

Exhibit 1 – “Government Confirms None Spent Relief Monies”

Source: The Jamaica Gleaner (Lead Stories).

Content: Article confirming that more than **US\$1.68 million** and **J\$635 million** in donated Hurricane Melissa relief funds remained **unspent** by the Government.

Purpose: Demonstrates the Government’s failure to deploy available relief funds.

NONE SPENT

Gov't says ODPEM relief funds untouched as procurement plan still in development



Published: Thursday | November 27, 2025 | 12:11 AM | Kimone Francis/Senior Staff Reporter



The Government has confirmed that US\$1.68 million and J\$635 million have been donated to Hurricane Melissa relief accounts controlled by the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), but said none of the money has been spent so far.

The disclosure was made at Wednesday's post-Cabinet press briefing at Jamaica House, where ODPEM Director General Commander Alvin Gayle said procurement plans for the accounts are now being developed.

"We're doing that against the needs list. We're looking at what persons are contributing otherwise, in terms of what's on the ground in terms of physical assets and to move those. But we have been

able to utilise some other accounts, primarily the NDF (National Disaster Fund),” said Gayle.

He said the funds were used for initial procurement of food and water.

Further, Information Minister Dr Dana Morris Dixon confirmed that none of the money collected through donations has been spent as yet.

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“So we’ve been using our government funds. Some additional funds were approved by Cabinet for ODPEM to use. Our donors have also provided food, and so on. So none of that money has been spent. They are now going to figure out how to spend it,” she said.

The mount of money spent so far on relief aid was not disclosed, with Morris indicating that it will be revealed at a later time.

Meanwhile, Local Government Minister Desmond McKenzie asserted that the current disaster relief structure does not allow ODPEM to engage with the political directorate, following concerns raised by some members of parliament (MPs) in affected constituencies that they are being left out of the aid process.

McKenzie said in each parish there is a development committee, which is chaired by the mayor of each parish.

He said parish disaster coordinators work closely with ODPEM and that everything done is filtered through the parish development committees, which MPs are a part of.

“The ODPEM should not be interacting with the political directorate so anybody can accuse the organisation of being political. So, the

organisation deals directly with the structure that exists, and that is what has been done for years, and will continue to do so,” he said.

The opposition People’s National Party (PNP) has levelled accusations against the Government of a slow, inadequate, and politically biased response to the suffering of residents in western Jamaica, one month after Hurricane Melissa devastated the parishes.

Opposition MPs on Tuesday criticised the response, arguing that relief efforts are nowhere near the scale of the crisis.

Speaking at a press conference, the MPs dismissed the Government’s \$10-million allocation per constituency as a “drop in the bucket”, and called the figure unrealistic for the number of people severely impacted by the hurricane.

They claimed that non-governmental organisations and private-sector groups are currently doing more than the State to assist.

According to them, the most urgent needs remain housing and food, with Hanover Western MP Heatha Miller-Bennett claiming that about 8,000 families are suffering in her constituency.

She said the official damage assessments has been “patchy-patchy” and unacceptable.

The group also alleged the politicisation of aid distribution, arguing that they are “sidelined” while relief packages are distributed by state ministers and political operatives without coordination with the sitting representatives.

They accused the Government of being more concerned with public relations than activating a swift response to housing crisis.

PNP President Mark Golding buttressed the claims, accusing the Government of failing to include the Opposition in the national

recovery plan.

He called for an inclusive and equitable effort to pull the country together.

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Exhibit 2 – “We Need Help” – The Guardian Report

Source: *The Guardian*, UK.

Content: Coverage of devastated Jamaican communities still awaiting relief, with interviews describing inadequate or absent Government assistance.

Purpose: Shows factual conditions on the ground and the lack of effective state response.

'We need help': devastated Jamaican communities still await aid after Hurricane Melissa

Ravaged communities near Montego Bay recount what last week's category 5 storm took from them

['New reality': Hurricane Melissa strength multiplied by climate crisis, study says](#)

['How do you rebuild all this?' Black River residents assess damage after Hurricane Melissa](#)



Natricia Duncan in Montego Bay; photographs by Ina Sotirova

Thu 6 Nov 2025 09.11 EST

Sitting outside her house in muddy slippers amid the ruins left by category 5 [Hurricane Melissa](#) that [ravaged](#) parts of [Jamaica](#) last week, Narva Maxwell Taylor recounted how she and her family had to fight for their lives when the storm sent flood waters surging through their home.

"We have to give God thanks we are alive. We could be dead. But everything is gone. I don't have anything left now," Taylor, a resident of Catherine Hall, Montego Bay, said.



📷 Narva Maxwell Taylor, a resident of the community of Catherine Hall, stands in deep mud in front of her home after it was severely flooded during the passage of Hurricane Melissa. Photograph: Ina Sotirova/The Guardian

Like almost every home in her neighbourhood, Taylor's house is [in shambles](#), with thick silt paving the floors, and bedrooms, bathrooms and living rooms transformed into dank and muddy jumbles of ruined precious belonging and debris. On the pavement outside beds, mattresses, sofas, clothes, appliances and more debris are piled in soggy heaps, and a pungent, musty odour pervades the entire community.

