

HURRICANE SANDY

JAMAICA

October 24, 2012

Category 1: 80 miles per hour (130 kilometers per hour).

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Hurricane Sandy's Impact on Jamaica

- **Economic Impact** - Total cost of direct and indirect damage estimated at \$9.9 billion Jamaican dollars, causing a 0.4 percentage point downward revision of GDP estimates for FY2012/13.
- **Infrastructure:** Damage to infrastructure (electricity, water, sanitation, transport, communication) estimated at \$2.7 billion Jamaican dollars.
- **Agriculture:** Total damage and loss to agriculture estimated at \$1.452 billion Jamaican dollars, with banana crops severely hit.
- **Education:** Damage to educational institutions estimated at \$170 million Jamaican dollars, with over 215,000 children and 11,000 teachers affected.
- **Health:** Health sector sustained \$341.65 million in damage and losses.
- **Housing:** 17,198 households applied for emergency relief assistance due to property damage, with 807 houses destroyed.
- **Environment:** Coastal and terrestrial ecosystems affected, beaches experienced erosion, forests suffered damage, and landslides occurred.



Jamaica's contributing factor to hurricane Sandy's Impact

- **Geology & Geographic Factor** - Jamaica's geography and geography make it susceptible to hurricane Sandy, causing significant coastal damage, flooding, landslides, and infrastructure disruption in the eastern region.
- **Communication & Preparedness** - Improved early warning systems, better infrastructure fortification, effective agricultural risk management, and more efficient emergency response plans could have reduced the severity of the hurricane's effects.
- **Agricultural dependence**
- **Vulnerable infrastructure**- Poorly enforced regulations (resource management sanitation, transport, telecommunication & infrastructure)



Solutions

Economic Measures:

- Insurance Programs to be promoted for homeowners, rural areas and businesses to cover damages
- Emergency Disaster Funds to support recovery efforts

Environmental Management

- Adopt climate-resilient agricultural practices, implement coastal protection measures, and encourage reforestation and sustainable land management.
- Mangrove Restoration and protect forests which act as natural barriers

Community Preparedness

- Emergency Drills and Evacuation Plans for designated shelters and proper escape logistics

Infrastructure Reinforcement

- Enforce and update building codes to ensure structures can withstand hurricane-force winds
- Develop and maintain flood defense systems, especially in vulnerable coastal areas.



References

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