



UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

HURRICANE MELISSA

REGIONAL SITUATION REPORT

31 October - 7 November 2025

Highlights

Hurricane Melissa has created urgent humanitarian needs in Jamaica, Haiti and Cuba, particularly for women and girls who are disproportionately affected during crises. Thousands of women and girls are residing in emergency shelters, many of which are overcrowded and insecure, heightening the risk of gender-based violence (GBV).

Across Jamaica, Haiti and Cuba, a total of 706 health facilities have been damaged, with additional hospitals and healthcare centres experiencing power outages. These disruptions have severely affected access to essential health services, including sexual and reproductive health (SRH) care.

UNFPA is responding to urgent SRH and GBV needs in areas affected by the hurricane. To date, 91 reproductive health kits have been procured to support 161,345 people, along with 5,650 dignity kits for women and girls. UNFPA teams have also conducted on-the-ground needs assessments, and response plans are being implemented to ensure the continuity of essential SRH services and address protection needs.



4.1 million

Total people affected¹



1.4 million

Women of reproductive age²



58,900

Estimated pregnant women²



1.86 million

People targeted w/ SRH services



814,000

People targeted w/ GBV programmes

¹ [ECHO. Emergency Response Coordination Centre. The Caribbean - Hurricane Melissa Update.](#)

² Estimated figures are based on the Minimum Initial Services Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Settings calculator.

Regional Situation Overview

Hurricane Melissa struck Jamaica on 28 October and Cuba on 29 October, while also causing torrential rainfall in Haiti which resulted in flooding and landslides. The hurricane has resulted in 77 confirmed fatalities, 150 injuries,³ and billions of dollars in damage to infrastructure.

Hundreds of healthcare facilities, including hospitals, primary healthcare centres, and pharmacies have been severely damaged across the Caribbean, including 642 health facilities in Cuba, 54 in Jamaica, and 10 in Haiti. Hospitals and healthcare centres that remain operational are under increased strain as they function over capacity.

Across the three countries, more than 124,600 people are currently residing in shelters.³ Increased protection and prevention measures are urgently needed, as well as ensuring access to specialized GBV services for survivors.

Humanitarian access remains constrained in the hardest hit areas of Jamaica, Haiti and Cuba due to flooded roads, landslides, and debris. This is restricting the ability of humanitarian actors to conduct needs assessments and respond to urgent needs of the communities affected.

UNFPA Response

Sexual and Reproductive Health: A total of 91 reproductive health kits have currently been procured to support childbirth deliveries and obstetric complications, family planning and contraceptives, treatment for STIs, and the clinical management of rape. The kits will service the needs of a total of 161,345 people across Jamaica, Haiti and Cuba. In addition, 600 mama kits have been procured to distribute to new mothers to provide essential supplies for their newborns.

In Haiti, UNFPA is supporting 10 hospitals, as well as providing SRH and GBV outreach services through four mobile clinics to displaced populations at shelters. In Jamaica, UNFPA teams have conducted assessments at the maternity wards of two hospitals severely damaged by the hurricane. And in Cuba, SRH supplies of IUDs, Jadelle implants, and contraceptive vials were dispatched to the affected provinces to ensure family planning continuity.

Gender-based violence: UNFPA has procured an initial 5,650 dignity kits for Haiti, Jamaica and Cuba, which are planned for distribution to women and adolescent girls affected by the hurricane, particularly those that have been displaced or evacuated, adolescent mothers, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and persons living with disabilities.

UNFPA continues to provide GBV services through the existing women and girls' safe spaces in Haiti. Three Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GVBIE) Specialists, including from UNFPA's Global Emergency Response Team, have been deployed to Jamaica to support needs assessments, referral mapping, programme implementation, and technical support and capacity building of partners. In Cuba, UNFPA is working with other UN agencies on GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and protection in evacuation shelters.

³ [Pan-American Health Organization. Regional Situation Report 2 - Hurricane Melissa. 5 November 2025.](#)

Haiti

Situation Overview

Hurricane Melissa has deepened Haiti's already dire humanitarian crisis, compounding the impacts of persistent violence, widespread displacement, entrenched poverty, and inadequate health services. The hurricane has exacerbated existing humanitarian needs, with women and girls disproportionately affected. They are in urgent need of SRH services and are at increased risk of GBV.