Taylor said she was in desperate need of a suitable shelter and a steady supply of clean water and food. She is yet to receive one of the care packages with food and other basic essentials that the [Jamaica](#) government has started distributing to the worst-affected communities, she said, and is frustrated with the delay.

Her concerns about the slow movement of relief were echoed by people in a queue at an emergency food assistance centre set up by American non-profit humanitarian organisation, [Operation Blessing](#), in collaboration with [World Central Kitchen](#) and local churches.



📷 Mount Gurney church demolished by the passage of Hurricane Melissa.



📷 A plaque records the destruction of Mount Gurney church in 1957.

Mary Wildish, the pastor of the local [Trumpet Call Ministries International](#) who is working with Operation Blessing, said there were no quick fixes for the

unprecedented impact of Hurricane Melissa. “We have people that are here who’ve lost everything. When I say everything, not even a pair of underwear,” she said.



📷 Pastor Mary Wildish distributes canned goods and non-perishable foods to people affected by the passage of Hurricane Melissa.

Waiting in line for food, Erica Jenkinson, who had travelled from the neighbouring Mount Carey, said her house was demolished. She was concerned that help has not yet reached her community. “We don’t see anybody come around as yet ... nobody at all. We need water to drink and to wash clothes. Mostly we want food to eat. We don’t have any food like that. All the banana trees, the coconut trees are blown down. We need help,” she said.



📷 People wait in line for a free meal provided by the World Central Kitchen in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa.



📷 Erica Jenkinson and Ricardo Burrell wait in line for a free meal provided by the World Central Kitchen.

Outlining the magnitude of the challenge facing Jamaica, the prime minister, Andrew Holness, [said this week](#) that Melissa had caused damage equivalent to a one-third of

the nation's GDP.

Holness said response efforts to communities cut off by damages to roads and bridges were hobbled by a lack of helicopters, social workers, doctors and engineers, and noted these shortages underlined the need for contingency planning ahead for future storms.



📷 Neil Barnes AKA 'Crazy Neil' talks with residents in the community of Catherine Hall after their homes were severely flooded during the passage of Hurricane Melissa.

Crazy Neil, a Montego Bay DJ and content creator, said that while there were places that are still waiting for desperately needed rescue and relief, he was “giving the authorities the benefit of the doubt that they are a little bit overwhelmed”.

Neil, who during the storm was trapped by fallen trees and flooding, added: “I think once people have not been touched personally by [aid workers] or seen them or gotten anything from them, they feel like help is definitely not coming. But maybe they just haven't reached to them as yet.”



📷 Dwight Crawford, deputy mayor of Montego Bay and councillor for Spring Garden division, oversees the trucks cleaning up the community of Catherine Hall.

Just around the corner from Taylor, Montego Bay's deputy mayor, Dwight Crawford, was on the ground working with tractors to clear debris and begin the cleanup. Crawford, who described living through Melissa as a terrifying experience, said he lost parts of his roof. "I have no water, no light, just like everyone else. But [this is] a selfless job. You have to extend yourself. So I've left my wife and kids at home without water and electricity to come out here and help the persons that are in need."

Crawford said while he understands the pain that many people are feeling, the authorities are working hard with businesses and other partners to restore critical services and bring relief.

"All of us have been on the ground trying to see to it that we restore a level of order ... we're trying to maintain hope for the people and lead with purpose so that they feel that we're in it with them and they haven't been left alone."



📷 Fallen trees and damaged homes in the hills of Hanover following the passage of Hurricane Melissa. Photograph: Ina Sotirova/The Guardian

Climate scientists have [linked](#) Hurricane Melissa's ferocious intensity to the climate crisis, warning that the warming ocean – driven by greenhouse gas emissions – is likely to make destructive hurricanes more common.

Holness, whose government set out credit and insurance provisions for a storm similar to last year's [Hurricane Beryl](#), said he was seeking financial support from regional allies, development agencies and the private sector.

This week, regional and international bodies have been responding to calls for assistance. The [Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency](#) is in Jamaica with its partners, assessing the hurricane's impact and Jamaica's specific needs.



📷 Volunteers unload bottled water for distribution to people affected by the passage of Hurricane Melissa.

A French warship delivered 40 tonnes of aid to the country on Monday, and the US announced on Tuesday that it was providing \$24m in emergency assistance for Caribbean countries hit by the hurricane, including Jamaica, Haiti, the Bahamas and Cuba.

Across the UK, individuals and groups have been collecting food and basic necessities to support Jamaica. And on Wednesday the British government said it had deployed the Royal Navy with personnel “to help restore vital infrastructure for communities affected by the storm”. This follows the country’s pledge of £7.5m in emergency funding to support the Caribbean’s immediate humanitarian needs. The UK’s support package includes more than 3,000 shelter kits and 1,500 solar-powered lanterns.



📷 Mud, debris, furniture and people's belongings trashed outside their homes in the community of Catherine Hall. Photograph: Ina Sotirova/The Guardian

The Irish telecoms magnate Denis O'Brien, founder of the **Repair Campaign**, an independent movement for reparatory justice that is supporting calls for slavery reparations for Caribbean nations, said the British aid was insufficient.

