

PRESS RELEASE

September 9, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Hundreds Benefit from Renewed Hope Intervention in Hurricane-Affected Carisbrook

Ten months after Hurricane Melissa disrupted livelihoods, housing and essential services, approximately 350 residents and students in Carisbrook, St. Elizabeth, have benefitted from health, wellness and social support brought directly into the community through the “Renewed Hope” Health and Wellness Recovery Fair held on Thursday, September 3, 2026 at the Carisbrook Primary School in Maggotty, St. Elizabeth.

The intervention, led by the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) in collaboration with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Jamaica, forms part of planned post-hurricane recovery activities in St. Elizabeth. The community was identified based on its vulnerabilities and the need to improve residents’ access to essential health and social services.

Carisbrook was selected as the second community for the initiative, bringing coordinated health, wellness and social support services closer to residents as the community continues its recovery from Hurricane Melissa.

At the Carisbrook Primary School, residents and families were able to access a range of services in one location, including health screenings, blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol checks, nutrition information, dental services, psychosocial support, social work, hygiene and water safety information, physical activity and other health and social services.

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Michelle Smith, Health Promotion and Education Officer for St. Elizabeth, said the intervention was an important way of bringing support to a community that continues to feel the effects of the hurricane.

“I want to say thank you to the Ministry of Health and Wellness, UNICEF and Southern Regional Health Authority to be here with us today in Carisbrook. It is really a good initiative as we offer this renewed hope to the community that was devastated by Hurricane Melissa.”

The fair also provided residents with practical information to support their health and wellbeing as recovery continues.

For Gloria Stevens, a retired teacher from Carisbrook Primary School, the opportunity to access services in her community was particularly valuable.

“So I came and I thought that it was well organised and it was good on a whole, it was a good venture and I did the blood work, blood pressure and cholesterol and I was happy with the result that I got.”

While the recovery fair was a one-day intervention, it forms part of a wider Targeted Community Intervention (TCI) in Carisbrook. The St. Elizabeth health team will continue community engagement and support based on needs identified as the community moves through recovery.

For Stacy Wright, Behaviour Change Officer at the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the success of this programme is crucial.

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“Success would mean seeing Carisbrook move from recovery to resilience, with healthier residents, stronger connections to essential services, greater confidence in responding to future challenges, and a renewed sense of hope for the future. Most importantly, the goal is to see lasting change that extends beyond a single intervention and supports the community in restoring its well-being and building a stronger future,” she said.

(more)

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Picture 1



Residents of Carisbrook accessed essential health screenings and wellness services as part of the “Renewed Hope” Health and Wellness Recovery Fair in Carisbrook, St. Elizabeth.

Picture 2



A resident engages with representatives during the “Renewed Hope” Health and Wellness Recovery Fair in Carisbrook, as community members receive information and support to aid their continued recovery following Hurricane Melissa.

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