

HAITI: Tropical Storm Melissa

FLASH UPDATE N0.2 – As of 25 October 2025

This report is produced by OCHA Haiti in collaboration with humanitarian partners, based on information available at the time of publication.

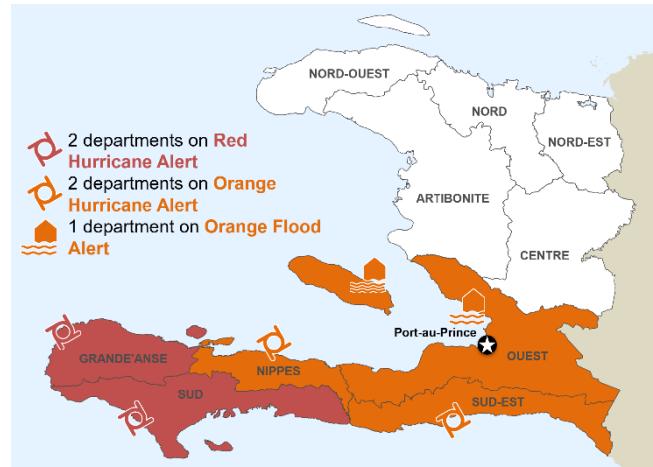
HIGHLIGHTS

- The departments of South and Grand 'Anse have been placed under Red Alert (maximum level).
- The Hydrometeorological Unit of Haiti (UHM) maintains Orange Alert status for South-East, Nippes and West.
- Three deaths and one injury have been reported, and flooding has been recorded in several departments.
- The World Food Programme (WFP) has pre-positioned 450 MT of food and provided Anticipatory Action (AA) cash transfers to 9,500 households; IOM has pre-positioned 3,371 hygiene kits in the South; the Common Pipeline and partners have NFI kits and light shelters for 44,000 households; PAHO/WHO has medical kits for 11,100 people.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports agricultural losses in South, Nippes, Grand'Anse and South-East, including 15 hectares of maize destroyed in Mapou (South-East), as well as damage to crops, livestock and fisheries.
- Authorities report population movements toward three emergency shelters in the South and the closure of schools across the four departments of the Grand South.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 25 October, the Government of Haiti raised Grand 'Anse and South to red alert, the highest level of warning. Departments previously on orange alert — South-East, Nippes and West — remain on heightened vigilance. Authorities are urging the population to follow official guidance and avoid high-risk areas.

In the South, 124 households living in high-risk zones and precarious shelters (Les Cayes, Île-à-Vache and Coteaux) began relocating on 24 October to three emergency shelters. Classes have been temporarily suspended across the four departments of the Grand South due to severe weather and the use of schools as shelters.



According to the US National Hurricane Center (NHC), unstable weather conditions are expected to persist, with further heavy rainfall likely to trigger flooding and landslides, particularly in coastal and mountainous areas.

Impacts continue to be reported across several departments. The Directorate of Civil Protection (DGPC) confirms that three people died and one was severely injured following a landslide on 23 October in Fontamara, Port-au-Prince (West).

Rivers have overflowed in several departments. The Artibonite River rose in Grande-Saline (Artibonite). In the Centre department, the Lociane River flooded due to rainfall from the Dominican Republic. The Saint-Martin River overflowed in Sainte-Suzanne (North-East), destroying a bridge. Homes were damaged in Port-de-Paix (North-West), and a landslide was reported along the Maricolas – Dolan road in Artibonite.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports that heavy rain and winds continue to affect livelihoods across South, Nippes, Grand 'Anse and South-East. Flooding is obstructing access to farmland and markets, jeopardizing harvests and the winter agricultural season. 15 hectares of maize were lost in Mapou (South-East), with further damage to crops, livestock and fishery. Localized flooding is also reported in Grand'Anse.

Humanitarian partners continue to monitor the situation and support authorities, with focus on the most vulnerable areas to adapt preparedness and response.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Forecasted rainfall is likely to increase the vulnerability of communities already affected by food insecurity and displacement. Agricultural activities and markets are disrupted, raising concerns of food price increases and reduced access to food. Immediate needs identified include emergency shelter, safe drinking water, sanitation, food assistance, agricultural support, and protection measures for households exposed to flooding and landslides.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Response efforts are focused on departments under red and orange alert: Grand'Anse, South, Nippes, South-East and West.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

The CCCM Cluster, in coordination with the Thematic Committee on Evacuation and Temporary Shelter Management (CTEGAP), is monitoring conditions in displacement sites and supporting DGPC preparedness measures. Site committees in Port-au-Prince have been briefed on risks linked to heavy rain and encouraged to enforce prevention measures. Preparedness actions include the deployment of site managers, alert and feedback mechanisms, safety audits, mobile clinics, and awareness sessions. Risk reduction measures such as night-time lighting, locked showers and latrines, and regular protection monitoring are also being implemented.

Cash / Anticipatory Action (AA)

WFP has delivered Anticipatory Action cash transfers to approximately 9,500 households in the Grand South through social protection systems, aiming to reduce exposure and losses prior to the storm.

