

An Ethical Approach to Post-Disaster Relief, Response and Recovery:

A Case for Jamaica

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Abstract

This article examines ethical frameworks for post-disaster relief, response, and recovery in Jamaica, drawing on the nation's extensive experience with catastrophic hurricanes including Gilbert (1988), Ivan (2004), Dean (2007), and Melissa (2025). Grounded in the Sphere Humanitarian Standards' foundational principles—that affected people have the right to life with dignity and the right to assistance—this analysis explores how rights-based approaches, climate justice imperatives, and anti-corruption mechanisms can enhance disaster governance in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). We argue that Jamaica's transition from command-and-control models toward participatory, community-centered approaches represents a critical ethical evolution, though significant challenges remain in ensuring equitable outcomes for marginalized populations. The article proposes an integrated ethical framework incorporating transparency, accountability, community participation, and climate justice as essential pillars for ethical disaster management in the Caribbean context.

Keywords: disaster ethics, humanitarian response, Jamaica, Caribbean, Sphere Standards, climate justice, Hurricane Melissa, human rights

1. Introduction

The ethical dimensions of disaster response and recovery have assumed heightened importance in the contemporary era of climate change-intensified natural hazards. For Jamaica, a Small Island Developing State situated in the hurricane belt of the Caribbean, these considerations are not merely academic but represent urgent practical imperatives affecting hundreds of thousands of citizens. The passage of Hurricane Melissa in October–November 2025—a Category 5 storm with sustained winds of 185 miles per hour causing an estimated US\$8.8 billion in damages and affecting over 900,000 lives—has brought renewed attention to the ethical foundations of disaster governance.

This article examines the ethical principles that should guide post-disaster relief, response, and recovery in Jamaica, arguing that effective disaster management must be grounded in respect for human dignity, participatory governance, transparency, and climate justice. Drawing on Jamaica's historical experience with major hurricanes and contemporary international humanitarian standards, we propose an integrated ethical framework that addresses the unique vulnerabilities and capacities of Caribbean SIDS while centering the rights and agency of affected communities.

The significance of this inquiry extends beyond Jamaica's borders. As Thomas et al. (2016) observe in their introduction to climate justice in the Caribbean, the region faces a

"double inequality"—contributing minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions while possessing limited capacity to resist and recover from climate-related disasters. This asymmetry raises profound questions of distributive justice and international responsibility that inform ethical disaster governance at both national and regional levels.

2. Theoretical Framework: Ethical Foundations for Disaster Response

2.1 The Sphere Humanitarian Standards

The Sphere Humanitarian Standards provide the foundational ethical architecture for contemporary disaster response. Established in 1997 and refined through successive editions, the Sphere Handbook articulates two core beliefs that anchor humanitarian action: first, that affected people have the right to life with dignity; and second, that affected people have the right to assistance (Sphere Association, 2018). These principles derive from international humanitarian law and human rights frameworks, establishing disaster response not as charitable beneficence but as the fulfillment of legal and moral obligations.

The Sphere Standards provide minimum thresholds across critical sectors—water supply, sanitation, food security, shelter, and health—that represent the baseline requirements for dignified survival. For Jamaica Red Cross operations and other humanitarian actors responding to Hurricane Melissa, these standards offer concrete benchmarks: minimum water quantities of 15 liters per person per day; maximum distances of 500 meters to water collection points; minimum shelter space of 3.5 square meters per person; and specific nutritional requirements expressed in kilocalories and micronutrients.

However, as the Sphere Handbook itself acknowledges, technical standards alone are insufficient. The Humanitarian Charter that precedes the technical chapters establishes the ethical framework within which standards operate, emphasizing the primacy of human dignity and the obligation to do no harm. This integration of technical competence with ethical commitment distinguishes genuinely humanitarian action from mere logistical efficiency.

2.2 Human Rights-Based Approaches

Building on the Sphere foundation, human rights-based approaches provide a more comprehensive framework for disaster ethics. Ferris (2012) identifies four categories of rights relevant to disaster management: the right to life and security; rights to food, health, shelter, and education; property rights; and documentation alongside civil and political rights. Crucially, Ferris emphasizes that "information and participation are essential, not luxuries"—a principle with profound implications for how disaster response is organized and governed.