O'Brien praised the British high commissioner to Jamaica, Alicia Herbert, for quickly mobilising support on the ground in the wake of the hurricane. But he said the UK's pledge of a "paltry £7.5m ... is simply not good enough", considering the likely cost of rebuilding will be about £5bn.



📷 People's furniture belongings trashed outside their homes in the community of Catherine Hall after they were severely flooded during the passage of Hurricane Melissa. Photograph: Ina Sotirova/The Guardian

“There is a direct link between the UK’s shameful past in Jamaica – and across the Caribbean region – and the devastation we have witnessed in recent weeks,” O’Brien said in a statement.

“The UK extracted billions of pounds’ worth of wealth from Jamaica over hundreds of years, exploiting enslaved people to, in turn, exploit the country’s natural resources. Colonialism wreaked havoc on Jamaica’s natural environment, massively increasing its vulnerability to extreme weather events,” he added.

Exhibit 3 – “Aid Efforts Struggle to Bring Relief...”

Source: WRIC ABC 8 News (U.S.).

Content: International reporting on the slow pace of aid distribution, logistical failures, and widespread resident hardship post-Melissa.

Purpose: Confirms prolonged deprivation and lack of state-coordinated response.

Passengers check in at the Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston, Jamaica, Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025, in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa. (AP Photo/Matias Delacroix)

by: JOHN MYERS, JR., Associated Press

Posted: Nov 1, 2025 / 09:50 PM EDT

Updated: Nov 1, 2025 / 09:54 PM EDT

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Rescuers and aid workers fanned out across Jamaica on Saturday to distribute food and water and reach communities still isolated four days after Hurricane Melissa hit the island.

Essential relief supplies are now rolling into hurricane-stricken St. Elizabeth and Westmoreland, most of which had been cut off by fallen concrete posts and trees strewn across roads.

But in some parts, people were forced to dip buckets into rivers, collecting the muddy water for everyday use, while others have been drinking coconut water and roasting breadfruit.

In Westmoreland, mangled metal sheets, splintered wooden frames of houses and fragments of furniture littered the coastline.

Social Security Minister Parnell Charles Jr. was among several convoys of emergency responders en route to deliver ready-to-eat meals, water, tarpaulins, blankets, medicine and other essentials.

“The priority now is to get help to those who need it,” said Charles Jr. during a brief stop en route to Black River for the first time with long-awaited relief supplies. Prime Minister Andrew Holness had declared Black River ground zero and said the town will have to be rebuilt.

The Jamaica Defense Force (JDF) set up a satellite disaster relief site at the Luana community center near Black River where care packages are being dispatched to hurricane-stricken residents.

Many have been without vital supplies since Tuesday and quickly converged around a JDF truck as word spread that relief supplies were being distributed in the sweltering afternoon sun.

“Everyone is homeless right now,” Rosemarie Gayle said. “Thank you, thank you. I can’t say thank you enough,” she said, as she accepted a package of rice, beans, sardines, powdered milk, cooking oil and other essentials.

Melissa has left devastation in its wake, snapping power lines and toppling buildings, disrupting food and water distribution and destroying crop fields.

Some people have been walking for miles in search of basic goods and to check on loved ones, as more than 60% of the island remained without power. Helicopters have been dropping food in cut-off communities.

“People are in shock and they’re waiting on relief,” said World Vision’s national director of domestic humanitarian and emergency affairs Mike Bassett, who traveled to the town of Santa Cruz in St. Elizabeth on Friday.

"The biggest needs are clean water, tarps for roof damage, canned proteins, hygiene and cleaning supplies," he said.

On Saturday, the United Nations' World Food Program received 2,000 boxes of emergency food assistance shipped from Barbados, to be distributed in shelters and in the most-affected communities in the St. Elizabeth area.

"They will help meet the needs of 6,000 people for one week," said communications officer for WFP Alexis Masciarelli.

One of the strongest Atlantic hurricanes to make landfall, Melissa has been blamed for at least 28 deaths in Jamaica, and 31 in nearby Haiti.

Health Minister Christopher Tufton recognized that the death toll in Jamaica was probably higher as many places are still hard to access, but said that it would be unwise to speculate.

Tufton also warned about the risk of increased mosquitoes, waterborne diseases and food poisoning. "Please discard spoiled food," he said.

Melissa made landfall in southwest Jamaica on Tuesday as a Category 5 hurricane with top winds of 185 mph (295 kph).

A U.S. regional disaster assistance response team was on the ground after being activated by Secretary of State Marco Rubio earlier this week, the U.S. Embassy in Jamaica said.

"The United States stands with Jamaica as they respond to the impacts of the hurricane and remains prepared to swiftly deliver emergency relief items," it said.

Jamaica's Water and Environment Minister Matthew Samuda took to the social media platform X in a desperate bid to find tarpaulin after Melissa tore off scores of roofs on homes in western Jamaica. X users chimed in to help, indicating where they had seen supplies.

Falmouth, a popular fishing spot on Jamaica's north coast, had suffered significant damage including flooding and flattened buildings, Holness said on Saturday.

