

HEALTH HERALD

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from the MOHW*



**HEALTH TEAM MOBILISED FOR
POST-MELISSA RECOVERY**

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200+ health staff join hospital clean-up efforts



More than 200 staff members from the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA), the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL), the National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS), and the South East Regional Health Authority (SERHA) travelled west to support clean-up and recovery efforts at health facilities severely impacted by Hurricane Melissa.

This mobilisation was coordinated through the **CARE CREW**, the volunteer arm of the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

The volunteer teams were deployed to **Savanna-la-Mar Hospital** in Westmoreland, **Falmouth Hospital** in Trelawny, **Noel Holmes Hospital** in Hanover, and **Cornwall Regional Hospital** in St. James. In addition, the team visited **Black River Hospital** in St. Elizabeth to support the installation of a field hospital, alongside clean-up activities.

Volunteers worked to remove debris, restore hospital environments and assist with the delivery of care packages, helping to ensure that facilities were safe and functional for both patients and staff.

The effort brought together a diverse cross-section of health and administrative professionals, unified by a shared commitment to service. ...

“The clean-up effort is not just about restoring order – it is about rebuilding hope,” said Dr the Hon. Christopher Tufton, CD, MP, Minister of Health and Wellness. The Ministry extends sincere appreciation to all staff who demonstrated resilience, teamwork and dedication in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa.

Alongside these activities, the Ministry and its partners continue to coordinate broader recovery operations across affected regions. These collective actions form part of the wider post-Hurricane Melissa response, reinforcing the health sector’s critical role in national recovery and its commitment to restoring safe, reliable care for communities as quickly as possible.



MOHW Netball Team Finishes Second in BHNA Divisional A League



The Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) Netball Team delivered an impressive performance in the most recent Business House Netball Association (BHNA) Divisional A League, advancing to the finals and securing a second-place finish.

Competing in the Division A League placed the team among some of the strongest business-house netball teams in Jamaica. Throughout the season, the players demonstrated discipline, resilience and strong teamwork, earning their place in the final through consistent performances and determined play.

Reaching the finals of the BHNA Divisional A League is a significant achievement and reflects the commitment and preparation of the team. Balancing demanding work, hurricane emergency operations, schedules with training and match play required focus and dedication, underscoring the effort behind this success.

The Ministry commends the players, coaches and supporters for representing MOHW with pride, professionalism and sportsmanship. Their performance on the court reflects the values of teamwork, perseverance and excellence that guide the Ministry's work each day.

Congratulations to the team on a well-earned runners-up finish and a commendable season in the BHNA Divisional A League.



Hurricane Melissa: Response, Recovery and Resilience

Hurricane Melissa, a Category Five hurricane, caused widespread damage across Jamaica, with severe impacts in the Southern, Northern and Western Regions. In response, the Government of Jamaica activated the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), providing the central coordination mechanism for national response efforts. Through the NEOC, ministries, agencies, emergency services and local authorities worked in a unified manner to support relief operations, restore essential services and stabilise affected communities.

Within this national framework, the Ministry of Health and Wellness led the health sector response, aligning its actions with broader emergency operations while addressing the specific health needs arising from the disaster. The Health Emergency Operations Centre (HEOC) was activated to coordinate public health and medical interventions, ensuring continuity of care and the protection of population health during and after the hurricane.

Immediate priorities included emergency medical services, disease surveillance, environmental health assessments, vector control, and mental health and psychosocial support.



Health teams conducted rapid damage assessments of facilities, supported displaced populations, and implemented measures to reduce secondary health risks associated with flooding, unsafe water and sanitation challenges.

The Ministry's response followed a structured three-phase Hurricane Melissa Response Programme. The relief phase focused on life-saving services and urgent support to affected facilities and communities. The rehabilitation phase targeted the restoration of disrupted health services and stabilisation of operations. The reconstruction phase is now guiding efforts to repair and rebuild damaged infrastructure with an emphasis on resilience and preparedness for future extreme weather events.

Hurricane Melissa reinforced the value of coordinated emergency management, with the NEOC providing national direction and the health sector delivering targeted, timely interventions to safeguard lives and sustain essential services during a period of unprecedented challenge.

MOBILIZATION FOR POST-MELISSA HOSPITAL CLEANUP



Staff Spotlight

NAME: Shamar Davis

JOB TITLE/POSITION: Records Officer

DIVISION/DEPARTMENT/UNIT: Office of the Permanent Secretary

WHAT IS YOUR CORE FUNCTION: I support the Chief Technical Director by managing all core records functions for RHA Coordination and the Enhancing Healthcare Services Delivery Project. This includes tracking requests, maintaining accurate files, indexing and scanning correspondence, managing data and movement logs, handling mail, and preparing essential documents. My work ensures efficient operations across the Executive Office.

MY VISION FOR THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS IS: My vision for the Ministry of Health & Wellness is to foster a culture of efficiency and effectiveness, where clear policies and robust support for Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) converge to deliver high-quality healthcare services. By streamlining processes and eliminating bottlenecks, we can ensure that citizens receive timely and equitable access to care, ultimately enhancing the overall well-being of our communities.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB: I derive great satisfaction from identifying innovative solutions to optimize records management processes and implementing them to drive positive change. By leveraging my skills and expertise to streamline records and improve information flow, I contribute to the Ministry's mission of delivering exceptional healthcare services to the public.

WHICH HIGH SCHOOL DID YOU ATTEND: Hydel High School

FAVOURITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY: Neighbourhood hide-and-seek with cousins and friends, sprinting between backyards and laughing too loud to stay hidden.

FAVOURITE COLOUR: Black

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR DREAM VACATION: Vacation in Thailand. jungle trails, hidden beaches, longtail boats, and spicy food tours.

Shamar Davis

#PeopleInHealth



CREDITS:

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