

This report is produced by OCHA in support of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) and in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 1 to 3 November 2025. The next report will be issued on or around 5 November 2025.

KEY POINTS

- 1.5-1.6 million people affected across Jamaica, more than half the national population with widespread losses of housing, livelihoods, power, and water access.
- 32 deaths confirmed, with additional people still missing as search and rescue operations continue.
- Critical needs include safe water, fuel for hospitals, emergency food assistance (estimated up to 359,000 people), and mental health and nutrition support, especially for breastfeeding mothers and children
- The UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has allocated US \$4 million to Jamaica to scale up life-saving humanitarian assistance in coordination with the Government and partners.



Aerial view of flood-affected areas in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica. Photo: Ronald Roopnarine/CDEMA-led RNAT.

1.6M

Estimated number of people affected
Source: PAHO

359K

In need of food assistance
Source: WFP

32

Deaths confirmed
Source: Government of Jamaica

86

Heritage sites impacted
Source: UNESCO

\$4M

CERF Allocation to Jamaica
Source: OCHA

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Hurricane Melissa made landfall on Jamaica's south coast near New Hope, Westmoreland, on 28 October as a Category 5 storm, inflicting catastrophic damage across the southern and western regions. According to the Government of Jamaica, at least 32 deaths have been confirmed, with dozens of people still unaccounted for as search and rescue operations continue. An estimated 1.5-1.6 million people, over half the national population, have been affected by the hurricane through loss of housing, livelihoods, and prolonged power and water outages. At the peak, approximately 25,000 people were in emergency shelters; however, the true number of displaced people remains unknown as many have reportedly left shelters due to limited access to relief and are now living in unverified locations.

Infrastructure damage is extensive: over 130 major roads were initially blocked, large portions of the power grid failed, and communication networks were disrupted island-wide. Several hospitals and clinics in the impact zone were damaged or

rendered non-functional most notably, the Black River Hospital, which was destroyed, prompting the deployment of a Type 2 Emergency Medical Team (EMT) and plans for additional deployments. Health services remain overstretched, with several facilities operating above capacity and dependent on generators amid critical fuel shortages, while water scarcity continues to hamper service delivery in affected regions. Road access remains challenging; travel times to western parishes such as Black River and Negril have increased significantly due to congestion and debris. The Government of Jamaica is prioritizing clearance of major roads, but secondary routes and community-level debris removal remain critical to restoring access for relief and recovery operations.

According to the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), nutrition and dietetic services report only a 3–5-day food supply in some hospitals, underscoring disrupted food pipelines and the need for urgent support for breastfeeding mothers, pregnant and lactating women, and safe infant feeding for non-breastfed children. The World Food Programme (WFP) projects that between 98,000 and 359,000 people may require food assistance based on food-insecurity and poverty indicators an estimate to be refined once post-impact assessments are complete.

Mental-health needs are increasing across affected communities, particularly among children and health workers, with PAHO/WHO deploying a Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) specialist to coordinate interventions. Damaged infrastructure, fuel shortages, and constrained logistics continue to impede assistance delivery, while unsafe water and crowding in shelters elevate risks of respiratory, vector and water-borne diseases, emphasizing the need for strengthened WASH, health surveillance, and vector control measures.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The Government of Jamaica, through the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) and its National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), remains in the lead of the national response, supported by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) via the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM). The United Nations system and partners continue to align their support under national leadership.

The CDEMA-led Rapid Needs Assessment Team (RNAT), deployed on 31 October at the Government's request, is now in the field working with ODPEM to collect data on damage, sectoral needs and access constraints across all parishes to inform prioritisation and recovery planning. Joint assessments are under way led by ODPEM alongside UN agencies and partners, using mobile tools and dashboards.

OCHA has deployed additional personnel, including logistics specialists from Atlas Logistique, to strengthen in-country coordination. The team is exploring the establishment of a forward coordination location closer to the most affected areas to enhance information flow, facilitate logistics, and improve operational support to national and regional partners.

