



HURRICANE MELISSA RELIEF INITIATIVE AUDIT COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF DONATED
AND NATIONAL DISASTER FUNDS & THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROOF
RESTORATION PROJECT

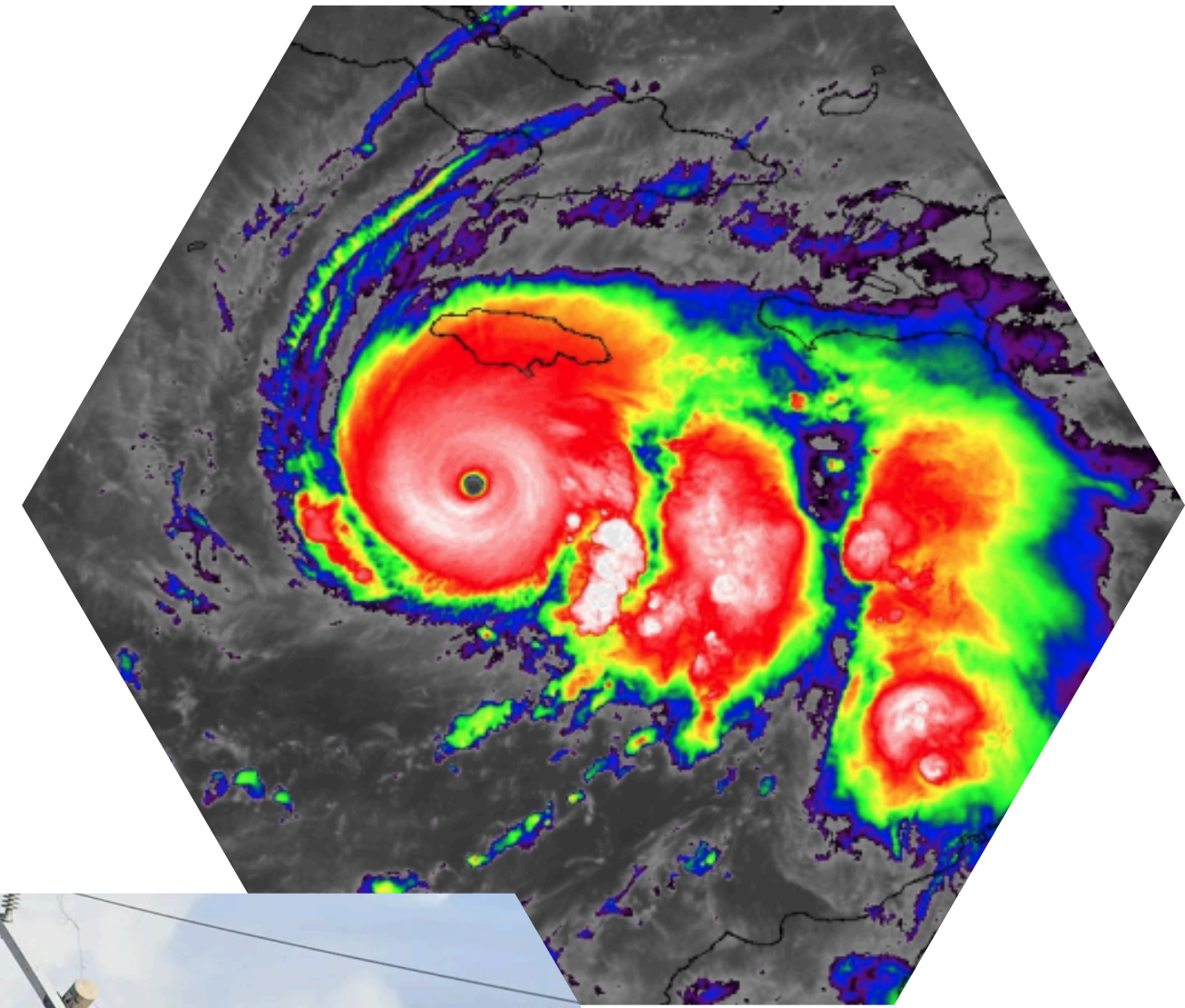


MAY 2026

INTRODUCTION



This is the third audit report on the Hurricane Melissa Relief Initiative. Following the devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa on October 28, 2025, the Government of Jamaica launched a national relief effort led by the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM).



