

Situation Report #25 – 20 December - 22 January 2026

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) is implementing the **Health Hurricane Melissa Response Programme (HHRP)** to restore essential health services, build back better and reduce outbreak risks. With the support from PAHO, **ten healthcare facilities across the five most affected parishes have been identified and prioritized for repairs**. Repairs at one of the prioritized facilities, Warsop Health Facility, are nearing completion.
- As of 13 January 2026, the MOHW reported a total of **124 suspected and 40 confirmed leptospirosis cases post-Melissa**, with 14 deaths – of which 9 are confirmed. The parishes with the highest caseloads were St. James (19), St. Catherine (19) and Manchester (13). There have been no confirmed cases for 2026 Epi Week 1.
- As of 13 January, **service delivery has been restored in 89% of facilities** (299 of 336); however, **major hospitals remain under severe strain**, with bed occupancy at 149% in Cornwall, 145% in May Pen, and 143% in Mandeville Regional, while national occupancy stands at 90%.
- PAHO/WHO continues to serve as a primary technical partner to the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW), **providing specialized expertise to strengthen surveillance, laboratory capacity, and infrastructure resilience**.
- Eight **Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs)** remain operational following the demobilization of most teams. These include the Barbados Defence Force EMT Type 2 in Savanna-la-Mar (preparing handover to MOHW), three international EMT Type 1 teams, and four national EMTs (three Type 1 in St. Elizabeth and Westmoreland, and one Type 2 in Black River, St. Elizabeth).



Ongoing emergency repair of Warsop Health Centre, Trelawny.

Source: PAHO/WHO Jamaica

IN NUMBERS

Approx. 2.8m (entire population)

Potentially exposed¹

45 confirmed deaths from Hurricane Melissa with 32 under investigation²

124 suspected cases of Leptospirosis (40 confirmed) post Hurricane Melissa; 14 deaths from Leptospirosis (9 confirmed)³

11 Persons missing⁴

8% of customers without electricity, 6.1% without water⁵

50 of 881 Emergency shelters activated in 7 parishes; Occupancy of 392 persons⁶

1: Statistical Institute of Jamaica data

2,4,5,6,7: NEOC Situation Report #75 (16 January 2026, 6:00 p.m.)

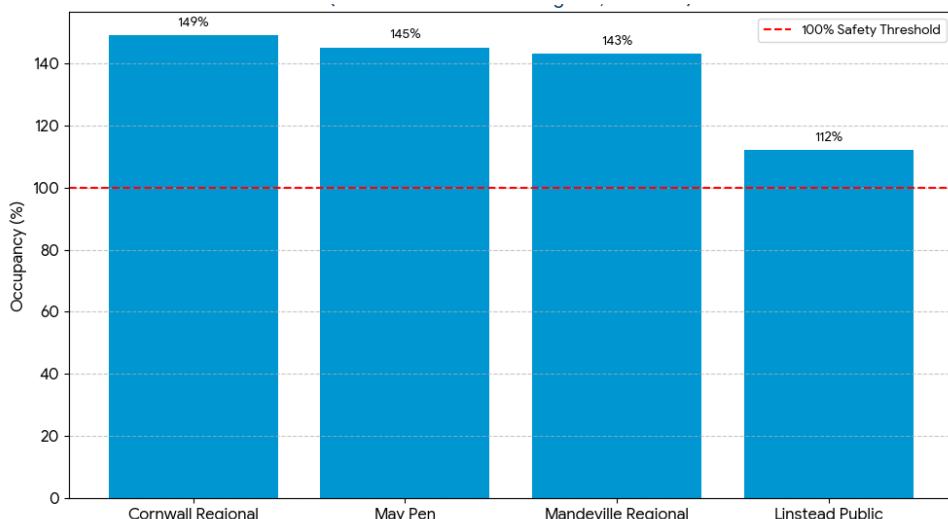
3: Health EOC Situation Report #41 (13 January 2026)



Service delivery and Facility Functionality

- **Health Services functionality:** As of 13 January 2026, service delivery has been restored in 89% of facilities (299 of 336). In the Northeast and Southern Regional Health Authorities, services were merged for seven facilities, while in the Western Region, mobile units are providing care to communities normally served by 21 facilities.
- **Several facilities continue to rely on backup systems**, including water storage tanks and generator power.
- **Bed Occupancy:** Major hospitals are facing severe strain; Cornwall is operating at 149% capacity, May Pen at 145% and Mandeville Regional at 143% (Figure 1). National bed occupancy stands at 90%. The surge is driven by the destruction of Black River Hospital and increased admissions associated with the leptospirosis outbreak.
- **Maternal and Child Care:** Preliminary findings indicate that approximately 50% of ante-natal patients have missed at least one appointment. Maternal Health Outreach Program is ongoing and have engaged 425 women and distributed 40 care and hygiene packages to mothers in Clarendon.

