaths by Parish post Hurricane Melissa, as of December 6, 2025

Parish	Total Suspected/ Probable/Confirmed	Total Confirmed	Total Deaths
Saint James	18	9	3
Saint Ann	12	5	3
Saint Catherine	11	7	0
Saint Elizabeth	8	0	2
Trelawny	8	1	0
Manchester	7	1	0
Kingston and Saint Andrew	5	1	0
Hanover	3	1	2
Saint Mary	3	2	1
Westmoreland	3	2	1
Clarendon	2	0	0
Portland	2	1	0
Saint Thomas	1	0	0
Parish not reported	1	0	0
TOTAL	84	30	12

Age/Sex Distribution of Suspected/Probable/Confirmed Leptospirosis cases, Post Hurricane Melissa, as of December 6, 2025



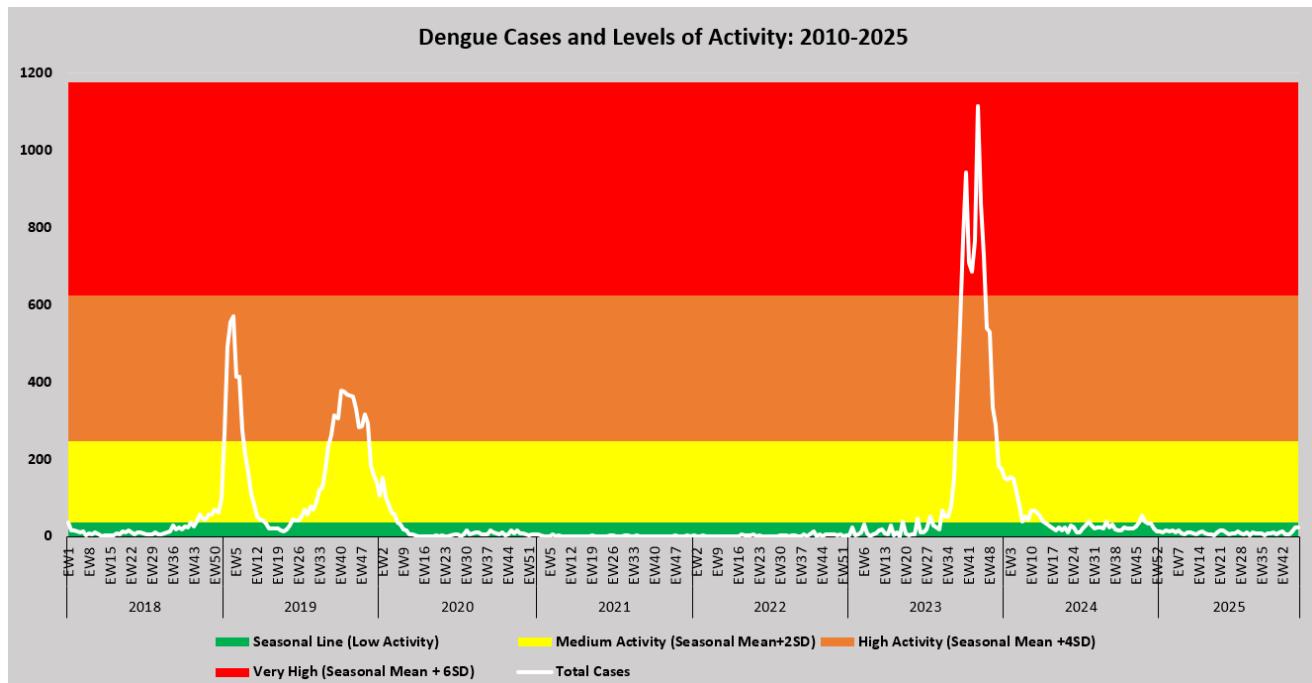
Public Health Response to Leptospirosis

- Enhanced clinical and syndromic surveillance for leptospirosis implemented across all health centres, hospitals, tourist establishments, and shelters.
- Ongoing monitoring of diarrheal and febrile illness, and continued risk communication (e.g., leptospirosis safety flyers).
- Clinician sensitization on the clinical management of leptospirosis and tetanus conducted through an MOHW-led webinar, supported by PAHO.
- Rapid response teams deployed to investigate any reported clusters or deaths.
- On-going discussions regarding the provision of doxycycline chemoprophylaxis for high-risk groups, including cleanup workers, rescuers, and farmers.

- Intensified rodent control and waste management activities in flood-affected communities.
- Strengthened health promotion and community education through local media, press releases, and MOHW press conferences.
- Coordination with Veterinary Public Health and local Municipal Corporations to improve animal inspection, sanitation control, potable water availability, and garbage collection.