Initial observations from the field indicate urgent needs for safe water supply, fuel for health-care facilities, emergency food assistance, shelter repair materials and mental health / psychosocial support. Access to many affected communities remains constrained by blocked roads, communications outages and damage to logistics infrastructure. WFP is providing logistics and cash-assistance readiness, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has pre-positioned WASH, protection and child-health supplies, and PAHO/WHO is supporting restoration of health services and hospital WASH assessments.

A French naval vessel arrived in Jamaica on 3 November carrying humanitarian supplies, including water treatment units and essential relief kits, as part of the French Armed Forces' Caribbean deployment. The Dutch naval support vessel HNLMS Pelikaan is scheduled to arrive on 4 November with additional humanitarian cargo.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- Restore safe water and sanitation for households, shelters and critical facilities.
- Re-establish water supply in multiple parishes where systems are interrupted and public-health risks are rising.
- Provide water treatment, storage and distribution capacity (water trucking, large-volume storage, purification), hygiene items and hand-washing facilities.
- Repair and power community water points (pumps, generators and pipework) and support vector control.

- Prioritise rapid chlorination, hygiene promotion, and risk-communication interventions to prevent further outbreaks.

Response:

- UNICEF is preparing to distribute six tonnes of WASH supplies (dignity kits, 12-litre water containers, cleaning kits), organising water trucking and hand-washing stations, and supporting rehabilitation of community water points with pumps, generators and pipe repairs. It is also assisting MoHW with water-purification resources and vector control, and leading WASH coordination nationally and locally.
- Daily coordination continues between UNICEF, the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) and partners. UNICEF WASH staff are mobilising, a national coordination meeting has been held, and a real-time tracking system is active under the WASH country focal point.
- Five WASH specialists from Trinidad are assigned to the RNAT assessment deployment.
- At the Jamaica Defence Force's request, the Governments of the Netherlands and PAHO/WHO are providing mass water-storage units, including a solar-powered reverse-osmosis plant (60 m³/day). OceanX and the Netherlands will supply an operator and generator, coordinated with MoH for water-quality treatment.
- Water Mission is sending five portable water-treatment systems, three already en route to Jamaica.
- ODPEM is mobilising relief items from PAHO/WHO and UNICEF, including water-treatment kits, hygiene kits and sanitising tablets.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Widespread service interruption of water systems across several parishes persists.
- Some 700 systems affected require assessment, repair and power supply; access constraints and isolation slow deliveries.
- Power and connectivity outages complicate operations and monitoring for WASH partners.

Health

Needs:

- Maintain life-saving care in damaged hospitals through field facilities, emergency repairs, medical supplies, generators, EMT deployment, disease surveillance and essential WASH and medicines.
- Deploy a mobile laboratory for clinical and public-health support, as requested by MoHW and relayed via CARPHA.
- Provide MHPSS for patients, staff and communities.
- Restore primary and maternal-child health services and meet urgent nutrition needs for about 18,000 children under five and pregnant or lactating women, according to UNICEF and MoHW.

Response:

- PAHO/WHO is supporting MoHW with mobilisation of Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs), technical guidance on facility readiness, WASH, psychosocial support, disease surveillance, sector assessments and information management, and support to the Health Emergency Operations Centre.
- PAHO/WHO visited severely affected hospitals in the Western Region and is coordinating infrastructure assessments and deployments for WASH, MHPSS and facility rehabilitation.
- CARPHA has coordinated health supplies for Jamaica and is deploying a rapid-response team with additional staff in coordination with CARICOM Health Ministers.
- Patient transfers are ongoing from damaged hospitals: Black River (catastrophic damage, no electricity), Falmouth (storm-surge flooding), Noel Holmes (severe damage; 18 patients transferred) and Cornwall Regional (flood and wind damage to older section).
- Cold-chain monitoring continues; imaging services operate under contingency; and surveillance in shelters remains active.
- UNICEF, with MoHW, is restoring primary and neonatal care, providing emergency nutrition—including micronutrient powders and iron and folic-acid supplements—and promoting breastfeeding and IYCF counselling in hospitals, shelters and child-friendly spaces.
- UNICEF has allocated US\$ 1 million to Government-led health and MHPSS activities for children.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Several hospitals and health centres report flooding, structural damage and power loss. Black River Hospital is inoperable and fully evacuated; 71 patients from one facility were awaiting emergency transfer, according to PAHO/WHO.
- Pre-existing power vulnerabilities limit service continuity: 18 per cent of facilities in the Western Region report generator failures; 15 per cent in the Southeast require larger diesel tanks; and some imaging services lack generator connectivity, according to PAHO/WHO.
- Damage to Baby-Friendly Hospitals—including Black River, Noel Holmes and Mandeville Regional—is disrupting neonatal and nutrition services, according to UNICEF.
- Access and communications constraints, including blocked roads, landslides and connectivity outages, are delaying information flow and operations, according to PAHO/WHO and CARPHA.

