



Country: Jamaica
Project Initiation Plan

Project Title : Jamaica Resilient Recovery Initiative (JARRI)

Expected UNSDCF/CPD Outcome(s) : UNMSDCF Outcome 5: Caribbean people, communities and institutions have enhanced their adaptive capacity for inclusive, gender-responsive disaster risk management and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Expected CPD Output(s) : Output 3.2: Disaster management authorities have strengthened systems to enable gender-responsive and risk-informed development investments, including for response to and recovery from crisis

Initiation Plan Start/End Dates : 15 November 2025 – 30 June 2027

Implementing Partner : UNDP Multicountry Office in Jamaica (MCO)

Brief Description

Hurricane Melissa, a Category 5 storm, struck Jamaica on October 28, 2025, resulting in unprecedented devastation to communities, infrastructure, and essential services. As the strongest hurricane to hit the island in 174 years, it caused extensive destruction, loss of lives, and livelihoods, with initial damage estimated at 41% of the 2024 GDP.

Following the disaster, the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) declared the entire country a disaster area and prioritized rapid debris clearance, livelihood restoration, and energy solutions to facilitate early recovery and reconstruction. In support of these efforts, UNDP's Jamaica Resilient Recovery Initiative (JARRI) will provide technical and financial assistance to stabilize communities, restore livelihoods, and help national authorities and key sectors "Build Forward Better" by integrating resilience measures throughout the recovery process.

At the national level, JARRI will contribute to recovery planning and post-hurricane impact assessments, emphasizing root cause analysis, human impacts, and the application of spatial planning, geospatial, and digital tools. The initiative will also focus on community stabilization through key interventions such as debris clearance and management, livelihood and SME recovery, re-roofing, and solar energy solutions to meet essential needs and support long-term resilience.

Agreed by UNDP:  DocuSigned by: Kishan Khoday, Resident Representative, UNDP MCO Jamaica
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28-Nov-2025

Programme Period:	2025-2026	Total resources required	
Quantum Project Number:	01005173	Total allocated resources:	\$ 2,160,000
Quantum Output Number:	01005173	• Regular (UNDP)	\$ 310,000
Gender Marker:	2	• Other:	
		◦ CARICOM Dev. Fund	\$ 500,000
		• Parallel:	
		◦ ACP-EU	\$ 600,000
		◦ EUROCLIMA	\$ 300,000
		◦ EUCARES	\$ 450,000
		Unfunded budget:	
		In-kind Contributions	\$ 100,000

I. PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTPUT

Hurricane Melissa was the strongest climate induced disaster to hit Jamaica in modern history, with catastrophic impacts across western Jamaica including loss of lives and livelihoods, and damage to infrastructure and ecology and socio-economic assets. Beyond the immediate relief phase, the hard work now begins to create the foundations for a resilient recovery from this tragedy. UNDP's Resilient Recovery Programme, combining technical and financial assistance, is designed to help stabilize communities, restore livelihoods and support national authorities and key sectors in Building Forward Better, integrating resilience at every step. At the national level, the programme supports Jamaica's recovery planning as well as post hurricane impact assessments, focusing on a root cause analysis and human impacts, and use of spatial planning, geospatial and digital tools. To this end the programme also builds national capacity to integrate climate-resilient, risk-informed and nature-based solutions into recovery planning and implementation measures, to make development assets future proof in an era of more frequent and severe climate disasters.

This initiative is designed to support community stabilization through several key interventions, including debris clearance and management, livelihoods and SME recovery, re-roofing, and solar solutions that address critical community needs. The debris management component will emphasize recycling opportunities and incorporate cash-for-work modalities, which will provide income to affected communities while facilitating access for relief teams. This approach will also support the Government of Jamaica in rapidly and safely managing the extensive debris generated by Hurricane Melissa, which is estimated to amount to approximately 5 million metric tonnes nationwide. Additionally, the initiative will focus on livelihood and SME recovery, recognizing the pivotal role SMEs play in the economy by contributing 40% of the national GDP. Solar solutions will be provided to address essential recovery needs, alongside technical assistance for local stakeholders. This assistance will aim to enhance coordination and build capacity, fostering long-term resilience and sustainable community development.