DENGUE FEVER SURVEILLANCE

As of 4 December 2025, the National Surveillance Unit of the MOHW recorded 500 suspected/probable with zero (0) confirmed dengue cases for 2025. There were 2 suspected dengue related deaths in 2025 year to date and none was lab confirmed. Monthly and weekly totals have remained below epidemic thresholds since August 2024. Dengue activity has been low for 2025.

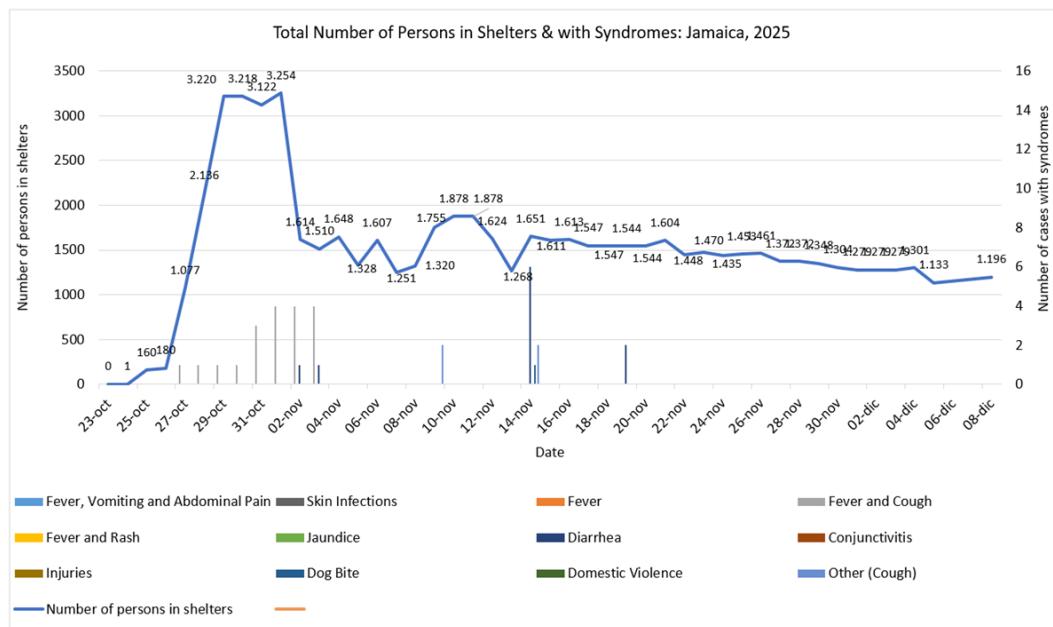


RESPIRATORY SURVEILLANCE

Weekly visits to sentinel sites for ILI are below alert and epidemic thresholds in all age groups (<5, 5-59 & \geq 60 years). Weekly percentage of hospital admissions for SARI were below alert and epidemic thresholds. In the last 4 weeks, there were 2 positive cases of RSV and 3 positive cases for COVID-19. No cases of Influenza A nor B were recorded. Parish epidemic thresholds were exceeded for fever and respiratory in the 60+ age group.

SHELTER SURVEILLANCE

A decrease in the total number of persons in shelters has been observed, and no symptoms have been reported in the shelters since 20 November.



MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

- PAHO, in collaboration with the MOHW and the University Hospital of the West Indies continue to host abbreviated Psychological First Aid (PFA) and sensitization sessions as part of the MHPSS surge response.
- Transportation of health counsellors to visit health care workers and offer PFA and MHPSS continues to be supported.



LABORATORY SERVICES

- WRHA:** CRH performing routine tests; Special Chemistry limited. SPGH restored (CBC, PT/PTT, cultures; water tank installed). NHH fully operational with Roche support; Montego Bay Type V doing HIV/Syphilis. Sav HC non-operational. FPGH limited, with Haematology sent to CRH; Chemistry analyzer pending installation.
- SRHA:** BRH lab destroyed; BRHC non-operational. Santa Cruz HC functional. Manchester & Christiana HCs operational.
- National Blood Transfusion Services (NBTS):** Full services active; all centres open except Falmouth. NCH collected 24 units. Blood supply adequate; connectivity issues with WRHA and St. Ann's Bay.



RISK COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- MOHW Environmental Health Team published various key messages on leptospirosis, dengue, food safety, mental health among others. <https://online.fliphtml5.com/MOHWHP/tqwl/#p=1>
- The MOHW continues islandwide risk-communication using town criers, social media, churches, household outreach, CBOs, and digital materials, focusing on the following:
 - Prevention of leptospirosis, dengue, tetanus.
 - Safe and hygienic practices – safe drinking-water, avoid unsafe springs, hand washing practices.
 - Injury Prevention including carbon monoxide poisoning; Nutrition for vulnerable groups, e.g. children, pregnant and lactating women.