Food Security

Needs:

- Provide immediate food assistance for households whose livelihoods and access to markets have been disrupted by flooding and infrastructure damage.
- Support national authorities in restoring food distribution systems and logistics to isolated areas.
- Strengthen data collection and targeting mechanisms to ensure food assistance reaches the most affected populations.
- Planting materials and tools to restore food production capacity and farming livelihoods.
- Livestock feed, housing repair materials and livestock medications to treat and prevent the spread of disease.
- Restoring fishing capacity and livelihoods.

Response:

- WFP is preparing to airlift 2,000 food kits from Barbados to support 6,000 people. Each kit is designed to sustain a household of three for seven days and will be distributed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS).
- WFP is supporting the Government through the Jamaica Household Damage, Impact and Needs Assessment (JHDINA) platform, enabling digital access for post-disaster relief targeting. A dashboard has been developed to track and visualise assessment data for timely decision-making.
- Preparations are under way to deploy Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) in St Elizabeth for positioning of food and relief items.
- Food for the Poor (FFP) is packaging 1,500 food and care packages for relief distribution, according to PAHO/WHO.
- Regional partners coordinated through CDEMA have mobilised shipments of food and essential items from the Barbados hub to Jamaica to reinforce national operations led by ODPEM.
- World Central Kitchen (WCK) arrived in Kingston on 30 October and are deploying food preparation and distribution teams to affected areas.
- FAO is supporting the Government through field-based damage and needs assessments and satellite remote sensing analysis to inform response and recovery planning.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Access constraints and damaged roads continue to limit food delivery to the most isolated parishes.
- Market disruptions and power outages have affected food storage and distribution capacity.
- Final household targeting depends on completion of assessments through the JHDINA platform.

Nutrition

Needs:

- Ensure access to adequate and safe nutrition for children under five, particularly infants and young children under two, whose risk of malnutrition has increased due to disrupted feeding practices and limited food access.
- Identify and support breastfeeding mothers through dedicated mother-and-baby areas and skilled counselling to maintain and re-establish breastfeeding.
- Provide targeted support for non-breastfed infants, including safe supplies of breast-milk substitutes (BMS) and training on hygienic preparation, only when medically indicated and under coordinated supervision.
- Restore nutrition services for pregnant and lactating women, including access to diverse, healthy foods, micronutrient supplements and antenatal care.

- Prevent distribution of untargeted or unsafe BMS, milk products or feeding equipment, which can endanger infants when water and sanitation are compromised.

Response:

- UNICEF, working with the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoHW) and partners, is mobilising emergency nutrition supplies including micronutrient powders and iron and folic acid supplements to prevent malnutrition among more than 18,000 children under five and pregnant and lactating women in affected parishes.
- Rapid nutrition assessments are being planned to determine specific needs, while mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) tapes, anthropometric tools and therapeutic foods are being distributed for the identification and treatment of severe acute malnutrition.
- UNICEF is supporting the scale-up of breastfeeding promotion and infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling in hospitals, shelters and child-friendly spaces, including at damaged Baby-Friendly Hospitals such as Black River, Noel Holmes and Mandeville Regional.
- In line with joint guidance from the Global Nutrition Cluster, FAO, PAHO, UNICEF and WFP, responders are being advised to avoid untargeted BMS donations, to promote exclusive breastfeeding, and to ensure complementary foods provided through assistance are healthy, culturally appropriate and safe.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Several health facilities with neonatal and feeding services are damaged or operating on limited power, reducing the quality of nutrition and maternal care.
- Access constraints continue to delay nutrition assessments and supply delivery to isolated parishes.
- Uncoordinated donations and misinformation about BMS risk undermining breastfeeding promotion and safe infant feeding practices.
- Limited availability of nutritious, fresh foods in local markets threatens dietary diversity and maternal nutrition.

