



# WRHA

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



### WRHA PRESS BRIEFING

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OCTOBER--DECEMBER  
ISSUE #004



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# Season's Greetings

As we approach the Christmas season and prepare to welcome a New Year, I extend warm greetings to you on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Western Regional Health Authority.

This has been a year unlike any other. The passage of Hurricane Melissa left deep scars across our region, significantly affecting our health facilities, our operations, and, most importantly, many of you and your families. Yet, even in the face of loss, disruption, and uncertainty, you stood firm in your commitment to care.

Your resilience, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication ensured that essential health services continued when they were needed most. In moments when conditions were at their most challenging, you showed the true meaning of service, compassion, and professionalism. Christmas is a time for reflection, hope, and renewal. While this season may feel different for some, may it also remind us of the strength found in unity and the power of community. Let us take comfort in how far we have come together and draw encouragement from the knowledge that brighter days lie ahead.

As we enter the New Year, the Board remains committed to supporting recovery, strengthening our health system, and advocating for the well-being of our staff. We move forward with hope, determination, and confidence in the exceptional people who make up the WRHA family.

May the Christmas season bring you moments of peace, comfort, and rest, and may the New Year usher in healing, renewed strength, and continued progress for you and your loved ones.

Thank you for all that you do, and for the lives you touch every day.

Season's greetings and best wishes for a healthy and hopeful New Year.



Eric Clarke  
Chairman of the Board of Directors  
Western Regional Health Authority

# Season's Greetings

As the year draws to a close, I extend warm Season's Greetings to our dedicated staff, valued patients, partners, and stakeholders across the Western Region.

This season provides a meaningful opportunity to pause, reflect, and give thanks. Over the past year, we have faced challenges that tested our resilience and demanded extraordinary commitment—particularly in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa. Through it all, our healthcare teams have continued to serve with professionalism, compassion, and an unwavering sense of duty to the people of western Jamaica.

To our staff: thank you for your sacrifice, perseverance, and tireless service. Your work continues to make a profound difference in the lives of individuals, families, and communities every single day.

To our patients and their families: we thank you for the trust you place in us. It is our honour to care for you, and we remain committed to delivering safe, accessible, and quality healthcare.

To our partners and stakeholders: your support, collaboration, and solidarity have been invaluable. Together, we have strengthened our response, expanded our reach, and reinforced our shared mission of protecting and improving public health.

As we celebrate the season, may it bring peace, renewal and hope. Let us also remember the aged, the young, and those who are less fortunate in our society, ensuring that the spirit of compassion and care guides our actions.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Management of the Western Regional Health Authority, I wish you and your loved ones a safe and joyful Christmas and a healthy, prosperous New Year.



St. Andrade Sinclair  
Regional Director  
Western Regional Health Authority

# OCTOBER ACTIVITIES



# WRHA HOSTS PRESS BRIEFING



From left: Dr. Delroy Fray, Clinical Coordinator WRHA, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. Dianne Campbell-Stennet, Regional Technical Director, Mr. St. Andrade Sinclair, Regional Director, WRHA

On Thursday October 09, 2026 a Press Briefing was held at the S hotel in Montego Bay to provide updates on matters concerning the Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA). The briefing addressed recent developments within the region, provided clarity on operational and administrative matters, and outlined the Ministry's ongoing actions to strengthen healthcare delivery and governance across the western parishes.

Among the key announcements was confirmation that the long-standing sewage challenges at the Savanna-la-Mar Hospital are being addressed. The process to upgrade the hospital's sewage system is now underway, with contractors and engineers engaged to restore full functionality. This critical intervention is expected to significantly improve operational efficiency and environmental safety at the facility.

Plans to expand surgical services at the Noel Holmes Hospital in Hanover were also announced. A new minor operating theatre is slated for the facility, with design and costing already approved. The project will now move to market to identify a suitable supplier for the required equipment, with the aim of securing a supplier by the first quarter of 2026.