This rights-based perspective reframes disaster-affected populations from passive recipients of aid to active rights-holders with legitimate claims on duty-bearers including governments, international organizations, and humanitarian agencies. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) Humanitarian Programme Cycle Reference Module operationalizes this principle by requiring humanitarians to "listen to, communicate with, and involve affected people throughout emergency response," mandating the establishment of "direct, responsible, respectful relationships" with affected communities.

Ten Have (2016) extends this analysis to explore how disasters disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, arguing that international human rights law implies a universal duty to assure health and human dignity with obligations for international cooperation when governments fail. This framing is particularly relevant for Jamaica, where pre-existing socioeconomic inequalities—including high poverty rates, inadequate housing stock, and limited social protection coverage—amplify disaster impacts on marginalized communities.

2.3 Theories of Distributive Justice

Hoffman (2009) provides comprehensive legal and ethical analysis of obligations to vulnerable populations, examining utilitarian, egalitarian, and Rawlsian theories of distributive justice as applied to disaster resource allocation. Utilitarian approaches—which dominate much practical disaster response, particularly in triage decisions—aim to maximize aggregate welfare by saving the greatest number of lives. As Leider et al. (2017) document in their systematic review, utilitarianism provides the "dominant normative foundation" for crisis standards of care.

However, pure utilitarian calculus may disadvantage vulnerable populations whose needs require disproportionate resources to address. Egalitarian approaches emphasize equal treatment regardless of social position, while Rawlsian frameworks—drawing on John Rawls' difference principle—argue that inequalities in resource distribution are only justified if they benefit the least advantaged members of society. Applied to disaster response, a Rawlsian framework would prioritize allocation decisions that preferentially benefit the most vulnerable, even at some cost to aggregate efficiency.

The Council of Europe's (2011) ethical principles for disaster risk reduction synthesize these approaches into comprehensive guidance covering compulsory evacuation, respect for dignity, emergency assistance for vulnerable persons, protection of civil and political rights, and resilience building across the disaster cycle. These principles recognize that ethical disaster management extends beyond immediate response to encompass preparedness, mitigation, and long-term recovery—each phase raising distinct ethical considerations.

2.4 The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted by United Nations member states including Jamaica, establishes the contemporary international architecture for disaster governance. The Framework articulates four priorities: understanding disaster risk; strengthening disaster risk governance; investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience; and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

Notably, the Sendai Framework explicitly addresses ethical dimensions through its guiding principles, which include "primary responsibility of States to prevent and reduce disaster risk" while emphasizing "shared responsibility between central Government and national authorities, sectors and stakeholders." The Framework calls for disaster risk reduction that is "inclusive and accessible" with "empowering and inclusive engagement" of

affected communities—language that reinforces participatory approaches to disaster governance.

Jamaica's alignment with the Sendai Framework is formalized through the Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Policy and Strategy 2020-2040, which establishes the ambitious goal of "eliminating negative effects of disasters by 2040." This policy explicitly links social inequity and vulnerability, acknowledging that ethical disaster management requires addressing structural determinants of risk rather than treating disasters as purely natural phenomena.

3. Jamaica's Disaster Experience: Case Studies in Ethical Challenges

3.1 Hurricane Gilbert (1988): Establishing Institutional Foundations

Hurricane Gilbert remains etched in Jamaica's collective memory as a watershed moment in the nation's disaster experience. Making landfall on September 12, 1988, as a Category 4 hurricane, Gilbert caused 45 deaths, left over 500,000 people homeless, and inflicted more than US\$2 billion in damages. The storm's passage exposed critical gaps in Jamaica's disaster preparedness and response capabilities, catalyzing institutional reforms that continue to shape the nation's disaster management architecture.

Berke and Beatley (1993) provide essential analysis of Gilbert's long-term housing recovery, drawing on surveys of 240 households to evaluate recovery outcomes. Their research emphasizes the importance of "local participation and community initiative" in reconstruction, finding that recovery strategies linking disaster response to development produced superior outcomes compared to top-down approaches focused solely on replacing damaged structures. This early evidence for participatory approaches anticipated the broader shift in humanitarian thinking that would characterize subsequent decades.

