



Hurricane Melissa Impacts

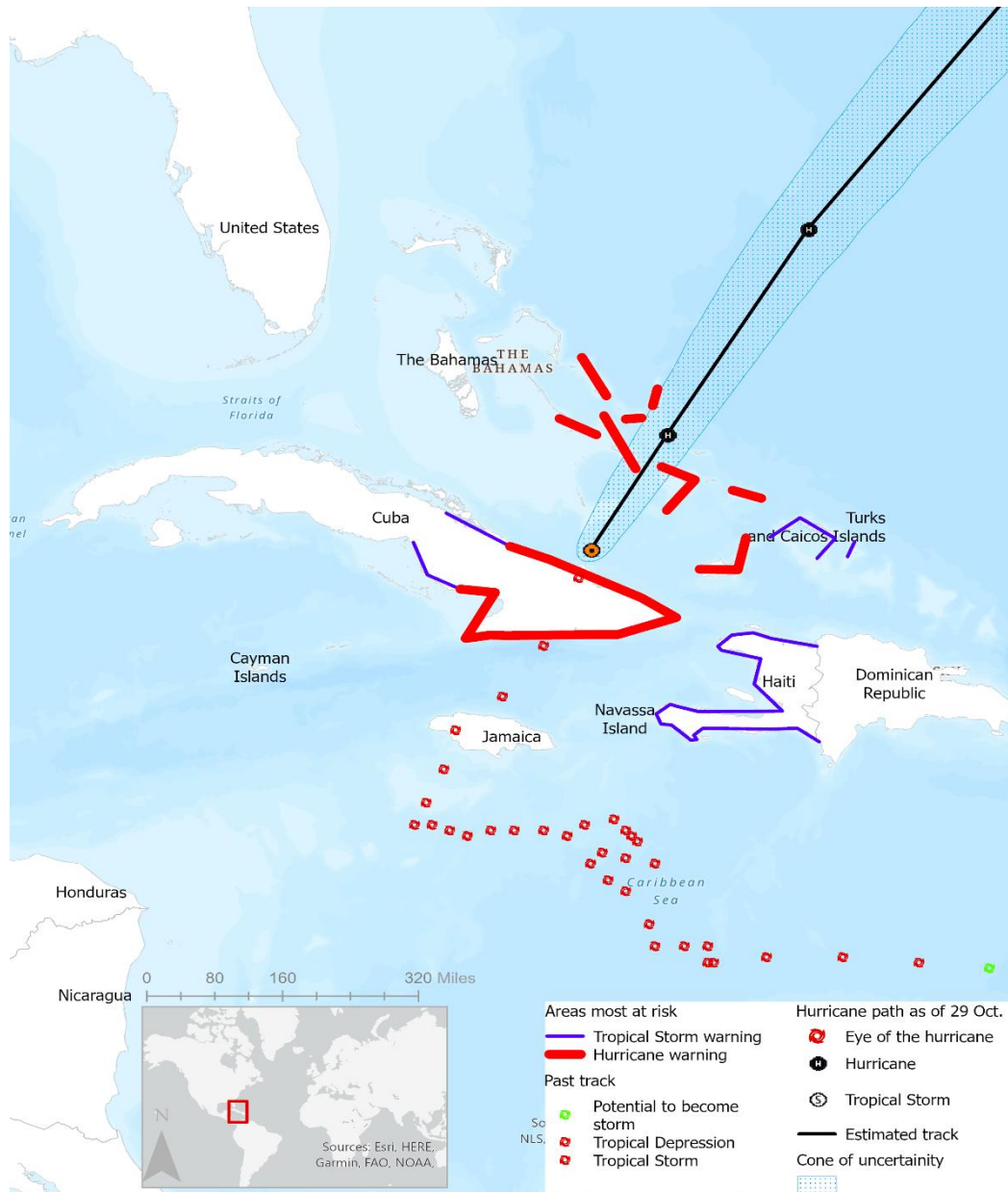
WFP 72 Hour Assessment

29 October 2025 | LACRO OFFICE

EFSA 72H | Hurricane Melissa

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

WFP PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES
All information is subject to change and should be verified.
 Version 1.0 | Date created: Oct. 29, 2025 17:00 EST



People expected to
be impacted

5.5 M

Hurricane Melissa is tied for the most intense storm ever recorded in the Atlantic, making landfall in Jamaica with the highest sustained winds (185 mph) and one of the lowest barometric pressures ever measured (892 millibars).

In need of food
assistance

1.3 M

Food insecurity was already widespread across the region prior to the storm, affecting 3.2 million people in English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries, nearly 1 million in the Dominican Republic, and 5.7 million in Haiti.

Affects Haiti
and Dominican
Republic with
Tropical storm
conditions

22 Oct.

Makes landfall
in Cuba as a
Cat 3

29 Oct.

Hurricane losing strength
and moving to open
waters

31 Oct.

2 Nov.



28 Oct.
Makes landfall
in Jamaica as a
Cat 5

29/ 30 Oct.
Weakened hurricane
affects the Bahamas and
Turks and Caicos with
hurricane and tropical
storm force conditions

1 Nov.

Timeline of estimated impact

Regional overview



Estimated impact

Hurricane Melissa, a Category 5 storm and one of the strongest ever in the Atlantic, is causing severe devastation across the Caribbean. **Jamaica is hardest hit,** with winds up to 185 mph affecting 1.2 million people, widespread flooding, and infrastructure collapse.

After devastating Jamaica, Melissa made landfall in eastern Cuba as a category 3 hurricane, primarily affecting the provinces of Granma, Santiago de Cuba, Guantánamo and Holguín. Santiago de Cuba, a key logistical hub, houses an important port and airport, which if damaged would complicate response capacities. The eastern regions of Cuba are historically very vulnerable, having recently been affected by intermittent periods of drought and intense rains earlier in the year.

Haiti and Dominican Republic both faced tropical storm conditions including heavy rainfall and flash floods. Haiti was impacted primarily in the southern departments of Grande-Anse and Sud but also in Nord-Ouest.

In the Dominican Republic, preliminary government reports indicate 3,765 people were displaced at some point, with 735 homes impacted, and 48 communities isolated due to road closures and river flooding.



