



PRESS RELEASE

Pointe-à-Pitre - Guadeloupe, October 30, 2025

HURRICANE MELISSA: PIRAC - French Red Cross mobilises to help affected populations

Hurricane Melissa struck south-western Jamaica with great force on 28 October. Described as a 'monster', it is one of the most powerful hurricanes ever recorded in the region.

Faced with the extent of the damage and the gravity of the humanitarian situation, the Jamaican authorities appealed for international assistance. The French Red Cross, through the Americas-Caribbean Regional Intervention Platform (PIRAC) based in Guadeloupe, immediately responded by sending equipment and humanitarian experts to support relief operations.

Hurricane Melissa, whose impact was feared, struck Jamaica with force. Winds reaching nearly 300 km/hour, torrential rains and a storm surge of nearly 4 metres devastated the island. Several towns were flooded, roads were cut off, and essential infrastructure such as hospitals, schools and water networks were severely damaged. Thousands of homes were left without water, electricity and safe shelter. Faced with the extent of the damage, the authorities declared the entire territory a 'disaster area'.

Activation of PIRAC

Responding to this call, PIRAC will deploy human resources and equipment with the support of the Crisis and Support Centre of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

This operation aims to support the Jamaican Red Cross in its relief efforts and to strengthen local response capacities.

It is structured around three main components:

- The dispatch, with the support of a vessel of French Armed Forces in the West Indies, of 500 family kits containing essential items (hygiene, shelter, cleaning tools, kitchen utensils, etc.) to meet the immediate needs of affected families;
- The deployment of two water treatment units, in coordination with the Jamaican Ministry of Health and national and regional WASH clusters, to ensure rapid access to safe drinking water;
- The dispatch of specialised human resources, including two PIRAC employees and technical experts in water treatment deployed in partnership with the Veolia Foundation, to support logistics operations, drinking water production and coordination in the field.

Launch of an appeal for donations

Climate change is exacerbating these shocks: while disasters can affect everyone, their consequences are not experienced in the same way. It is the most vulnerable groups – women, children, displaced persons, indigenous communities, families living in poverty or violence – who suffer the most from the effects of hurricanes.

In order to guarantee long-term support tailored to the needs of the affected populations, PIRAC is appealing for donations. In-kind donations cannot be accepted. <https://donner.croix-rouge.fr/pirac>

Jérémie Sibéoni, Head of Delegation for PIRAC

"Hurricane Melissa struck with phenomenal intensity, reminding us how climate disasters are becoming more violent and unpredictable.

Faced with this reality, the Red Cross Movement immediately mobilised. Thanks to the strength of the Jamaican Red Cross on the front line and the support of the rest of the Movement with its complementary skills, we were able to take action from the very first hours to protect the most vulnerable populations.

In a context where the effects of climate change are intensifying, the presence of a Red Cross organisation in every country and every territory is an incomparable advantage in protecting and supporting the most vulnerable populations."

About PIRAC - French Red Cross

Created in 2005, PIRAC is the representative delegation of the French Red Cross for the Caribbean region based in Guadeloupe, as well as its operational mechanism for humanitarian action and regional cooperation.

PIRAC provides assistance to populations in French territories and in countries in the Caribbean arc and the Guiana Shield. It responds to all major disasters and works to develop actions to strengthen the resilience of populations in support of National Societies.

Find out more: www.pirac.croix-rouge.fr

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About the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is composed of three independent parts:

- + The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), a Swiss humanitarian organisation that intervenes exclusively in situations of conflict. The ICRC is the guardian of international humanitarian law (IHL). It is mandated by the international community to ensure that it is applied by the parties to a conflict. [Find out more](#)
- + The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), which coordinates the actions of National Societies in the event of disasters and supports their development. [Find out more](#)
- + National Societies, which respond to the needs of the countries in which they are based and can act internationally at the request of the National Society concerned. **The French Red Cross is one of these National Societies. PIRAC is a delegation of the French Red Cross from the International Operations Department.**

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