A joint SMS from WFP and UNICEF will inform beneficiaries that two separate transfers will be received as part of the assistance.

Departmental Preparedness Hotspots (HPDs) have been established with HEKS-EPER (Grand 'Anse), ACCODEP (South) and Plan Haiti (South-East). Another HPD is in place with AVSI to monitor protection-related AA cash assistance.

Community Engagement & Risk Communication

IOM is disseminating awareness messages via automated calls targeting 60,000 people in priority communes of the Grand South.

IDEJEN has mobilized 70 youth volunteers across seven networks in South-East to conduct awareness activities on flood risks. The organization produced 500 posters per department and mobilized 20 community radios across South, Nippes and Grand 'Anse to broadcast DGPC prevention messages. A WhatsApp network circulates alerts and weather updates, accompanied by door-to-door outreach and street sensitization using megaphones and local radio.

Approved preparedness messages developed with IOM, WFP, OCHA and DGPC have already reached around 43,000 people in the Grand South via SMS and WhatsApp.

Coordination

Preparedness and response continue across regional, national and departmental levels through information sharing with CDEMA, flash reports and situation reports. OCHA is compiling stock and capacity mapping across the country.

OCHA facilitated two coordination meetings on 24 October: one with partners in the Grand South, and another at national level with CERF Anticipatory Action recipients and the National Inter-Cluster Coordination Group. Immediate response capacities were reviewed. The Grand South Humanitarian Forum focused largely on preparedness actions ahead of the storm, with partners sharing updates on activities and response capacity. Emphasis was placed on coordination with civil protection structures at local, communal and departmental levels.

Education

UNESCO has 240 personnel ready to support the response, including 20 agents and psychologists for civil protection support and 220 trained youth volunteers (60 in South, 60 in Grand'Anse, 100 in North and Artibonite). In addition, 360 school council members trained with civil protection are on standby to support emergency response in schools.

Food security

WFP has deployed staff and strengthened readiness for a potential post-storm response in Grand'Anse and South. Currently, around 450 MT of food is pre-positioned in the Grand South where the storm impact is expected to be most severe. An additional 450 MT are planned for transport to Miragoâne. WFP aims to assist up to 155,000 people with 15-day food rations, followed by two additional cash assistance cycles, using mobile transfers and shock-responsive social protection systems in high-risk communes.

FAO is supporting departmental agriculture offices to assess damages and risks, and is reviewing the need to mobilise contingency stocks or adjust planned distributions.

Health

In coordination with the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP), PAHO/WHO is tracking health impacts and supporting facility preparedness. PAHO/WHO has medical kits ready for deployment (2 IEHK, 1 trauma kit, 1 cyclone kit) to cover 11,100 people.

Medical supplies are positioned in the West for MSPP deployment if required. Support is available for the mobilisation of Emergency Medical Teams and continuity of essential healthcare services.

No major structural damage to health facilities has been reported. However, in North-West, water leakage partially affected maternity and pediatrics services, prompting temporary relocation of patients. In the South, the Immaculate Conception Hospital in Les Cayes faces flood risks, and preventive actions — including patient relocation and early discharge — have been taken.

Nutrition

UNICEF has pre-positioned nutrition supplies across the four departments of the Grand South and more than 100 health facilities in South-East, South and Grand 'Anse. Supplies for Nippes are expected to arrive by the end of the week.

Shelter & Non-Food Items (NFI)

In the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, around 750 tarpaulins and installation kits are being distributed through the Common Pipeline led by IOM via ACTED, ASHAPE and CESVI, to reinforce weatherproofing in 11 priority sites.

Nationally, pre-positioned stocks can support 11,000 households with NFI kits and 33,000 households with light shelter kits, through the Common Pipeline and partners including the Haitian Red Cross, CRS and DKH. In the Grand South, 4,000 NFI kits and 5,500 light shelter kits are available. The Organization of Persons with Disabilities (OPH) is mobilising logistics capacity to the South, while Common Pipeline partners continue to assess needs for potential distributions.

In addition, IOM is providing Anticipatory Action (AA) cash support to approximately 3,000 families in the Grand South to cover urgent shelter and NFI needs.

The Haitian Red Cross, supported by IFRC and the Spanish Red Cross, pre-positioned over 4,000 emergency kits in South-East to meet the essential needs of a family of five, including 1,000 shelter/tool kits, 1,100 hygiene/sanitation kits, 1,100 kitchen kits, 900 cleaning kits, and a collective WASH kit for around 2,000 people.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

IOM has pre-positioned hygiene kits for over 17,000 households nationwide, including 3,371 in the South (Camp-Perrin and Jérémie).

Nearly 2,900 WASH kits are pre-positioned in the South for approximately 14,500 people, with allocation ongoing: 700 via HEKS-EPER (Grand 'Anse), 700 via CEDUCC (Nippes / Les Palmes), 600 via Plan International (South-East) and 900 stored in Les Cayes (South). Distributions are coordinated with IOM, including complementary kits.

A next Flash Update will be issued early next week.

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