Food security & Livelihoods

Hurricane Melissa is expected to worsen an already concerning food security situation in the Caribbean, which accounts for nearly one-third of the acutely food insecure in Latin America and the Caribbean. Haiti holds about 60% of the severely food insecure, followed by 11% in English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries, and 1% in the Dominican Republic.

WFP estimates 3.5 million people in the region are severely food insecure, a number that could increase as a result of the Hurricane. Damage to homes, livelihoods and critical infrastructure are key concerns. Damage to ports—especially Kingston, a key supply hub for Cuba—could significantly disrupt food availability. Additionally, destruction of infrastructure and water systems will limit access to safe drinking water and sanitation, further compounding food insecurity.

Extensive flooding and wind damage will also affect agricultural production, livestock and fisheries, further reducing local food availability.

Higher food prices, especially in local markets are expected as a result, straining household purchasing power and deepening existing food insecurity.



WFP Response

Jamaica: Ready to activate cash transfers via Western Union (235 agents); approx. US\$1M available, plus potential US\$2.48M CCRIF payout. Prepositioned assets include MSUs, generators, Starlink units, and 600+ pallets of relief supplies in Barbados.

Cuba: 280 MT of food moved to eastern provinces; stocks cover 275,000 people for 60 days. NFIs staged; coordination with UNETE, Red Cross, and NGOs.

Haiti: Emergency plan activated with DGPC; two phases—anticipatory action and immediate response for 155,000 people.

Dominican Republic: Government-led response with WFP support; cash transfers for 4,000 households, food assistance for 6,000 families, and logistical support.



Main contacts

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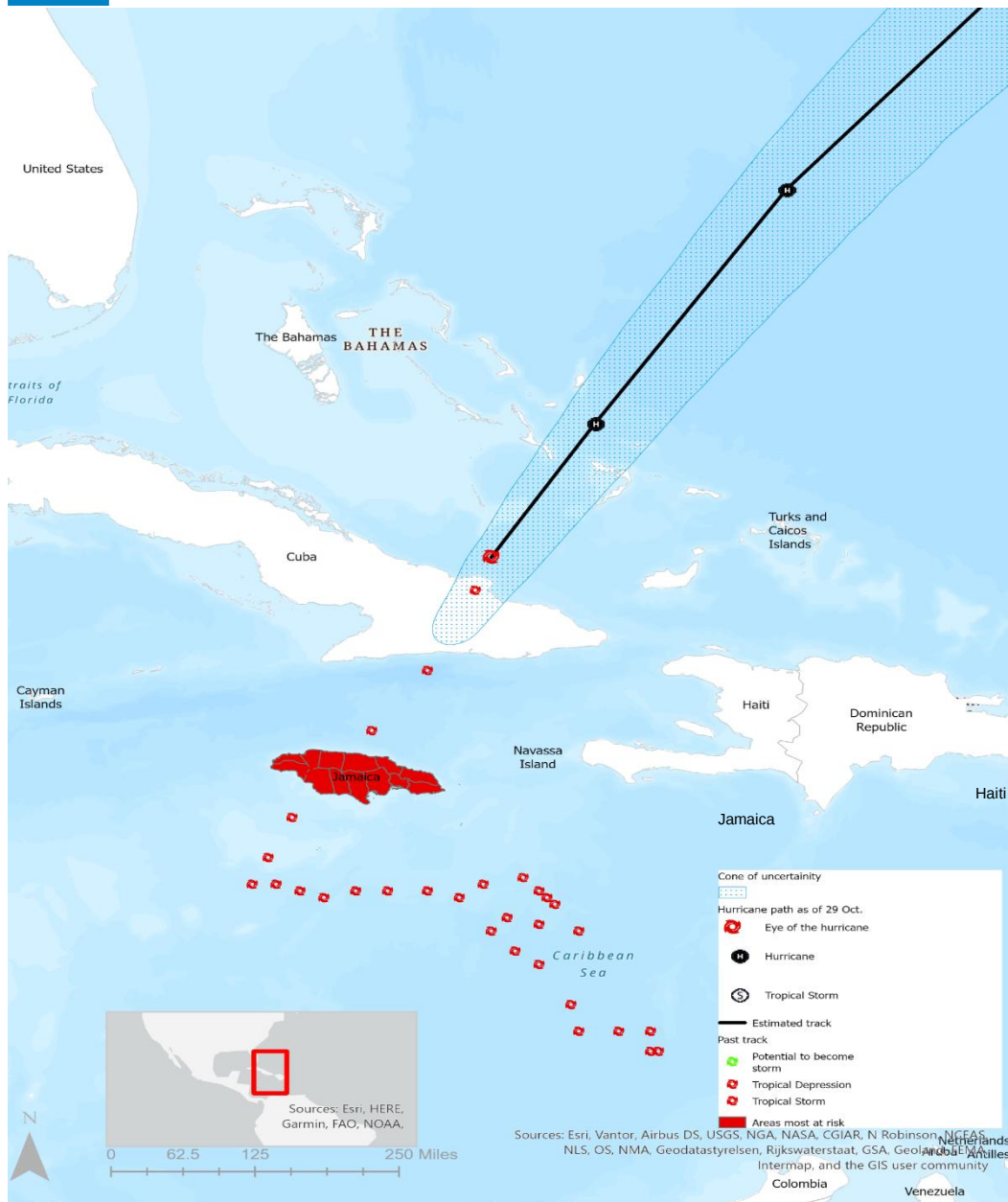
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JAMAICA



Source: WFP Jamaica, Pre-impact assessment, 28 Oct. 2025.

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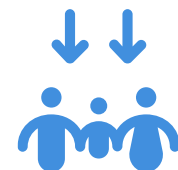
1.2M

Damaging winds, catastrophic flooding and storm surge are the most concerning impacts of the storm. Rainfall could reach up to 1,000 mm in some areas. Storm surge of 14 feet or more was observed.

In need of food
assistance

345,000

Based on food insecurity and poverty indicators, 94,300–345,000 people may need food assistance in the aftermath of the storm. This is a projection which will be refined post impact assessment.