"Our immediate priority is to restore electricity and telecommunications and to ensure that essential services, particularly at the Falmouth Hospital, are stabilized," he said on X, adding that Jamaica would rebuild "stronger and wiser."

Following the devastation, the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) said that it would make a record payout to Jamaica of \$70.8 million.

The facility enables countries to pool their individual risks to provide affordable coverage against natural disasters. The payout will be made within 14 days, the group said on Friday.

Finance Minister Fayval Williams said Thursday that the CCRIF insurance policy was just one part of the government's financial plan to respond to natural disasters. She pointed to a contingencies fund, a national natural disaster reserve and a catastrophe bond.

Government officials have said damage assessment is still ongoing.

Exhibit 4 – “PNP MPs Say Gov’t’s Hurricane Melissa Response Slow and Inadequate”

Source: The Jamaica Gleaner.

Content: Statements from Members of Parliament criticizing inadequate Government relief operations.

Purpose: Demonstrates domestic acknowledgment of systemic response failures.

PNP MPs say gov't's Hurricane Melissa response slow and inadequate

Published: Tuesday | November 25, 2025 | 2:37 PM



People's National Party (PNP) Members of Parliament in Westmoreland, Hanover, and St Elizabeth have accused the Government of being lacking in its response to residents affected by Hurricane Melissa, which hit the country a month ago.

The MPs, speaking at a PNP press conference Tuesday morning, stated that the level of relief activities in their areas has been inadequate and that the \$10 million allocation per constituency by the Government is nowhere near enough to meet the needs on the ground.

They cited food and housing as critical needs for residents.

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Westmoreland Eastern MP Dr Dayton Campbell reported that about 5,000 homes were destroyed in his constituency and said that private-sector groups, NGOs, and individual donors have been doing more than the Government to support residents.

“It will take a long time for them to return to normalcy,” Campbell said, adding that what is being proposed is totally insufficient to meet the needs that are there.

Westmoreland Central MP Dwayne Vaz said he, too, is in a similar situation.

Vaz said the allocation translates to “100 people getting \$100,000 each,” which he described as unrealistic given the scale of damage.

Vaz said residents are requesting housing solutions, especially since many of the temporary structures were destroyed.

He said that lack of land ownership plays a hand in the types of wooden houses that existed.

He also criticised reports that relief packages were distributed from the home of a known Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) activist, calling it inappropriate during a national emergency.

Vaz argued that it does not appear to the Government that the country is in a crisis.

And Ian Hayles, the MP for Westmoreland Western, in his contribution, argued that it has been one month since the hurricane and four weeks before Christmas, yet the Government's response remains slow.

He claimed that damage assessments are happening mainly in JLP-leaning communities, suggesting political bias.

“We have to do better as a country,” Hayles said, urging the Government to work with MPs to get people “back under a roof” within the next month.

Like Campbell and Vaz, he called for better distribution of care packages and called for the Government to move quickly to address the housing issue.

Those sentiments were echoed by Hanover Western MP Heather Miller-Bennett and Andrea Purkess of Hanover Eastern, who claimed that the parish has been forgotten in the national recovery effort.

The MPs argued that residents are still living in crisis conditions one month after the hurricane.

“It is clear that the Government has forgotten Hanover,” declared Miller-Bennett.

According to her, about 8,000 families are suffering, while the official allocation of \$10 million per constituency is “a drop in the bucket” compared to the damage.

She described the Government’s assessments as “patchy, patchy” and unacceptable, noting that some residents are now living in their cars.

She criticised what she called a lack of coordination, highlighting that caretakers and state ministers are distributing care packages without any dialogue with sitting MPs.

“We are at the phase now where people need homes. They need somewhere stable to live. They need a roof over their heads,” she said.

In Hanover Eastern, Purkess said the situation is equally dire, reporting that 5,000 homes in her constituency are without roofs, while farms, schools, and health centres have been destroyed.

Perkess said residents have been “forced to take on the work of the Government.”

She said Hanover Eastern is facing a public health crisis and urged the authorities to “cut out the PR and get to the people,” calling for immediate attention to the situation surrounding schools that are being used as shelters.

Both MPs stated that they are being undermined as elected officials, claiming that politics is at play in the relief activities.

They argued that Government representatives, including state ministers and political operatives, are carrying out relief activities without coordination, while the core needs of residents remain unmet.

Meanwhile, Member of Parliament for St Elizabeth North East, Zuleika Jess, also raised concerns about the distribution of aid and care packages in her constituency and pointed a finger at politics.

Jess argued that she, too, feels sidelined in the recovery activities.

She said many residents continue to suffer and are in need of supplies such as food and building materials for housing.

She further said that the condition of roads is another critical issue that needs to be addressed urgently.

She said more funding is needed to bring help to those who are suffering.

For his part, PNP President Mark Golding has accused the Government of failing to include the Opposition in the national relief

and recovery activities.

Golding said the country is facing a crisis, and all hands are needed to pull the country together.

He said the Opposition is willing to play its part and called for the Government to be inclusive and equitable in its actions.

- Andre Williams

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Exhibit 5 – “Gov’t to Purchase Thousands of Container Homes...”

Source: The Jamaica Gleaner.