Floods and landslides have caused considerable damage to homes and critical infrastructure, particularly in Grand'Anse, Nippes in the Great South department, and Petit Goava in the West Department. Damage assessments and needs analyses are currently ongoing in six departments to identify the disaster's impacts and prioritize humanitarian responses, although access to some areas remains limited due to damaged and flooded roads.

A total of 121 temporary shelters have been set up in churches, schools and other public buildings (56 in the south, 48 in Grand'Anse, and 15 in Nippes) to accommodate 16,000 people displaced by the hurricane. The priority needs at the shelters are food, drinking water, hygiene kits and healthcare services. In Grande Anse, three pregnant women gave birth in shelters with assistance from healthcare personnel and rescuers, highlighting the importance of maternal health services. In addition, GBV prevention and response activities – particularly for women and girls who faced increased risks at shelters due to insecure conditions – is urgently required.

A state of emergency has been declared for a period of three months, from November 3, 2025, to February 3, 2026, in the departments of the South, Southeast, Grand-Anse, Nippes, West, and Northwest. This measure aims to enable authorities to provide assistance to disaster victims, ensure the safety of affected areas, and facilitate the resumption of essential activities.



241

People reached with
SRH services
72% female, 28% male



288

People reached with GBV
prevention, mitigation
and response activities
100% female



10

Health facilities
supported



4

Safe spaces for women
and girls supported

UNFPA Response

UNFPA is prioritizing the continuation of life-saving services for women and girls affected in Great South department and Port au Prince MZPAP through the deployment of integrated SRH (including family planning) and GBV mobile clinics, dignity kit distribution, strengthening the response capacity within health facilities, humanitarian cash assistance, remote support for survivors of violence via a hotline, and coordination of GBV response services.

Sexual and reproductive health: UNFPA has procured 600 mama kits and prepositioned 43 reproductive health kits to strengthen SRH services provision. The kits have been provided within four referral hospitals providing comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care (CEmONC) in the South Department, and in the West Department seven kits have been provided to health facilities and four kits to

mobile clinics. The kits will support 4,200 deliveries and 525 obstetric surgeries, and treatment of 180 rape cases and 240 post-abortion complications.

After the damage caused in the displaced site by the hurricane in the Metropolitan Zone of Port-au-Prince, the integrated mobile SRH/GBV teams are being deployed with partners, including Kay Fanm, Centre for Health Development (CDS), Foundation for Reproductive Health and Family Education (FOSREF), and World Relief. In collaboration with CDS and Women in Association for the Development of Haiti and for the Strengthening of Social Integration (FADHRIS), UNFPA deployed four mobile clinics to displacement sites to provide SRH and GBV services to 241 people (174 women and 67 men) who have been newly displaced.

Gender-based violence: UNFPA has procured a total of 4,000 dignity kits and is preparing distribution to vulnerable women and adolescent girls affected by Hurricane Melissa.

UNFPA continues to provide GBV services through the existing women and girls' safe spaces in MZPAP and Artibonite. During Hurricane Melissa, implementing partners conducted awareness raising sessions and provided information on risk mitigation to 288 women and girls.

At inter-agency level, UNFPA continues its support to GBV actors to ensure the coordination of the response. This includes the strengthening of referral pathways and ensuring the capacity of actors in terms of operational presence, commodities and stock in affected areas.



Jamaica

Situation Overview

Across Jamaica, 1.6 million people have been impacted by Hurricane Melissa,⁴ of which approximately 416,000 are women of reproductive age, including an estimated 19,170 who are currently pregnant. Of these women, 2,130 are expected to give birth in the coming month, and over the next three months, about roughly 960 pregnancies may end in obstetrical complications, with an anticipated 320 requiring cesarean sections. These figures highlight the urgency of deploying Minimum Initial Services Package (MISP) for SRH and ensuring uninterrupted 24/7 emergency obstetric and newborn care to prevent maternal and newborn deaths.

More than 120,000 structures – including houses, businesses, and critical infrastructure – are reported damaged. St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland, St. James, Hanover, and Trelawny have been the hardest hit.⁵ A total of 43 health centres and 11 hospitals have been damaged,⁶ reducing access to essential medical services. In particular, Black River, Noel Holmes, and Cornwall Regional hospitals – all of which provided maternal and neonatal care – have experienced extensive damage. Many other health facilities that remain operational are dependent on fuel generators due to electricity outages, although fuel shortages and unreliability of generators is impacting care, with 18 per cent of health facilities in the Western Region reporting generator failures.