WFP plans to assist 200,000 people out of the 345,000 in need



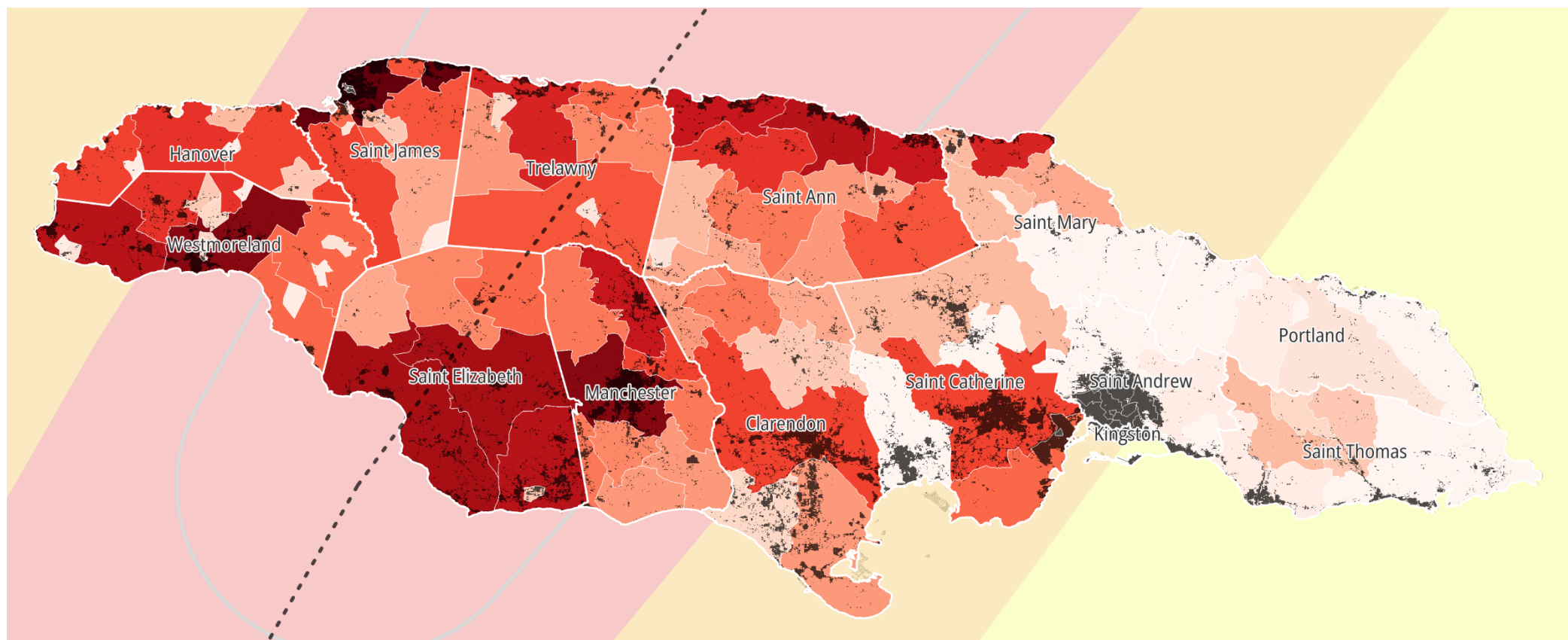
WFP requires USD 30 million to assist the 200,000 targeted



2,000 food kits initially airlifted from WFP's logistics hub in Barbados



WFP-CDEMA **Emergency Control Tower is operational**, processing real-time data to inform logistics decisions



The populations exposed and the numbers of in need of food assistance were determined by determining the number of people projected to be exposed to high wind speeds, heavy rainfall, storm surge and flooding. Initial estimations, shown in this map, suggest that around 1.15 million people were identified as exposed to high levels of hazard. and (using rates of food insecurity and poverty), between 345,000 – 94,300 people may need food assistance. As the situation post impact clarifies, these numbers will be refined further

Jamaica



Estimated Impact

Category 5 hurricane, Melissa made landfall 28 October at 1 PM near New Hope, Jamaica.

Hurricane-force winds extended up to 30 miles (45 km) from the eye, while tropical-storm-force winds reach outward as far as 195 miles (315 km).

Many parts of the country experienced significant rainfall, with accumulations of 400 to 800 mms and reaching more than 1,000 mms in localized areas. This created high risks of flooding and landslides in western parishes, something which is now being further assessed in the aftermath of the storm.

Storm surge was estimated to be as much as 14 feet, inundating inland areas.

More than 800 shelters were open, with approximately 300 occupied during the storm.

WFP is expecting significant logistical, supply chain and telecommunication challenges, including potential airport and port closures, requiring possible alternative entry points for surge staff and supplies.

A significant impact is expected on livelihoods as well as the prices of goods and services, particularly food. As the storm has passed, assessments on the extent of impacts is being assessed.



Food security & Livelihoods

Hurricane Melissa is striking Jamaica at a time when the food security situation is already fragile. CARICOM's Food Security and Livelihood Survey from June 2024 found that market access, even in non-emergency times, was a major challenge. In total, 51% had difficulty accessing markets, with most reporting financial obstacles (97%).

CARICOM's 2025 survey further elaborated this fragility, finding many households reliant on coping strategies that reflect deep economic stress: households reported decreased savings, reliance on remittances, and reducing food purchases. Some respondents described skipping meals, borrowing provisions, or delaying essential expenses such as utility bills and education.

The arrival of Hurricane Melissa is expected to intensify these challenges. Disruptions to markets, transportation, and supply chains are likely to, at least temporarily, limit food availability, while agricultural losses could drive further price increases. For households already struggling with high costs and reduced income, these impacts may force additional negative coping strategies and create further stress on household food security status.



WFP Real Time Monitoring

In the days before the storm...

- 3% insufficient food consumption;
- 12% crisis level coping and
- 16% moderate to severe hunger
- 7% consuming only 1 meal per day

Real time monitoring (RTM) systems will enable WFP to track changes in these core food security indicators in the days and weeks after the storm, providing a clear indication of the severity of the hurricane's impacts on the food security situation. Future updates will detail the extent of the changes.



WFP Response

WFP is ready to stand up its own operation, but **WFP's principal operational response in the region is through government** and its partners, with WFP looking to complement.