Content: Government announcement to procure over **5,000 container homes** through NHT as part of rebuilding efforts.

Purpose: Shows Government policy direction and the commercial-sale nature of the housing initiative.

Gov't to purchase thousands of container homes as Jamaica rebuilds following Hurricane Melissa



Published: Wednesday | November 19, 2025 | 7:59 PM



The Government has determined it will use "pre-built containerised modular solutions" as it seeks to rapidly rebuild the housing stock destroyed by Hurricane Melissa.

Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness told a press conference on Wednesday that the National Housing Trust is to purchase 5,000 of these container homes in the initial stage, some of which it will sell to individuals, while some are to be used to build housing schemes.

He says a portion will be allocated for free distribution through the Government's social housing programme.

Holness also said the Government will be purchasing some of these homes to be distributed as social housing.

"We have to do a rapid deployment of housing solutions and the easiest way to do this is to use the containerised solutions," Holness said.

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He noted that it would take time to bring enough containers into the island to make a significant impact, but stated that the procurement process has started.

He said shipping alone could take between 30 and 90 days.

"We are not going to get them here for Christmas. I'll just have to be frank with everybody, but we should start to see some coming in by late January, and those that come in initially, we are going to be looking at the worst cases assessed to make them available. For Christmas and for the initial stages, we are going to have to try to do the shelter repair kits, the heavy-duty tarpaulin, and those kinds of solutions in addition to the rebuilding, the actual putting on roofs and so forth," Holness said.

Holness also stated that the Government will be providing rebuilding grants, but said the amounts have not yet been decided on as assessments are continuing.

"We are not going to wait until we have assessed every single house, but we do need to reach a critical threshold, where we begin to see how the damage is stacking up from a statistical point of view, so we now how much to allocate for minor repairs, how much to allocate for moderate repairs and how much to allocate for severe."

Holness said the picture should become clearer when the Government gets to about 30,000 assessments.

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Exhibit 6 – “NHT to Procure 5,000 Container Homes for Hurricane Relief”

Source: Jamaica Information Service (JIS).

Content: Official NHT announcement describing procurement, including financial and distribution mechanics.

Purpose: Confirms that such homes are **not** free emergency shelters but tied to NHT processes.

NHT to Procure 5,000 Container Homes for Hurricane Relief

By: DONIQUE WESTON, November 20, 2025



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Housing

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Photo: Mark Bell

Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, addresses a Special Press Briefing on Hurricane Melissa Recovery at Jamaica House on Wednesday (November 19).

THE FULL STORY

Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, has announced that the National Housing Trust (NHT) will procure 5,000 pre-built container homes for rapid deployment across the island, in order to address urgent housing needs following Hurricane Melissa.

“We have examined pre-built containerised modular solutions, and we have settled in our minds that this is appropriate for the Jamaican situation that we now have,” Dr. Holness informed during a Special Press Briefing on Hurricane Melissa Recovery at Jamaica House on Wednesday (November 19).

The announcement comes as the Government confronts damage to an estimated 150,000 buildings, ranging from partial roof loss to complete structural collapse.

Dr. Holness noted that the Ministry of Labour and Social Security has so far conducted just over 16,000 assessments across the island, aimed at determining the level of support required by citizens.

While this process remains underway, the Government has already begun shaping its response to the housing challenge, with the initial phase centered on the NHT's procurement of container homes.

“Some of them will be for sale. So, with a programme with the NHT, you will be able to purchase. Some of them will be used to build housing schemes, which you can purchase. The Government will also be purchasing some of these containerised housing solutions, which will be made available through the social housing modality,” Dr. Holness outlined.

He noted that, given the estimated shipping period of 30 to 90 days, the houses are expected to begin arriving in Jamaica by late January, with the first units allocated to those who suffered the most severe damage.

In the interim, the Government will prioritise the distribution of shelter repair kits, heavy-duty tarpaulins, and other immediate relief solutions.

“In the first phase, the goal is to quickly stabilise households and make damaged homes liveable while longer-term rebuilding plans are put in place,” the Prime Minister affirmed.

Meanwhile, he emphasised that the Government will provide rebuilding grants to citizens whose homes sustained damage.

The framework for the delivery of these grants is still being finalised; however, the Prime Minister explained that the system employed in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl last year will serve as precedent.

This system classified losses into three categories—minor, moderate, and severe—with corresponding cash grants allocated to each grouping.

“Now, we’re not going to wait until we have assessed every single house. But we do need to reach a critical threshold where we begin to see how the damage is stacking up from a statistical point of view, so we know how much to allocate for minor repairs, how much to allocate for moderate repairs, and how much to allocate for severe damage,” Prime Minister Holness stated.

He added that a clearer picture of the damage sustained by residential properties should emerge once assessments reach the 30,000 mark.

Exhibit 7 – “Importing Hurricane Relief to Jamaica – Customs Booklet”

Source: Jamaica Customs.

Content: Customs’ relief guidelines including exemption period expiring **31 December 2025**, restrictive requirements, and short processing windows.

Purpose: Demonstrates procedural barriers that hinder effective diaspora assistance.

