



Hurricane Melissa

Situation Report #4

November 14, 2025

Project HOPE's Emergency Response Team is responding to immense and increasingly urgent health and humanitarian needs throughout the Caribbean after Hurricane Melissa's catastrophic damage.

Situation Overview

Project HOPE's teams in Jamaica, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic report growing health and humanitarian needs caused by Hurricane Melissa. Health facilities, civilian infrastructure, and water systems across the region require urgent repairs following the widespread flooding, landslides, and structure damage brought by the Category 5 storm.

In Jamaica, the health system remains strained as 47 primary health facilities are unable to provide care, disrupting access in the country's severely impacted southern and western regions. Several secondary care facilities are operating over capacity after five hospitals sustained significant damage and several were deemed non-operational, including Black River Hospital in St. Elizabeth. Across the island, Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) are operating in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW), but more EMTs will be needed to fill the current service gap.

Power has been restored to 67% of Jamaica following weeks of widespread outages and 72% of the country has access to running water. Due to the extent of infrastructure damage, the most impacted communities require long-term humanitarian assistance as they navigate inconsistent access to clean water, shelter, and electricity.

In Haiti, the full scale of Hurricane Melissa's impact on the Tiburon Peninsula has become clear. After the storm's initial impacts, more than 16,000 people were living in shelters and experienced massive disruptions to their daily lives. Now, 1,700 people

Key Updates

- Hurricane Melissa has **killed over 75 people** and **displaced 44,000** across the Caribbean.
- **33% of Jamaica is still without power** and 28% of Jamaica does not have running water.
- **Dozens of communities were stranded by floods and landslides**, making aid access difficult and exacerbating humanitarian needs.
- In Jamaica, Project HOPE is distributing urgently needed **hygiene kits, water, dignity items, shelter items, and food.**
- Project HOPE is assessing urgent needs in **Haiti** and distributing hygiene items in the **Dominican Republic.**
- Project HOPE is scaling up its response in Jamaica, with plans to establish **static and mobile health clinics**, restore access to **clean water**, equip health workers with **medical supplies**, and provide **mental health and resiliency trainings** for frontline responders.

remain living in 10 shelters. Nearly 12,000 homes were flooded or otherwise damaged — with the most severe damage occurring in Petit Goave, where flooding killed 25 people. Haiti’s Ministry of Public Works continues to clear roads of debris, conduct repairs, and reopen routes for humanitarian aid. Increased water and nutrition needs are the immediate concern in affected areas following damage to water systems and agricultural land along the peninsula.



Project HOPE’s team in Jamaica participates in a supply drop to Beeston Spring, a community of 2,500 people that had been stranded for nearly a week. Photo by Project HOPE staff, 2025.

“People tell you about hearing cement and concrete walls vibrating and their roofs shaking and being torn off in an instant. The stories are grim.”

— Kemesha Swaby, Project HOPE’s Emergency Response Coordinator in Jamaica

In the Dominican Republic, water access remains a high priority. Water supply interruptions have impacted more than 625,000 people and 32 water systems are out of service due to high turbidity levels, river flooding, and preventative closures. These conditions and stagnated flood waters have increased the risk of waterborne and vector-borne disease outbreaks. In impacted communities, the Ministry of Health reports that cases of gastrointestinal and respiratory conditions doubled in the week following the hurricane. In southwestern areas of the country, health facilities have also reported shortages in essential medicines and health supplies.

Project HOPE’s Response

Project HOPE’s team in Jamaica is implementing a multi-pronged approach to stabilize affected communities and meet their most urgent needs. Our main intervention areas will include health; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services in St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland, St. James, Hanover, and Trelawney parishes.

The response team has distributed relief items — including urgently needed hygiene and dignity supplies, basic food products and water, and other essential items — to community centers, shelters, and hospitals in nearly a dozen impacted communities in Falmouth, Savannah-la-Mar, and Black River. **Project HOPE focused its distributions on communities that were completely stranded and where no aid had previously been delivered,** reaching them by foot, navigating landslide-impacted roads, and participating in helicopter supply drops.