WFP's operational readiness approach includes:

- Exploring activating cash transfers through Western Union's national network;
- Prepositioning assets at the Regional Logistics Hub in Barbados. Additionally,
- Explore activation of CCRIF premium insurance policy



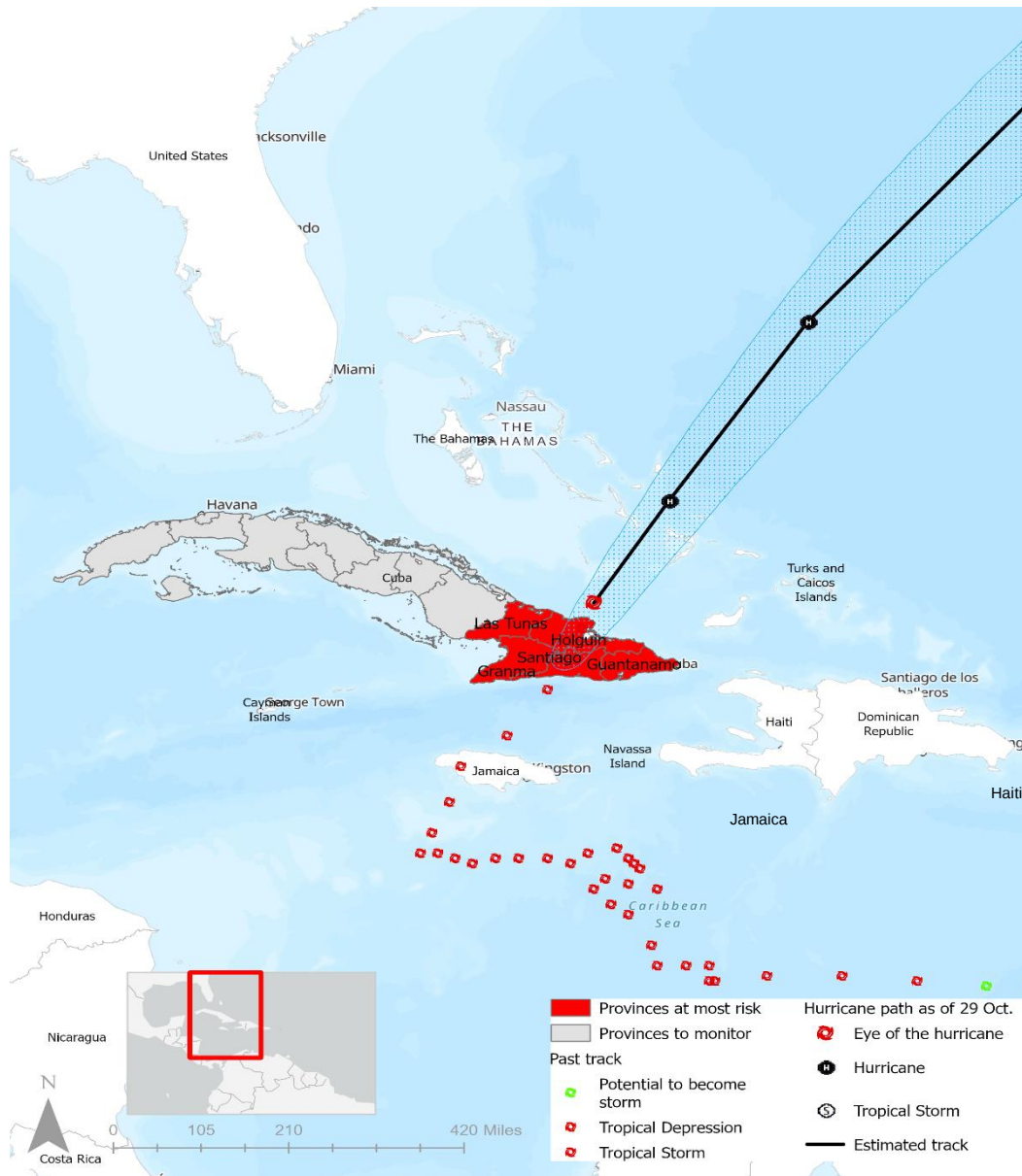
Insurance

WFP has provided a CRRIF premium policy top up to the government that if fully triggered could provide a payout for cash transfers to beneficiaries of up to US\$2.479 million.

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CUBA

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People expected
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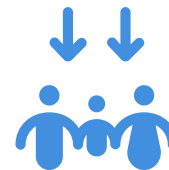
3.5M

Total population impacted in some way by Hurricane Melissa. Provinces likely to be most affected include Granma, Santiago de Cuba, Guantánamo and Holguín.

In need of food
assistance

700,000

Total number of people will require emergency food assistance for three months, with 350,000 of the most vulnerable still in need for an additional three months.



