



From Fear to Freedom: Stop Abuse After the Storm

Implementing Organization: I-SEEED Youths Ltd.

Location: Portmore, St. Catherine, Jamaica

Funding Requested: USD \$300,000

Duration: 12 Months

1. Executive Summary

Hurricane Melissa devastated communities across Jamaica, but for survivors of domestic violence, the impact was far more profound. Families already facing abuse lost their remaining stability, safety, and economic ability to survive. Domestic violence intensified as financial pressure mounted and homes became uninhabitable. Shelters overflowed. Women and children were left without options.

This project will use a holistic, survivor-centered model that provides emergency housing, trauma recovery, food assistance, and economic empowerment through climate-smart agriculture. The investment of \$300,000 USD will allow I-SEEED Youths to expand safe spaces, scale greenhouse production, train survivors, rebuild livelihoods, and create long-term pathways out of violence.

The goal: move survivors From Fear to Freedom, while building disaster resilience and economic stability for the most vulnerable.

2. Background & Problem Statement

Before Hurricane Melissa, many women and children in Portmore and St. Catherine were living in homes marked by fear, intimidation, and cycles of abuse. The storm intensified these risks, exposing the fragility of their environments and shattering what little safety they had.

The hurricane caused:

- Severe loss of housing and personal belongings
- Job losses, especially among informal workers and farmers
- Heightened stress, tension, and exacerbation of severe violence within homes
- Increased food insecurity
- Overwhelmed shelters with long waiting lists
- Severe Emotional trauma in children and youth
- Loss of community support systems

Survivors who were barely coping before are now battling hunger, trauma, homelessness, and dependence — all of which deepen the risk of continued abuse.

The crisis is both humanitarian and developmental, requiring immediate support and long-term resilience strategies.

3. Project Justification



This project recognizes that survivors need more than words of comfort — they need safe spaces, emotional support, income, and dignity. When violence escalates after disasters, communities need systems that respond to the hidden emergencies inside homes.

This \$300,000 investment allows I-SEED Youths to:

- Expand housing program for survivors
- Deliver professional trauma support
- Expand greenhouses to create resilient livelihoods
- Support food security
- Strengthen survivors emotionally and economically
- Break cycles of violence for families

This dual-impact model (Safety + Healing + Livelihoods) is proven globally to reduce GBV vulnerability and increase community resilience.

4. Project Goal

To restore safety, healing, and sustainable livelihoods for survivors of domestic violence affected by Hurricane Melissa, enabling them to rebuild resilient and independent lives.

5. SMART Objectives

Objective 1:

Provide emergency shelter, food, hygiene kits, and support to 300 survivors within 12 months.

Objective 2:

Build, expand, and equip 4 climate-smart greenhouse units to employ 75 survivors and vulnerable youth.

Objective 3:

Deliver 200 trauma counseling sessions and 80 greenhouse therapy sessions to support emotional healing.

Objective 4:

Train 75 survivors in agriculture, agribusiness, and value-added production.

Objective 5:

Strengthen food security and disaster resilience in 5 communities through sustainable production models.

6. Detailed Activities

A. Immediate Safety & Relief

- Prepare and operate transitional shelter units



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- Provide 300 emergency kits (food, hygiene, bedding)
 - Offer emergency transportation and crisis support
 - Set up child-friendly safe spaces

B. Emotional Recovery & Trauma Healing

- Individual counseling led by trained facilitators
- Group therapy circles
- Art-based healing workshops
- Greenhouse nature therapy
- Youth resilience support programs

C. Livelihoods & Climate-Smart Resilience

- Build and expand greenhouse structures
- Provide climate-smart agriculture training
- Create paid work opportunities in farm operations
- Train survivors in processing (pepper products, herbs, sauces)
- Support microenterprise development

D. Community Engagement & Awareness

- Conduct violence prevention workshops
- Host empowerment events for survivors
- Provide family reintegration and parental support programs

7. Implementation Timeline (12 months)

Month Key Activities

- 1–2 Shelter setup, procurement, intake, emergency support
- 3–4 Greenhouse construction and expansion, therapy onboarding
- 5–8 Skills training, greenhouse therapy, employment rollout
- 9–12 Survivor graduation, microenterprise support, evaluation

8. Expected Outputs

- 300 survivors supported with emergency relief
- 200+ counseling sessions conducted
- 80 greenhouse therapy sessions delivered



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- 75 survivors trained in agriculture
 - 4 greenhouse structures built and expanded
 - 75 individuals earning income
 - Increased local food production
 - Strengthened disaster resilience across communities
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9. Long-Term Impact

With the expanded \$300,000 scope, this project will create deep generational change. Survivors will regain control of their lives, children will grow in safe and nurturing environments, and communities will benefit from increased food security and reduced vulnerability.

Over time, survivors transition from crisis to confidence, becoming economically independent and emotionally stable. These shifts create safer communities and break the intergenerational cycle of violence.

10. Monitoring & Evaluation Plan

We will track:

- Number of survivors receiving support
- Quality of shelter services
- Psychological assessments
- Greenhouse yield and income records
- Training attendance and graduation
- Survivor reintegration outcomes
- Monthly M&E reports and final evaluation

Tools include:

- ✓ Intake forms
 - ✓ Baseline and endline assessments
 - ✓ Attendance records
 - ✓ Supervisor reports
 - ✓ Photographic documentation
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11. Risk Assessment & Mitigation

Risk: Severe weather events

Mitigation: Movable greenhouses, reinforced infrastructure

Risk: Trauma relapse

Mitigation: Continuous counseling, crisis intervention team



Risk: Low economic recovery

Mitigation: Multiple value-added products, diversified farm income

12. Sustainability Plan

- Greenhouses generate ongoing revenue
 - Survivors become employed or start microbusinesses
 - Skills training creates long-term independence
 - Counseling improves mental resilience
 - Partnerships with schools and agencies reduce costs
 - Income from value-added products supports future operations
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13. Organizational Capacity

I-SEED Youths has a strong record of implementing multi-donor projects including United Nations Development Programme Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA), United Nations Development Programme Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP), National Conservation Trust Fund of Jamaica among others managing greenhouses, running social programs, delivering training, and supporting families. Our leadership is experienced in climate-smart farming, trauma-informed care, and community empowerment.

14. Budget Summary (USD)

Category	Cost
Emergency kits (300)	\$30,000
Trauma counseling & therapy	\$40,000
Safe Houses	\$100,000
Greenhouse Construction & expansion	\$130,000

Total: \$300,000

Survivors of abuse are navigating two storms — the hurricane that struck their homes and the violence that threatens their lives. Your support provides safety, healing, dignity, and a path to freedom. With your help, we can rebuild lives, restore hope, and ensure survivors rise stronger than ever.