Institutionally, Gilbert's aftermath led to the 1993 establishment of the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) and the creation of Jamaica's National Zonal Programme for community-level disaster management. These reforms represented significant advances in disaster governance, though questions of equity, transparency, and community participation remained incompletely addressed.

3.2 Hurricane Ivan (2004): Testing Improved Systems

Hurricane Ivan provided the first major test of Jamaica's reformed disaster management systems. The Category 4 storm caused 14 deaths, generated storm surges of 3-4 meters, and inflicted J\$35.9 billion in total losses according to the Planning Institute of Jamaica's damage assessment using the ECLAC methodology. The response demonstrated both the value of preparedness investments and persistent challenges in equitable relief distribution.

Dr. Barbara Carby, then ODPEM Director General, has documented how Ivan's experience informed subsequent developments including Jamaica's participation in establishing the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF)—the world's first multi-country parametric insurance pool. This innovation in disaster risk financing

represented an ethical advance by enabling rapid payouts within 14 days of qualifying events, reducing the lag between disaster impact and resource availability that disproportionately affects vulnerable populations.

Save the Children's final emergency statement documented that 5,000 homes and 340 schools required rebuilding, while the government's Office of National Reconstruction required J\$6.5 billion for recovery efforts. These figures underscore the scale of ethical challenges in disaster recovery: determining priorities among competing needs, ensuring equitable distribution across affected communities, and maintaining accountability for substantial resource flows.

3.3 Hurricane Dean (2007): Cash Transfer Innovation

Hurricane Dean's passage as a Category 4 storm in August 2007 caused J\$23.05 billion (US\$329.34 million) in damages and losses, with particularly severe impacts on agriculture and housing in southeastern parishes. The recovery process introduced significant innovations in relief modalities that carry ethical implications for beneficiary dignity and agency.

The Cash Learning Partnership's case study of Jamaica's Hurricane Dean response documents the use of cash transfers for housing reconstruction, an approach that respects beneficiary autonomy by enabling affected households to make their own decisions about reconstruction priorities and suppliers. Of the 3,272 destroyed houses and 16,650 requiring major repairs, 111 homes were constructed through cash transfer programs supported by the Inter-American Development Bank, ECHO, and the French Red Cross.

Cash-based programming represents an ethical advancement over in-kind assistance in several respects: it preserves dignity by treating beneficiaries as capable decision-makers rather than passive recipients; it supports local markets and economic recovery; and it reduces the paternalism inherent in externally-determined assistance packages. However, cash programming also raises ethical concerns regarding protection of vulnerable individuals, potential for misuse, and market distortions that require careful program design.

3.4 Hurricane Melissa (2025): Contemporary Ethical Challenges

Hurricane Melissa's unprecedented devastation—the most destructive storm in Jamaica's recorded history with US\$8.8 billion in damages—has brought ethical questions in disaster response into sharp relief. The international community's response, culminating in a historic US\$6.7 billion recovery package coordinated by the IMF, World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, CAF, and Caribbean Development Bank, demonstrates both the possibilities and challenges of ethical disaster governance at scale.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness's commitment that "every dollar spent, every aid given, every commitment made, will be used in a way that quickly advances the recovery" reflects heightened awareness of accountability imperatives. The announcement of real-time auditing of foreign aid using international GUID 5330 standards represents a significant transparency innovation. As the Jamaica Gleaner editorial (November 12, 2025) notes, such oversight is essential to prevent "fraud, waste and abuse of public resources."

Opposition Leader Mark Golding's call for recovery guided by "transparency, equity, and compassion" articulates complementary principles: tracking every dollar (transparency), fair distribution regardless of political affiliation (equity), and recognition of human suffering (compassion). This cross-partisan convergence on ethical principles, while welcome, must be tested against implementation realities that often reveal gaps between stated commitments and actual practice.

4. Community Participation and Local Agency

4.1 From Command-and-Control to Participatory Models

Krolik (2013) documents the transition from command-and-control disaster management models toward participatory approaches, arguing that affected communities should shape disaster management activities rather than merely receive externally-designed interventions. This shift reflects both ethical imperatives—respect for autonomy and dignity—and practical recognition that local knowledge and social capital are essential resources for effective response and recovery.

