



Relief, Rebuild, Restore: LCF's 6-month Response



On October 28, 2025, Hurricane Melissa tore through Jamaica as a catastrophic Category 5 storm, devastating sections of Manchester, St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland, Hanover, St. James, Trelawny and St. Ann. Families were among the hardest hit, with many homes destroyed and the physical and psychological toll—particularly on mothers and children—being immense.

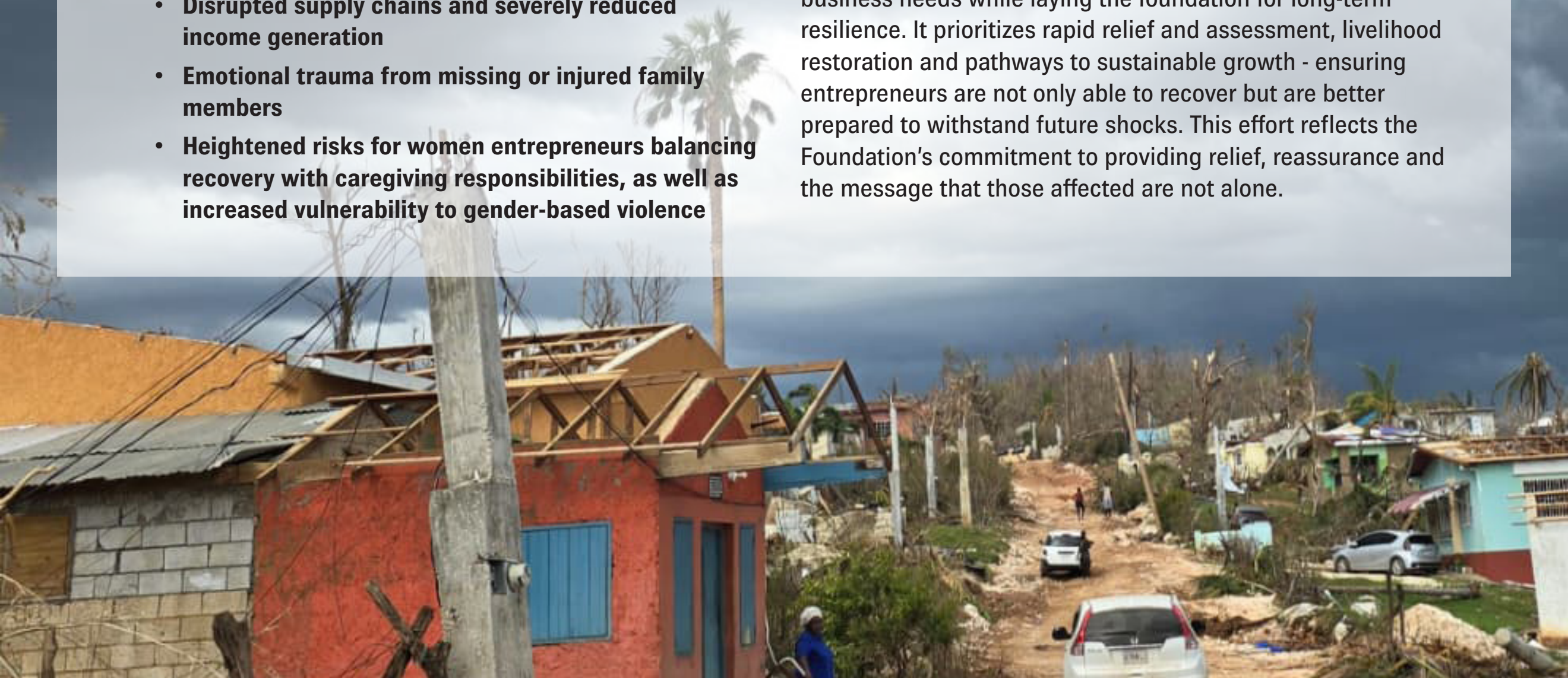
As communities struggled to recover, businesses were also significantly affected. Farms and other critical infrastructure were left in ruins, leaving Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) especially vulnerable. Key impacts included:

- **Loss of business premises, equipment, and inventory**
- **Disrupted supply chains and severely reduced income generation**
- **Emotional trauma from missing or injured family members**
- **Heightened risks for women entrepreneurs balancing recovery with caregiving responsibilities, as well as increased vulnerability to gender-based violence**