All national and local activities will integrate gender-responsive methodologies, ensuring equitable participation and benefits for women, men, and persons of diverse gender identities, while addressing the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalized groups. These combined efforts are designed to help people regain economic stability, restore community functionality, and reduce disaster-induced vulnerabilities. Priority will be given to underserved communities where vulnerability and exposure to hazard impacts are highest, ensuring an inclusive and gender-responsive approach that helps people rebuild their lives and strengthens community resilience. Participating communities will be selected in consultation with the Government of Jamaica and in close coordination with partners on the ground.

This initiative builds on the capacities already developed by the Government of Jamaica on disaster risk management and recovery, including through over 25 years of technical assistance by UNDP and donor partners, and lessons learned from across the Caribbean region. These good practices and lessons would be carried forward in all activities, to build on existing systems and capacities and further enhance results.

Component 1: Support to recovery governance and planning

Output 1.1: Risk-informed recovery that strengthens long-term resilience and institutional capacity

This output enables a risk-informed recovery process, in a way that strengthens long-term resilience and institutional capacity. Resilient recovery solutions establish a holistic vision and clear priorities and timelines to restore livelihood and economic opportunities for those directly impacted, reducing social vulnerabilities for those most in need, and restoring critical ecosystem and natural resource assets. It promotes coherence and coordination across the different tiers of government, local authorities and stakeholder groups, including community organizations and private sector, across society. It also builds on lessons learnt from past crises: it is informed by the needs and demands of the affected populations, with a focus on the most vulnerable and marginalized; it empowers local governments and communities to play a major role in their own recovery; and finally it endeavors to manage the “Tyranny of the Urgent” to embed “Build Back Better” (BBB) and “Build Forward Better” principles in all recovery actions and processes. This Output will also help offering door to door technical advisory on hurricane resilient responses locally via technical assistance centers on resilient recovery needs around livelihoods reactivation, solar solutions, reroofing, green solutions, etc These local platforms will supplement the hands-on professional services with a series of educational Build Smarter instructional videos to demonstrate hurricane resilient rebuild and construction best practices and tips that are in compliance with the multi-hazard resilient standards and building codes.

Activity Result 1.1: Recovery needs assessments, strategic frameworks and institutional capacity

Activity 1.1.1: Provide technical support to recovery needs assessments ensuring a comprehensive analysis of risk drivers, human impacts, and sector specific needs, and the definition of strategic recommendations for resilient recovery.

Activity 1.1.2: Support the development of a recovery strategic framework that embeds climate-resilient, nature based and risk-informed spatial planning, resilient infrastructure, socio-economic and sectoral recovery.

Activity 1.1.3: Advise on the design of innovative financing instruments and delivery mechanisms for recovery, including community recovery, drawing on best international practices

Activity 1.1.4: Review and advise on the institutional, administrative and governance arrangements for the coordinated planning and implementation of resilient recovery programmes, ensuring multi-level governance and effective coordination

Activity 1.1.5: Technical assistance to the implementation of a monitoring and evaluation, and an effective communication strategy, involving sector line ministries, private sector, civil society organizations, and affected communities.

Activity Result 1.2 Nature Based Spatial Planning for Resilient Recovery

Activity 1.2.1: Identify, assess and prioritize parishes/ communities with greatest impacts, exposure and vulnerabilities, infrastructure deficits, loss of and damage to ecosystem assets, governance and capacity constraints, socio-economic disadvantage (applying participative and inclusive approaches).

Activity 1.2.2: Support the enhancement of climate resilient building standards and nature based, risk-informed land-use planning—in line with BBB principles (e.g., improved construction codes, hazard-resistant design, green investment, climate adaptation, accessible and sustainable design) - building on ODPEM, CDEMA and UN resilient recovery guidance.