Workforce challenges across the health system were also a major focus of the briefing. The WRHA currently has an approved staff complement of approximately 6,179 positions, of which only 4,449 are filled, leaving more than 1,700 vacancies across the region. In response, the WRHA along with the Ministry of Health and Wellness is developing a targeted programme to optimise employment and better meet staffing needs across facilities. The Authority also highlighted plans to decentralise training and professional development. Going forward, healthcare workers will be able to access training and upskilling opportunities within the region, rather than travelling to Kingston. This approach is expected to support continuous professional development while helping to fill vacant posts more efficiently.

Through these combined infrastructure upgrades and human resource strategies, the WRHA reaffirmed its commitment to building a stronger, more resilient healthcare system that meets the needs of communities across western Jamaica.

# WRHA HOSTS UNIFORM DAY



# WRHA Staff Turn Back the Clock for School Uniform Day

Laughter, nostalgia, and school pride filled WRHA facilities as staff members across the Western Regional Health Authority participated in School Uniform Day on October 17, 2025, trading their professional attire for the high school uniforms that once marked the beginning of their journeys.

staff proudly represented the secondary institutions that helped shape their values, discipline, and work ethic. The initiative brought a light-hearted energy to the workday while fostering camaraderie among colleagues and sparking conversations about shared experiences and alma maters.



The observance reinforced WRHA's commitment to creating a positive and supportive workplace culture, recognizing that morale, unity, and well-being among staff play a vital role in effective healthcare delivery.

School Uniform Day was a meaningful reminder that every professional journey begins somewhere—and that the lessons learned along the way continue to influence the compassionate care provided across the Western Region.



*Congratulations!*



**Mr. Lennox Wallace, JP, OD**  
Parish Manger,  
St. James Public Health Services

**Honoured with the**

**Order of Distinction in the Rank  
Of Officer (OD)  
for service in the field of  
Healthcare and Community  
Development in the parish of St.  
James**

*We are so proud of you!*

# Effects of Hurricane Melissa



# Effects of Hurricane Melissa





# NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES





# FALMOUTH GETS FIELD HOSPITAL

To address this urgent need after the severely impacted critical infrastructure of hospitals and health centres in the western region, leaving residents with limited access to essential medical care, the Falmouth Field Hospital was established on the grounds of the Falmouth Public General Hospital in Trelawny — one of the most affected health facilities following the hurricane. This temporary, fully equipped field hospital was deployed through a collaborative effort between the Government of Jamaica, the Government of Spain, the European Union (EU), and the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), demonstrating international solidarity in Jamaica’s time of need.

The facility was designed as a Type 2 Emergency Medical Team (EMT) hospital, capable of delivering comprehensive health services comparable to those previously offered at the Falmouth hospital before the hurricane struck. It operated 24 hours a day, providing emergency care, surgical services (both major and minor procedures), inpatient wards, obstetrics, pediatrics, traumatology, radiology, laboratory services, physiotherapy, and psychological support — all free to the public.

Inside its purpose-built structure, local and international health professionals worked side-by-side, treating up to about 200 patients daily. The team included doctors, nurses, anesthetists, logisticians, and specialists trained in emergency response, all focused on stabilising critical cases and alleviating the health system’s burden amid ongoing recovery efforts.