AUDIT OBJECTIVES



- **ASSESS ODPEM'S MANAGEMENT OF RELIEF FUNDS**
- **EXAMINE THE USE OF DONATED FUNDS**
- **ASSESS OVERSIGHT OF THE NATIONAL DISASTER FUND**



Key Financial Figures

Description	Amount \$	Notes
TOTAL HURRICANE MELISSA DONATIONS RECEIVED	\$1.44 BILLION	CASH DONATIONS FROM ALL SOURCES
AMOUNT EXPENDED AS AT FEBRUARY 23, 2026	\$26.2 MILLION (1.8%)	ROOFING MATERIALS ONLY
UNSPENT HURRICANE BERYL BALANCE	\$138.8M / US\$101,974	CARRIED FORWARD PRE-MELISSA
TOTAL PROCUREMENT COMMITMENT — RE-ROOFING	\$167.3 MILLION	THREE PROCUREMENT ROUNDS
NATIONAL DISASTER FUND BALANCE AS AT FEBRUARY 23, 2026	\$163M (BANK) + \$293M (INVESTMENTS)	AS AT FEBRUARY 2026



WHAT THE AUDIT FOUND



ODPEM demonstrated a low utilisation rate of disaster relief funds donated for Hurricanes Melissa and Beryl.

ODPEM received \$1.44 billion in donations for Hurricane Melissa, however only \$26 million (1.8%) was expended as at February 23, 2026.

Additionally, funds remained unused from Hurricane Beryl. ODPEM stated spending delays were due to the pending approval from the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service.



Donated funds were withheld by a financial services institution (FSI) without a formal agreement.

Amounts totalling \$15.7 million and US\$298,429, withheld during the period October 28, 2025, to December 31, 2025, were due for transfer to ODPEM by February 15, 2026. However, the FSI confirmed on March 9, 2026, that none of the withheld funds had been transferred by that date.



National Disaster Fund

ODPEM did not prepare the required Statement of Accounts for the National Disaster Fund for the financial years 2023–24 and 2024–25. Also, Annual Reports for the Fund were also not prepared for the period 2018–19 to 2024–25.

ODPEM has indicated that it has instructed its Director of Finance and Accounts to prepare the 2025–26 Statement of Accounts and to seek approval for the Fund to be audited.





ODPEM does not have a designated bank account for the National Disaster Fund, as required by the Disaster Risk Management Act. As a result, NDF transactions are processed through ODPEM's capital account and are combined with other ODPEM transactions. ODPEM, in response to the draft report, has indicated that steps are now being taken to establish a dedicated bank account for the NDF.



ODPEM awarded four roofing supply contracts totalling \$167.3 million using restricted and single-source procurement due to the emergency caused by Hurricane Melissa.

This approach is allowed under the Public Procurement Act for urgent disaster situations.