Activity 1.2.3: Engage key socio-economic development sectors and stakeholders (private sector, technical and research institutions etc.) in spatial recovery planning and reconstruction efforts based on climate resilient risk-informed recovery guidelines and processes.

Activity 1.2.4: Embed inclusive community-led design processes: ensuring that residents, youth, women, persons with disabilities participate in shaping recovery plans and place-shaping outcomes; and ensuring that rebuilding does not exacerbate social inequalities.

Activity Result 1.3 Capacity Building, Knowledge Exchange & Sustainability

Activity 1.3.1: Facilitate knowledge-exchange mechanisms: e.g., peer-learning visits or remote exchange between Jamaican stakeholders and international stakeholders on experience in advancing resilient recovery practice

Activity 1.3.2: Support development of toolbox materials tailored to Jamaica's context (hazards, institutional structure, development aspirations) to be institutionalized in national processes for governing risks.

Activity 1.3.3: Support the co-design and delivery of targeted workshops/training for local and parish-level planners, engineers, community development committees, and civil society on the BBB approach, resilient design good practices.

Activity 1.3.4: Provide advisory input to sustainability measures on how to embed the BBB outcomes into development planning, budgeting and financing; how to create incentives for private sector; how to design and implement innovative financing instruments.

Activity Result 1.4 Technical Assistance Centres at community level

Activity 1.4.1 Identify local experts (with knowledge in participation methodologies and gender equality and intersectionality) to establish and support Technical Assistance Centers in affected communities.

Activity 1.4.2 Provide technical assistance gender - sensitive to strengthen local communities capacity to build back better

Component 2: Community-Driven Resilient Recovery

Output 2.1: Safely demolished, removed and managed debris in line with environmental standards and the support of roofing facilities to vulnerable households

This output aims to enhance the long-term resilience of hurricane-affected communities by establishing a scalable, community-driven mechanism for safe debris management, low-cost home and re-roofing improvements, livelihood and MSME recovery, and solar solutions leveraging local capacity - all by stimulating the local economy and social cohesion. This includes the safe demolition, removal, reuse/recycling, transportation, disposal, and management of debris in line with environmental standards, while also addressing urgent re-roofing and solar power needs for the most vulnerable households, prioritizing women-headed households, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups. It also prioritizes enabling actions for MSMEs and livelihoods restoration as a base for recovery, with MSMEs generating 40% of the nation's GDP. The approach includes comprehensive assessments, community engagement, training, and provision of equipment, alongside targeted roofing interventions to restore safety and dignity for affected populations.

Activity Result 2.1: Local assessment of key challenges and solutions for debris management

Activity 2.1.1: Undertake localized assessments of volume, distribution, nature of debris/waste, and identify needs and capacities, including extent of damage, type/nature of debris, distribution, volume, coping strategies, gender needs analysis, appropriateness of cash or food for work - exploring possible cash for work, potential hazard/ risks due to debris management/CFW, security and delivery mechanisms, recyclable materials, etc

Activity 2.1.2: Develop and implement strategy for beneficiary selection and participation in debris/waste management

Activity 2.1.3: Identify and engage affected communities in cash for work activities (to include debris clearance, care programming, recycling etc) ensuring full participation of women and other groups such as youths and excluded communities.

Activity Result 2.2 Debris clearance with participation of well trained and equipped communities

Activity 2.2.1: Support local authorities, CSOs, and community-based organizations with training on debris removal, safe demolition practices, occupational safety, inclusive participation, environmental safeguards, waste treatment, care skills (people with disabilities, older and children) and recycling techniques.

Activity 2.2.2: Purchase required equipment and machinery for rubble removal, disposal and recycling where possible.