WFP plans to assist 700,000 people out of the 700,000 in need



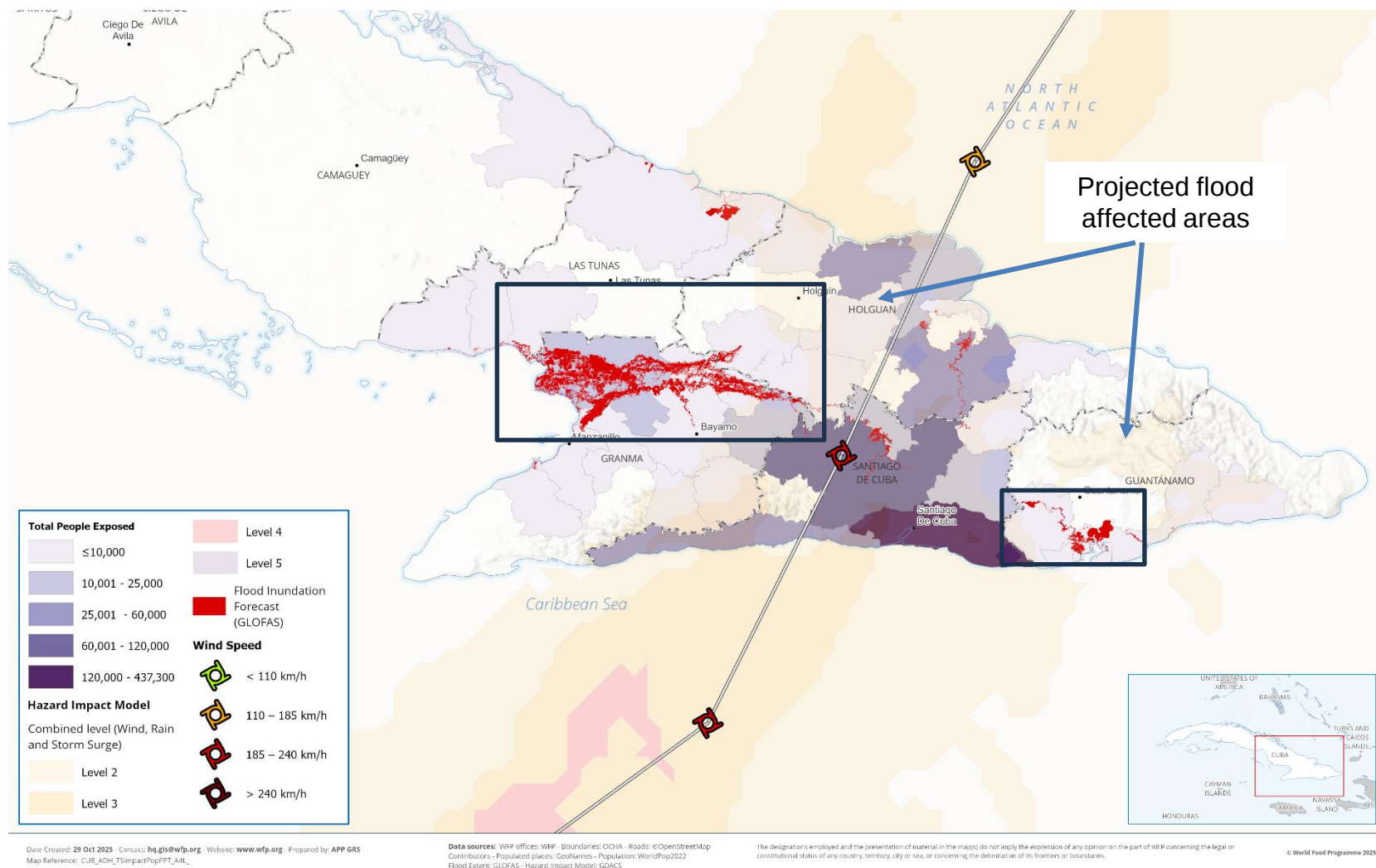
WFP requires USD 28 million to assist the 700,000 targeted



Non-food items are pre-positioned in the western and central regions



WFP will also reinforce the logistics system by purchasing fuel



While 3.5 million people in total were impacted in some way by Hurricane Melissa, a closer analysis reveals that close to 1 million people were exposed to multiple and more severe impacts of Hurricane Melissa, including winds, flooding and storm surge. Notably, forecasts based on rainfall amount point to a risk of substantial flooding in the days and weeks to come, as evidenced by the flood extents shown in the map above. As the situation post impact clarifies, these numbers will be refined further.

Cuba



Estimated Impact

Hurricane Melissa made landfall in the eastern provinces of Cuba —Santiago de Cuba, Guantánamo, Holguín and Granma—as a category 3 Hurricane on 29 October.

This hurricane is expected to cause widespread damage, result in significant crop losses, food spoilage and damage to livelihoods. **There are projections for widespread flooding in the coming days and weeks.**

Current projections suggest that at least 700,000 people will require emergency food assistance for the next three months, and 350,000 of the most vulnerable will remain in need of assistance for an additional three months.

Damage to important urban centers such as Santiago de Cuba, would be particularly problematic as it's a key logistical hub, housing an important port and airport.

This hurricane is impacting Cuba on the back of two major hurricanes in 2024, Oscar and Rafael. While these storms impacted different parts of the country (the eastern and central-western regions), they caused widespread damage to homes, infrastructure, and essential services, including hospitals and schools.

Recurrent hurricanes and other shocks are exacerbating a serious, ongoing economic and energy crisis, which is significantly impacting the well-being of households throughout the country.



Food security & Livelihoods

Before Hurricane Melissa, Cuba was already facing severe economic and social challenges. Throughout 2024, the country endured extreme weather events, **persistent shortages of electricity, fuel, and food, and an escalating energy crisis** driven by declining Venezuelan oil exports and tightening financial restrictions. These factors, combined with stricter U.S. sanctions on foreign investment, limited access to critical financial resources, and disrupted remittances and tourism flows. This fragile context left households highly vulnerable, with limited coping capacity and growing dependence on social protection.

The arrival of Hurricane Melissa is expected to exacerbate these vulnerabilities significantly. The storm will impact key urban centers, including Santiago de Cuba, which is vital for logistics and trade, while provinces already affected by drought and heavy rains face further strain. **Damage to infrastructure and supply chains will likely lead to food shortages, higher transportation costs, and inflation, driving up food prices and deepening food insecurity.**

Combined with the ongoing energy crisis and economic pressures, Melissa's impact could push more households into crisis-level coping strategies and increase vulnerability across the country.



WFP Response

When Hurricane Melissa was bearing down on Cuba, **WFP, in close coordination with the Government of Cuba, activated anticipatory actions under the AA Window to mitigate the impact.**

These measures are detailed more specifically below but included prepositioning of food and Non-Food Items (NFI) and providing assistance for a subset of most affected in the immediate aftermath of the storm.

These proactive steps, taken jointly with the government, aim to cushion the compounded impact of Hurricane Melissa on an already fragile population.



Anticipatory Action

Activating the AA readiness window led to the below key actions:

280 Metric Tons (MTs) of food were moved from western / central regions to eastern to cover 275,000 people for 60 days. Food was moved alongside fuel reserves, trucks and Mobile Storage Units (MSUs).

