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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 2008**

Fact Sheet #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

September 10, 2008

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated September 8, 2008.*

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- One additional USAID/OFDA staff member has joined the disaster response team in Haiti, which has been designated a USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART). The USAID/DART, which now comprises seven disaster experts, is working to assess conditions, determine priority needs, and provide critical relief commodities to affected populations. The USAID/DART reports deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Haiti following inadequate access to areas affected by flooding from tropical storms Gustav and Hanna and additional rainfall from Hurricane Ike. The most affected city of Gonaïves remains inaccessible by land following a bridge collapse on September 6.
- On September 11, USAID/OFDA plans to activate a Washington-based Response Management Team (RMT) to support the USAID/DART.
- USAID/OFDA has allocated additional funding for Haiti, totaling \$7.5 million to date. USAID/OFDA’s increased contribution brings the total U.S. Government (USG) commitment to Haiti to \$20 million.
- On September 10, engineers from USAID/Haiti and the USS Kearsarge departed Port-au-Prince on a U.N. Mission to Haiti (MINUSTAH) overflight of areas impacted by flooding. The team will visually assess the storms’ effects on public infrastructure such as roads and bridges in order to determine critical life-saving repairs that the affected road networks require.
- USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has announced a \$7 million contribution, including food and transportation expenses, for affected populations in Haiti.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>		<b>SOURCE</b>
<b>TROPICAL STORM FAY, HURRICANE GUSTAV, TROPICAL STORM HANNA, AND HURRICANE IKE</b>		
<b>Costa Rica</b>	38,000 affected, 1,000 displaced	GOCR <sup>1</sup> – September 5, 2008
<b>Cuba</b>	4 dead, 55,700 displaced, 2,600,000 evacuated prior to Hurricane Ike	OCHA <sup>2</sup> – September 9, 2008 GOC <sup>3</sup> – September 8 and 9, 2008
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	8 dead, 16,715 people displaced, 3,343 houses damaged	OCHA – September 3 and 9, 2008
<b>Haiti</b>	328 dead, 37 missing, 114,000 displaced, 600,000 affected, 78,200 in shelters, 3,307 houses destroyed, 11,827 houses damaged	OCHA – September 9, 2008 GOH <sup>4</sup> – September 7 and 8, 2008
<b>Jamaica</b>	72 communities impacted, 12 dead, 4,000 individuals directly affected	OCHA – September 3, 2008 IFRC – September 2, 2008 U.S. Embassy in Kingston – September 3, 2008

### **FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO DATE FOR 2008 ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON**

<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to Costa Rica</b> .....	<b>\$40,000</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to Cuba</b> .....	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to Dominican Republic</b> .....	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to Haiti</b> <sup>5</sup> .....	<b>\$7,500,000</b>
<b>USAID/FFP</b> <sup>6</sup> <b>Assistance to Haiti</b> .....	<b>\$7,000,000</b>
<b>USAID/Haiti Assistance to Haiti</b> .....	<b>\$5,000,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Government of Costa Rica (GOCR)

<sup>2</sup> U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

<sup>3</sup> Government of Cuba (GOC)

<sup>4</sup> Government of Haiti (GOH)

<sup>5</sup> This amount includes actual assistance provided and funds allocated for forthcoming assistance as of September 10, 2008.

<sup>6</sup> This amount does not include previous USAID/FFP contributions in response to other emergencies in FY 2008.

<b>DOD Assistance to Haiti .....</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>DHS<sup>7</sup> Assistance to Haiti .....</b>	<b>Amount Forthcoming</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to Jamaica .....</b>	<b>\$308,435</b>
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Latin America and the Caribbean for Hurricanes.....</b>	<b>\$20,498,435</b>

## **CURRENT SITUATION**

### ***Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands***

- On September 6 and 7, Hurricane Ike passed over THE southeastern Bahamas as a Category Four hurricane with winds up to 120 miles per hour. According to OCHA, damage assessments are underway in the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Southern Islands of the Bahamas. OCHA has not received reports of fatalities or injuries on the Bahamas or the Turks and Caicos Islands. However, the Turks and Caicos Islands have been severely affected, and preliminary damage assessments are currently underway.
- According to OCHA, initial reports indicate that 70 to 80 percent of houses on Great Inagua Islands in the Bahamas have sustained roof damage, and 25 percent of houses have sustained major damages.
- The Government of Turks and Caicos has declared South Caicos and Grand Turks Island disaster areas. OCHA has reported that the U.N. Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team will reach Turks and Caicos on September 10.