Shelter

Needs:

- Provide emergency shelter and essential household items (tarpaulins, repair kits, blankets, hygiene and cleaning kits, kitchen sets, solar lamps, mosquito nets, jerrycans, shelter kits) for displaced households, according to CDEMA and IOM.
- Maintain and manage collective centres and strengthen site coordination under Government leadership, according to IOM.
- Expand short-term accommodation for highly vulnerable groups and responders; Airbnb.org funding is available for temporary housing programmes, according to IOM.
- Supply generators and non-food items to facilities providing protection and support services, according to the Government of Jamaica as relayed by CDEMA.

Response:

- IOM co-leads the Shelter Technical Working Group under the Humanitarian Assistance Committee (including collective centres/CCCM) at the authorities' request; an IOM Shelter Coordination Lead is en route, with four IOM staff arriving on 31 October to support coordination and assessments.
- A French Armed Forces vessel departed 29 October carrying IOM stocks from the regional hub in Barbados for Jamaica: 700 tarpaulins, 400 ropes, 360 shelter repair kits (DG ECHO-supported replenishment), 16 generators, 65 air mattresses, 1,536 hygiene kits, 648 Luci solar lamps, bedding sets, 20 LED lamps, 15 small indoor tents and 708 LuminAID Survivor Solar Dual Lamps and Chargers, to be distributed with ODPEM.
- The Jamaica Red Cross (JRC) has mobilised 400 volunteers and released pre-positioned stocks (blankets, cleaning and hygiene kits, shelter toolkits, tarpaulins); IFRC prepared additional supplies for 2,300 people and a 28-ton charter with kitchen sets, blankets, jerrycans and hygiene supplies for 1,800 families.
- Partners mobilising for shelter relief include Global Empowerment Mission (GEM), CARE International, ShelterBox, Global Emergency Relief, Recovery & Reconstruction (GER3) and Is There Not A Cause? (ITNAK).
- The Government indicates shelters will remain open as long as needed, per IOM.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Makeshift shelters have emerged; deliveries there are limited.
- Access constraints (blocked roads, landslides) and communications/power outages slow distributions and site management.
- Ongoing generator and NFI needs persist for facilities supporting protection services, according to the Government of Jamaica as relayed by CDEMA.

Protection

Needs:

- Protect women, girls and vulnerable groups in shelters and communities through GBV risk mitigation, case management, psychosocial first aid and referral pathways.
- Maintain child protection services and monitoring in residential care, foster families and juvenile centres, providing NFIs and generators to sustain operations.
- Expand community outreach and gender-based violence (GBV) awareness across the hardest-hit parishes.

Response:

- UNICEF, with the Child Protection and Family Services Agency, is monitoring children in residential care and foster families nationwide; all are accounted for and safe. Juvenile centres remain secure on backup power, with assessments ongoing.
- UN Women is coordinating community outreach, psychosocial support and GBV awareness, and supporting gender-responsive services. With UNFPA, it is strengthening local GBV referral pathways and ensuring essential services for survivors.
- UN Women and UNICEF are providing targeted financial support through the Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH) for low-income women with children under five.
- UN Women is finalizing administrative arrangements to facilitate Cash-Based Transfers to support vulnerable women and families.
- UNFPA has commissioned 1,000 Dignity Kits via its Panama hub and is promoting integration of GBV protection across all sectors; PSEA training is available for incoming staff.
- The Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation (WCJF) reports structural damage and connectivity losses at several centres; continuity support is being arranged.
- A contingency programme with Children First Agency is delivering outreach, psychosocial support and GBViE awareness in affected areas.
- CARE International and the Caribbean Gender Alliance published a "Gender in Brief" for Jamaica which can be found [here](#).

Gaps & Constraints:

- Urgent NFIs and generators are needed to keep protection and communication services running in affected facilities.
- Damaged facilities (including WCJF sites) and power/telecom outages constrain service delivery and case follow-up.
- Isolation of communities and access constraints slow outreach and referral services.