Figure 1. Major Hospital Bed Occupancy Rates in the Western and Southern Regions, as of 13 January 2026.



Emergency Medical Teams (EMT)

- 17 EMTs were deployed through the course of the response: 12 international and 5 national EMTs with the support of Samaritan's Purse who donated the mobile hospital structure.
- **Operational status (as of 21 January):** 8 EMTs remain operational following the demobilization of most teams. Remaining deployments include the JRC/IFRC/MOHW EMT Type 1 mobile, Barbados Defence Force EMT Type 2 (at Savanna-La-Mar Hospital and preparing handover to the MOHW), SAMU EMT Type 1 fixed (Holmes Hospital) and Project Hope Type 1 Mobile (Trelawny), and four national EMTs (3 Type 1 in St. Elizabeth and Westmoreland, and one Type 2 in Black River, St. Elizabeth).
- **Clinical activity reported by international EMTs** through the Minimum Data Set (MDS) as of 20 December: 13,247 consultations; 395 surgeries, of which 149 were major procedures; 366 patient admissions; 1,045 occupied bed-days; 27 births; and 18 cesarean sections, including cases involving high-risk pregnancies.

Health Services assessment and recovery:

- **Initial assessments of the five most affected parishes are now 100% complete:** 92 of 101 health centres and all 5 hospitals sustained varying degrees of damage. Detailed assessments are still in progress.
- The Damage and Loss Assessment Report for the Health Sector (DaLa), conducted by UN-ECLAC, was presented to the MOHW on 9 January as a preliminary report for initial review.
- **A rapid assessment of five major hospitals identified over 150 pieces of water-damaged equipment**, with replacement costs estimated at JA\$347.6 million.
- **Smart Facilities:** Facilities retrofitted to "PAHO Smart Standards" sustained minimal or no damage, proving the resilience of the concept.

- Repairs to damaged operating theatres are expected by the MOHW to be completed by February 2026.
- **Ten health facilities** - two in each of the five most affected parishes - **were identified and prioritized for urgent repairs** by parish managers and the MOHW, with support from PAHO. Repairs on some of these health facilities have commenced (Warsop Health Center repair nearing completion), while others are in negotiations phase with potential contractors
 - Trelawney: Warsop HC, Duanvale HC
 - Westmoreland: Darliston HC, Williamsfield HC
 - St Elizabeth: Middle Quarters HC, Prospect HC
 - St James: Mt. Carey HC, John's Hall
 - Hanover: Chester Castle HC, Ramble HC



SURVEILLANCE (1)

Surveillance has been intensified across all 14 parishes to monitor waterborne and vector-borne diseases.

LEPTOSPIROSIS

According to the HEOC Report #41, as of 13 January 2026, the following leptospirosis figures were reported:

- **Cases:** a total of **124 suspected/probable/confirmed** cases were recorded, 40 were PCR confirmed.
- **Trend:** Cases peaked in Epidemiological Week 46 (week ending November 15, 2025) which recorded 34 cases and **are currently on a downward trend**. There have been no confirmed cases for 2026 Epi Week 1. (*Figure 2*)
- **Mortality:** 14 deaths, with 9 confirmed by PCR.
- **Gender:** males accounted for 96 of the 113 cases where gender was reported (*Figure 3*). Notably, all 14 recorded deaths occurred in males, with the highest impact in the 20-29 and 60+ age groups. (*Figure 4*)
- **Geographic Distribution:** The parishes with the highest caseloads were St. James (19), St. Catherine (19) and Manchester (13).