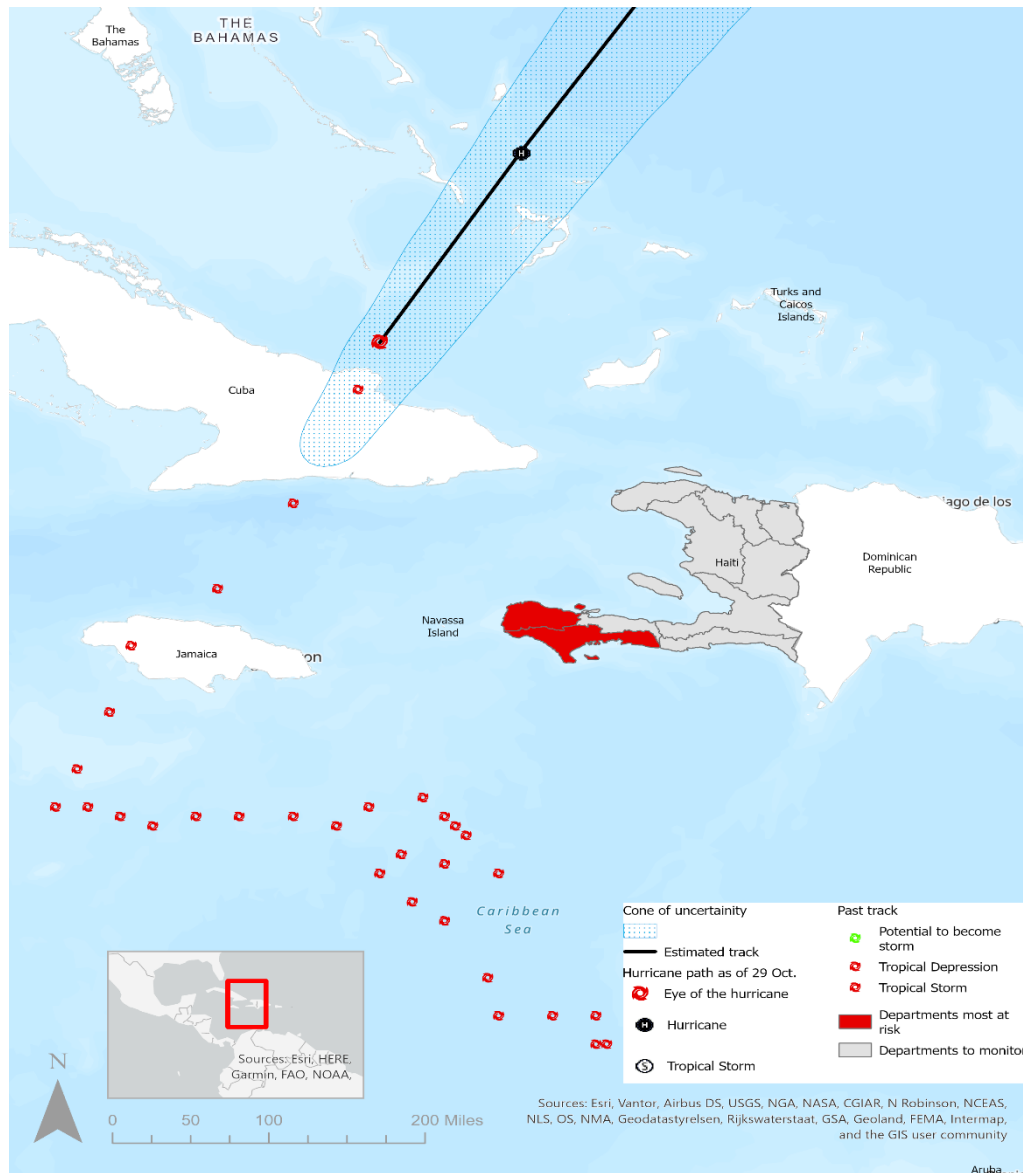
Prepare Immediate assistance to cover 267,500 beneficiaries for 6 days

Identifying urgent Non-Food Items (NFI's) with government and staging them in Santiago de Cuba

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HAITI

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People expected
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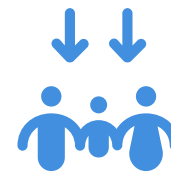
720,000

In need of food
assistance

270,000

Out of which 313,000 people are already affected across Haiti. Grand'Anse, Sud, Nippes, and Sud-Est, are among the most affected areas, with initial reports indicating flooding, landslides, and population displacement in several locations.

People targeted mainly in Grand'Anse and Sud, which are the areas most severely impacted by flooding and landslides.



WFP plans to assist 155,000 people out of the 270,00 in need



WFP requires USD 14 million to assist the 155,000 targeted



3.5M SMS early warnings alerts, were disseminated jointly with the DGPC to populations in high-risk areas.



Main needs are **food, clean water, hygiene kits, shelter materials, and protection support** for displaced families.



Estimated Impact

Haiti first felt the effects of Hurricane Melissa on 22 October, when it was classified as a tropical storm.

At present, the storm is moving away from Haiti so no further impacts on Haiti are expected. **However, over the past two days Haiti was expected to receive at least 200 mm of rain.**

The southern departments—particularly Grand'Anse, Sud, Nippes, and Sud-Est—are the most affected, with preliminary reports of flooding, landslides, and displacement. Washed-out roads and disrupted market access are heightening the risk of food shortages and interruptions to humanitarian assistance.

In total, **720,000 people are estimated to have been impacted by Hurricane Melissa**, compounding vulnerabilities in areas already burdened by high levels of acute food insecurity. **Overall, 270,000 additional people are in need of food assistance as a result of the storm.**

The hurricane's disruption to transport, markets, and agriculture—already strained by prolonged food insecurity—will likely worsen access to food and essential services, deepening humanitarian needs.



Food security & Livelihoods

Haiti faces one of the most severe food insecurity crises in the region, driven by escalating gang violence, economic collapse, and disrupted markets. Between September 2025 and February 2026, projections indicate that **5.6 million people (51%) will face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3+), including 1.8 million in Emergency (IPC Phase 4)—the highest levels recorded since IPC analysis began in 2017.**

Over half of the IDPs report poor food consumption, and 56% have no income, compared to 36% among residents. Inflation, currently at 27%, and gang blockades have severely disrupted supply chains, making lack of money the primary barrier to market access.

Humanitarian assistance remains minimal, reaching only 9% of the general population and 25% of IDPs.