Emergency Telecommunications

Needs:

- Restore power and communications across affected parishes to enable emergency coordination and information sharing.
- Deploy backup connectivity and radio systems for government and humanitarian partners in areas where networks remain down.
- Provide technical support to assess telecommunications damage and prioritise restoration of services for critical operations.
- As of 29 October, Jamaica experienced up to 45 per cent national connectivity loss, with St Elizabeth at 80 per cent and Kingston at around 40 per cent.

Response

- ETC and WFP have pre-positioned connectivity equipment in Kingston, including satellite internet devices, VHF radios, solar panels and generators.
- CDEMA has pre-positioned satellite internet devices across Jamaica, while ODPEM has installed backup systems in three community centres.
- A WFP FITTEST technician and senior IT specialist are en route to assess network functionality and identify priority sites for Wi-Fi hotspot installation and restoration.
- Vodafone Foundation has deployed eight IT volunteers and Wi-Fi/Starlink kits for 15 sites (150-metre coverage radius), expected by 31 October; kits can be split for multi-floor buildings.
- Télécoms Sans Frontières (TSF) has deployed a four-person team arriving in Kingston on 30 October with Starlink terminals, satellite phones and networking gear, supporting the Jamaica Red Cross.
- Global Support and Development (GSD) has pre-positioned maritime and aviation assets with ETC capabilities in Puerto Rico.
- Global ETC partners—including the Governments of Luxembourg, Cisco Crisis Response and Ericsson Response—stand ready to deploy additional personnel and equipment.
- The CARICOM Emergency Telecommunications Team (CETT) remains on standby.
- The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has activated its Disaster Connectivity Mapping (DCM) tool and is shipping satellite phones to the Spectrum Management Authority, with transport facilitated by WFP.
- UNESCO, in partnership with national media bodies and the Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica, is ready to launch immediately a Rapid Disaster Assessment of Media Institutions.
- UNESCO, in collaboration with the Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica, has launched a rapid assessment (3–4 November) to evaluate hurricane impacts on media institutions via an online survey, with a possible second phase to follow.
- UNESCO is also developing a fact-checking platform to counter misinformation, supported by the Commission and CARIMAC.
- A community radio station and mobile studio previously established by UNESCO remain operational, providing recovery-related information, with plans to deploy a second mobile unit shortly.

Constraints:

- Power outages and physical damage to infrastructure continue to affect telecommunications networks across multiple parishes.
- Blocked roads and debris are delaying the delivery and installation of connectivity equipment.
- ETC partners note the high number of Starlink units in-country and stress the need for coordinated deployment to ensure connectivity efforts effectively reach and serve affected communities.

Logistics

Needs

- Maintain reliable logistics routes to move relief goods amid blocked roads and damaged infrastructure.
- Strengthen coordination between national authorities and regional partners to avoid duplication and ensure efficient delivery of aid.
- Establish emergency staging areas and temporary storage capacity for incoming relief supplies at ports and airports.

Response

- CDEMA, in collaboration with WFP and international partners, has mobilised and dispatched relief supplies from the Regional Caribbean Logistics Hub in Barbados to Jamaica.
- A coordinated regional operation took place at the Bridgetown Port, where the French military vessel *Le Dumont D'Urville* was loaded with humanitarian cargo for Jamaica. The shipment included essential supplies to reinforce national operations led by ODPEM, with contributions from the EU, Government of Canada, UK Armed Forces, and IOM.
- Emergency staging areas are being established at Jamaica's main ports, and a logistics network is expanding to manage incoming support.
- The first Seabridge movement from Barbados has been initiated, while the EU has provided 14 twenty-foot containers to support Dutch partners operating from the Bridgetown Port.

- Coordination continues with Airlink, ECHO and the private sector to align air and sea logistics and prioritise medical supplies and generators.
- WFP is preparing to deploy Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) in St Elizabeth for pre-positioning of food and relief items and remains on standby to scale up assistance based on evolving needs.
- Critical cargo pre-positioned at the Barbados hub—including emergency food, hygiene kits, shelter materials and communications equipment—is being shipped as ports reopen.