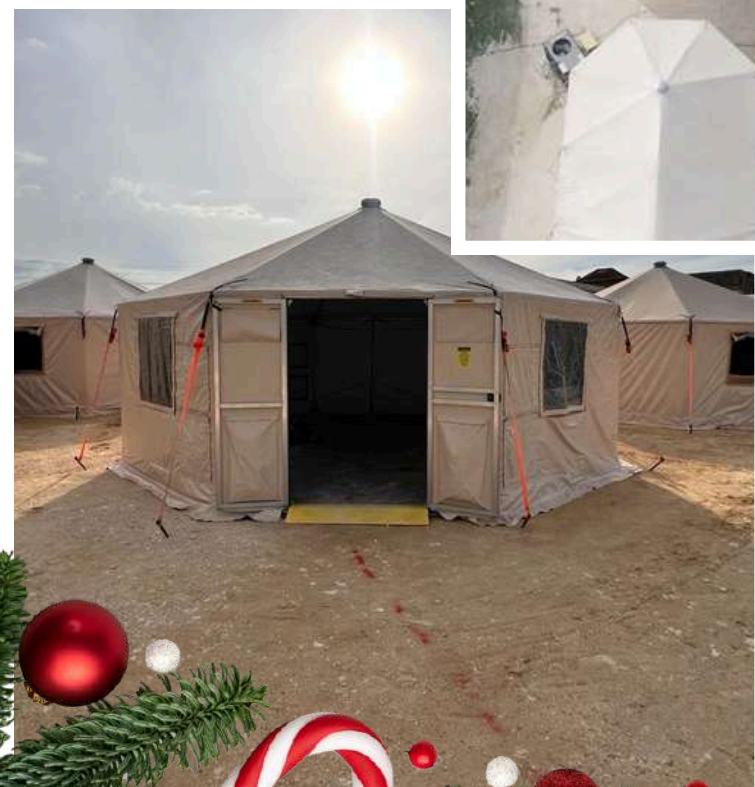
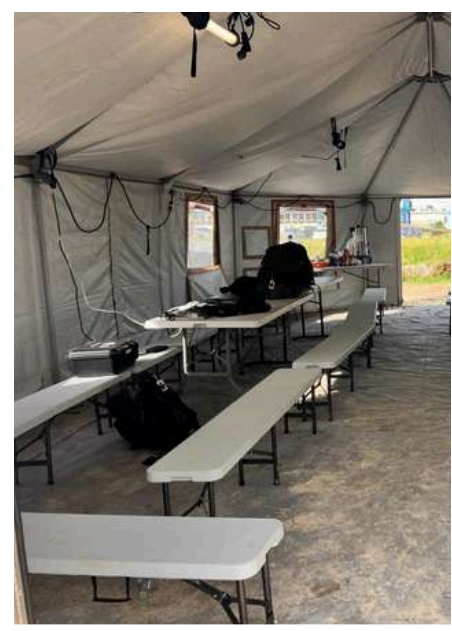


# WESTMORELAND GETS FIELD HOSPITAL

In response to the urgent medical needs created by Hurricane Melissa, the Savanna-la-Mar Public General Hospital grounds in Westmoreland hosted a new Type 2 field hospital, bringing comprehensive, temporary healthcare services to the heart of the parish.

This full-service facility was gifted by Barbados and staffed by a team from the Barbados Defence Force (BDF), underscoring the spirit of CARICOM partnership and regional support in Jamaica's hour of need.

The temporary facility supports continued healthcare delivery while major repairs are underway at the main hospital facility, which suffered significant damage during Hurricane Melissa. The unit offers comprehensive services — from operating theatres and intensive care units to pharmacy services and ward space — effectively acting as a full-functioning hospital until the main building is restored.





# NOEL HOLMES GETS FIELD HOSPITAL

In the wake of Hurricane Melissa, the Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA) has continued to adapt its response to maintain essential health services across the region. A key milestone in this effort has been the successful establishment of a field hospital at Noel Holmes Hospital in Hanover, ensuring uninterrupted care for residents while repairs to the main facility progress.

To address these challenges, the WRHA partnered with Project HOPE (Washington, DC) and SAMU, a Spanish emergency health corporation, to establish a fully functioning field hospital on the Noel Holmes grounds just one week after the hurricane. This collaborative effort reflected the WRHA's commitment to ensuring that essential health services continue without interruption.

The field hospital team includes approximately 22 professionals — from doctors and nurses to emergency specialists, paediatricians, paramedics, ICU nurses and support staff — all operating under World Health Organization standards for a self-sufficient, Type 1 fixed facility. This means the unit independently manages essentials such as water sanitation, electricity, shelter, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, all crucial in a post-disaster context.



# WHITEHOUSE GETS FIELD CLINIC

In response to significant damage to local health facilities after Hurricane Melissa, a temporary field clinic has been established in Whitehouse, Westmoreland, bringing essential healthcare services directly to residents in need.

Located on the grounds of a community centre behind the original Whitehouse health clinic — which lost its roof during the storm — the field clinic began operations in December 2025. The facility, set up in collaboration with Samaritan's Purse, offers a vital lifeline in the wake of infrastructure damage that has limited access to routine medical care.

