



Warnings and Forecast Cone, National Hurricane Centers (22 October 2025)

Appeal: MDRJM005	DREF Allocated: CHF 80,000	Hazard: Cyclone	Country: Jamaica
Population at risk (if available): 165,000	Operation Start Date: 23-10-2025	Operation End Date: 31-12-2025	
Event Onset: Sudden	Forecasted day of event (or peak): 2025-10-24	Operation Timeframe: 45 days	

Targeted Regions: Clarendon, Manchester, Portland, Saint Andrew, Saint Catherine, Saint Elizabeth, Saint Thomas, Kingston

Scenario analysis

When and where is the hazard expected to happen?

Tropical Storm Melissa is expected to approach Jamaica starting October 24, with forecasts indicating that it could strengthen into a Category 1 or 2 Hurricane over the weekend. The storm is currently moving slowly west-northwest at approximately 11 km/h (7 mph), which increases the potential for prolonged rainfall over affected areas. Based on the projected path, impacts are anticipated along the southern and northeastern coasts, particularly in the parishes of Saint Elizabeth, Manchester, Clarendon, Saint Catherine, Saint Andrew, Kingston, Saint Thomas, and Portland.

According to a Government of Jamaica Bulletin issued at 11:00 a.m. on October 21, a Tropical Storm Watch remains in effect, indicating that tropical storm conditions pose a potential threat to the island. As of 5:00 a.m. on October 22, the system was located approximately 493 km southeast of Morant Point, Jamaica, with maximum sustained winds near 85 km/h (50 mph). Locally heavy rainfall and strong, gusty winds of tropical storm force are expected as early as Friday, October 24.

The storm's slow forward motion and forecasted westward turn may cause it to linger near Jamaica through the start of next week, increasing the likelihood of flooding and landslides, particularly in hilly southern areas. Fishers operating in marine cays and banks have been advised to evacuate and return to the mainland. As Melissa nears Jamaica, periods of moderate to heavy rainfall and strong gusty winds are expected, potentially reaching tropical storm intensity, especially across northeastern and southern parishes. Clarendon, Manchester, Portland, Saint Andrew, Saint Catherine, Saint Elizabeth, Saint Thomas, Kingston

Explain the underlying vulnerabilities and risks the hazard poses for at-risk communities?

According to IOM, 177 people sought refuge within 10 shelters across the affected parishes last year (1). As was the case during Hurricane Beryl, there is an expectation that for Tropical Storm Melissa, communities will avoid leaving their homes and opt to remain there unless there is a clear imminent threat, due to fear of looting if they abandon their property. Most affected households will, however, seek shelter. In previous cases, the Government of Jamaica estimated that 8,700 homes were damaged due to Hurricane Beryl (2). It should be noted that southern Jamaica is home to dense and fragile urban areas, with many households in Kingston living in informal settlements, and coastal villages comprising of wooden or zinc-roofed structures which are susceptible to high wind damage. Power and water utilities are prone to extended disruption. Access to parishes may be cut by inland landslides, particularly in St Andrew and St Thomas. Fishing villages such as Old Harbour Bay, Rocky Point, Bull Bay, and Caribbean Terrace are low-lying and therefore particularly exposed to storm surge and coastal inundation. This situation, jointly with the heavy rainfall that has been recorded over the past two weeks, could exacerbate the risks of flooding and landslides in the southern and northeastern parts of the country.

Parishes located on the Southern coast, namely Saint Elizabeth, Manchester, Clarendon and Saint Catherine, are expected to be particularly vulnerable to further impacts affecting agricultural and fishing dependent livelihoods. Jamaica was previously affected by the Category 5 Hurricane Beryl on July 1, 2024, avoiding a direct hit but receiving flooding and wind damage from the storm's outer bands, with the storm passing 72 km (45 miles) south of the island. Affected areas included the southern parishes of Clarendon, St. Elizabeth, St Catherine Westmoreland and Manchester. The hurricane claimed four lives and inflicted 204 million USD dollars in economic damages, and disrupted various public services, including transportation and education (3). Agricultural losses were significant, where 48,852 farmers were affected with 23,040 hectares of farmland destroyed and 323,412 livestock killed. Another 11,200 fishermen experienced the loss of their fishing gear. Crops and livestock were particularly badly affected in Clarendon and Manchester, while fishing communities in St Elizabeth and Clarendon faced serious damage.

In 2016, Hurricane Matthew, though it missed direct landfall, caused extensive flooding in southern parishes, highlighting the extreme sensitivity of Kingston & St Andrew, St Thomas, and Clarendon to rainfall-driven flooding. In 2012, Hurricane Sandy (Category 1) left 70% of the island without electricity, displaced over 5,000 people, and caused agricultural losses exceeding USD 100 million.