Constraints

- Damaged roads, debris and flooding continue to restrict overland transport and delay distribution to rural parishes.
- Limited warehousing and staging capacity in-country are constraining operations until MSUs are fully deployed.
- Power and connectivity issues persist, slowing coordination and information exchange among logistics partners.

Education

Needs:

- UNICEF assessments identify urgent requirements to restore access to learning through temporary classrooms, school repairs and replacement of damaged materials.
- CDEMA highlight the need to reopen schools safely and ensure readiness in the most-affected western parishes.
- During the recovery phase, UNESCO advocates a comprehensive post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA). This requires advocacy with the Ministry of Education concerning the necessity of a detailed assessment of school infrastructure and facilities as part of disaster preparedness.
- Emergency education supplies are required to maintain continuity of learning.
- Teachers and students need psychosocial support to aid recovery and enable a safe return to classrooms.
- UNESCO has four staff members contributing to the CDEMA-led Rapid Needs Assessment Team (RNAT) and is currently deployed in Black River and working with the education focal point and colleagues from UNICEF.
- Additional assessment of the education sector is needed to guide targeted support. UNICEF and UNESCO are ready to engage the Ministry of Education to align actions with national priorities.

Response:

- Schools in Kingston and St Andrew are scheduled to reopen on 3 November, with an emergency plan for students in the worst-hit western parishes.
- UNICEF, in coordination with the Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information, is supporting continuity of learning across affected parishes.
- Emergency supplies are being distributed, including 210 school-in-a-box kits and 210 early-childhood development kits for the most-affected schools.
- UNICEF has allocated up to US\$500 per school for emergency materials to 100 schools and is supporting repairs in at least 10 schools, benefiting nearly 10,000 students, parents and teachers.
- Psychosocial support activities are ongoing: UNICEF will reprint its Be Prepared psychosocial first-aid guide to reach 20,000 children and develop a second volume as part of wider mental-health interventions.
- Six hundred teachers from the most-affected schools will be trained in the Return to Happiness (RTH) methodology to aid their own recovery and support around 18,000 students.
- UNESCO, co-lead with UNICEF in Education in Jamaica, stands ready to provide emergency funding upon request to replace education materials and resources that may have been damaged, similar to UNESCO action in Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines after Beryl.
- UNESCO has deployed dedicated staff and, together with the Jamaica Teaching Council, is providing mental health support to teachers in the most affected regions.
- UNESCO, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education, is prepared to support coordination on education in emergencies, including school safety assessments, planning for continuity of learning, teacher support and psychosocial resources. UNESCO will also help integrate lessons from Melissa into Jamaica's Safe Schools Programme and disaster-preparedness curricula.
- UNESCO has one international staff member and one national staff member currently available to support the emergency education response. An additional international staff member is on standby and can deploy to Jamaica as early as 1-2 November to reinforce coordination, learning-continuity planning and school safety support.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Several schools remain closed due to structural damage and delayed repairs.

- Power and connectivity outages continue to disrupt reopening timelines.
- Blocked roads and flood damage are slowing delivery of education materials and limiting access to the most-affected schools.
- Strengthened inter-agency coordination for Education in Emergencies and structured support for teachers on crisis-responsive pedagogy and psychosocial care will be needed.

Early Recovery

Needs:

- Support rapid restoration of essential services, including debris clearance, electricity, water, and communications, to enable community recovery and service delivery.
- Assess damage to critical infrastructure and key economic sectors such as tourism, housing, and trade, and provide targeted technical assistance for early recovery planning.
- Deploy specialised personnel to help coordinate national recovery efforts and integrate disaster risk reduction and resilience into reconstruction.