### ***Costa Rica***

- From September 2 to 5, the passage of Tropical Storm Hanna caused heavy rains and serious flooding in western Costa Rica. The flooding particularly affected Guanacaste Province, including the communities of Carrillo, Santa Cruz, Islona, Corralillo, Bolson, and La Guinea, as well as the cantons of Montes de Oro and Puntarenas. According to the GOCR National Emergency Commission (CNE), the flooding affected an estimated 38,000 people and caused 1,000 individuals to evacuate residences. Flood-related landslides resulted in the closure of roads and the destruction of the water system in Puntarenas Canton, according to the GOCR Ministry of Public Works.
- Following the passage of Tropical Storm Hanna, the CNE requested air support to transport medical supplies and personnel to flood-affected communities until flood waters recede and roads reopen. In response, USAID/OFDA provided funding for air support for this purpose.

### ***Cuba***

- On September 7, Hurricane Ike made landfall in eastern Cuba as a Category Four storm. The GOC has reported that 2.6 million people were evacuated to shelters or higher ground in advance of Hurricane Ike; the U.N. Office of the Resident Coordinator, however, reports that approximately 1 million people were evacuated. The GOC has reported that Hurricane Ike caused four deaths, while Hurricane Gustav did not result in any fatalities.
- According to the U.S. Interests Section in Havana (USINT), while detailed assessment information is not available, hurricanes Ike and Gustav caused significant infrastructure damage and crop losses on some parts of the island.
- On September 9, OCHA reported that the recovery phase has been declared for Cuba's eastern provinces, with assessments underway. Populations are working to remove rubble, including downed poles and trees, and brigades are re-establishing electricity and water services. The U.N. continues to support the recovery process by supplying 15 tons of food for populations in La Isla de la Juventud, providing technical assistance in proposal preparation for the U.N. Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and visiting affected territories.

### ***Dominican Republic***

- Tropical Storms Fay, Gustav, and Hanna all affected populations in the Dominican Republic. OCHA reported that these storms damaged 3,343 houses and destroyed 46 houses. As of September 9, the storms had isolated 96 communities and negatively affected 9 roads and 12 bridges.
- According to OCHA, the storms led to the evacuation of 16,715 people, of whom 5,348 remained in official shelters as of September 9.

### ***Haiti***

- The seven-member USAID/DART based in Port-au-Prince continues to work closely with USAID/Haiti, DOD, GOH, U.N. agencies, and partner relief agencies to identify priority needs and facilitate international relief activities. Two members of the USAID/DART remain in Gonaïves to coordinate U.S. Government (USG) commodity shipments from Port-au-Prince and to support local GOH disaster relief efforts.
- As of September 7, the GOH Office of Civil Protection (DPC) reported official estimates of 114,000 people displaced throughout the country as a result of the recent storms. This figure is likely higher, particularly in and around the Gonaïves area, due to difficulties obtaining precise figures.

