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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Latin America and the Caribbean – Hurricane Season and Floods

Fact Sheet #5, Fiscal Year (FY) 2011

October 8, 2010

Note: The last fact sheet was dated September 22, 2010.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- From September 27 to 30, heavy rains associated with Tropical Storm Nicole resulted in flash floods and landslides in all of Jamaica’s 14 parishes, according to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. As of October 4, the tropical storm had killed 13 people, injured 27 individuals, displaced 114 others, and caused bridge collapses, road blockages, and other infrastructure damage, according to the Government of Jamaica (GoJ) Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM).
- On October 5, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Isiah Parnell declared a disaster due to the effects of Tropical Storm Nicole. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 through USAID/Jamaica to ODPEM for the local purchase and delivery of emergency relief supplies, as well as fuel for emergency vehicles. In addition, a USAID/OFDA assessment team consisting of two Jamaica-based disaster management specialists is on the ground to evaluate needs and coordinate humanitarian assistance with the GoJ and other U.S. Government agencies.
- Six named storms have made landfall in Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries to date during the 2010 hurricane season, which lasts from May to November. In recent months, above-average rainfall has exacerbated storm impacts in some areas, leading to floods and landslides in areas typically unaffected during hurricane season.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
TROPICAL STORM AGATHA (LANDFALL ON MAY 29, 2010)		
El Salvador	12 dead, 11,649 evacuated	GoES ¹ – June 1, 2010
Guatemala	174 dead, 154 injured, 397,808 affected	GoG ² – June 8, 2010
Honduras	18 dead, 16,673 evacuated	GoH ³ – June 3, 2010
HURRICANE ALEX (LANDFALL ON JUNE 30, 2010)		
Mexico	12 dead, 17,000 in emergency shelters, 26,000 houses damaged	GoM ⁴ – July 8, 2010
TROPICAL STORM NICOLE (EFFECTS FROM SEPTEMBER 27 TO 30)		
Jamaica	13 dead, 27 injured, 114 in emergency shelters	ODPEM – October 4, 2010
FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES⁵		
Brazil	72 dead, 157,000 displaced	CWS ⁶ – July 8, 2010
Guatemala	272 dead, 219,968 evacuated, 600,000 affected	REDLAC ⁷ – September 13, 2010
Honduras	114 dead, 3 missing, 3,400 affected	REDLAC – August 30, 2010
Mexico	230,000 affected, 800 in emergency shelters	REDLAC – September 6, 2010

FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR 2010 LAC HURRICANE SEASON

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Brazil⁸	\$112,433
USAID/OFDA Assistance to El Salvador	\$200,000
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Guatemala for Tropical Storm Agatha and Pacaya Volcano.....	\$1,477,044
State⁹ Assistance to Guatemala for Tropical Storm Agatha and Pacaya Volcano	\$189,735
DoD¹⁰ Assistance to Guatemala for Tropical Storm Agatha and Pacaya Volcano	\$971,000

¹ Government of El Salvador (GoES)

² Government of Guatemala (GoG)

³ Government of Honduras (GoH)

⁴ Government of Mexico (GoM)

⁵ Numbers vary from cumulative to incident-based data depending on available information. Please see sources for additional information.

⁶ Church World Service (CWS)

⁷ The Risk Emergency Disaster Working Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC)

⁸ Does not include \$50,000 provided in response to floods in April 2010.

⁹ U.S. Department of State (State)

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Guatemala for September Storms	\$100,000
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Haiti.....	\$1,147,815
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Honduras	\$150,000
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Mexico.....	\$482,499
Additional USAID/OFDA Regional Prepositioning Assistance.....	\$135,000
Total FY 2010 USAID, State, and DoD Humanitarian Assistance for 2010 LAC Hurricane Season	\$4,965,526

FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR 2010 LAC HURRICANE SEASON

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Haiti.....	\$509,610
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Jamaica	\$50,000
Total FY 2011 USAID Humanitarian Assistance for 2010 LAC Hurricane Season.....	\$559,610