Response:

- UNDP serves as co-chair with CDEMA of the Early Recovery Working group under the Caribbean Development Partners Group for Disaster Management, with UNDP Jamaica engaged via the WG for the generation of local early recovery needs and actions in concert with other UN agencies and partner agencies
- UNDP Jamaica, along with UNDP Crisis Bureau, are mobilising information from its geospatial data and AI powered RAPIDA impact assessment platform, including data on displaced persons, flooded areas, building and crops impact and debris estimation.
- UNDP Jamaica is also engaged with the UNDP Crisis Bureau for the mobilization of early recovery experts to be deployed to Jamaica under surge modality.
- A UNDP surge early recovery advisor is soon to be deployed to Jamaica, and additional surge personnel are being considered in key areas of UNDP early recovery support, such as restoration of local governance core functions, SME and livelihoods, solar for recovery, debris management, building restoration and other areas.
- UNDP assistance is also being explored in areas such as debris removal and early recovery planning, while support to community recovery under UNDP's ongoing portfolio of grant investments in Jamaica in areas such as SME recovery & capacity strengthening, community livelihoods, ecosystem restoration and other areas.
- UNESCO is in communication with the Ministry of Culture regarding potential post-impact assessments on cultural institutions and heritage sites, similar to the joint assessment conducted after Hurricane Beryl in 2024. Confirmation from national authorities is expected shortly.
- UNESCO recommends working with the MoEYI to assess impacts on cultural-education institutions (libraries, museums, community cultural centres) and to ensure learning continuity for students in remote and marginalized communities.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Access constraints due to the level of destruction in some roads pose challenges to debris removal operations.
- Limited availability of recovery funding and specialized technical capacity might be a challenge to be addressed before the rapid response phase is over.
- The extent of damage to housing and economic infrastructure remains under assessment, constraining recovery planning and prioritization

FINANCING

The United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), under the direction of the OCHA Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, has allocated US\$4 million to support life-saving humanitarian assistance in Jamaica.

The Government of the United States has pledged US\$11 million in initial humanitarian assistance for communities affected by Hurricane Melissa. The support, delivered through national authorities and partners including the Red Cross, WFP, Samaritan's Purse, and Project HOPE, covers emergency food for 40,000 people, installation of six mobile water treatment systems, and provision of shelter materials and essential relief supplies. Two U.S. Urban Search and Rescue teams are working alongside national counterparts, while pre-positioned items such as plastic sheeting, water containers, and cleaning kits are being distributed through ODPEM, the Jamaica Red Cross, and WFP. This contribution complements broader international support mobilized through the IFRC, the United Kingdom, Canada, and the UN CERF, collectively reinforcing the Government of Jamaica's response and early recovery efforts.

In addition to earlier commitments, the Government of the United Kingdom has now mobilised a further £5 million (bringing its total to £7.5 million) in humanitarian funding for Jamaica and the Caribbean in the wake of Hurricane Melissa. The funding supports the delivery of relief items, over 3,000 shelter kits and 1,500 solar lanterns and will collaborate with WFP and the Red Cross to reach the most vulnerable. A portion of the package will match up to £1 million in public donations to the IFRC appeal, and UK-deployed rapid-response teams are participating in logistics and coordination efforts.

GENERAL COORDINATION

The Government of Jamaica, through the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), continues to lead national response and coordination efforts. The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) remains at Level 3 activation, with all ministries, departments, and agencies engaged in field assessments and relief operations. The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) is coordinating regional support through its Regional Response Mechanism (RRM). CDEMA is also providing additional support in logistics, telecommunications, and partner coordination.

The United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) continues to lead inter-agency coordination with Government counterparts, supported by OCHA, which has deployed a seven-member team, including four OCHA staff and three UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) members. The team is strengthening coordination, information management, and public information, with technical support from MapAction, which is providing mapping and data visualization services to partners on the ground. Humanitarian coordination meetings are convened daily at 7:00 pm at the Pegasus Hotel to align operational priorities among national authorities, regional organizations, and international partners.

The Caribbean Development Partners Group on Disaster Management (CDPG-DM) continue to meet daily to align partner activities, mobilize expertise, and facilitate coordinated engagement with CDEMA.

Please visit **USEFUL LINKS** (<https://tinyurl.com/mzusxsu3>) for relevant information on needs lists, contact lists, 3W, meetings calendar, satellite imagery from UNOSAT, assessment registry and additional resources and maps – or scan the QR Code.



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For more information, please visit www.unocha.org | <https://response.reliefweb.int/latin-america-and-caribbean/hurricane-melissa>

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