These pre-existing challenges are now compounded by Hurricane Melissa. Washed-out roads, damaged infrastructure, and market closures are expected to further restrict food availability and humanitarian deliveries.

Agricultural losses and supply chain disruptions will likely drive additional price increases, eroding purchasing power further.



WFP Real Time Monitoring

In the days before the storm...

- 94% and 67% with insufficient food consumption in Grand Anse and Sud
- 78% and 67% with crisis level coping in Grande Anse and Sud
- 56% and 63% of people are eating one meal per day in Grande Anse and Sud

Real time monitoring (RTM) systems will enable WFP to track changes in these core food security indicators in the days and weeks after the storm, providing a clear indication of the severity of the hurricane's impacts on the food security situation. Future updates will detail the extent of the changes.



WFP Response

WFP has activated its emergency preparedness and response plan, building on early actions already taken. The plan includes two phases: Phase 1 focused on anticipatory measures. And phase 2 targets 155,000 people through a mixed modality approach, starting with two-week food rations, followed by one month of assistance valued at USD 120 per household.



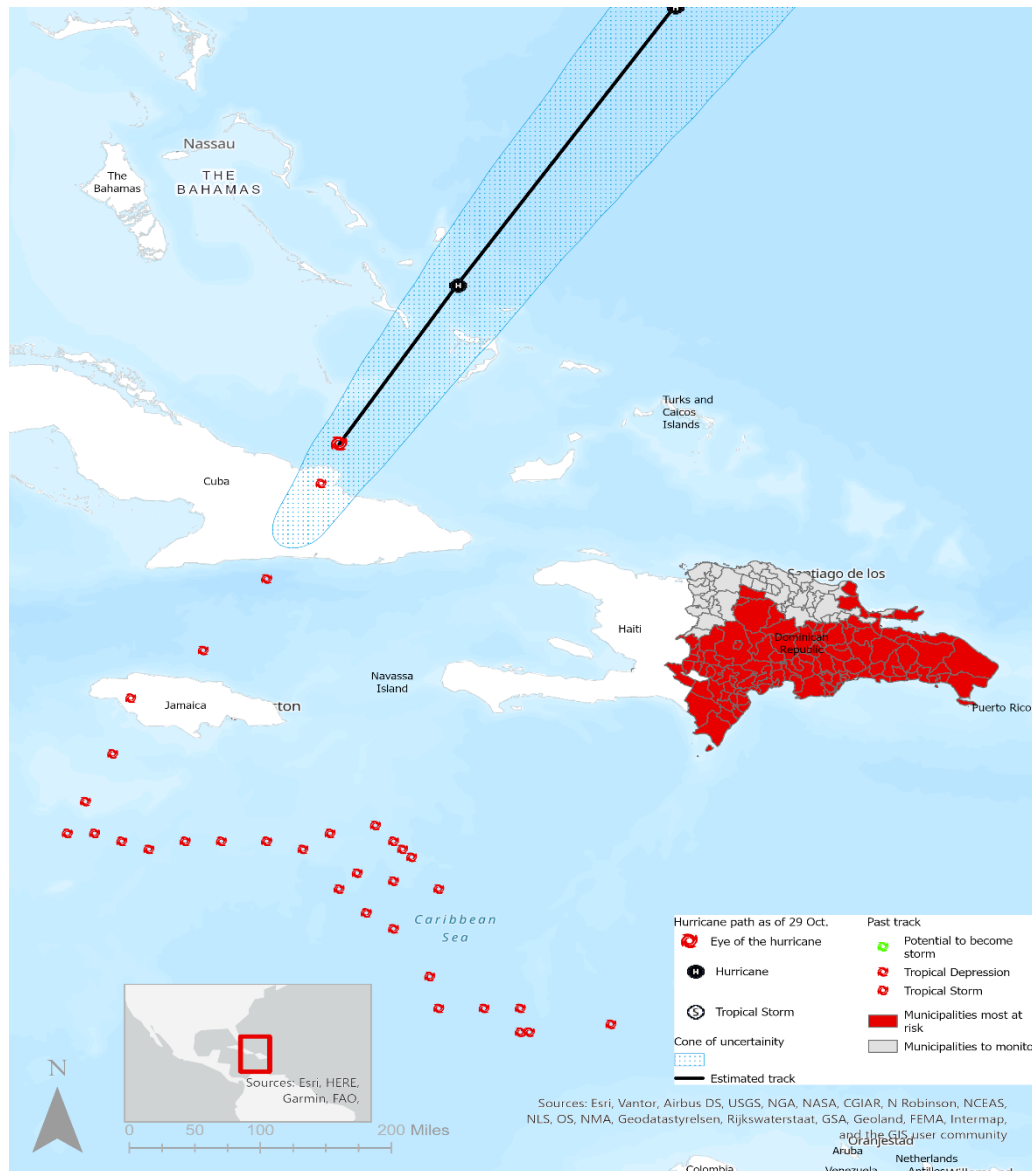
Anticipatory action

- Sending 3.5 million early warning SMS alerts,
- Providing USD 100 cash transfers per household,
- Prepositioning contingency stocks in Jérémie and Miragoâne, including 450 MT of food, fuel reserves, trucks, Mobile Storage Units (MSUs), and a maritime service on standby for rapid deployment.

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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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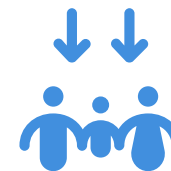
17,000

Assessments are underway to prioritize needs in food assistance, logistics, and early recovery.

In need of food assistance

12,000

Initial estimates indicate that up to this number of people may require WFP assistance, including the provision of family food kits and support to the Social Development Directorate - Supérate program.