The crisis threatened not only livelihoods but also the long-term survival of small businesses that anchor community stability. In response, the LASCO Chin Foundation (LCF) mobilized its extensive network of trusted partners to deliver targeted and timely support. Guided by lessons learned from previous disasters, LCF's support for affected individuals, families, and MSEs is anchored in a strategic three-phase recovery framework:

- **Phase 1: Rapid Relief & Assessment**
- **Phase 2: Restore & Rebuild Livelihoods**
- **Phase 3: Support Sustainable Growth**

This approach addresses immediate humanitarian and business needs while laying the foundation for long-term resilience. It prioritizes rapid relief and assessment, livelihood restoration and pathways to sustainable growth - ensuring entrepreneurs are not only able to recover but are better prepared to withstand future shocks. This effort reflects the Foundation's commitment to providing relief, reassurance and the message that those affected are not alone.



Phase 1: Rapid Relief & Assessment – Delivering care packages and conducting needs assessments

Immediately following Hurricane Melissa's landfall, LCF activated its Phase 1 Rapid Relief Programme, mobilizing a strong coalition of over 70 corporate partners, foundations, churches, diaspora and overseas organizations, community groups and individuals. Together, 18,019 care packages were urgently distributed, including specialized relief packages for women, children and entrepreneurs, benefiting approximately 54,057 persons.

More than 100 volunteers participated, including representatives from the **LASCO Group of Companies, the Kiwanis Club, the International Youth Fellowship Jamaica, Volunteers Incorporated, the Christian Leaders Fellowship, Junior Chambers International (JCI) Jamaica** and individuals from different parishes. Together, they assisted in preparing packages containing essential food supplies and hygiene products, which were distributed to severely affected individuals and families, including MSE owners across the western parishes.

Within the first week, over 5,800 packages were prepared and dispatched to the hardest-hit areas, through collaboration with major partners including **JWN Foundation, VM Foundation Ltd, Scotiabank Group, Operation Save Jamaica, the New Testament Church of God, Supreme Ventures Foundation, Sandals Foundation, IGL Limited (IGNite Foundation)** and dedicated volunteers. As momentum grew, additional partners such as **British Caribbean Insurance Company (BCIC), Jamaica Energy Partners Group, Sean Paul Foundation, JCI Jamaica and AJ Dybantsa Foundation** along with other local, overseas and diaspora partners, joined the effort. Together they contributed over J\$63 million to finance and transport additional packages. These resources ensured that vital supplies reached vulnerable families and entrepreneurs, reinforcing the Foundation's commitment to rapid relief and resilience.

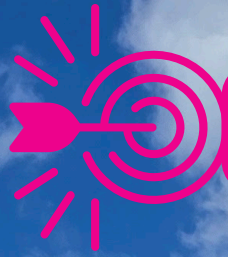
Phase 2: Restore & Rebuild Livelihoods – Restarting businesses and restoring community hubs

Our initial goal was to support at least 20 MSEs across Westmoreland, St. Elizabeth, and Hanover, with a particular focus on cook shops and corner shops. With the support of our partners, this target was achieved in under two months. Building on lessons learned from this first cohort, the model was refined and expanded to reach at least 200 MSEs over the next six to twelve months. Currently, the team is working with 132 MSEs across communities in Westmoreland, Hanover, Trelawny, and St. James.

Businesses were selected using an index developed by the LCF/ILE team, which assessed key factors including business performance and the role each enterprise plays within the family and wider community. The focus on cook shops and corner shops reflects both a practical necessity and a strategic emphasis on strengthening local economic activity.

Many of these businesses functioned as informal “community hubs” prior to Hurricane Melissa - serving as spaces where residents not only purchased essentials, but also gathered to exchange information and offer mutual support. With modest but timely assistance, these enterprises were able to resume operations quickly, and are restoring access to food, basic goods and services within their communities. Restarting these hubs is therefore a critical catalyst for community self-reliance, social cohesion and local economic recovery in the hardest-hit areas.

Our multipronged approach to restoring livelihoods and revitalizing the economic heart of affected communities includes the following core components: business restoration, capacity building, monitoring & evaluation, as detailed under our ‘impact to date’ below.



THE GOAL

Reopening businesses, reviving local economies and building long-term resilience.