Damage caused to the maternity ward of Cornwall Regional Hospital from Hurricane Melissa. © UNFPA Caribbean / Sheldon Levene

Many families remain displaced due to severe damage to their homes. Shelters have been set up, but most lack adequate safety and security, making women and girls particularly vulnerable to GBV. The implementation of risk mitigation, psychosocial support, case management, and referral pathways is urgently needed.

Access to deliver humanitarian aid and conduct needs assessments is severely hindered, particularly in the central and western parishes, due to debris blocking roads, the impact of landslides caused by the hurricane, and traffic congestion due to limited usable routes.

⁴ [OCHA. Jamaica: Hurricane Melissa - Situation Report No. 2. 4 November 2025.](#)

⁵ Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

⁶ [Pan-American Health Organization. Regional Situation Report 2 - Hurricane Melissa. 5 November 2025.](#)

UNFPA Response

Sexual and reproductive health: UNFPA has initiated procurement of eight reproductive health kits to strengthen the provision of emergency obstetric, delivery care, and family planning services. These kits will serve 150,000 people over 3 months, contributing to continuity of care and lifesaving interventions to prevent maternal deaths and unintended pregnancies.

UNFPA, in collaboration with the Caribbean Regional Midwifery Association, conducted a rapid assessment of two maternity hospitals: St Anne and Cornwall Regional Hospital. The assessment revealed that the maternity unit at Cornwall Regional Hospital is severely damaged, with most of the beds and essential infrastructure compromised.

Gender-based violence: UNFPA have procured 1,000 dignity kits, which are expected to arrive in Jamaica within the next few days. In addition, UNFPA has engaged Caribbean Training and Education Center for Health (CTECH), a local implementing partner in Jamaica, to procure additional kits in-country. The coordination for the logistics and distribution of the dignity kits is being done in collaboration with the Bureau of Gender Affairs of the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport (BGA/MCGES), which are presently compiling information on potential recipients, with a special focus on adolescent mothers, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and persons living with disabilities. In addition to supplying essential hygiene products to women and adolescent girls, the kits include critical information on GBV and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and serve as a gateway to raise awareness and enhance survivors' access to support services.

UNFPA deployed a GBViE Specialist from Trinidad and Tobago to participate in the rapid needs assessment coordinated by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Agency (CDEMA) and United Nations Technical Team (UNETT) partners. The assessments were conducted in the main Hurricane-affected parishes of Trelawny, St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland and St. Andrews, including six displacement shelters, between 1-5 November 2025. During the assessment, key protection and GBV risks in shelters were identified, and report findings with recommended prevention and response activities shared with actors to ensure an integrated response.

UNFPA has also deployed a GBViE Specialist to provide technical assistance to the Bureau of Gender Affairs (BGA) to strengthen the response. UNFPA conducted its first national GBV Working Group meeting as a co-host jointly with the Bureau of Gender Affairs of the Ministry of Culture, Entertainment, Gender and Sport (BGA/MCGES). The meeting was attended by over 68 people, including local, national and international development partners. Support is being offered to agencies to consider GBV in their programming, and a constant companion with GBV helpline and information on how to safely handle a case of GBV is being shared among field workers of numerous agencies.

In collaboration with the BGA and Domestic Violence Intervention Unit of the Police, a mapping of the GBV health, police, justice and social sectors in the affected areas is underway to identify existing and disrupted services to inform actions on how to rapidly re-establishing the GBV referral pathways in order to guarantee the continuum of care to the survivors. UNFPA is also working closely with the Ministry of Health and Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), in collaboration with CTECH, to provide mental health and psychosocial support.

Cuba

Situation Overview

Hurricane Melissa made landfall in eastern Cuba during the early hours of October 29, resulting in severe damage in Granma, Santiago de Cuba, Holguín, and Guantánamo. Approximately 3.5 million people have been affected, with an estimated 2.2 million of these severely affected and in need of humanitarian assistance.

Approximately 735,000 people were evacuated in anticipation of the hurricane – including 2,941 pregnant women, with 120,000 people currently still residing in shelters.⁷ Water accumulation in shelters and the deterioration of sanitation and hygiene conditions is significantly increasing the risk of disease outbreaks. This is particularly worrying due to the presence of arboviruses such as Zika, Chikungunya, and Oropouche, which is particularly dangerous for pregnant women due to risks of miscarriage, stillbirth, and birth defects.