Guide to Importing Hurricane Relief Supplies (Post-Hurricane Melissa)



**Jamaica
Customs
Agency**
'Country Above Self'

(Updated Version)

Importing Disaster Relief Supplies

A Jamaica Customs Agency **Importation Guide** for Hurricane Melissa Recovery Efforts

Importing Disaster Relief Registered Charitable Organisation

Charitable organisations play an essential role in national development and humanitarian assistance. The Jamaica Customs Agency supports these efforts by facilitating the lawful and efficient importation of goods intended for charitable purposes.



Charitable Organisations registered in Jamaica with the Department of Cooperatives and Friendly Societies:

Import the relief items in the name
of the registered charity

Entities or persons donating relief items to schools:

Contact the **National Education
Trust (NET)** a registered
charitable organisation at
info@net.org.jm. website:
net.org.jm

Entities or persons donating relief items to the Public Health Sector:

Contact the **National Healthcare
Enhancement Foundation** a
registered charitable organisation at
aisha.thompson@moh.gov.jm;
courtney.cephas@moh.gov.jm;
website: nhef.gov.jm

A woman with dark skin and curly hair, wearing a floral patterned top, is holding a baby in her arms. They are standing in front of a background of debris and damaged structures, suggesting a disaster-stricken area. The text 'Importing Disaster Relief Donor/Humanitarian Organisation' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Importing Disaster Relief Donor/Humanitarian Organisation

Communicate with ODPEM

All agencies making donations to the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) are encouraged to visit the supportjamaica.gov.jm portal under the “Relief” tab to submit their application to the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) and to communicate directly with ODPEM before shipments depart.

Consignee/delivery address:

Commander Alvin Gayle

Director General

Office of Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management

2-4 Haining Road, Kingston 5, Jamaica

Email: agayle@odpem.org.jm **Copy:** smitchell@odpem.org.jm; medwards@odpem.org.jm; donationcoordinationjamaica@odpem.org.jm; mfaftmelissasupport@mfaft.gov.jm

Documentation Requirements

All required documents must be submitted prior to the arrival of the shipments or presented upon arrival.

Required Documents:

- Letter to ODPEM outlining the nature of the donation
- Packing List (with values where invoices are unavailable)
- Airway Bill (by Air) or Bill of Lading (by Sea)
- Invoices (where available)
- Permits, licences or pre-approval (where applicable)

Clearance and Customs Formalities

Clearance and logistics arrangement will be the responsibility of the Office of Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management (ODPEM) and its respective agents.

Importing Disaster Relief Individuals

Please note, you are **not** required to contact the Jamaica Customs Agency prior to dispatching your goods to the shipper. However, the following are the key requirements for importing relief supplies into Jamaica.

1. Taxpayer Registration Number (for the importer)
2. Valid Government Issued ID
3. Packing List (with values)
4. Invoices/Receipts (if available)
5. Bill or Lading/Airway Bill
6. Customs Declaration to be prepared by your Courier/Freight Forwarder/Customs Broker
7. Permits or Licences required (where applicable) see link below for items requiring permits
<https://www.jamaicatradeportal.gov.jm/en-gb/site/searchcommodity>
8. Special Declaration (to be completed by the importer) **see next page:**



[Date]

SPECIAL DECLARATION – IMPORTATION OF GOODS FOR RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

I/We **[First & Last Name]** declare that _____ contained in this declaration/shipment has/have been imported for disaster relief in Jamaica consistent with the activation of the Disaster Risk Management Act effective October 28, 2025 vide Item 30B of the Second Schedule to the Customs Tariff, Section 47 of the GCT Act and the MoF&PS Letters dated October 28 and 31, 2025. **I/We declare that these items will not be disposed of other than for the purposes declared.**

[First & Last Name]

[Signature]

Ministry of Health & Wellness Temporary Waiver of Import Permits

The Ministry of Health & Wellness has advised of a temporary waiver of the import permit requirement for the following until March 31, 2026:

1. **Lead Batteries** (imported specifically for post-hurricane relief and recovery operations).
2. **Individuals sending personal shipments to their relatives** may include up to a six-month supply, **subject to inspection**, of the following:
 - **Over-the-Counter (OTC medications)**
Cough and cold remedies, antibiotic creams/ointments, vitamins, pain relief tablets and rubs, antacids, antihistamines (for allergies)
 - **Personal Care Products**
Toothpaste, deodorants
 - **Sanitisers and Disinfectants**
Rubbing alcohol (70% or less), hand sanitisers, alcohol prep pads, disinfectants, hydrogen peroxide
 - **First Aid Kits**
 - **Water Purification Tablets**

These provisions support humanitarian relief and national recovery while ensuring public health and safety.