Activity 2.2.3: Implementation of cash for work programme on debris removal to encourage community participation as well as to reactivate local economy

Activity Result 2.3: Transport, recycling, and safe disposal of debris

Activity 2.3.1: Promote safe reuse and recycling of materials to reduce the debris volume that will require final disposal

Activity 2.3.2: Identify, assess and select potential storage and/or dumping sites in consultation with communities, CSOs and government

Activity 2.3.3: Collect rubble/waste and transport it to designated sites as required

Activity Result 2.4: Vulnerable households supported with re-roofing interventions

Activity 2.4.1: Conduct assessments of homes to determine roofing needs (including structural integrity, extent of damage, and prioritization criteria) and beneficiary selection criteria to ensure transparent targeting of vulnerable households.

Activity 2.4.2: Review and adapt previous successful low-cost, low-tech climate resilient shelter concepts to Jamaican building practices, materials, and specific hurricane risks (e.g., roof tie-down techniques, bracing, proper foundation anchoring).

Activity 2.4.3: Develop and implement practical training for local community members and, crucially, students enrolled in vocational training programs (carpentry and building trades)

Activity 2.4.4: Procure roofing materials and tools in line with quality and environmental standards.

Activity 2.4.5: Provide targeted, conditional cash grants to vulnerable households, specifically earmarked for procurement of materials and labour for resilient home upgrades and re-roofing.

Activity 2.4.6: Joint monitoring by community leaders, along with technical personnel from local authorities and vocational schools, to verify that improvements adhere to the resiliency standards, ensuring sustainability and quality

Component 3: Livelihood Recovery

Output 3: Economic resilience of MSMEs owned by women and other vulnerable groups impacted by the crisis strengthened to recover and be more sustainable and resilient

This output focuses on restoring livelihoods by strengthening the economic resilience of MSMEs owned by women and other vulnerable groups affected by the crisis. The output aims to help these businesses recover quickly and become more sustainable and resilient through targeted interventions. This includes conducting rapid needs assessments, providing cash grants for urgent operational expenses, and facilitating the replacement of damaged business assets in key sectors. Together, these actions ensure immediate relief while laying the foundation for long-term recovery and stability.

Activity Result 3: Immediate livelihood and cash-based intervention with most vulnerable groups

Activity 3.1: Conduct local assessments to identify the specific needs of affected populations including women-owned MSMEs.

Activity 3.2: Provide cash grants to affected MSMEs to support immediate operational needs, inventory replacement or other business-related expenses.

Activity 3.3: Facilitate replacement of damaged business assets (machinery, equipment etc).

Activity 3.4: Support cash-for-work rehabilitation of local community centers and facilities as a base for livelihoods reactivation.

Component 4: Solar solutions for community resilience

Output 4.1: Solar solutions for re-energizing communities

This output will deploy decentralized solar systems to priority facilities identified through the rapid assessment, such as fisheries, farming cooperatives, community centres, clinics, or women's shelters, to restore essential services, enable local economic recovery, and ensure continued support for vulnerable populations. These interventions will also reduce over-reliance on diesel generators, aligning with Jamaica's renewable energy and climate resilience goals, while supporting cash savings and fiscal space for communities.

Activity Result 4: Site selection and deployment of solar systems to restore energy access in critical community and public facilities.

Activity 4.1.1: Assess and select sites for deployment of standalone solar systems, in coordination with government counterparts and community stakeholders

Activity 4.1.2: Design appropriate standalone solar solutions tailored to the energy needs of each selected facilities.

Activity 4.1.3: Procure and install solar systems and storage capacity.

II. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Initiation Plan will be implemented following UNDP's Direct Implementation Modality (DIM), with close collaboration with several Governmental Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) such as municipal corporations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UN Agencies and civil society partners across Jamaica. At the highest level, the project implementation will be guided by national needs advised by Government Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) with responsibility for disaster recovery and governance as well as local community partners and CSOs. A project governance structure will be established comprising key stakeholders to ensure the JARRI's implementation is well aligned to national priorities.

UNDP Multi-Country Office in Jamaica, as implementing partner, is responsible and accountable for managing the PIP and undertaking quality assurance as required. UNDP's Programme Analyst – Social Resilience and Inclusion would lead oversight of the initiative in concert with and support of UNDP's lead Programme Specialist and others in the UNDP country based and regional teams. A number of partner agreements or consultancies would be issued for results under Output 1 on the recovery governance and planning, while low value grants and other modalities will be used for Outputs 2-4 with the local community focus on debris management, roofing rehabilitation, livelihoods reactivation, and solar energy, implemented by selected grantees.

