



Hurricane Melissa

Situation Report #5

November 19, 2025

Project HOPE's Emergency Response Team is focusing its response to Hurricane Melissa on the Caribbean's hardest-hit areas. The team has established a field hospital in Jamaica, distributed urgently needed supplies to stranded communities, and is working to meet humanitarian needs in Jamaica, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic.

Situation Overview

Project HOPE's teams in Jamaica, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic continue to report widespread health and humanitarian needs in the wake of Hurricane Melissa, which caused catastrophic damage to health facilities, civilian infrastructure, and water systems across the region. Three weeks after the storm's landfall, survivors continue to face urgent needs that must be met before communities can stabilize, frontline responders can recover, and families can begin to heal.

In Jamaica, access to health care is strained as dozens of primary health facilities and multiple hospitals are non-operational and unable to provide care. Several health facilities have been operating over capacity and local health workers have been working without breaks, witnessing distressing scenes and caring for people living in desperate conditions. Across the island, Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) are operating in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW), but more surge support and health workers will be needed before communities can properly recover.

Power has been restored to 69% of Jamaica following weeks of widespread outages and 76% of the country has access to running water. **Despite the recent gains in access, the needs continue to be profound and the disruption to daily life is extreme.** Thousands of people have been displaced, entire communities are cut off, and many residents do

Key Updates

- Hurricane Melissa has killed at least 88 people and displaced 44,000 across the Caribbean.
- 31% of Jamaica is still without power and 24% of the country does not have running water.
- Project HOPE has established a field hospital in Lucea, Jamaica to keep health services running and support recovery efforts.
- Community members are facing deep health and humanitarian needs, especially in communities that were stranded by floods and landslides.
- The team has begun water trucking services and continues to distribute hygiene kits, medical supplies, water, dignity items, shelter items, and food.
- Project HOPE will soon operate fixed and mobile health clinics and provide mental health and resiliency trainings to frontline responders so they can continue caring for those in need.

not know when they will be able to regain a sense of normalcy. **As people in affected areas maneuver these challenges, we must ensure access to the foundations of recovery:** access to health care, clean water, and hygiene and dignity items.



Team members survey damage in Jamaica's Blue Mountains, where the team distributed food and hygiene items to a community stranded by landslides that washed away access roads. Photo by Matthew Khoury for Project HOPE, 2025.

In Haiti, Hurricane Melissa's impact on the Tiburon Peninsula is devastating and occurs as the country endures an existing humanitarian crisis. Right now, 14,000 people remain newly displaced by the storm's impacts and 1,700 people are living in 10 shelters. Current reports estimate that 16,000 homes have been damaged or destroyed. Supply routes for humanitarian aid are being established, and communities along the peninsula are expected to face exacerbated water and nutrition needs following significant damage to water systems and agricultural land.

In the Dominican Republic, 625,000 people are facing water supply interruptions due to the storm. Project HOPE's team on the ground reports that 32 water systems are out of service due to high turbidity levels, river flooding, and preventative closures. These conditions increase the risk of waterborne and vector-borne disease outbreaks, and the Ministry of Health has reported increased gastrointestinal and respiratory conditions.

Project HOPE's Response

Project HOPE's team in Jamaica is rapidly implementing a multi-pronged response to stabilize affected communities, support the local health system in its time of need, and ensure the most affected communities have what they need to recover. 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 Trelawny parishes.

Project HOPE has constructed a field hospital outside Noel Holmes General Hospital in Lucea, Jamaica and is now treating patients. Project HOPE's team at this field hospital includes staff from our longtime partner, SAMU. The team of 25 doctors, nurses, and pharmacists, as well as additional Project HOPE staff, will support primary health and emergency medicine operations at Noel Holmes General Hospital for three months to reduce the burden on nearby facilities and ensure access to lifesaving care as communities embark on a long road to recovery. This Type 1 Fixed EMT has the capacity for **clinical management, triage, stabilization, wound care, primary health, maternal and child health, infectious and chronic disease management, palliative care, mental health, and patient transport.**

“Making sure that people have access to health care right now is critical. People continue to recover from injuries and are at an increased risk of harm during the initial stages of recovery.”

— Rabih Torbay, Project HOPE President and CEO

Project HOPE is operating in close coordination with the team at Noel Holmes General Hospital, which lost 50% of its roof during the storm, as well as the MOHW and the World Health Organization. This partnership will support immediate health needs and give local health workers — many of whom do not have emergency medicine training — the opportunity to learn from our team, increasing local capacity and preparedness for future emergencies.

The response team has also distributed relief items — including urgently needed hygiene and dignity supplies, basic food products, water, and other essential items — to stranded communities, shelters, community centers, and health facilities in multiple parishes. **Project HOPE continues to focus its distributions on the most affected communities, especially those that were completely stranded and where aid access has been difficult.** Our team has delivered lifesaving supplies by foot, over landslide-impacted roads, and via helicopter.



Project HOPE constructs a field hospital near the parking lot of Noel Holmes General Hospital in Lucea, Jamaica, which sustained significant damage and has tarps covering roofs. Photo by Charlie Cordero for Project HOPE, 2025.

Project HOPE has begun water trucking operations at two primary health centers in Lacovia and Santa Cruz. The team will continue working with government officials to conduct water trucking in high-priority communities with damaged water infrastructure to ensure access to potable water for community members and health facilities. Water trucking activities will be supported by the procurement and distribution of water tanks and jerry cans, as well as training to ensure safe water practices.

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

- **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 or deemed non-operational.
- **Hygiene and Medical Supplies** — The team has already received multiple pallets of supplies and established logistics processes for future shipments. Project HOPE will continue procurement and the distribution of urgently needed medical supplies, equipment, and pharmaceuticals to support frontline communities as fast as possible without overwhelming local markets. In the

“Our mission is always to do what needs to be done. Our team is listening to communities and responding directly to their most urgent needs.”

— Chessa Latifi, Project HOPE Deputy Director of Emergency Preparedness and Response

coming days, our team will facilitate the arrival of Essential Health Packs, hygiene kits, baby supplies, and additional items for immediate distribution to the most affected 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. Following discussions with staff at Noel Holmes General 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.

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.

“The situation in some areas is beyond desperate. People have lost everything to some of the most horrific hurricane damage you can imagine.”

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



Project HOPE delivers food items and water to staff at Santa Cruz Health Centre, ensuring that health workers living through the same crisis as their patients can continue to care for their communities. Photo by Project HOPE staff, 2025.