

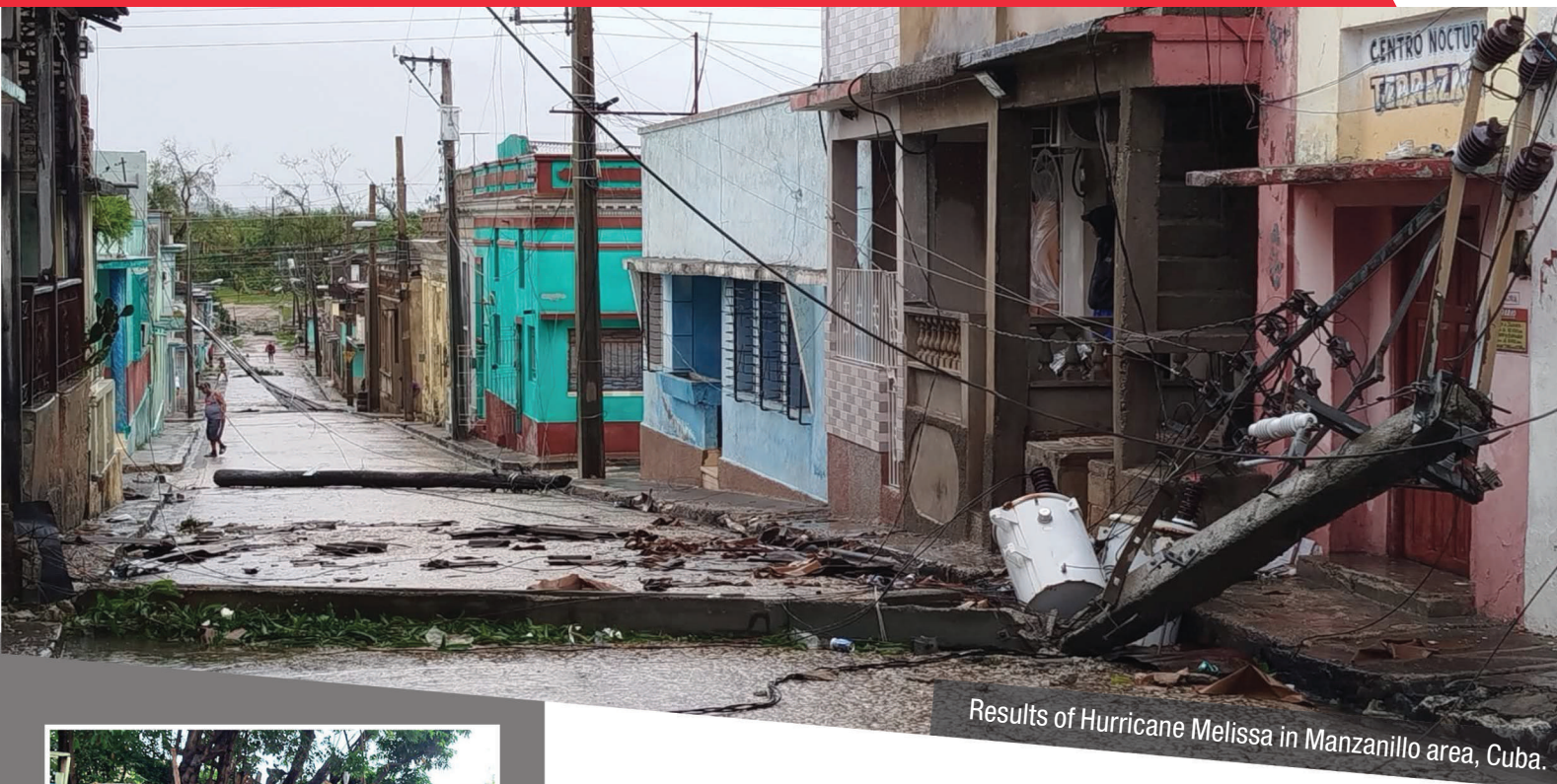
GLOBALLINK



Giving
Hope
Today

TERRITORIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IN CANADA AND BERMUDA

SUMMER 2026



Results of Hurricane Melissa in Manzanillo area, Cuba.

STRONGER TOGETHER: *A Global Response to Hurricane Melissa*

By Major Elaine Locke

On October 28, 2025, hurricane Melissa struck Jamaica as a Category 5 storm. The catastrophic damage, including the destruction of homes, hospitals and schools, left more than 250,000 people without power and 15,000 seeking refuge in emergency shelters.

Flash flooding, landslides and storm surges isolated numerous communities, overwhelming local capacities despite the Jamaican government's mobilization of emergency services.