The project workplan covers US\$ 2.16 million of activities. This includes \$310,000 allocation from UNDP internal funds and \$500,000 allocation by CARICOM Development Fund for sections of Outputs 2-4 of the initiative. Output 1 will be advanced through via parallel UNDP implemented global and regional initiatives

funded by the EU, including the Jamaica allocation of \$450,000 from the EU-CARES regional disaster recovery programme on disaster preparedness and resilient recovery, \$600,000 from UNDP's partnership with OACPS for disaster risk governance and \$300,000 from the EuroClima regional climate action initiative for nature-based climate resilient planning support. UNDP will also mobilize \$100,000 of in-kind support in technical assistance for Output 1 from think tanks and experts in resilient planning. The initiative also serves as a base for supplemental contributions by other donor partners from OECD member countries and broader G20 partners to UNDP, via continuous partnership and resource mobilization efforts by UNDP. Synergies will also be made going forward to UNDP's larger levels of regular development programming in Jamaica, as partner transitions from recovery to resumption of development pathways.

III. MONITORING

In accordance with UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures, this Initiation Plan will be monitored following the corporate standards and requirements. A comprehensive M&E framework will be developed to continuously monitor implementation progress towards the achievement of results. The M&E framework will include the establishment of indicators for each PIP results, including the identification of baselines, milestones and targets. Specific attention will be directed at tracking the percentage of resources in support of recovery to address women's specific needs, advance gender equality and/or empower women.

The MCO will also provide quality assurance functions and monitor the achievement of PIP results through the verification of achieved milestones and targets. Additionally, semi-annual, annual reports and donor specific reports will be used to track progress against the results indicators in the results framework. These reports will provide a transparent account of achievements, challenges, and corrective measures undertaken.

A risk log will also be developed and updated at least twice annually to identify, monitor and mitigate risks that may impede the achievement of PIP results through a risk log. Risk management will be integrated into decision-making processes to ensure adaptive implementation.

Lessons learned, good practices, and innovations emerging from implementation will be systematically documented, disseminated, and integrated into ongoing and future programming to strengthen institutional learning and sustainability.

An Initiation Phase Report will be prepared at the end of the Initiation Plan in addition to attaching the full project document if developed or an explanation if initiation failed to produce a full project.

United Nations Development Programme



IV. WORK PLAN (SEPARATE EXCEL FILE)

V. LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT



Planning Institute of Jamaica
16 Oxford Road, Kingston 5, Jamaica West Indies
Telephone: (876) 960-9339 Facsimile: (876) 906-5011
Email: info@pioj.gov.jm Website: pioj.gov.jm



November 13, 2025

Mrs Lesley-Ann Dixon Ennevor
Assistant Resident Representative
United Nations Development Programme
1-3 Lady Musgrave Road,
Kingston 5

Dear Mrs Dixon Ennevor,

Re: Project - Debris Management Jamaica – Post Hurricane Melissa

Reference is made to your email submitting for the PIOJ’s no-objection the captioned project which, we understand, is to be implemented by the UNDP with funding contribution from the Caricom Development Fund.

After consulting with the National Solid Waste Management Authority, the PIOJ, on behalf of the Government, hereby offers its no-objection to this well needed project.

We continue to appreciate the on-going support of the UNDP and the CDF.

Kind regards

Barbara Scott
Deputy Director General

Cc: Dr Wayne Henry, Director General, PIOJ
Mr Rodinald R. Soomer, CEO, CDF

DIRECTORS: Dr. Wayne Henry, Director General/Chairman, Mr. Colin Williams, Mr. Mark Tracey, Dr. Nadine McCloud,
Ms. Merle Donaldson, Ms Alyssa Chin, Mrs. Hillary Robertson, Mr. Emile Leiba