**Jamaica
Customs
Agency**
'Country Above Self'

LIST OF GENERAL RELIEF ITEMS FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC (UPDATED)

The Government of Jamaica has approved a **duty-tax waiver** on specific goods being imported for recovery from Hurricane Melissa by the general public. The details are as follows:

Effective Dates: **October 29, 2025 – December 31, 2025**

What is waived: (Import Duty (ID) and General Consumption Tax)

- **Basic Hand Tools**
(Drills, Shovels, Axes, Hammers, and Machetes)
- **Basic School Supplies**
- **Battery Operated Radios**
- **Bed Cots**
- **Bed Linens /Bed Pads/Bath Linens**
- **Bottled Water**
- **Buckets/Pans (Water Storage Containers)**
- **Cleaning products**
- **Clothing**
- **Diapers**
- **Disposable Batteries**
- **Disposable Masks**
- **First Aid Kits/Hygiene Kits**
- **Flash Lights**
- **Food Items (Non-perishable)**
- **Fuel Containers**
- **Garbage bags**
- **Generators Not Exceeding 5000Watts**
(Household Use Only)
- **Gloves**
- **Igloos**
- **Inverters and solar power systems,**
including panels and batteries
- **Kitchen Utensils**
(including non-plastic disposables,
pots and pans)
- **Lantern/Lamps**
- **Mattress**
- **Mobile Battery Packs**
- **Mops/Brooms**
- **Nails**
- **Over-the-Counter Drugs**
(Pre-approval/Permit may be required)
- **Ply Boards**
- **Portable Stoves/Butane Burners**
- **Rain Gear/Coats**
- **Repellent**
(Pre-approval/Permit may be
required)
- **Sanitisers/Wipes**
- **Sleeping Bags**
- **Solar Flood Lights**
- **Starlink (or other similar**
communication equipment)
- **Tarpaulins**
- **Temporary Sanitation System**
- **Tents**
- **Tissues**
- **Toiletries**
- **Water Boots**
- **Water Purification Kit**
(Pre-approval/Permit may be required)
- **Wipes**
- **Zinc**

Updated on November 6, 2025

For more information, contact emergencyreliefclearance@jca.gov.jm



@jamaicacustomsagency

Prepared by the **Jamaica Customs Agency**
For additional queries, email **emergencyreliefclearance@jca.gov.jm** or
public.relations@jca.gov.jm

Exhibit 8 – Ministry of Labour and Social Security Warehouse Statement

Source: Jamaica Information Service (JIS).

Content: Pre-hurricane announcement that Government warehouses were fully stocked and pre-positioned for immediate deployment.

Purpose: Contrasts with the Government's failure to actually deploy stocked supplies.

Labour Ministry's Warehouses Stocked and Pre-Positioned To Deploy Relief Supplies

By: JUDANA MURPHY, October 25, 2025



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Hurricane Relief & Recovery

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Photo: Rudranath Fraser

Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Parnell Charles Jr., addressing Friday's (October 24) special press briefing at the Office of the Prime Minister.

THE FULL STORY

The Ministry of Labour and Social Security's warehouses and parish offices are well stocked and pre-positioned for rapid deployment of relief supplies.

The central food facility in Kingston has sufficient resources to prepare an additional 10,000 packages, said Portfolio Minister, Hon. Parnell Charles Jr.

He was addressing Friday's (Oct. 24) special press briefing at the Office of the Prime Minister in Kingston.

“We have commenced the pre-positioning of food packages across all parishes with an additional set of packages ready for immediate release as necessary. Supplies such as bedding, tarpaulins, cleaning agents and toiletries have all been pre-positioned –we have started that in Portland and Manchester. We have reinforcement that is scheduled to move out in Hanover and Westmoreland today,” he disclosed.

The Ministry is the lead entity for welfare coordination, which includes shelter management, household damage assessments, distribution of relief supplies and payment of emergency assistance.

Minister Charles Jr. advised that the Ministry has activated its communication protocol by creating specialised WhatsApp groups to facilitate real-time communication between parish offices and the head office.

He said that credit arrangements have also been confirmed with suppliers to enable immediate access to emergency provisions and mechanisms are in place for disbursement, including emergency grants, where necessary.

Meanwhile, he shared that crucial training was recently conducted on the latest version of the Jamaica Household Damage Impact and Needs Assessment (JHDINA) form used for collecting essential information after a disaster.

“All of our offices have functional vehicles. Fuel and toll arrangements have been made and put in place to guarantee mobility during our response efforts. The Labour and Social Security Ministry stands ready with our people, our supplies and systems in motion to ensure that no Jamaican is left behind,” the Minister affirmed.

Exhibit 9 – “Clarification on Customs Relief Measures for Hurricane Melissa Recovery”

Source: Jamaica Customs Agency – Press Release.

Content: Clarification of temporary duty-free import measures for relief goods with strict time limits.

Purpose: Shows the limited and insufficient time frame for disaster relief importation.



MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLARIFICATION ON CUSTOMS RELIEF MEASURES FOR HURRICANE MELISSA RECOVERY

Kingston, Jamaica: Friday, October 31, 2025

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) has granted approval to the Jamaica Customs Agency (JCA) to administer the relief of Import Duty and General Consumption Tax (GCT) on imported relief supplies and donations to assist in recovery efforts following the passage of Hurricane Melissa.

The relief on Import Duty and GCT will be applied to imported donations consigned to the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) as well as relief supplies to private individuals or institutions.

The period of relief is effective from October 29, 2025 to November 28, 2025 for supplies to private individuals or institutions.