OUR APPROACH: RELIEF, REBUILD, RESTORE.

IMPACT TO DATE

- ✓ 132 MSEs engaged
- ✓ 91 approved for support
- ✓ 54 businesses supported with supplies, equipment & materials
- ✓ 4 community hubs identified

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT:

Sandals Foundation - 6 generators provided

Digicel Foundation - Gift cards distributed for essential supplies

1. Business Restoration

Fast, practical support to get businesses operational again:

- RESTART stock packages
- Building repair materials
- Cook shop equipment kits
- Flexible financial support

2. Capacity Building

Helping entrepreneurs rebuild smarter:

- Entrepreneurial training and technical support
- Targeted support for women entrepreneurs
- Post-disaster safety guidance

3. Monitoring & Evaluation

Ongoing check-ins to track progress and adapt:

- Monthly business engagement
- Real-time programme improvements
- Data-driven planning for Phase 3

TYPE OF BUSINESS

COMMUNITY	# OF COOK SHOPS	# OF CORNER SHOP	BOTH (COOK & CORNER SHOP)	OTHER	TOTAL
Bluefields, Westmoreland	2	5	1	1	9
Darliston, Westmoreland	0	5	1	7	13
Russia, Westmoreland	3	5	0	2	10
Westmoreland (Other)	9	11	1	0	21
Success, Hanover	0	8	1	0	9
Falmouth, Trelawny	0	2	2	1	5
Flankers, St. James	4	15	0	1	20
Malvern, St. Elizabeth	0	4	0	0	4
TOTAL	18	55	6	12	91
# OF FEMALES: 62 (68%)					# OF MALES: 29 (32%)

Partners who have supported Phase 2:

Local Partners:



Overseas Partners:

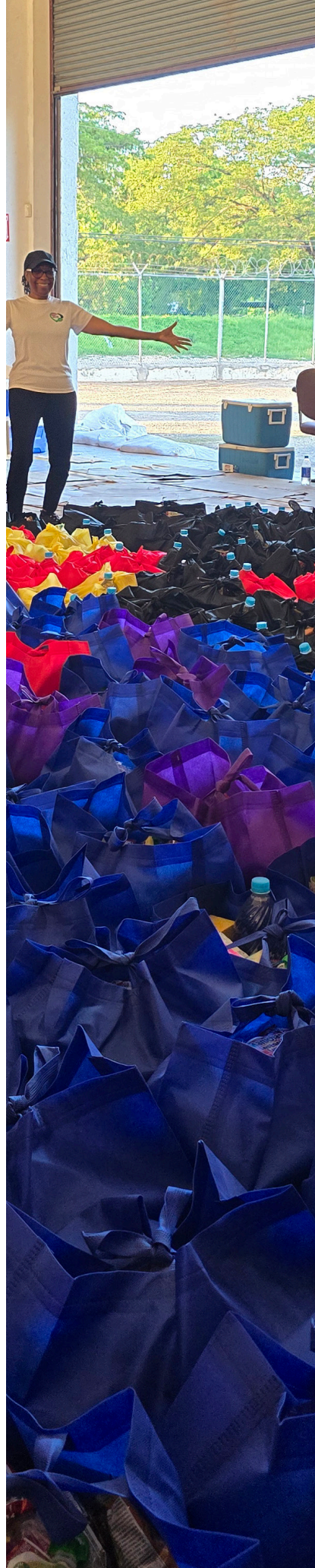
Rosemarie Francis-Binder & friends (Germany)
 Stavros S. Niarchos Foundation for Charity
 Scott Trust Legacies of Enslavement Programme (UK)

Phase 3: Support Sustainable Growth – Building resilience for long-term recovery

Looking ahead over the next six months, LCF will embark on Phase 3 of its recovery framework. This phase focuses on transitioning from recovery to long-term sustainability by strengthening MSEs and the communities they serve. Building on the foundation established in Phases 1 and 2, Phase 3 aims to support businesses not only in recovering, but also in growing, adapting, and building resilience to future shocks. To effectively scale this impact, additional support and partnerships will be essential.



We therefore invite stakeholders, donors, and development partners to collaborate with us in providing the financial resources and technical expertise needed to enable these businesses and communities to thrive sustainably.





Learn more about the LCF Foundation

<https://lascofoundation.org>

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