The field clinic now provides care close to home, saving time and cost for patients who would otherwise have to travel significant distances for treatment.

In addition to basic clinical services, the field clinic supports a mobile pharmacy initiative operated in partnership with Hummingbird Charities, the National Health Fund, and the Ministry of Labour. This mobile team will extend care into Eastern Westmoreland's hill communities, bringing prescriptions, medications, and direct patient support to those who may have difficulty reaching even the field clinic itself.



## THE BOUNTY AND WE THE BEST FOUNDATION DONATE \$2 MILLION EACH TO WESTERN HOSPITALS

Dancehall icon Bounty Killer (Rodney Price), through his Bounty Foundation, partnered with American music producer DJ Khaled and his We The Best Foundation to channel crucial financial support to the healthcare sector on Monday, November 17, 2025. Each hospital received \$2 million to help rebuild critical services and purchase essential equipment.

These contributions were noted to be utilized by the hospitals to help strengthen frontline care during a critical period of recovery.

For Bounty Killer, the decision to focus on hospitals was clear: witnessing the resilience of healthcare teams and the challenges they faced in the hurricane's aftermath inspired a targeted effort to support recovery and ensure that medical facilities can continue to serve their communities effectively.

Beyond this donation, both artistes have signaled ongoing involvement in relief work, including plans to distribute care packages to affected communities in the weeks ahead, reinforcing the broader spirit of giving that has become a hallmark of the entertainment community's response to Hurricane Melissa.





## CHINESE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION AND THE CHINESE COMMUNITY IN JAMAICA SUPPORTS WRHA RELIEF EFFORTS

In a powerful demonstration of unity and compassion, the Chinese Benevolent Association (CBA) has stepped forward with meaningful support for Jamaica's hurricane recovery, reinforcing its longstanding tradition of community service. The association's recent contributions bolster the Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA) and public health facilities still navigating the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa.

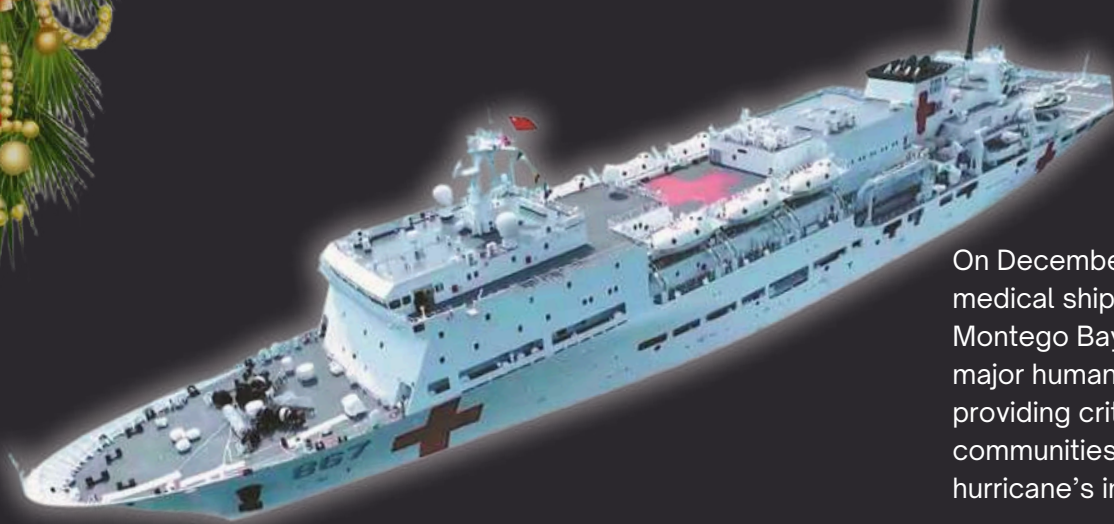
Members of the CBA delivered a generous donation of essential supplies on November, 19, 2025 for distribution to staff members in need of support following the hurricane's destruction.

Items included toilet tissue, bottled water, food supplies, baby pampers, blankets, and care products that are critical to ongoing relief operations.