NUTRITION

- The MOHW recently received shipment of micro-nutrients, folic acid and iron, rehydration salts etc., to be distributed to health facilities to serve pregnant women, children and infants.
- An updated Nutrition Needs List has been circulated.
- There are ongoing discussions for the development of a Nutrition Sector Plan.
- There is ongoing screening and treatment of malnutrition of adults and children with the support of the UNICEF.

- Nutrition services in the affected area are being provided through field clinics and shelter visits, including assessments of children and pregnant women. Home visits for high-risk babies is difficult because of the dislocation caused by the hurricane.



INFRASTRUCTURE

- PAHO virtual Map with status of health facilities: <https://who.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=9226e33620e5458290a820b60f1b3e27>. The map also includes layers showing hurricane wind strength and path, as well as population density.



WASH & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Mosquito breeding site assessments and fogging being conducted:
 - 72 communities (Westmoreland, Hanover, St. James, Trelawny) – 7 Dec to 13 Dec 2025.
 - 68 communities (St. Ann, St. Mary, Portland) – 7 Dec to 13 Dec 2025.
 - 118 communities (Clarendon, Manchester, St. Elizabeth) – 7 Dec to 13 Dec 2025.
 - As of 11 December, 1,347 communities managed for mosquito control, 713 communities fogged.
- Chlorine Residual Levels and Bacteriological levels are not yet at health standards for domestic water systems in some communities



SHELTERS

- As of 11 December 2025, 91 of 881 emergency shelters islandwide are activated, accommodating 968 persons. Data includes inputs from 7 of 14 parishes: Manchester, St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland, St. Ann, Trelawny, St. James, and Hanover.
- Some displaced households are sheltering in churches and other facilities. MOHW continues to monitor conditions at shelters and provide medical and psychosocial services. The Government is prioritizing suitable locations for prefabricated housing units to accommodate displaced households, especially those in schools serving as emergency shelters.



HEALTH NEEDS

- MOHW-approved **Health Needs List** (19 November 2025) is available in PAHO's Jamaica Situation Report #22, available [online](#).



RESPONSE

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE:

- The Government is moving to transition its post-Hurricane Melissa relief efforts from physical distribution to a voucher system by early in the New Year. This was disclosed by Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) Permanent Secretary i during 10 December 10 sitting of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee of Parliament.
- The government is establishing a National Reconstruction and Resilience Authority (NARA) to lead, coordinate, fast track and oversee national rebuilding efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa.
- Government established Technology Recovery Task Force to restore and modernize critical services after Hurricane Melissa.

PAHO RESPONSE:

- Technical assistance is being provided to the MOHW to review the investigation form and providing recommendations on strategies for laboratory testing enhancement.

- Support is also being provided to MOHW in assessing the specimen transportation processes to ensure timely, safe, and reliable delivery to the national laboratory for confirmatory testing.
- PAHO provided reagents to the national laboratory to support confirmation of leptospirosis, and supporting MOHW in evaluating the health information system to identify gaps, strengthen data quality, and improve timely leptospirosis reporting.
- PAHO has delivered the final batch of roofing materials to seven damaged health facilities, including Cornwall Regional Hospital. In collaboration with MSF, roof repairs are ongoing in 7 damaged health facilities.
- Assessors are being recruited to complete WASH assessments in health facilities. Once PAHO completes the recruitment process, the assessors will be tasked to assess the WASH situation in 97 remaining health facilities.
- Purchasing 9,750 mosquito nets and 10,000 drum covers to be distributed within MOHW health facilities.
- PAHO continues to co-chair the Health Cluster Coordination meeting. The 11th meeting was held on 9 December 2025. The MOHW Environmental Health Team presented post Hurricane Melissa response priorities and implications. 41 out of 45 registered partners on the Partners Platform (<https://shiny.paho-phe.org/melissa-partners/>) are currently active as teams complete their deployments. The dashboard is also accessible on the PAHO website.
- PAHO continues to co-facilitate the 4 health sub-clusters: Health Services/EMTs, MHPSS; Infrastructure Rehabilitation and WASn health facilities which is integrated into the overarching WASH Cluster for the response led by UNICEFPAHO, MOHW, and the University Hospital of the West Indies continue to roll out Psychological First Aid (PFA) and broader MHPSS surge activities.
- PAHO's Regional Response Team continue to support in-country incident management, EMT coordination, epidemiologic surveillance and laboratory, and logistics.
- List of essential health emergency items procured and delivered by PAHO to ensure continuity of health services is available [online](#) in PAHO's Jamaica Situation Report #22.

Photos



Field visit to EMT Barbados Defence Force field hospital with MOHW.
Source: PAHO/WHO Jamaica.



Final PAHO-procured roofing materials for St. James health centres delivered to Cornwall Regional Hospital. Roof repair in facilities one being done in collaboration with MSF.
Source: PAHO/WHO Jamaica.