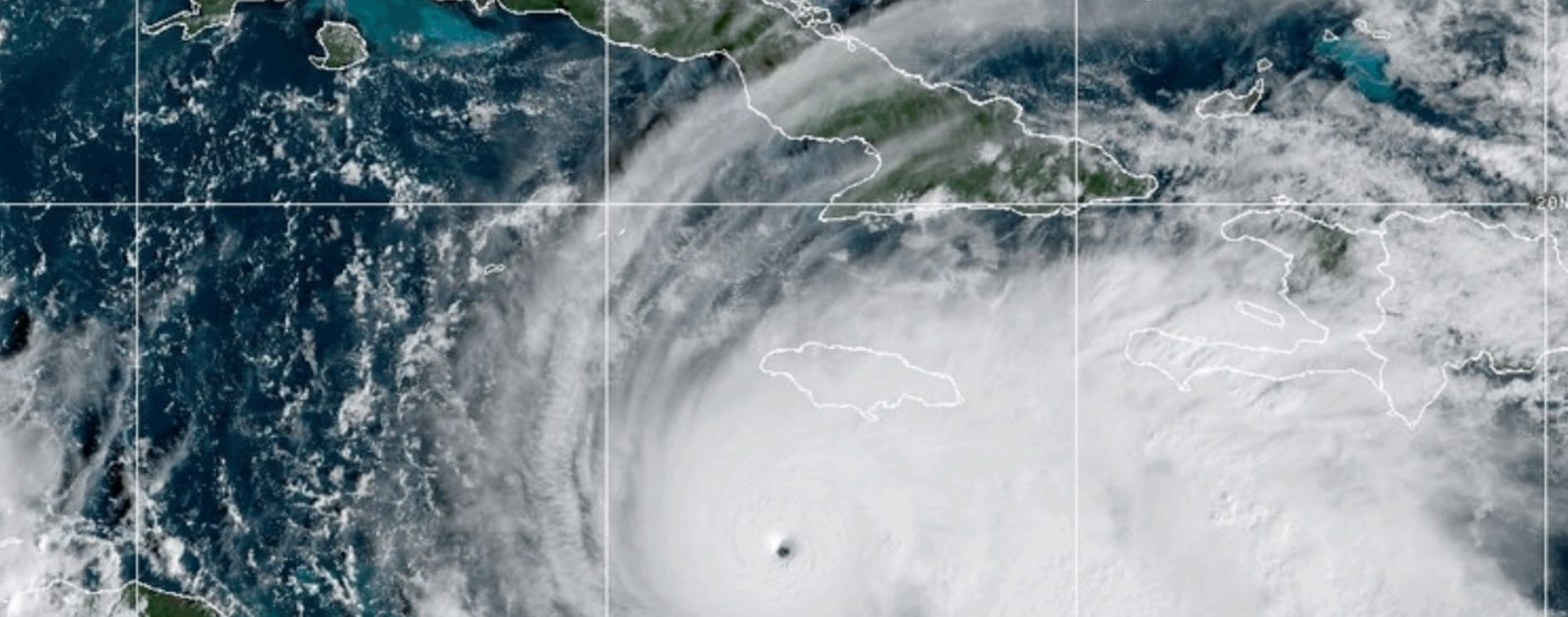




Hurricane Melissa

Situation Report #1

October 27, 2025

Project HOPE's Emergency Response Team is preparing to respond to Hurricane Melissa after it makes landfall in Jamaica in the next 24 hours. Currently a Category 5 storm, the hurricane is anticipated to have a catastrophic impact due to its high winds and slow-moving nature.

Situation Overview

Over the weekend, Hurricane Melissa rapidly intensified from a tropical storm to a **Category 5 hurricane that is expected to make direct landfall in Jamaica late Monday night or early Tuesday morning.** This storm, which is currently 145 miles southwest of Kingston, will be Jamaica's worst hurricane on record and the strongest to hit a Caribbean nation since Hurricane Dorian in 2019. Catastrophic damage is expected to occur, with meteorologists predicting nearly 40 inches of rain, 13 feet of coastal storm surge, and 165 mile-per-hour winds.

Due to the slow-moving nature of Hurricane Melissa, areas of Jamaica will be at high risk of flash floods and landslides. Mandatory evacuations are in place for vulnerable coastal areas, and the government has established 800 shelters across the country. The National Hurricane Center anticipates extensive infrastructure damage that could cut off many communities and limit access to power, internet, clean water, and health care.

Hurricane Melissa will continue north after Jamaica, with landfall expected in Cuba and the Bahamas as a likely Category 2 storm. The storm is already responsible for three deaths in Haiti and one in the Dominican Republic, and the storm has the potential to cause additional significant damage in the coming days.

Key Updates

- Hurricane Melissa has increased to a **catastrophic Category 5 hurricane** as it heads toward Jamaica.
- Project HOPE's emergency response team is **preparing to deploy to Jamaica** following Hurricane Melissa's landfall.
- Beyond Jamaica, our team is monitoring the storm's impact on Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, and the Bahamas.

Project HOPE's Response

Given the strength of this storm on its approach, Project HOPE's Emergency Response Team is mobilizing a team to arrive in Jamaica at the earliest opportunity once the storm passes later this week. In preparation, our team is working in close contact with local and international partners to identify the most critical needs as the storm moves through the region.

The Emergency Response team has begun procuring supplies, including hygiene kits, in coordination with our gift-in-kind partners and is prepared to ship and distribute urgently needed items as we are able.

Once on the ground, Project HOPE will look to implement the following activities based on the availability of resources and the needs of local communities:

- Distribution of hygiene kits to displaced people and families
- Procurement of medical supplies, equipment, and consumables for community health facilities impacted by the storm
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene supplies, including (but not limited to) the establishment of latrines and water filtration systems
- Support for local health facilities
- Shelter items for displaced communities
- Mental health trainings for frontline workers to prevent burnout and mental fatigue as recovery efforts begin

Project HOPE has an active country office in the Dominican Republic and a history of programming in Haiti. Our team is engaging with our colleagues in Santo Domingo and contacts in Haiti in the event that our emergency response activities are needed there.

Project HOPE has a long history of responding to hurricanes and has recently provided primary health care support, essential health and hygiene supplies, hurricane preparedness trainings, and mental health services to frontline workers following hurricanes Dorian, Ian, Idalia, Helene, and Milton.

“Hurricane Melissa is anticipated to be a slow-moving force of destruction as it moves across Jamaica. Project HOPE is mobilizing a team to meet the urgent health needs of those most impacted by the storm.”

— Arlan Fuller, Director of Emergency Response at Project HOPE