The WRHA welcomed this timely contribution, which forms part of a broader hurricane relief initiative by the Chinese Benevolent Association and the wider Chinese community in Jamaica. The Association has been actively supporting public health facilities and vulnerable communities across several parishes impacted by the storm.



# WRHA WELCOMES HUMANITARIAN MEDICAL MISSION FROM CHINA



On December 4, 2025, the Chinese naval medical ship, Silk Road Ark, docked at Montego Bay Freeport to commence a major humanitarian medical mission — providing critical care services to communities still affected by the hurricane's impact.

This mission — one of the most substantial acts of post-hurricane medical support — was welcomed by Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr the Hon. Christopher Tufton, alongside health leaders including our own WRHA Regional Director, St. Andrade Sinclair. It underscores the strong partnership between Jamaica and China, and reflects the shared commitment of international partners to support Jamaica's health system in times of need.

The Silk Road Ark brings a fully equipped floating hospital, complete with diagnostic services, surgical facilities and a highly trained medical team. The vessel delivered care to 1970 patients, doing outpatient consultations and performing 277 diagnostic procedures, and elective surgeries for residents across western parishes — helping to relieve pressure on local hospitals and expedite healthcare access in affected areas.



# DECEMBER ACTIVITIES



# HEALTHCARE WORKERS AT THE FALMOUTH AND CORNWALL REGIONAL HOSPITAL RECEIVE CLEANING SUPPLIES

Recovery efforts have been strengthened for healthcare workers at two of our major facilities; Falmouth Public General Hospital and Cornwall Regional Hospital. As part of ongoing recovery efforts by the Ministry of Health and Wellness, following the devastating impact of Hurricane Melissa, cleaning supplies and hygiene materials have been provided at a official handover ceremony on December 11, 2025 to assist healthcare workers in their personal sanitation and environmental health activities.



This adds to multiple donations to the Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA) which will foster significant improvements to healthcare delivery in the paediatric department at the Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH) in Montego Bay.



# CORNWALL REGIONAL HOSPITAL PAEDIATRIC DEPARTMENT RECEIVES VITAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES

A significant boost to healthcare delivery at Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH) in Montego Bay. On December 22, 2025, the hospital received a generous donation of medical equipment and supplies valued at over \$1.2 million, courtesy of the Hummingbirds Association, a Jamaican diaspora organization based in The Bahamas.



The donated items — which include bassinets, baby scales, infusion pumps, and a paediatric laryngoscope, are already enhancing the hospital’s capacity to deliver safe, high-quality care to newborns and paediatric patients across western Jamaica. These tools were timely as the hospital continues its recovery and rebuilding of services following the impact of Hurricane Melissa.

This adds to multiple donations to the Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA) which will foster significant improvements to healthcare delivery in the paediatric department at the Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH) in Montego Bay.



# RAMBLE HEALTH CENTRE MATERNAL HEALTH CLINIC OUTREACH



A critical health outreach initiative took place on December 18, 2025, at the Ramble Health Centre in Hanover, where new and expectant mothers received comprehensive health checks and psychosocial support as part of ongoing post-hurricane recovery efforts by the Western Regional Health Authority.

This targeted maternal health event was hosted to ensure pregnant and lactating women in western Jamaica continue to access essential care — especially following the disruptions caused by Hurricane Melissa.

During the session, attendees benefited from routine antenatal checks, ultrasound services, care packages, wrapped gifts for young children, hygiene supplies, as well as support for emotional well-being. This holistic approach recognises that pregnancy and early motherhood can be both physically and emotionally demanding, and that access to psychosocial support is an important part of overall maternal health.

# CRH PAEDIATRIC WARD FEELS THE CHRISTMAS CHEER



Minister of State, Ministry of Health and Wellness, Hon. Kystal Lee visited the paediatric ward at the Cornwall Regional Hospital on December 17, 2025 to personally present Christmas gifts to young patients and families spending the holiday season in care.

The visit was filled with uplifting moments as the Minister distributed toys, interacted with children, and shared warm holiday wishes, bringing smiles and comfort to many who are navigating health challenges during this special time of year.

Her Christmas outreach at the hospital reflects a broader spirit of community support and compassion that has been particularly meaningful this season given ongoing recovery efforts following Hurricane Melissa.