The IASC's Humanitarian Programme Cycle Reference Module operationalizes this principle by requiring that humanitarian actors establish "direct, responsible, respectful relationships with affected communities." This language deliberately emphasizes relationship rather than mere consultation—implying ongoing engagement rather than one-time information extraction, and genuine accountability to affected populations rather than accountability solely to donors and institutional stakeholders.

Jamaica's National Zonal Programme, established following Hurricane Gilbert, represents an institutional mechanism for community-based disaster management. By organizing disaster preparedness and response at the community level through trained volunteers and local committees, the zonal system creates infrastructure for participatory governance. However, the effectiveness of these structures depends on sustained investment, genuine devolution of decision-making authority, and meaningful inclusion of marginalized community members.

4.2 Indigenous Rights and Community Autonomy: The Maroon Example

The Accompong Maroon Council's decision to decline Jamaica Defense Force involvement in post-Hurricane Melissa rebuilding illustrates the intersection of disaster ethics with indigenous rights and community self-determination. Chief Richard Currie's invocation of the 1738 Peace Treaty—which established Maroon autonomy within Jamaica's constitutional order—and preference for civilian-led reconstruction demonstrates that affected communities may legitimately reject assistance that compromises their autonomy or cultural values.

This case raises important questions about the boundaries of humanitarian assistance and the conditions under which affected populations may legitimately refuse aid. The Sphere Standards' emphasis on dignity implies respect for community decision-making, including decisions that external actors might consider suboptimal from a purely technical or efficiency

perspective. Ethical disaster response must navigate the tension between humanitarian imperatives to assist and respect for community self-determination.

The Maroon example also highlights the importance of historical context in disaster ethics. Communities with experiences of colonialism, displacement, or marginalization may justifiably view external intervention with suspicion, regardless of humanitarian intentions. Building trust requires sustained engagement, demonstrated respect for community governance structures, and willingness to accept community-defined terms of partnership.

5. Transparency, Accountability, and Anti-Corruption

5.1 Corruption as an Ethical and Practical Concern

The IMF Working Paper "Corruption Kills: Global Evidence from Natural Disasters" (2023) provides empirical documentation of the relationship between corruption and disaster mortality. The research demonstrates that corruption contributes to disaster deaths through multiple pathways: inadequate infrastructure resulting from diverted construction funds; weak building code enforcement enabled by bribery; slow emergency responses due to administrative dysfunction; and governance accountability gaps that prevent learning from past failures.

This evidence transforms corruption from a governance concern into an ethical imperative with life-and-death consequences. When corruption diverts resources from disaster preparedness or response, the result is not merely inefficiency but preventable suffering and death. Anti-corruption measures thus constitute core ethical obligations rather than administrative preferences.

The NIH/PMC study "Decreasing Corruption in the Field of Disaster Management" (2023) proposes shifting from "damp-ground" corruption-breeding environments to "sunshine-based" models emphasizing ethics, structure, and transparency. This framework recognizes that corruption thrives in conditions of opacity, complexity, and weak accountability—conditions that disaster emergencies often create through rapid resource mobilization, compressed timelines, and suspended normal oversight procedures.

5.2 Mechanisms for Transparency and Accountability

Jamaica's announcement of real-time auditing of Hurricane Melissa recovery funds represents a significant transparency innovation. Traditional post-hoc auditing, while valuable, occurs too late to prevent misallocation and may struggle to reconstruct events in chaotic post-disaster environments. Real-time auditing using international standards enables course correction during implementation rather than merely documenting problems after resources have been expended.

The Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability, updated through global consultation with over 4,000 contributors including 500 community representatives across 90 countries, provides a framework for accountability that extends beyond financial oversight to encompass programmatic quality and beneficiary satisfaction. The Standard's nine commitments establish that humanitarian action should be appropriate and relevant,

effective and timely, and that affected communities should have access to information and be able to participate in decisions that affect them.

The Jamaica Gleaner editorial's argument that oversight is essential to prevent "fraud, waste and abuse of public resources" reflects public demand for accountability that extends beyond donor requirements. Democratic accountability to citizens—who bear the consequences of corruption and mismanagement—provides ethical grounding for transparency that complements international standards and donor conditions.