WFP may need to assist up to 12,000 people out of the 17,000 in need



WFP requires USD 2 million to assist the 12,000 targeted



UNHAS possibility to have Haiti-DomRep Flights

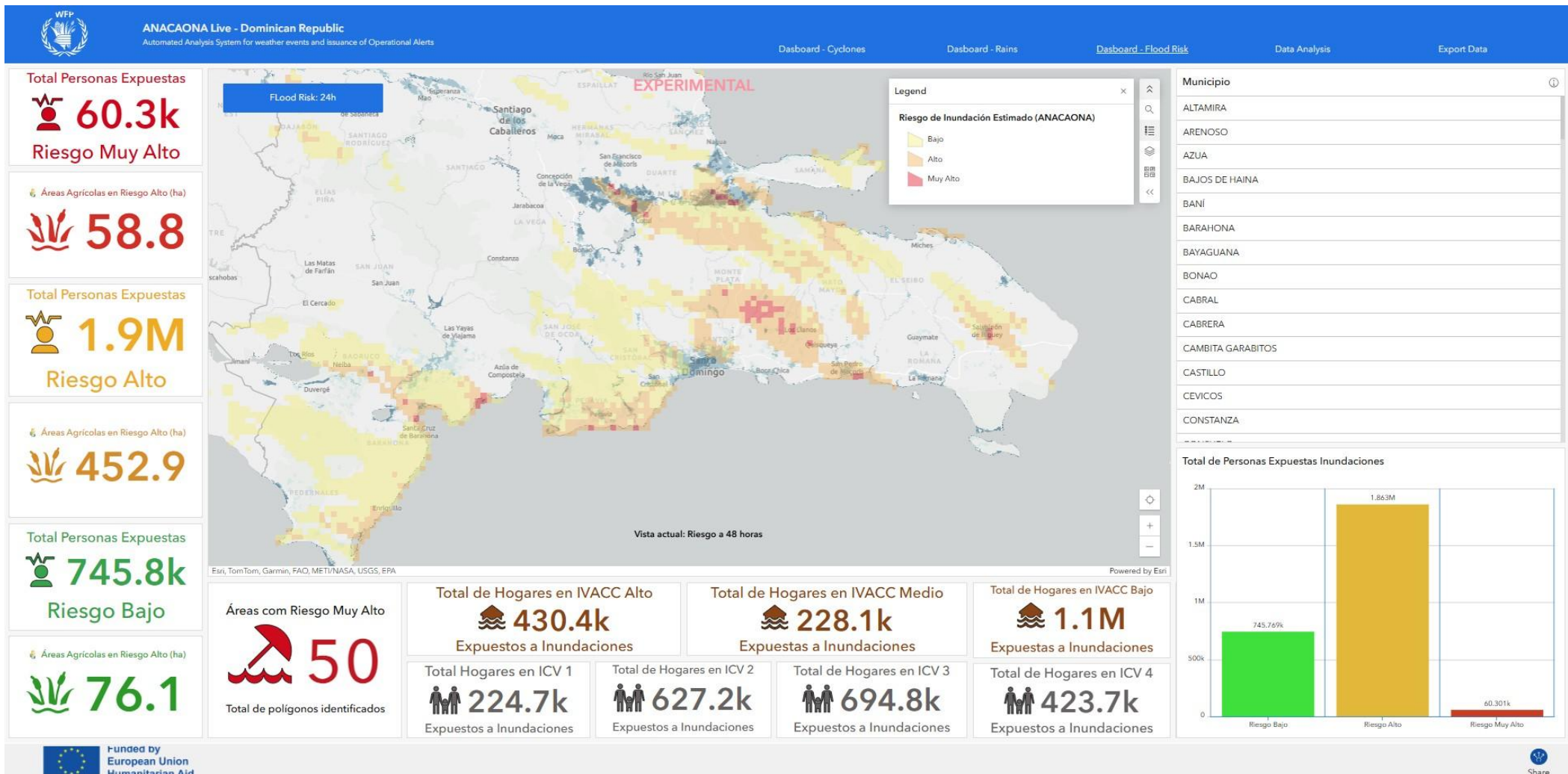


WFP is also coordinating with partners to complement operations in Haiti through National/transnational land transportation.

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The Government of the Dominican Republic is estimating 17,000 people have been affected by Hurricane Melissa. ANACAONA, a WFP and EU supported emergency information system, is designed to support government-led preparedness and response efforts. ANACAONA integrates a flood impact modeling tool developed in the Dominican Republic to assess the effects of excessive rainfall. It combines terrain elevation data, historical flood records, and forecasted precipitation to identify areas, infrastructures, and populations at risk. While the flood risk tool is still under testing, the rainfall forecast exposure module has been operational since the start of the hurricane season.

Dominican Republic



Estimated Impact

According to ANACAONA monitoring, **Hurricane Melissa brought widespread rainfall to the Dominican Republic over the past week.** The analysis shows that more than 5.7 million people are exposed to varying levels of rain intensity, though the impacts were highest in the southern and eastern parts of the country, where vulnerability is highest.

In the aftermath of the rains, **government reports confirm low level displacement and hundreds of home damaged.** For a brief period of time, certain communities were isolated due to road closures and flooding.

Since, the **Government of the Dominican Republic has reported that 17,000 households were impacted by hurricane Melissa, with 12,000 identified as in need of food assistance moving forward.**



Food security & Livelihoods

Before Hurricane Melissa, roughly 9% of the population in the Dominican Republic (or 925,000 people) were experiencing acute food insecurity and 5,000 people were experiencing severe levels of acute food insecurity.

There is a risk that Hurricane Melissa will further exacerbate food insecurity by endangering access to markets for very vulnerable households and hinder agricultural activities during a critical planting season. Livelihoods dependent on farming, trade, and transport would be at elevated risk, and vulnerable households—already struggling with high food prices—may face deeper reliance on negative coping strategies.



WFP Real Time Monitoring

In the days before the storm...

- 8% insufficient food consumption;
- 33% crisis level coping and
- 25% moderate to severe hunger
- 10% consuming only 1 meal per day

Real time monitoring (RTM) systems will enable WFP to track changes in these core food security indicators in the days and weeks after the storm, providing a clear indication of the severity of the hurricane's impacts on the food security situation. Future updates will detail the extent of the changes.



WFP Response

- Impact assessments through WFP's Platform (ANACAONA) with Gov and WFP Data
- FSA in place for 6,000 families, including ready-to eat rations for 5 days and dry rations for 15 days
- National/transnational land transportation, and Warehousing
- UNHAS – Haiti-DomRep Flights



Anticipatory action

Anticipatory Action readiness phase activated in Yaque del Norte river basin. Cash transfers in place for 4,000 households in flood-prone areas.

World Food Programme

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