Source Name	Source Link
1. Situation Report 3: Hurricane Beryl in the Caribbean (July 15, 2024)	https://lac.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl2601/files/documents/2024-07/iom-caribbean-sitrep-3.-16-july-2024.pdf
2. IOM/Jamaica Hurricane Beryl Aftermath (September 11, 2024)	https://media.un.org/unifeed/en/asset/d325/d3253722



3. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining, Agriculture Sector Sustains \$4.73b in Losses from Hurricane Beryl's Passage (July 19, 2024)

<https://www.moa.gov.jm/content/agriculture-sector-sustains-473b-losses-hurricane-beryl%E2%80%99s-passage>

Plan

Which of the expected severe humanitarian impacts of the hazard are your actions addressing? Why were these impacts chosen?

Within the scope of the Imminent DREF, the Jamaica Red Cross aims reduce or mitigate the most severe humanitarian impacts anticipated as a result of tropical storm melissa on at risk communities through the implementation of early actions including the mobilization and distribution of items, mobilization of volunteers and support with the preparations of emergency shelters before the impact of the storm.

The mobilization of stock for 250 households (750 people) including 250 shelter kits, 250 hygiene kits, 250 cleaning kits, 500 tarps, 750 blankets as well as drinking water within local branches for distribution in shelters before impact. Volunteers will also be mobilized and will be on stand-by to respond in the field, with the necessary communication, meals, transportation, visibility and safety support accommodations.

Additionally, the government is issuing early warnings, and the National Society is complementing these efforts by developing and disseminating tailored messages. During distributions to branches and communities, the National Society is also sharing key information to reinforce preparedness ahead of the storm's impact.

It is expected that given the recent impact of Hurricane Beryl in 2024, further damage to agricultural lands, livestock and fishing would exacerbate the already precarious economic security of households. Families in southern coastal communities have not yet recovered from the financial impacts of Hurricane Beryl and do not possess the resources to purchase necessary items and services (medical expenses, transportation, food, etc.) to prepare for the potential impacts in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Melissa. This may result in additional consequences, including food insecurity and indebtedness.

Between 8 to 40 emergency shelters could be set up in the 8 targeted parishes, allocation of shelters to be supported by the Jamaican Red Cross is yet to be decided in collaboration with the Parish Disaster Committees, which are chaired by the Municipal Corporations. Shelters will be equipped with the necessary supplies to accommodate around 15 people, within local schools, community centers and places of worship. This will ensure that safe spaces are available to communities facing imminent threat when Tropical Storm Melissa approaches Jamaica as early as Friday, 24 October.



Proposed Actions

	Sector	Activities	Budget (CHF)
 Early Actions	Shelter	• Setting up of emergency shelters • Mobilization and distribution of stock to 250 at-risk households through local branches and designated shelters before the impact of the tropical storm including 250 shelter kits, 250 hygiene kits, 250 cleaning kits, 500 tarps, 750 blankets.	CHF 56,250
	NS Strengthening	• National Society strengthening, internal coordination and early response planning with local branches • Mobilization of staff and volunteers and preparation of support necessities (transportation, communications, visibility items, safety gear, etc.) • Support the operation of the National Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)	
 Early Response	NS Strengthening	• Support the operation of the National Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)	CHF 18,750
	CEA	• Initiate a Damage and Needs Assessment to collect information on existing needs after impact of the storm. • Advance CEA activities by establishing the feedback and complaint mechanism channel for the response.	
	Shelter	• Run emergency shelters • Procurement of supplies for registration and temporary sheltering of disaster-affected households. • Replenishment of items distributed during the early actions. • Distribution of relief items stocked in local branches and shelters to affected communities after impact of the storm. • Replenishment of relief items distributed during the early response.	
Sub-total			CHF 75,000
Indirect Cost			CHF 5,000
Total			CHF 80,000

Contact Information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

National Society contact: Leiska Powell, Emergency Services Manager, lpowell@jamaicaredcross.org, +18764561999

IFRC Appeal Manager: Rhea Marie Pierre, Operations Coordinator, Caribbean CCD, rhea.pierre@ifrc.org, +1 (868) 490-7730

IFRC Project Manager: Ariadna Alexandra Lira Garcia, Disaster Risk Management Technical Officer, Ariadna.LIRA@ifrc.org, +584242108270

IFRC focal point for the emergency:

Rhea Pierre & Ariadna Lira, Operations Coordinator, Caribbean CCD & Disaster Risk Management Technical Officer, rhea.pierre@ifrc.org, +18684907730

Media Contact: Susana Arroyo, Regional Communications, Susana.arroyo@ifrc.org, +50684161771

[Click here for the reference](#)