6. Climate Justice and Small Island Developing States

6.1 The Double Inequality

Thomas et al.'s (2016) concept of "double inequality" captures the fundamental injustice facing Caribbean SIDS: these nations contribute minimally to the greenhouse gas emissions driving climate change while lacking the resources to resist and recover from climate-intensified disasters. Jamaica's per capita carbon emissions are a fraction of those generated by major industrialized nations, yet Jamaicans bear disproportionate consequences of global climate change through more frequent and intense hurricanes, sea level rise, and altered precipitation patterns.

UNDRR documentation reveals that SIDS disaster mortality rates are more than double the global average, with 18% of SIDS populations affected per disaster compared to 6% globally. Average GDP losses of 2.1% per disaster—versus 0.3% elsewhere—demonstrate the macroeconomic vulnerability that compounds individual and household impacts. These statistics translate Jamaica's ethical claims for climate justice from abstract principle to documented material reality.

Climate justice frameworks argue that nations bearing greatest responsibility for climate change owe obligations to nations bearing greatest consequences. This principle has informed international negotiations on loss and damage financing, though practical mechanisms remain underdeveloped. The US\$6.7 billion Hurricane Melissa recovery package, while substantial, represents a loan-dominated financing mix that will add to Jamaica's debt burden—raising questions about whether recovery financing constitutes climate justice or merely deferred costs transferred to victims.

6.2 Building Back Better: Reconstruction Ethics

Civil engineer Dr. Christopher Burgess's analysis in the Jamaica Gleaner (December 7, 2025) comparing Hurricane Melissa housing recovery to Louisiana's Hurricane Katrina failures raises critical questions about reconstruction ethics. Burgess advocates for permanent block-and-steel reconstruction over temporary container housing, arguing that short-term cost savings in reconstruction translate to long-term vulnerability and eventual destruction in future storms.

The "Build Back Better" principle embedded in the Sendai Framework provides ethical grounding for reconstruction investments that exceed pre-disaster conditions. If disasters expose pre-existing vulnerabilities rooted in poverty, inadequate infrastructure, and

social marginalization, ethical recovery requires addressing these root causes rather than merely restoring the status quo ante. However, "building back better" raises distributional questions: who bears the costs of enhanced reconstruction, and how are benefits allocated across affected populations?

The U.S. GAO report documenting that only US\$1.8 billion of US\$23.4 billion in Puerto Rico FEMA Public Assistance had been spent six years after Hurricane Maria illustrates the gap between recovery commitments and implementation. This finding—relevant for understanding potential barriers Jamaica may face—demonstrates that ethical recovery requires not only adequate resources but also institutional capacity to translate resources into rebuilt communities. Jamaica must learn from Puerto Rico's experience to avoid similar implementation failures.

7. Protecting Vulnerable Populations

7.1 Differential Vulnerability and Ethical Obligations

Disasters affect populations differentially based on pre-existing vulnerabilities including poverty, disability, gender, age, and social marginalization. UN DESA documentation establishes that persons with disabilities face mortality rates 2-4 times higher than the general population in disaster contexts, while gender analyses document women's heightened vulnerability to gender-based violence, loss of livelihood, and increased unpaid care work in post-disaster environments.

The World Bank's report on gender-responsive disaster preparedness in the Caribbean documents particularly troubling patterns: following the 2010 Haiti earthquake, 10,813 sexual assaults were reported within six weeks. Jamaica's Negril Climate Risk Atlas Project demonstrates positive possibilities for inclusive approaches, achieving 77% women's participation in climate adaptation planning—a model for meaningful inclusion rather than tokenistic consultation.

Ethical disaster response requires moving beyond undifferentiated provision of assistance to targeted approaches that address specific vulnerabilities. This may include accessible evacuation planning for persons with disabilities; protection measures addressing gender-based violence risks; child protection protocols recognizing children's distinct vulnerabilities; and economic support targeting female-headed households and workers in disaster-affected informal sectors.

7.2 Social Protection and Adaptive Systems

The World Bank and WFP's analysis of adaptive and shock-responsive social protection in the Caribbean emphasizes that social protection systems represent critical mechanisms for reaching poor and vulnerable households during disasters. By building on existing systems—rather than creating parallel humanitarian delivery mechanisms—adaptive social protection can provide rapid, dignified assistance while strengthening long-term safety nets.

