

= 1986 Jamaica floods =

The 1986 Jamaica floods killed 50 people in the country , comparable to flooding that occurred in June 1979 . The floods originated as a stationary front on May 24 that produced rainfall across much of the central Caribbean Sea for two weeks . Rainfall totals in Jamaica reached 635 mm (25 @. @ 0 in) at Norman Manley International Airport . The flooding left heavy agriculture damage totaling \$ 22 @. @ 5 million , and 40 @, @ 000 residents per day received meals after the event . Roads and bridges were damaged across the country , and one damaged bridge resulted in eight deaths after a bus crashed . The floods left 2 @, @ 000 Jamaicans homeless .

Elsewhere , the floods were the worst in Haiti in decades . There , a swollen river destroyed several homes in Les Cayes , and there were 21 deaths nationwide . In neighboring Dominican Republic , flooding isolated several towns and caused mudslides that killed 12 people . In Cuba , flooding was worst in the easternmost four provinces , and there were five deaths . The overall system spawned a subtropical cyclone on June 5 that later became Tropical Storm Andrew .

= = Meteorological history = =

Beginning on May 24 , a stationary front persisted across the central Caribbean Sea . It dropped torrential rainfall across Jamaica , totaling 275 mm (10 @. @ 8 in) in Saint Andrew Parish , and 635 mm (25 @. @ 0 in) at Norman Manley International Airport . There were reports as high as 1 @, @ 270 mm (50 in) in the southern portion of the country . The high rainfall caused rivers to flow faster than usual , and the Yallahs River reported a peak discharge of $453 \text{ m}^3 / \text{s}$. Flooding also affected Hispaniola and eastern Cuba . In Haiti , the floods were reported as the worst in decades . The system gradually moved to the north through the Greater Antilles , developing into a subtropical cyclone on June 5 . It eventually became Tropical Storm Andrew before dissipating on June 8 .

= = Impact = =

The high rainfall caused island @-@ wide flooding in Jamaica , as well as widespread landslides . Along the coast , freshwater flooding decreased salt @-@ levels , lowered ocean temperatures , and caused a significant increase of phytoplankton . By two weeks after the floods subsided , phytoplankton levels returned to normal . Significant agricultural damage occurred due to the flooding . Over 17 @, @ 600 acres (7 @, @ 100 ha) of crop fields were damaged , and many livestock and fish died . Damage was heaviest in Clarendon Parish , and the nationwide crop damage was estimated at \$ 22 @. @ 5 million . Water systems were damaged in eight of the fourteen Parishes of Jamaica , leaving 100 @, @ 000 people without water . More than 300 roads were damaged or blocked , and 15 bridges were damaged . Four people were killed after being buried by a landslide . A collapsed bridge in May Pen , located southwest of Kingston , was washed out by the Rio Minho , killing eight people in a bus . Nationwide , 14 hospitals and 16 other health facilities were severely damaged , and many government offices had roof damage . Damage to utilities was estimated at \$ 1 @. @ 65 million . The floods left 2 @, @ 000 people homeless , many of whom stayed in shelters , and there were 50 deaths . The flooding was described as similar to the deadly floods in June 1979 .

Flooding was also reported in Hispaniola and eastern Cuba . In Cuba , a state of alert was declared for Santiago de Cuba , Guantanamo , Granma , and Holguin provinces , and 7 @, @ 500 people were evacuated . Heavy rainfall caused landslides and isolated several towns after roads and rails were blocked . Some areas lost power or telephone services . Five people were killed in Cuba , four of whom from drowning and one from electrocution . In nearby Haiti , flooding was worst in Les Cayes , where the Ravine River destroyed many homes and left 1 @, @ 300 homeless . Throughout the country , flooding severely damaged crops and wrecked bridges and roads . There were 21 deaths in the Les Cayes area . In the Dominican Republic , there were 12 deaths around Santo Domingo after mudslides buried people . Four towns were isolated after rivers exceeded their banks , forcing hundreds of people to evacuate . Overall , the system caused 94 deaths and \$ 25 million in

damage .

= = Aftermath = =

After the floods subsided , the government of Jamaica appealed to the international community for assistance . Local workers cleared roads , and about 1 @, @ 100 people assisted in various relief efforts . The Jamaican Red Cross provided about 40 @, @ 000 meals each day to residents who lost food during the floods . Repairing damaged roads and bridges cost about \$ 4 @. @ 3 million . For at least one day , all schools and most businesses on the island were closed .

In the weeks following the floods , the Pan American Health Organization provided \$ 10 @, @ 000 worth of water supply units and a group of six workers , and offices within the United Nations provided \$ 55 @, @ 000 worth of contributions . The government of Barbados provided five units to assist in vector control , and the United States donated \$ 25 @, @ 000 in aid . The European Economic Community donated about \$ 376 @, @ 300 in assistance . The government of Canada provided \$ 142 @, @ 490 worth of aid , and the government of West Germany donated \$ 21 @, @ 740 . The British Red Cross and the United Kingdom government collectively donated \$ 302 @, @ 850 to the country , mostly for 3 helicopters to transport relief and medical teams . The California Air National Guard flew three trips of supplies , including 2 @, @ 000 cots , to Jamaica .