Figure 2. Leptospirosis cases by epidemiological week of onset, as of 13 January 2026

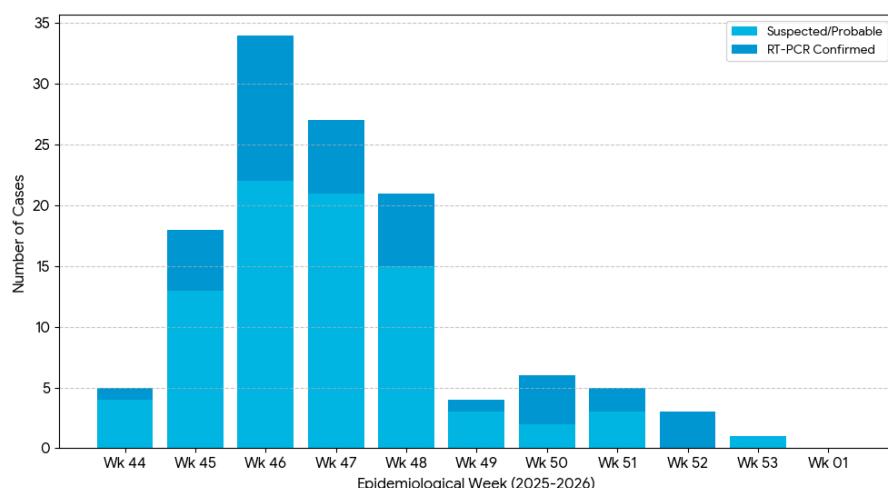


Figure 3. Leptospirosis cases by age and sex, as of 13 January 2026

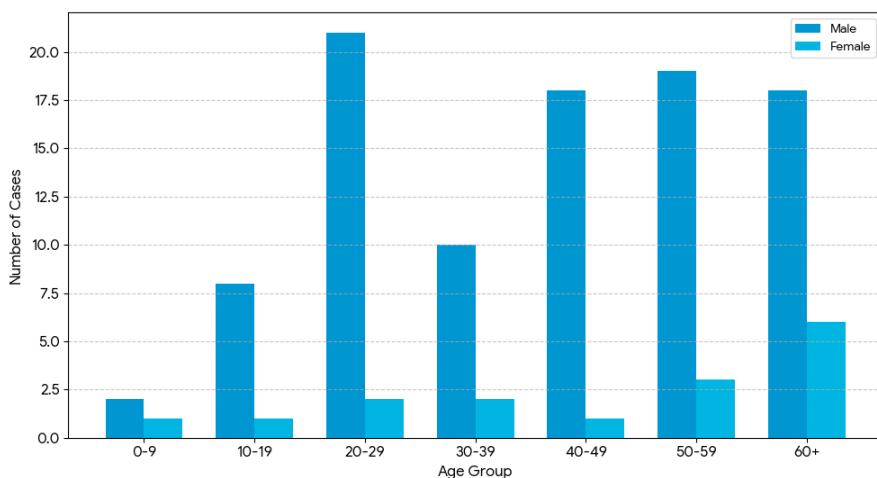
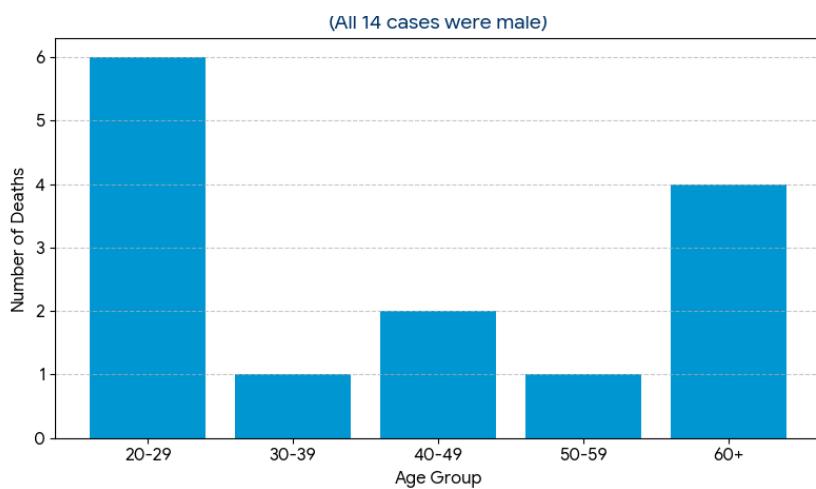


Figure 4. Leptospirosis related deaths by Age Group, as of 13 January 2026



OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

- **Tetanus:** Two cases reported; with one confirmed death.
- **Dengue:** Activity remains low with 544 suspected cases in 2025 and zero laboratory-confirmed cases.
- **Rodent Control:** Intensive baiting programs are active in St. Mary and St. James to mitigate the spread of leptospirosis.
- **Syndromic Surveillance:** Increases have been noted in Fever & Respiratory and Undifferentiated Fever, consistent with seasonal trends.



MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (1)

- Over 3,000 personnel have now been trained in Psychological First Aid (PFA), including 1,200 trained following Hurricane Beryl (2024).
- MOHW teams have provided 7,784 Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) interventions to date.



LABORATORY SERVICES

- Testing of samples continues in the most affected parishes, although some challenges are experienced in a few health facilities.



RISK COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 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.
 - Medication and insulin storage.
- The MOHW provided updates on its Risk Communication and Community Engagement strategies, including community outreach and public messaging in affected parishes.



NUTRITION (2)

- The MOHW with the support of UNICEF is distributing high-nutrient feeds and snacks for children, pregnant and nursing mothers.
- There is ongoing screening and treatment of malnutrition of elderly adults, lactating mothers and children with the support of the UNICEF.
- Nutritional dietary services at hospitals are now 92% restored.
- Planned training for health care workers – training committee established & curriculum developed. Trainings will be conducted from late January through early March on the identification and management of wasting in children under five years of age, nutrition in emergencies, and infant and young child feeding counseling, with PAHO providing technical support as needed.



INFRASTRUCTURE

- Power supply has been fully restored to all major public and private hospitals. Overall, 8% of customers remain without electricity.
- As of 13 January 2026, MOHW reported that **service delivery has been restored in 89% of facilities** (299 of 336); however, **major hospitals remain under severe strain**, with bed occupancy at 149% in Cornwall, 145% in May Pen, and 143% in Mandeville Regional, while national occupancy stands at 90%.



WASH & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (2)

Water:

- As of 22 January 2026, 33,746 people (6.1% of customers) remain without water supply. Restoration stands at 68% in Westmoreland, 58% in Hanover and 56% in St. Elizabeth. Progress in St. Elizabeth remains constrained by impassable roads and the non-operational status of a major water treatment plant due to contamination and turbidity.
- Water trucking operations continue to supply affected communities, primarily in the western parishes. For January 2026, extensive trucking supported several schools in the worst-affected areas.
- Additional generators have been procured and are expected to arrive shortly. Work is also underway to establish solar power generation at selected sites, including for the operation of storage tanks.
- Chlorine residual levels and bacteriological levels are not yet at health standards for domestic water systems in some communities.

Environmental Health:

- Widespread concerns have been reported regarding increased rat infestation levels.

- The MOHW launched a special rodent and mosquito control programme post-Hurricane Melissa, pledging funds for garbage removal, baiting, and intensified parish-level efforts after infestations linked to irregular waste collection, with some parishes seeking technical support.
- As of January 14, the Westmoreland Health Department reports a decline in mosquito indices across parishes, reflected in the Breteau index, attributed to intensified road and vector-control activities, including widespread fogging and community interventions.
- Environmental health and public health teams continue conducting assessments to ensure contaminated food is identified, condemned, and safely disposed of.



SHELTERS (2)

- As of 16 January 2026, 50 of 881 emergency shelters are activated, accommodating 392 persons. Data includes inputs from 7 of 14 parishes: Manchester, St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland, St. Ann, Trelawny, St. James, and Hanover. Westmoreland reports the highest shelter population, with 244 people across 21 shelters, mostly schools and churches.
- Across the affected parishes, 21 schools are serving as shelters, and concerns about potential impacts on education systems persist despite no specific reports of disruptions to school activities.
- MOHW continues to monitor conditions at shelters and provide medical and psychosocial services. Government is prioritizing prefabricated housing sites to relocate displaced households from schools



HEALTH NEEDS & CHALLENGES

- MOHW-approved **Health Needs List** (19 November 2025) is available in PAHO's Jamaica Situation Report #22, available [online](#).
- **Waste Management:** Medical waste is a growing public health risk due to a non-functional national incinerator.
- **Security:** Repeated incidents of pilferage of fuel, food, and water have been reported at Falmouth General and SRHA facilities.
- **Infrastructure Funding:** Immediate funding is required for the full reconstruction of Black River Hospital and several Type 2 health centres.



RESPONSE

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE (1-4):

- The NEOC remains activated at Level 2 and maintains national coordination and mobilization resources to affected areas in all parishes.
- The National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) is implementing waste separation at source to reduce cleanup and transportation costs related to Hurricane Melissa debris.
- On 15 January 2026, the Government launched the Shelter Recovery Programme, marking the transition from immediate hurricane relief to long-term recovery to support reconstruction, rehabilitation, and relocation of homes damaged by Hurricane Melissa.