In response, The Salvation Army stepped in to partner with the government, providing personnel, logistical resources and on-the-ground support. Existing warehouses and storage rooms across several properties in Kingston were

quickly filled as relief supplies arrived, requiring additional space to organize and distribute donations effectively.

Recognizing the scale of the effort, international support was mobilized through The Salvation Army's International Headquarters in London, England. Personnel from around the world worked alongside local personnel to co-ordinate aid, strengthen response efforts and ensure critical resources reached those in need. Amid the devastation, this collaborative response highlighted the power of global teamwork and compassion.



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This issue of *Global Link* highlights the power of partnership and shared mission across our global community. Recent training sessions throughout Africa are strengthening communication capacity, equipping leaders with tools to share their stories with clarity and impact.

The response to hurricane Melissa reminds us that even in devastation, co-ordinated global action brings hope and practical support. Meanwhile, the story from Songo reflects how collaboration can open doors for children through education and renewed possibility.

To each of you, thank you. Your commitment, generosity and faithful service continue to make a meaningful impact around the world, transforming lives and strengthening communities in lasting ways.

As I share these stories, I also write with a personal note: this will be my final *Global Link* editorial as I prepare to move to Uganda. It has been a privilege to journey with you.

I am pleased to introduce Major Deana Zelinsky, who will assume the role of director, international development, effective July 3, 2026. I know she will carry this work forward with vision and care.

Sincerely,
Lt-Colonel Brenda Murray
Director of International Development

Continued from cover...

Funding and personnel support from Canada were important to the effort, as were the contributions received from many countries and communities worldwide. Together, these local and international teams created a network of care that brought hope, practical assistance and reassurance to those affected.

The response to hurricane Melissa serves as a powerful reminder that when people unite with purpose, even the most devastating circumstances can be met with resilience, unity and lasting impact.

A NEW CHAPTER OF HOPE IN SONGO

By Major Heather Matondo

During a visit to Angola in 2024, I had the privilege of visiting Songo Corps. Twice a week, nearly 100 children, ages one to 15, gather at the church. I was welcomed with bright smiles and a heartfelt song. That afternoon, I listened to their stories and spoke with the devoted church leaders who pour their hearts into this program.



Beneath the joy, there was a reality that was impossible to ignore. Fewer than one-third of these children attend school. Many live too far to make the journey each day, while others stay home to care for younger siblings because their parents, mostly farmers, must go to work. I saw children as young as five or six arrive at the church carrying babies on their backs.

In that moment, it became clear that this community was facing some significant challenges, and I began to think how we could partner with them to help.

Upon my return home, conversations continued as we explored ways to work together to support the children. I am pleased to share that, in the fall of 2025, we officially launched a new project in Songo.

This project is about hope, possibility and the opportunity for every child to learn to read and write.

With the funds that have been provided, new desks and chairs now fill the space. Books, notebooks and pencils are in the hands of the children. Each item is a simple yet powerful tool that can open a door, spark curiosity and begin to change the course of a life.



STRENGTHENING MISSION THROUGH COMMUNICATION: *Reflections from Africa Training Sessions*

By Glenn van Gulik

It was a privilege to support the recent Salvation Army Public Relations and Local Fundraising Training sessions held across Africa, with gatherings in Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa and Kenya. Bringing together more than 36 leaders from 18 territories and regions, these in-person sessions created something truly meaningful, a space not only for learning, but for connection, shared experience and encouragement in the work of public relations and fundraising.

I had the opportunity to support the planning and co-ordination of the sessions, developing training materials and contributing to workshops focused on digital marketing, storytelling, brand alignment, media relations and communications strategy. What stood out most was the openness in the room, the willingness to share challenges, explore new ideas and think differently about how we communicate mission in today's context.



What has been especially encouraging is how quickly many territories have taken these ideas and put them into action. In the weeks following the sessions, we have already seen exciting examples across Africa of increased media engagement, new community partnerships and more intentional digital outreach. These early outcomes speak not only to the strength of the training, but to the leadership, creativity and commitment present across the territories.

For me, this experience was also deeply personal. It was a reminder of the breadth and beauty of The Salvation Army's global ministry, diverse in context, yet unified in purpose. There is something powerful about gathering as a global church family, building relationships, learning from one another and strengthening our shared ability to tell stories that reflect hope, dignity and transformation.





Brighter Futures

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Brighter Future Children's Sponsorship Program provides essential assistance to children, to help them build a foundation for their families and communities.

Your donation helps support schools, feeding programs, children's homes, preschool/daycares, youth development programs, medical care and many other initiatives that help children gain access to resources and build a brighter tomorrow.

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3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



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