CONTEXT

- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) pre-season outlook issued in May indicated an 85 percent chance of an above-normal hurricane season in the Atlantic. NOAA’s updated seasonal outlook in August predicted significant activity for the remainder of the season, with 12 to 17 additional named storms predicted between August and November. NOAA forecasts between 7 and 11 of those storms to become hurricanes and between 4 and 6 to reach major hurricane status of Category Three or higher on the Saffir-Simpson scale.
- USAID/OFDA prioritizes hurricane preparedness and capacity building activities in the LAC region throughout the year to enable quick response to humanitarian needs during the hurricane season. USAID/OFDA has prepositioned emergency relief supplies in the Bahamas, Belize, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, and St. Lucia, and can supplement stocks with additional supplies from the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Miami, Florida. In addition, USAID/OFDA has agreements with air charter services for transportation of personnel and supplies, if needed. USAID/OFDA maintains locally based staff throughout the region to provide technical assistance to national governments and assess disaster impacts.

Brazil

- In late June, heavy rains caused extensive flooding in Pernambuco and Alagoas states in northeastern Brazil, killing 72 people and displacing approximately 157,000 others, according to CWS. The governors of Pernambuco and Alagoas states declared states of emergency in both regions, and the Government of Brazil (GoB) provided emergency funds to assist affected populations.
- On June 22, U.S. Ambassador Thomas A. Shannon, Jr., issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the floods. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$100,000 through USAID/Brazil to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for the local purchase and distribution of emergency relief commodities. USAID/OFDA also provided plastic sheeting from its regional warehouse in Miami, Florida, for emergency shelter support. A USAID/OFDA disaster risk management specialist on the ground conducted damage assessments and coordinated response efforts with GoB officials.

El Salvador

- On September 25 and 26, rains resulting from Tropical Storm Matthew caused floods and landslides in El Salvador. As of October 3, the number of people remaining in shelters continued to decrease to a total of 1,245 people in 23 temporary shelters, according to the GoES National Civil Protection Directorate (NCPD). Of that total, more than half, or 630 people, reside in Ahuachapán Department. To meet needs of populations in shelters, the NCPD has distributed relief supplies, including 1,645 USAID/OFDA-funded hygiene kits that were prepositioned in El Salvador at the beginning of the 2010 hurricane season. In addition, an El Salvador-based USAID/OFDA disaster management specialist is monitoring the situation in coordination with GoES officials and USAID/El Salvador. To date, the GoES has not requested international assistance in response to the effects of Tropical Storm Matthew.
- In late May, heavy rains associated with Tropical Storm Agatha affected all 14 departments of El Salvador, particularly San Salvador and Sonsonate departments. Associated floods and mudslides killed nine people and resulted in the evacuation of approximately 10,330 individuals, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The NCPD reported that as of June 2, floods and mudslides had damaged or destroyed transportation infrastructure, approximately 100 houses, and at least 15 community health centers.
- On May 30, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Robert I. Blau declared a disaster due to the effects of Tropical Storm Agatha. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$150,000 through USAID/El Salvador for the local purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies. USAID/OFDA also activated an assessment team to coordinate the response effort.

¹⁰ U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)

Guatemala

- On September 26, Tropical Storm Matthew made landfall in northern Guatemala. As of October 5, more than 21,000 people remained displaced in temporary shelters across the nation as a result of the effects of Tropical Storm Matthew, Tropical Depression 11-E in early September, and tropical storms Agatha, Alex, and Frank earlier this year, in addition to seasonal rains, according to the GoG National Emergency Response Commission (CONRED).
- CONRED continues to conduct detailed damage assessments, particularly in the areas of housing, road infrastructure, and agriculture, and a Guatemala-based USAID/OFDA disaster management specialist continues to monitor conditions in consultation with CONRED and USAID/Guatemala. The GoG has not requested international assistance in response to floods and landslides resulting from Tropical Storm Matthew.
- On September 6, U.S. Ambassador Stephen G. McFarland issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of floods and mudslides precipitated by heavy rains in Guatemala in preceding weeks. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$100,000 through USAID/Guatemala to CONRED for the distribution of emergency relief supplies, including hygiene kits and blankets, to affected individuals. A three-person USAID/OFDA assessment team coordinated with USAID/Guatemala and CONRED to define priority needs. In response to a request from CONRED, USAID/OFDA activated an agreement with a local aircraft company to transport CONRED staff, structural engineers, and a geologist to conduct aerial damage evaluations and needs assessments.
- On May 30, U.S. Ambassador Stephen G. McFarland issued a disaster declaration due to the combined effects of Tropical Storm Agatha and the May 27 eruption of the Pacaya volcano, as the storm and volcano damaged 39,160 houses in Sololá, Quetzaltenango, Retalhuleu, Suchitepéquez, Sacatepéque, Escuintla, Totonicapán, Huethuetenango, and Quiché departments in Guatemala. In response, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$1.5 million for activities in economic recovery and market systems, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene, as well as for the local purchase of emergency relief supplies. USAID/OFDA also activated a nine-person assessment team to identify humanitarian needs.