PAHO RESPONSE:

PAHO/WHO continues to serve as a primary technical partner to the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW), providing specialized expertise to strengthen surveillance, laboratory capacity, and infrastructure resilience.

Surveillance:

- PAHO Country Office has deployed a National Epidemiologist and three Field Epidemiologists to specifically bolster post-hurricane surveillance and early warning functions.
- PAHO collaborated with the MoHW to facilitate training of field officers in St. Elizabeth and Western Region, on the post-hurricane public health information system, to streamline disaster reporting.
- PAHO organized a Webinar on “Leptospirosis – Epidemiological surveillance, control, and prevention in the context of outbreaks” on 17 December 2025 with over 190 participants. The objective was to review and update strategies for leptospirosis detection, prevention, and control during outbreak response, focusing on epidemiological surveillance, laboratory detection (including diagnostic algorithms), infection prevention and control, and rodent control.
- PAHO, in collaboration with MOHW’s Environmental Health Unit, hosted a webinar on “Evaluation of Fungal Contamination in Indoor Buildings” (17 – 18 December), engaging over 170 participants (many health care workers), to address mold growth in health facilities, building material issues, and challenges with storing patient records on paper.
- PAHO continues to monitor and support the transport of clinical specimens from high-impact areas (Western and North East Regions) to the national reference laboratory. As of 12 January 2026, 223 specimens, primarily serum, have been successfully transported to ensure diagnostic continuity. These efforts ensure that clinical management of outbreaks is guided by timely laboratory results despite local infrastructure damage.
- PAHO continues to hold internal laboratory meetings to finalize reagents and budgeting for leptospirosis testing. Additionally, is coordinating the shipment of Yellow Fever test kits from Germany to ensure full diagnostic readiness.

Clinical Care:

- PAHO is collaborating with UNFPA in procuring Reproductive Health (RH) kits for health facilities. The kits contain: (a) clinical delivery assistance: medicines and disposable equipment to perform normal deliveries and to stabilize patients with obstetric complications (e.g. eclampsia or haemorrhage) before referring to higher level care, and (b) referral level for RH: medicines and disposable equipment for caesarean sections and other obstetric surgical interventions, resuscitation of mothers and babies and intravenous treatment.

Community Protection:

- A Specialist on Environmental Health and WASH has joined the PAHO team to provide support on drying plans, mold remediation and ICRA for health facilities from January to March 2026. A workshop on ICRA 2.0 for water and air components is being organized for February.
- PAHO is collaborating with UNAIDS to conduct a capacity building activity for civil society organisations in HIV response.

Logistics / Countermeasures:

- 9750 mosquito bed nets procured by PAHO were cleared from customs is to be distributed to hospitals. PAHO started procurement for support on WASH and vector control supplies, including chlorine tablets, larvicides, adulticides, and rodenticides, among others

Coordination:

- PAHO continues to co-chair the Health Cluster Coordination meeting. Fifteen Health Cluster Coordination Meetings have been convened to date. 43 partners have registered on the Partners Platform and provide updates on their scope of work, service delivery and resources (<https://shiny.paho-phe.org/melissa-partners/>). The dashboard is also accessible on the PAHO website. Weekly meetings are planned to facilitate coordination of partner activities and alignment with national health sector priorities.
- MHPSS Sub-Cluster meetings continued weekly during the reporting period. The next meetings of the Health Service Delivery/EMTs and Health Infrastructure Rehabilitation Sub-Clusters will take place in January 2026.
- 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.

References:

1. Jamaica Ministry of Health and Wellness. Health Emergency Operations Center Report #41; Hurricane Melissa; 13 January 2026. Kingston: Jamaica MoHW; 2026. Unpublished
2. Jamaica National Emergency Operations Center Report #75; Hurricane Melissa; 16 January 2026. Kingston: Jamaica NEOC; 2026. Unpublished.
3. Jamaica National Emergency Operations Center Report #74; Hurricane Melissa; 14 January 2026. Kingston: Jamaica NEOC; 2026. Unpublished.
4. Jamaica National Emergency Operations Center Report #73; Hurricane Melissa; 12 January 2026. Kingston: Jamaica NEOC; 2026. Unpublished.