In the coming weeks and months, Project HOPE’s team in Jamaica will conduct the following activities based on the needs of impacted communities:

- **Emergency Medical Team** — Project HOPE’s longtime partner, SAMU, is now in-country and will be operating an EMT at Noel Holmes Hospital in Lucea in coordination with MOHW following a request by the World Health

Organization. Noel Holmes Hospital lost 50% of its roof during the storm, rendering much of the facility unusable. SAMU's team of 25 doctors, nurses, and pharmacists will support primary health and emergency medicine operations for three months to reduce the burden on nearby facilities and ensure access to care. This partnership will both support immediate health needs following the emergency and give the team at Noel Holmes Hospital, many of whom do not have emergency medicine training, the opportunity to learn from SAMU's team and increase the capacity of the local health system.

- **Static and Mobile Health Clinics** — Project HOPE will support the operation of four static health clinics to ensure access to primary care and psychological first aid services, in coordination with MOHW. Additionally, given the remote nature of many affected towns, Project HOPE will also establish four mobile medical units capable of navigating damaged areas to provide primary health in areas where local health facilities have been damaged and/or deemed non-operational.
- **Water Trucking** — Project HOPE is working with government officials to conduct water trucking in communities with damaged water infrastructure to ensure access to potable water for both community members and health facilities. Water trucking activities will be supported by the procurement and distribution of water tanks.
- **Hygiene and Medical Supplies** — The team will continue procurement and distribution of urgently needed medical supplies, equipment, and pharmaceuticals to support frontline communities as fast as possible without overwhelming local markets. Essential Health Packs, hygiene kits, baby supplies, and additional items will arrive in Jamaica in the coming days and weeks for immediate distribution to the most vulnerable communities.
- **Mental Health and Resiliency Training for Frontline Responders** — Project HOPE will provide mental health and resiliency training to frontline responders, hospital staff, community leaders, and local organizations in impacted communities to help those most affected recover from this devastating disaster. Following discussions with staff at Noel Holmes Hospital, our team will commence psychological first aid training sessions with their staff next week.

Project HOPE continues to monitor for additional needs in Jamaica and is closely coordinating response efforts with MOHW, local leaders, and other responding agencies.

“When we visit hospitals, we see roofs that have been completely blown away and nurses, doctors, and other staff who, despite the constant challenges they face, still show up for work. Sometimes they have tears in their eyes, but they continue to show up to provide care and support to the people they serve.”

— Kemesha Swaby, Project HOPE's Emergency Response Coordinator in Jamaica



Project HOPE team members deliver food, hygiene items, and other essential supplies to a community of 250 people that had been stranded after a landslide destroyed an access road. Photo by Matthew Khoury for Project HOPE, 2025.

Project HOPE's team in Haiti is coordinating with local responders and conducting a deeper needs assessment in and around Petit Goave in Léogâne. The team is also procuring hygiene items and health supplies for future distribution in communities impacted by flooding following Hurricane Melissa.

Project HOPE's team in the **Dominican Republic** is working in close coordination with the Ministry of Health and Civil Defense to respond to needs in southern areas of the country. Project HOPE is conducting distributions of hygiene kits, including pediatric toothbrushes and toothpaste, in San José de Ocoa and surrounding areas impacted by the hurricane.

Project HOPE has a long history of responding to hurricanes and 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. Project HOPE also has an active country office in the Dominican Republic and a history of programming in Haiti.



A member of Project HOPE's response team hugs a woman in a severely impacted community, assuring her that additional aid is on the way. Photo by Matthew Khoury for Project HOPE, 2025.

“Lives were turned upside down in a matter of hours, it’s going to be a long road to recovery for many people here.”

— Christine Lathrop, Senior Program Officer, Emergency Response at Project HOPE