Jamaica's PATH (Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education) conditional cash transfer program provides infrastructure for adaptive social protection, though coverage and financing gaps limit its effectiveness as a shock-response mechanism. Ethical disaster preparedness requires investment in social protection systems that can scale rapidly during emergencies while maintaining targeting accuracy and protecting against fraud.

8. Recommendations for Ethical Disaster Governance

Based on this analysis of ethical frameworks and Jamaica's disaster experience, we propose the following recommendations for ethical disaster governance:

8.1 Institutionalize Rights-Based Approaches

Jamaica should formally adopt human rights-based approaches to disaster management, recognizing affected populations as rights-holders rather than beneficiaries. This requires embedding Sphere Standards and Core Humanitarian Standards in national policy frameworks, training disaster management personnel in rights-based programming, and establishing accountability mechanisms enabling affected communities to claim their rights.

8.2 Strengthen Participatory Mechanisms

The National Zonal Programme should be strengthened with adequate resources and genuine devolution of decision-making authority. Community committees should have meaningful input into resource allocation decisions, not merely implementation of externally-designed programs. Special attention should be given to ensuring participation of marginalized groups including women, persons with disabilities, and residents of informal settlements.

8.3 Enhance Transparency and Accountability

Real-time auditing mechanisms established for Hurricane Melissa recovery should be institutionalized for all future disasters. Jamaica should develop and publish clear criteria for relief eligibility and resource allocation, enable public tracking of relief distribution, establish accessible complaint mechanisms, and protect whistleblowers who report misallocation or corruption.

8.4 Advance Climate Justice Advocacy

Jamaica should continue and strengthen regional leadership on climate justice, advocating for loss and damage financing mechanisms that recognize historical responsibility for climate change. Recovery financing should be structured to avoid adding unsustainable debt burdens, and Jamaica should support Caribbean-wide initiatives for climate justice including the Bridgetown Initiative pioneered by Barbados.

8.5 Invest in Resilient Reconstruction

Recovery investments should prioritize permanent, resilient reconstruction over temporary solutions that perpetuate vulnerability. Building code enforcement must be strengthened with adequate resources and protection against corruption. Land use planning should integrate disaster risk considerations to prevent reconstruction in high-hazard areas.

8.6 Protect Vulnerable Populations

Jamaica should develop and implement specific protocols for protecting vulnerable populations including persons with disabilities, women and girls, children, elderly persons, and migrants. Social protection systems should be strengthened to enable rapid, scaled response during disasters while maintaining targeting accuracy and dignity of beneficiaries.

9. Conclusion

Hurricane Melissa's devastating passage through Jamaica has created both urgent humanitarian needs and an opportunity to strengthen the ethical foundations of disaster governance. By grounding response and recovery in the principles articulated by the Sphere Standards—that affected people have the right to life with dignity and the right to assistance—Jamaica can transform crisis into progress toward more just and effective disaster management.

The ethical framework we have outlined integrates human rights-based approaches, participatory governance, transparency and accountability, climate justice, and protection of vulnerable populations. These principles are not merely aspirational but practically necessary: communities excluded from decision-making are less likely to comply with preparedness measures; corruption that diverts resources costs lives; reconstruction that fails to address vulnerabilities will be destroyed by future storms.

Jamaica's history demonstrates both the challenges and possibilities of ethical disaster governance. From Hurricane Gilbert's institutional reforms through Hurricane Ivan's financing innovations to Hurricane Dean's cash programming advances, each disaster has prompted learning and improvement. Hurricane Melissa, for all its devastation, offers similar opportunities if Jamaica commits to the ethical principles outlined here.

The Maroon community's assertion of autonomy in recovery decisions reminds us that ethical disaster response must ultimately center the agency and dignity of affected people. They are not passive victims to be saved but active participants in their own recovery, possessing knowledge, capacities, and rights that humanitarian systems must recognize and respect. Building on this foundation, Jamaica can demonstrate that ethical disaster governance is not only morally required but practically superior—producing better outcomes for affected communities while honoring the fundamental dignity that every person possesses regardless of circumstance.

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