



Haiti

Tropical Storm Melissa

Flash Update No. 2

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Reporting Period: 22-27 October 2025

Highlights

Tropical Storm Melissa has intensified into a Category 5 hurricane, moving slowly westward near Haiti's southern peninsula at around 6 km/h. The storm is expected to bring 200 to 400 mm of rain, strong winds, and life-threatening flash floods, landslides, and mudslides on Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 October.

The Directorate General of Civil Protection (DGPC) has issued a red alert for the South and Grand'Anse departments, with orange alerts in effect for the West, Nippes, Artibonite, and North-West, and a yellow alert for the South-East.

UNICEF is implementing anticipatory actions and has prepositioned life-saving supplies to support children and families, working in close coordination with national authorities and partners in the most at-risk areas.

Situation Update

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has upgraded Hurricane Melissa to a Category 5 system, the highest classification, with extremely powerful winds capable of causing severe destruction. While the hurricane continues to be highly intense, Haiti remains under a tropical storm watch, as current forecasts indicate the eye of the storm will not make direct landfall on the country.

On 25 October, the Haitian authorities revised the national alert levels: the South and Grand'Anse departments were moved to red alert, Nippes and the South-East to orange cyclonic alert, and the West placed under orange alert for heavy rainfall. The National Emergency Operations Centre remains fully mobilized to coordinate preparedness and response actions.

By the morning of 27 October, Melissa was tracking northward from south of Jamaica, following a path that could bring it closer to Haiti in the coming hours. In anticipation of worsening conditions, the Artibonite and North-West departments were also placed under orange alert.

The outer bands of the hurricane are already producing torrential rains, strong winds, and dangerous sea conditions, particularly along the Southern Peninsula and parts of the West. Forecasts suggest Grand'Anse may again experience sustained winds as early as Tuesday morning.

According to the DGPC, three fatalities and sixteen injuries have been reported so far. Around 450 homes have been flooded and ten damaged, mostly in the North-West. Flooding has affected several communities in Artibonite and the North-West, while road access remains cut off in Moron (Grand'Anse), Baie d'Orange and Marigot (South-East), as well as Lascahobas (Centre).

Twenty schools and high schools have been identified to serve as shelters for affected families. Nine of them are currently hosting 1,991 people in the communes of Les Cayes, Coteaux, Jean du Sud, Île-à-Vache, and Les Cayes, while 117 people have taken refuge in temporary shelters and community centers in Port-Salut and Île-à-Vache.

UNICEF Response

UNICEF Haiti is closely monitoring the evolution of Hurricane Melissa, maintaining constant coordination with national counterparts to ensure a rapid and effective response for affected children and families.

In line with its emergency preparedness procedures, UNICEF has activated internal monitoring mechanisms and is in regular contact with partners across education, child protection, WASH, health, nutrition, and social protection sectors to assess both immediate and emerging needs.

Through established partnerships with government institutions and NGOs, UNICEF is deploying pre-positioned supplies and providing technical support to reinforce the national response. Supplies are ready for dispatch pending safe access conditions.

To strengthen field coordination and ensure close liaison with departmental authorities, UNICEF has mobilized staff across the affected departments. In the Grand Sud, 11 UNICEF personnel are already present in the field, including programme officers, logistics, operations, and security staff. Additional personnel have been temporarily deployed from Port-au-Prince to reinforce teams in Jérémie (Grand'Anse), Miragoâne (Nippes/South-East), and Les Cayes (South), supporting coordination with the DGPC and ongoing preparedness and response operations.

At the same time, UNICEF continues to share preparedness, prevention, and response messages throughout the duration of the storm.

Health

UNICEF is deploying emergency health kits, including kits for the management of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) and midwifery kits, to meet the needs of 20,000 people, support 500 deliveries, and ensure treatment for 400 cases of acute watery diarrhoea.

Nutrition

The Nutrition Cluster, co-led by the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) and UNICEF, launched on 22 October 2025 a mapping exercise of nutrition supplies across health institutions in the South, South-East, Nippes, and Grand'Anse departments. The assessment identified 46 health institutions that require support and seven potential partners to support the implementation of the nutrition response.

A total of 176 health facilities have now been supplied with ready-to-use-therapeutic-food (RUTF), and other nutrition supplies, covering the needs of 4,175 children across the departments of South (46 facilities), Grand'Anse (42), Nippes (37), and South-East (51).

Continuous coordination with the four departmental health directorates of the Greater South region is maintained to ensure coherence and efficiency of the response.

WASH

UNICEF has pre-positioned 2,900 WASH kits in the South department, including Jérémie (700 kits), Jacmel (600), Miragoâne (400), Léogâne (400), and Les Cayes (800), to cover approximately 14,500 people and ensure a rapid response to the needs of affected families.

Humanitarian Cash transfer

UNICEF is providing cash assistance to households affected by the storm in alignment with OCHA guidelines, ensuring coordination with WFP to maximize impact. Each targeted household has received US\$192, of which UNICEF contributed US\$92 to complement WFP's support. Through this intervention, UNICEF has assisted approximately 7,250 households affected by the crisis.

Communication with Communities

A total of 470 U-Reporters have been mobilized across the Grand South region with over 137,000 awareness messages sent via SMS and WhatsApp, reinforcing community mobilization and preparedness efforts ahead of and during the storm.

Six sound trucks were deployed to broadcast awareness messages one in each of the South, South-East, and Grand'Anse departments, and three in the Nippes.

Furthermore, 2,200 awareness posters were distributed in communities, and 19 community radios were engaged (4 in the South, 5 in the South-East, 5 in Grand'Anse, and 4 in the Nippes), airing rotating radio spots and hosting 22 interactive programmes to expand outreach.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

UNICEF is coordinating closely with national and departmental authorities, humanitarian partners, and UN agencies, and is following closely with sectoral counterparts in WASH, Health, Nutrition, Education, Social Protection, and Child

Protection. UNICEF is actively participating in inter-agency coordination through the UNETE and national clusters, providing sectoral leadership and technical inputs to the DGPC-led response.

Contingency Project Partnership Agreements have been established with HEKS-EPER (Grand'Anse), ACCODEP (South), and Plan Haiti (South-East). Preparations for their activation are well advanced with partners coordinating closely with departmental authorities and UNICEF field team for rapid start of activities when conditions require.

Funding requirements

UNICEF is reaching out to donors to secure timely, flexible funding for immediate priorities when the government and communities require support. UNCERF has allocated US\$ 1.2 million to UNICEF for anticipatory action on early warnings, cash assistance and prepositioning. Private sector fundraising is advancing to complement response needs. Immediate fundraising asks will be finalized following rapid needs assessments and ongoing coordination.

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