Health sector infrastructure has been significantly impacted, with 642 institutions damaged – including 41 hospitals, 79 polyclinics, and 263 family doctor offices – compromising the capacity of the already deteriorated national health system. Power outages, communication failures, and damage to the water supply are compounding operational challenges.

UNFPA Response

UNFPA's response is integrated into the UN System's Action Plan already launched in Cuba. This is being done in partnership with various UN agencies and national counterparts, including the Ministry of Public Health, and the Federation of Cuban Women.

Sexual and reproductive health: SRH supplies were redirected from central warehouses to the affected provinces to ensure family planning continuity. These supplies, valued at US\$60,000, include 10,000 IUDs, 4,200 Jadelle implants, and 10,000 contraceptive vials. Furthermore, 40 reproductive health kits, acquired under a Canadian-funded project, are planned for distribution and will service the needs of 6,200 people over 3 months. Planning is also underway for the procurement of additional reproductive health kits containing supplies for childbirth delivery and complications, contraceptives, condoms, STI treatment, and the clinical management of sexual violence, which will be delivered to hospitals and primary healthcare centres.

Gender-based violence: 650 dignity kits are being procured and will be distributed to evacuees, including pregnant women and persons with disabilities. Kits for the clinical management of sexual violence are also being procured and will be distributed to health facilities. Personnel trained by UNFPA on the clinical management of sexual violence are available in several territories to respond and ensure survivor-centred care. In addition, UNFPA is working with other UN agencies on the inclusive management of shelters, emphasizing on GBV prevention, mitigation, and protection, as well as the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

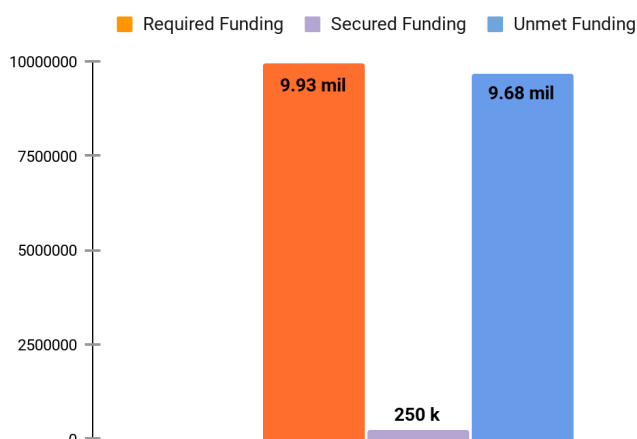
Adolescents and youth: A strategic dialogue is underway with the Mother-and-Child Health Programme and the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, to ensure that the specific needs of adolescents and young women are integrated into both the assistance provided in shelters and the broader SRH care response for these populations.

⁷ [Pan-American Health Organization. Regional Situation Report 2 - Hurricane Melissa. 5 November 2025.](#)

Regional Funding Status

UNFPA is appealing for US\$9.93 million for the Hurricane Melissa response. This includes US\$7 million for Jamaica, US\$1.37 million for Haiti, and US\$1.56 million for Cuba.

Currently, US\$100,000 has been provided to Jamaica, US\$100,000 to Haiti, and US\$50,000 to Cuba through the UNFPA Humanitarian Thematic Fund to begin coordination and first-response actions, and US\$136,000 of in-kind support has been provided by Canada. In addition, UNFPA in Cuba, has reallocated US\$60,000 from regular resources to the hurricane response.



Disclaimer: Funding available is based on cash received during the current year as well as funding rolled over from previous years, and transfers from/to other UNFPA departments. It does not include funds from agreements that have been signed but not yet received.

“Hurricane Melissa reminds us that the climate crisis is also a crisis of inequality. Those most impacted are too often those least seen: women and girls in shelters, pregnant mothers cut off from healthcare, survivors of violence without a safe place to turn. That is why at UNFPA, we are ensuring that their needs are not overlooked during this emergency, and that they receive the necessary support to recover and rebuild their lives.”

— Susana Sotoli, UNFPA Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean

Current Donors

- UNFPA Emergency Fund / Humanitarian Thematic Fund
- Government of Canada

For more information

Susana Sotoli
Regional Director
sotoli@unfpa.org

Norha Restrepo (Media Enquiries)
Regional Communications Advisor
nrestrepo@unfpa.org