

Hurricane Melissa

SITUATION REPORT #1

Latin America & the Caribbean Response Plan
28 October 2025, 1800 ET



airlinkflight.org

Our Response

Airlink has activated its Latin America & the Caribbean Regional Response Plan in anticipation of Hurricane Melissa's impact. Airlink is coordinating with humanitarian, logistics, and airline partners in the region to assess main needs and response capabilities and will continue to monitor the situation to best support partners' responses. Please reach out to ops@airlinkflight.org if your organization is planning to respond and/or has a request for transportation assistance.

The Situation

Hurricane Melissa is a slow-moving Category 5 hurricane with sustained wind speeds up to 185 mph. Melissa is expected to inflict severe damage across the Caribbean, affecting at least five countries. The storm's slow-moving and stalling path over the unusually warm Caribbean waters has allowed it to rapidly intensify, leading to catastrophic winds and rain totals.

Jamaica: Hurricane Melissa made landfall in southwest Jamaica on October 28 as a Category 5 hurricane with 185mph sustained winds. Catastrophic winds are likely to cause total structural failure near the hurricane's eyewall. Jamaica is expected to receive 15–30 inches of rain and 13 ft storm surge, and there is a significant risk of flooding, landslides, and coastal damage. Widespread infrastructure damage and power and communication outages are expected. More than 200,000 people were without power before landfall, and one quarter of the telecommunications system was offline. Initial reports show severe damage to public infrastructure, including hospitals and places of safety. Authorities are reporting that it could take days or weeks to assess the damage fully.

Cuba: Melissa is expected to make landfall as a Category 3 or 4 hurricane near Santiago de Cuba on October 29th. Heavy rainfall, flash flooding, and landslides are expected. Life-threatening storm surge and damaging winds have already started. The hurricane is expected to cut off power and water access to hundreds of communities, which already experience regular access issues.

Common Services

Airlink is assisting nonprofit partners collaborating with local organizations and coordination mechanisms in affected countries through cargo and responder flight support. All organizations requesting support should submit a [mission request](#) and subsequent [passenger](#) and [cargo](#) requests to Airlink's request management system.

Cargo Support: Airlink is finalizing plans for passenger and cargo movement solutions for mobilization within the first 24-48 hours post landfall. Airlink is supporting cargo movement from major airports in the United States, Europe, the Caribbean, and Central/South America. All major international airports will be considered, including KIN, MBJ, HAV, SCU, SDQ, and PAP. Airlift solutions to regional airports will also be considered based on demand.

Responder Flights: Airlink is supporting roundtrip passenger flights for responders, including emergency responders, health professionals, logisticians, search and rescue teams, and additional programmatic staff. All major international airports will be considered, primarily MBJ and KIN. Airlift solutions to regional airports will be considered based on demand.

Haiti and the Dominican Republic: Southern Haiti and the Dominican Republic have already received 8–16 inches of rain, and catastrophic flash flooding and landslides are likely. In the Dominican Republic, more than 3,000 people have been displaced due to infrastructure damage. Floodwaters have also cut off access to at least 48 communities, and more than 500,000 customers have lost their water supply. The impact of Hurricane Melissa is expected to exacerbate the complex crisis in Haiti. In the southern part of Haiti, crops have been destroyed, impacting harvests and food security for millions of Haitians.

Bahamas and Turks & Caicos: Hurricane Melissa is expected to also affect the Bahamas and Turks & Caicos after passing over Jamaica and Cuba. Hurricane watches have been issued for Southern Bahamas and Turks & Caicos. Early models suggest Category 1 or 2 impacts later this week.

Humanitarian Logistics Overview

Personnel movement: All individuals traveling to Jamaica for response efforts are encouraged to submit the mandatory online [Passenger Declaration Form](#) prior to arrival.

Cargo movement: All responding organizations must follow the Jamaican Customs Agency's (JCA) procedure before importation. The JCA is working closely with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) to ensure the swift and secure clearance of humanitarian aid. This procedure will help ensure that critical goods such as food, water, medicines, equipment, and building materials are processed quickly.

Responding organizations and consignees must provide shipment details and documentation before importation. Import permits are required for regulated items such as food and pharmaceuticals. For detailed guidance, visit jca.gov.jm or contact emergencyreliefclearance@jca.gov.jm.

Other considerations: There are significant concerns about the condition of the highway leading to the KIN airport after the storm. The Palisadoes Road, the primary roadway linking the airport to mainland Kingston, is susceptible to storm surge, and similar storms in the past have completely inundated and blocked it.

For up to date information about accessibility of key infrastructure in affected countries, please use the Logistics Cluster's tool [LogIE](#).

Airport Status

Open at Reduced Capacity

- Havana, Cuba (HAV): Open and operational
- Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (SDQ): Open and operational
- Nassau, Bahamas (NAS): Open and operational

Open at Reduced Capacity

- Port-au-Prince, Haiti (PAP): Open with reduced service
- Providenciales, Turks and Caicos (PLS): Airport is open, but some airlines have temporarily canceled flights until 10/30

Closed

- Kingston, Jamaica (KIN): Closed until at least 10/29, reopening date dependent on damage assessments
- Montego Bay, Jamaica (MBJ): Closed until at least 10/29, reopening date dependent on damage assessments
- Santiago, Cuba (SCU): Closed until at least 10/30, 2025 at 11:59 UTC
- Holguin, Cuba (HOG): Closed until at least 10/30, 2025 at 11:59 UTC

Humanitarian Logistics Coordination

The Caribbean Disaster Management Agency (CDEMA) is coordinating the response and has activated the Relief and Logistics Thematic Working Group (RLTWG), co-led by the World Food Programme to ensure the continuity of the supply chain, maximize capacity, and ensure the timely delivery of multi-sector humanitarian supplies.

To encourage aid visibility among stakeholders, the RLTWG has requested information to be shared weekly on planned responses. If planning to send relief items, please fill out the attached template and share with kevon.campbell@cdema.org cc'ing alishah.jamal@wfp.org when dispatching supplies to impacted states.

Responding Partner Agencies

If you do not see your organization listed and you are responding, please email ops@airlinkflight.org.

To better support your organization, we ask that all partners submit [this needs assessment survey](#).

ACTIVE NGO PARTNERS

- All Hands and Hearts
- Americares
- Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE)
- Convoy of Hope
- Direct Relief
- Food for the Poor
- Fuel Relief Fund
- Global Support & Development (GSD)
- Global Emergency Relief Recovery & Reconstruction (GER3)
- Global Empowerment Mission (GEM)
- Haiti Air Ambulance
- Heart to Heart International
- IFRC
- International Medical Corps
- Mercy Chefs Global
- Operation Orphan
- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
- Rapid Relief Team (RRT)
- REACT UK
- Team Rubicon
- Tzu Chi Foundation
- Water Mission
- WFP Barbados
- WFP Dominican Republic
- Wine to Water

ACTIVE AIRLINE & LOGISTICS PARTNERS

- Air Canada
- American Airlines
- Amerijet
- Avianca
- British Airways
- JetBlue
- Priority Worldwide
- Southwest Airlines
- SEKO Logistics
- Sunrise Airways
- United Airlines
- UPS Foundation



For questions related to Airlink's programmatic response, please contact ops@airlinkflight.org.

Stay updated at: airlinkflight.org/responses/hurricane-melissa