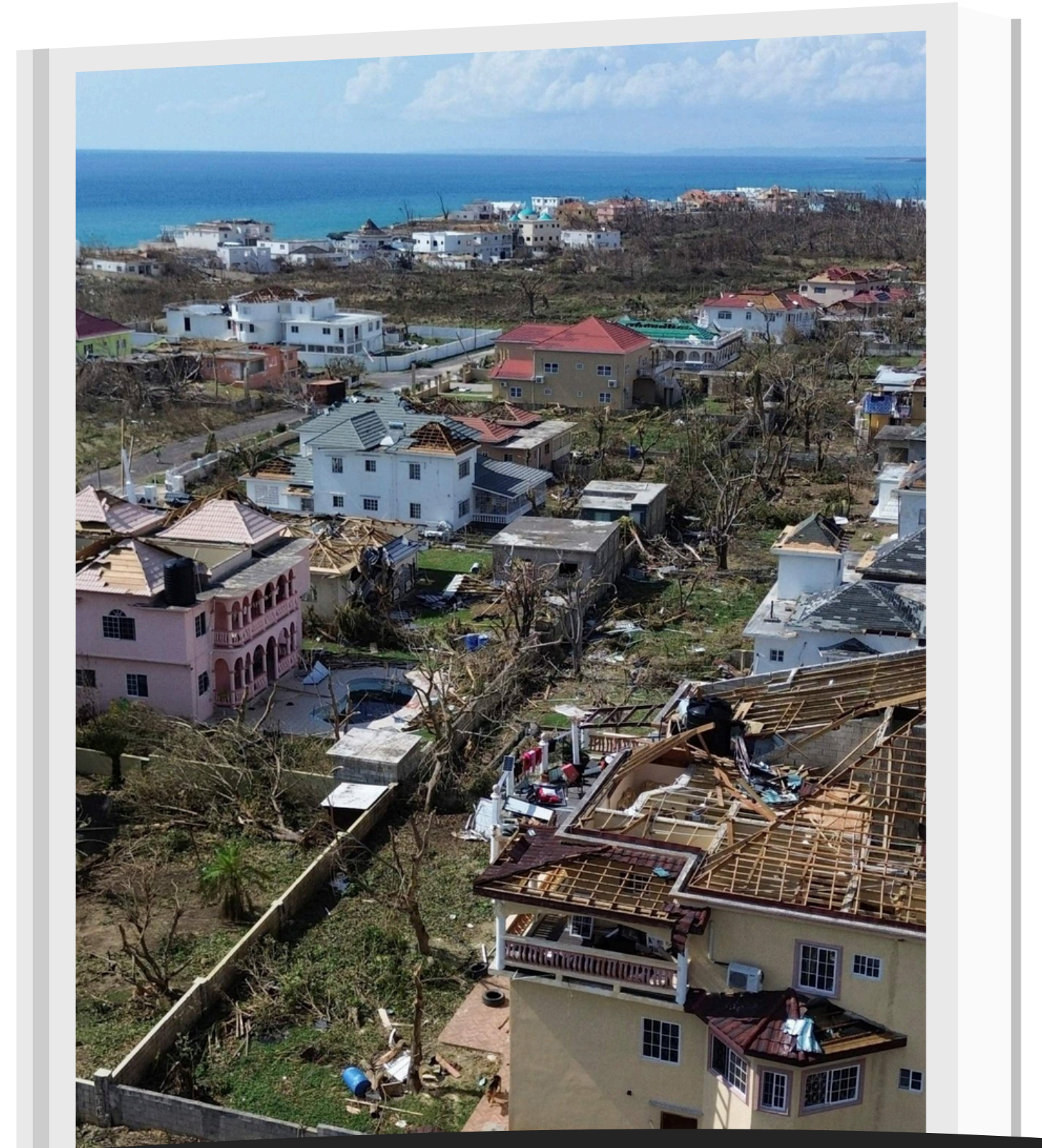
Three of the four contracts were awarded to suppliers who did not have valid procurement registration or tax compliance at the time. ODPEM relied on government emergency guidance issued in November 2025, which allows exceptions in urgent situations.

Of \$122.5 million in building supplies delivered, \$88.6 million (72.2%) was formally confirmed as received. The remaining \$34 million was not supported by signed delivery records or goods received notes.



ODPEM reported that as at April 21, 2026, 421 roofs were repaired under the Roofing Programme.

Audit verification was limited due to the absence of documentation on selection criteria for beneficiaries and lack of formal completion report.



RECOMMENDATIONS



ODPEM SHOULD:

**DEVELOP AN
EXPENDITURE PLAN
WITH CLEAR
TARGETS AND
MONITORING
TIMELINES**

**FORMALISE
AGREEMENT WITH
THE FSI PERTAINING
TO DONATED FUNDS**

**TAKE IMMEDIATE
STEPS TO ESTABLISH
A DESIGNATED BANK
ACCOUNT FOR NDF
AND PREPARE
ANNUAL REPORTS**

**ESTABLISH MOU
WITH MLSS FOR THE
ROOF RESTORATION
PROGRAMME**



A BETTER COUNTRY THROUGH EFFECTIVE AUDIT SCRUTINY