Proposed Operations

1. ODPEM-Coordinated Relief Imports

All items (donations and otherwise) imported through ODPEM for Hurricane Melissa relief shall be treated as general relief imports under Section 14 of the Disaster Risk Management Act.

- These will include, but not be limited to, food items, water, medical supplies, temporary shelters, equipment, and related materials required for national recovery (See list at <https://supportjamaica.gov.jm/>).
- Such imports will receive full statutory exemption from Import Duty and GCT, without the need for additional ministerial approval, once certified by ODPEM as required for official relief operations.

2. Donations to Individuals or Institutions

For goods imported as donations to private individuals, community groups, or non-registered entities, the Ministry, through JCA, will issue an indicative list of eligible relief items (e.g., essential food, bedding, clothing, hygiene kits, and limited building materials – see JCA website).

- Approval of relief eligibility and application of duty or tax remission will rest with the Commissioner of Customs, under the discretion provided by the Customs Act and GCT Act.
- The Commissioner must be satisfied that:
 - the goods are for disaster-relief;
 - proper documentation is provided; and

--more--

- the items fall within the approved indicative list.

3. **Imported goods not on the Indicative List**

Imports outside of items 1 and 2 above will require formal Ministerial approval.

The importers are being encouraged to visit the Jamaica Customs Agency for further information.

-end-

Exhibit 10 – “Gov’t Dismisses Rumours of ID Requirement for Hurricane Relief”

Source: Jamaica Gleaner.

Content: Government denial of requiring documentation for receiving relief assistance.

Purpose: Contradicted by NHT’s written policies (Exhibit 11).

Gov't dismisses rumours of ID requirement for hurricane relief

Published: Sunday | November 9, 2025 | 1:02 PM



The Ministry of Labour and Social Security has dismissed as false, claims circulating on social media that persons are required to present identification or Taxpayer Registration Numbers (TRNs) to collect hurricane relief packages.

In a statement Sunday, the ministry said there appears to be “an attempt to conflate two separate activities,” clarifying that no documentation is required to access food or hygiene packages being distributed to affected households.

Documentation, the ministry explained, is only needed during the household damage assessment process to verify ownership and ensure that post-relief benefits go to legitimate residents during the recovery phase.

“Given the scale of the recent disaster, and recognizing that many persons may have lost important documents, our social workers have been instructed to proceed with all assessments and to advise beneficiaries on how to replace lost documents before any payout exercise,” said Audrey Deer-Williams, chief technical director with responsibility for social security.

Permanent Secretary Dione Jennings added that the ministry continues to make adjustments “in keeping with the realities on the ground, to ensure that no affected individual is left behind.”

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Relief operations are being undertaken in collaboration with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, parish disaster coordinators, and local and international partners, with field support from the Jamaica Defence Force and the police.

The update comes as desperation deepens in several cut-off communities still reeling from the destruction left by Hurricane Melissa, which made landfall in Westmoreland on October 28 as a Category 5 storm - the most powerful to strike Jamaica packing winds near 185 miles per hour.

The hurricane devastated parts of western and southern Jamaica, leaving more than 27 communities marooned by floodwaters and fallen trees, and affecting over 90,000 people islandwide.

The government, supported by the JDF, has established 22 humanitarian outposts across the hardest-hit parishes to facilitate food drops, water distribution, and medical assistance.

The ministry says its teams remain on the ground carrying out both relief delivery and damage assessments simultaneously to ensure that no affected community is left unattended.

Residents may contact the MLSS Client Care Centre at 876-922-8000-13 or WhatsApp 876-582-8972 to verify information or report concerns.

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Exhibit 11 – NHT “Recover” Programme (Official Document)

Source: National Housing Trust website (“Recover” page).

Content: Lists mandatory requirements including **proof of property ownership**, contributor information, insurance documents, and structural damage evidence.

Purpose: Demonstrates documentation requirements that effectively exclude large portions of affected residents and conflict with Government public statements.

The National Housing Trust (NHT) is *committed* to supporting homeowners and contributors affected by Hurricane Melissa. The following special relief initiatives are now available:



Hurricane Relief Loan (Special Home Improvement Loan)

This special home improvement loan is designed to help homeowners finance repairs to properties damaged during the Hurricane.



Hurricane Relief Grant

The Hurricane Relief Grant provides financial assistance to contributors who suffered property damage due to Hurricane Melissa.



Hurricane Relief Moratorium

The Hurricane Relief Moratorium is a temporary suspension of mortgage payments for mortgagors affected by the Hurricane.

Hurricane Melissa Peril Insurance Claims

If your **National Housing Trust (NHT)** mortgaged property suffered damage due to **Hurricane Melissa**, you may be eligible to submit a peril insurance claim. Submit an insurance claim by **Thursday, January 15, 2026**, at any NHT Office island wide.

Note: For all relief initiatives, applicants should ensure they have the necessary documentation, **including proof of property ownership, evidence of damage, and current contributor information.**

Exhibit 12 – Applicant's Photographs / Videos (if applicable)

Source: Applicant's personal evidence (optional per your Claim).

Content: Photographs or video of structural damage, displacement conditions, water contamination, destroyed documents, or community hardship.

Purpose: Direct factual evidence of harm, loss, and inhuman conditions.







