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Haiti

Tropical Storm Melissa

Flash Update No. 1

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Reporting Period: 22-24 October 2025

Highlights

- Tropical Storm Melissa is moving toward southwest Haiti and may strengthen into a major hurricane by the weekend, bringing **200–300 mm of rain and severe flooding risks**.
- The Directorate of Civil Protection (DPC) and humanitarian partners are fully mobilized; **early impacts include flooding, landslides, and one fatality**.
- **UNICEF has activated its emergency protocols and anticipatory action measures**, with health, nutrition, and WASH supplies prepositioned and coordination ongoing to support affected families.
- UNICEF is working with partners and donors to provide cash support to 8,000 households, ensuring a unified response.



Situation Update

Tropical Storm *Melissa* (No. 13) continues to move slowly northwest across the Dominican Republic and is expected to move across the Southwest of Haiti during the next couple days and intensify into a hurricane and major hurricane into the weekend. The NHC has issued [warnings](#) for Haiti over the Tiburon peninsula from the international border to Port-au-Prince (PaP). Hurricane-force winds are expected in southwestern Haiti beginning through Friday to Saturday. Further strengthening is expected, and Melissa might turn into a category 4 hurricane by 26 October. Very intense rainfall (total of 200-300mm) is expected over through Saturday. Additional heavy rainfall is possible beyond Saturday. Significant, life-threatening flash flooding and numerous landslides are expected.

Flooding, debris and landslides are expected to block key roads and damage power and telecoms, slowing first responders and interrupting services. Ports, airports and water systems in coastal and low-lying areas may be disrupted, with increased risk to health facilities, schools and infrastructure. Marine conditions pose hazards to vessels, while soil and crop loss is likely in affected farming zones.

According to the Directorate of Civil Protection (DGPC), Haiti's disaster management system has been fully mobilised, coordinating with national Hydrometeorological authorities and conducting public awareness. Flooding and landslides have been recorded with some injuries, and one fatality caused by a fallen tree. Rapid assessments are under way with local teams to determine priority needs.

UNICEF Response

UNICEF Haiti is closely monitoring the evolution of Tropical Storm Melissa and maintaining regular contacts with sectoral counterparts to ensure timely support to affected children and families. In line with established preparedness procedures, UNICEF has activated its internal monitoring protocols and is maintaining regular communication with key partners in education, child protection, WASH, health, nutrition, and social protection to assess immediate and subsequent needs.

Through existing partnership agreements with government institutions and NGOs, UNICEF stands ready to mobilize pre-positioned supplies and technical assistance.

UNICEF is activating its communication in emergency strategy and will continue to disseminate readiness content throughout the event.

Health

Medical supplies have been pre-positioned at SONAPI (Societe National des Parcs Industriels) for rapid deployment by Ministry of Public Health & Population, complemented by ongoing coordination with the Emergency Medical Team to ensure continuity of health services. The Regional Office is also supporting the provision of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) and Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits for primary healthcare facilities, while monitoring the readiness and mobilization of medical teams.

Nutrition

Over 100 health facilities in the South-East, Nippes, and Grand'Anse have been stocked with RUTF, and other nutrition supplies sufficient for one to three months, with final deliveries underway in the South to ensure uninterrupted service. The Nutrition Cluster has also launched a rapid capacity mapping exercise to identify alternative supply routes in flood-prone areas, with a first draft map expected on 24 October.

WASH

UNICEF has prepositioned 2,900 WASH hygiene kits in the South, covering approximately 14,500 people. Coordination is also underway with IOM, which has cleaning kits available on site, to ensure a joint and complementary response.

Humanitarian Cash transfer

Under the cash component, UNICEF will ensure complementarity with WFP. In line with OCHA guidelines, each household is to receive US\$ 192. As WFP is covering US\$ 100, UNICEF will provide an additional US\$ 92, thereby supporting approximately 8,000 households in total.

Communication with Communities

More than 83,000 storm-related prevention awareness messages were disseminated via SMS and WhatsApp, in collaboration with IOM, WFP, OCHA, and DGPC, as well as through the U-Report platform. Coordination efforts are underway to harmonize content and ensure coherent, targeted dissemination.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

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

The Humanitarian Coordinator convened UN lead agencies and the DGPC on 22 October for a high-level meeting on preparedness and response. These will continue daily over the next days and complement the ongoing technical coordination meetings taking place between UN and GoH partners.

Contingency Project Partnership Agreements have been activated with partners HEKS-EPER (Grand'Anse), ACCODEP (South), and Plan Haiti (South-East). Discussions are ongoing with these three partners to prepare them for a potential activation of their agreements. In addition, a partnership with AVSI for cash transfer monitoring will be launched in the coming days.

Funding requirements

UNICEF is reaching out to donors to secure timely, flexible funding for immediate priorities when the government and communities require support. UN CERF 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.

Who to contact for
further information: Geetanjali Narayan
Representative
Haiti Country Office
Tel: +509 3996 4478
Email: gnarayan@unicef.org

Yannig Dussart
Deputy Representative
Haiti Country Office
Tel: +509 4774 0011
Email: ydussart@unicef.org

Boris Matous
Chief Emergency, a.i.
Haiti Country Office
Tel: + 509 4720 2481
Email: bmatous@unicef.org