Haiti

- On September 24, strong winds and heavy rains associated with a seasonal storm killed six people and injured 67 others in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, according to the Government of Haiti Department of Civil Protection. Although the storm did not result in a separate disaster declaration, rains affected an estimated 14,500 people, many of whom were also affected by the January 12 earthquake in southern Haiti.
- As a result of earlier hurricane preparedness activities, such as flood mitigation work, coordination planning, and relief supply prepositioning, international relief agencies were able to rapidly identify needs and efficiently implement relief efforts. USAID/OFDA grantees working in camps were well-positioned to respond to needs in their areas of responsibility, including by distributing USAID/OFDA-funded emergency shelter materials.
- In response to identified needs, on September 25, USAID/OFDA approved the release of a portion of the emergency relief supplies prepositioned in Haiti for distribution to storm-affected communities. The released commodities—consisting of 3,000 kitchen sets, 6,000 blankets, and 6,000 water containers—were sufficient to benefit approximately 3,000 affected families. USAID/OFDA plans to replenish the items to return USAID/OFDA prepositioned supplies in Haiti to pre-storm levels, sufficient for 100,000 people.

Honduras

- Tropical Storm Matthew made landfall in Honduras on September 25, killing four people, displacing approximately 14,000 others, and damaging or destroying nearly 3,600 houses and nearly 5,000 hectares of cropland, according to the GoH. A Honduras-based USAID/OFDA disaster management specialist continues to monitor the situation, and the GoH has not requested international assistance in response to Tropical Storm Matthew.
- On May 30, U.S. Ambassador Hugo Llorens issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of Tropical Storm Agatha, which caused the deaths of at least 14 people and displaced more than 3,400 others, according to the GoH. In addition, the storm damaged or destroyed more than 1,900 houses and damaged transport infrastructure, schools, water distribution systems, and health care facilities. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 through USAID/Honduras to World Vision for the local purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies.

Jamaica

- As of October 3, Tropical Storm Nicole had affected 182 roadways throughout Jamaica, with 29 roads declared impassable, according to ODPEM. In addition, on October 6, preliminary figures from the Office of Prime Minister Bruce Golding indicated that the tropical storm had caused an estimated \$150 million in damages to infrastructure and agricultural lands.
- GoJ authorities continue to conduct casualty evacuation flights in St. Andrew and Westmoreland parishes. In addition, ODPEM has distributed emergency relief supplies and food items to communities stranded by floods in eastern Jamaica, with aerial transport assistance from the Jamaica Defense Force.

- ODPEM has announced plans to provide affected communities with USAID/OFDA prepositioned emergency relief supplies, valued at \$25,000, with distributions to begin in the most severely affected parish of Westmoreland. In addition, the U.S. Embassy in Kingston has provided ODPEM with 300 mattresses and 125 tarps.

Mexico

- Ongoing rains in early October continue to saturate soil and elevate river levels in Southeastern Mexico, resulting in the overflow of the Papaloapan and Coatzacoalcos rivers in Veracruz State. As of October 4, more than 5,000 people remained in 45 temporary shelters throughout Veracruz State, according to the Mexico-based USAID/OFDA disaster management specialist, and authorities continue to conduct preventive evacuations in Tabasco and Chiapas states due to high water levels in several hydroelectric dams and rivers. However, the GoM has not requested additional international assistance in response to flooding during the late summer and early fall.
- As of July 8, the GoM reported that Hurricane Alex and Tropical Depression Two had displaced approximately 17,000 people and damaged or destroyed nearly 26,000 houses in Nuevo León, Coahuila, and Oaxaca states. On July 10, U.S. Ambassador Carlos Pascual declared a disaster due to the effects of the storms. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$350,000 through USAID/Mexico for the local purchase and delivery of emergency relief supplies. USAID/OFDA also activated a five-person assessment team and deployed a USAID/OFDA advisor to U.S. Northern Command.

FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR 2010 LAC HURRICANE SEASON STORMS AND FLOODS

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BRAZIL

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
CRS	Emergency Relief Supplies	Alagoas and Pernambuco states	\$100,000
	Logistics and Relief Commodities		\$12,433
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BRAZIL FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010²			\$112,433
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BRAZIL FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010			\$112,433

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EL SALVADOR

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
USAID/El Salvador	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$150,000
USAID/El Salvador	Prepositioning of Emergency Relief Supplies		\$50,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EL SALVADOR FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010³			\$200,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EL SALVADOR FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010			\$200,000

USG ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA FOR TROPICAL STORM AGATHA AND VOLCANO

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
CRS	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Escuintla, Guatemala, and Solola Departments	\$300,000
Mercy Corps	WASH, Emergency Relief Supplies	Alta Verapaz, Baja Verapaz, El Progreso, and Zacapa Departments	\$345,000

Share	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Jutiapa and Chimaltenango Departments	\$421,378
USAID/Guatemala	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$150,000
	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Affected Areas	\$255,208
	Administrative Support Costs		\$5,458
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010			\$1,477,044
STATE ASSISTANCE⁴			
	Emergency Relief Helicopter Support	Affected Areas	189,735
TOTAL STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010			\$189,735
DOD ASSISTANCE⁵			
	Emergency Relief Activities	Affected Areas	\$971,000
TOTAL DOD HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA FOR TROPICAL STORM AGATHA AND VOLCANO IN FY 2010			\$971,000
TOTAL USAID, STATE, AND DOD HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA FOR TROPICAL STORM AGATHA AND VOLCANO IN FY 2010			\$2,637,779

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA FOR SEPTEMBER STORMS

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
USAID/Guatemala	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$100,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA FOR SEPTEMBER STORMS IN FY 2010²			\$100,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA FOR SEPTEMBER STORMS IN FY 2010			\$100,000

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Various	Prepositioning of Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$928,000
	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Affected Areas	\$219,815
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010			\$1,147,815
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010			\$1,147,815

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HONDURAS

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
World Vision	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$50,000
USAID/Honduras	Prepositioning of Emergency Relief Supplies		\$25,000
World Vision	Prepositioning of Emergency Relief Supplies		\$25,000
USAID/Honduras	Hurricane Season Preparedness		\$50,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HONDURAS FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010			\$150,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HONDURAS FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010			\$150,000

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			

USAID/Mexico	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$350,000
	Logistics and Relief Commodities		\$132,499
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010			\$482,499
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010			\$482,499

ADDITIONAL USG PREPOSITIONING ASSISTANCE TO THE LAC REGION⁶

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Various	Pre-positioning of Emergency Relief Supplies for Hurricane Season	Bahamas; Belize; Jamaica; Nicaragua	\$135,000
TOTAL ADDITIONAL USAID/OFDA PRE-POSITIONING ASSISTANCE TO THE LAC REGION IN FY 2010			\$135,000
TOTAL ADDITIONAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE LAC REGION FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010			\$135,000

TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010			\$4,965,526
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FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR 2010 LAC HURRICANE SEASON STORMS AND FLOODS

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
	Logistics and Relief Commodities		\$509,610
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2011			\$509,610
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2011			\$509,610

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
USAID/Jamaica	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$50,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2011			\$50,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2011			\$50,000

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of October 8, 2010.

² Does not include \$50,000 provided in response to floods in April 2010.

³ Does not include \$836,680 provided in response to floods in November 2009.

⁴ State funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of October 8, 2010.

⁵ DoD funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of October 8, 2010.

⁶ Additional USAID/OFDA funding to the LAC region for prepositioning of relief supplies.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Latin America and the Caribbean may be available at www.reliefweb.int.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int