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<sup>7</sup> U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

- The local DPC office in Gonaïves is establishing 25 locations for the distribution of emergency food commodities to approximately 12,000 targeted beneficiaries, according to USAID/DART staff. Damaged roads, blocked or collapsed bridges, and flooded rivers continue to significantly hamper movement within the city, negatively impacting relief efforts. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) notes that movement is not possible across some lower areas in Gonaïves. As of September 9, USAID/DART staff in Haiti reported that the hospital in Gonaïves was functioning following the delivery of fuel.
- As of September 8, the GOH DPC for North Department reported that Hurricane Ike destroyed 208 houses, damaged 1,303 houses, and affected approximately 2,000 families within North Department. In addition, the local DPC notes significant flooding in Saint Raphael and Gambard, damage to agricultural land in Limbe, and damage to the public water system in Pignon. OCHA continues to indicate the need for rapid assessments to determine the impact of Hurricane Ike on northern areas of Haiti.
- According to the USAID/DART, isolated communities in both northern and southern areas of the country remain cut off to relief efforts due to impassable roads. Despite determined efforts by U.N. agencies, humanitarian relief organizations, and multiple donor governments to provide immediate relief to affected populations, flooding has impeded ground transportation throughout Haiti since early September. As of September 7, MINUSTAH reported that most major roads across the country remained impassible or are restricted to U.N. staff movements only. The USAID/DART is working closely with the U.S. Southern Command, MINUSTAH, and the GOH to rapidly improve humanitarian access.
- Gonaïves in Artibonite Department remains a priority concern, although additional communities require urgent humanitarian assistance, including areas in Southeast and Nippes departments. OCHA has warned of an expected increase in the incidence of diarrhea, particularly in northwest area, due to the lack of safe drinking water. While food and safe drinking water are the most urgent priorities, the USAID/DART also notes the need for shelter, health, and psychosocial relief efforts.
- USAID/Haiti staff continue to warn about a potential medium-term food security crisis, as the flooding has negatively impacted agricultural production throughout the country. USAID/Haiti has re-directed some ongoing food assistance toward the current crisis, although additional resources are required to meet anticipated needs.
- On September 9, a U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) disaster epidemiologist worked with staff from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to generate a disease surveillance form for use by partners in the health sector.
- On September 9, the U.S. Navy transported safe drinking water and U.N. World Food Program (WFP) emergency food assistance on four flights to Les Cayes in South Department, two flights to Gonaïves in Artibonite, and one vessel to Gonaïves. On September 10, USS Kearsarge helicopters are scheduled to airlift approximately 45 metric tons (MT) of mixed food commodities to Les Cayes and approximately 40 MT of emergency food relief and safe drinking water to Gonaïves. In addition, WFP teams are loading two smaller vessels from the USS Kearsarge with additional food relief for transport to Gonaïves and St. Marc in Artibonite Department.

### *Jamaica*

- OCHA reported that 248 people remained in shelters in Jamaica as of September 5. The USAID/OFDA team, which began to arrive on August 28, reports that critical emergency needs have been met but that due to flood-related damages, early recovery needs exist.

## **USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

### *Bahamas*

- In response to a request by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), on September 8, a representative from USAID/OFDA deployed to conduct aerial overflights and assessments of the damage caused by Hurricane Ike. A USAID/OFDA disaster specialist has been based at the National Emergency Operations Center to support NEMA counterparts in monitoring storm impacts and assessing needs.

### *Costa Rica*

- On September 5, U.S. Ambassador Peter Cianchette issued a disaster declaration in response to the flooding in Costa Rica. In response, USAID/OFDA is providing \$40,000 to the U.S. Embassy in San Jose for air support to transport medical personnel and equipment to communities affected by the floods.

### *Cuba*

- On September 3, U.S. Chief of Mission Jonathan D. Farrar issued a disaster declaration for Cuba due to the effects of the hurricane. In response, USAID/OFDA has approved \$100,000 in emergency relief funds. USINT is awarding these funds to two non-governmental organizations working in affected areas.

**Dominican Republic**

- On September 3, U.S. Ambassador P. Robert Fannin issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the tropical storms in the Dominican Republic. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 through USAID/Dominican Republic for the local procurement and distribution of emergency relief supplies, including water containers, hygiene kits, and bedding.

**Haiti**

- On September 2, U.S. Ambassador Janet A. Sanderson issued a disaster declaration in response to Hurricane Gustav and resulting flooding throughout Haiti. In response, USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$100,000 through USAID/Haiti for the purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies for displaced populations and for the support of early recovery activities. On September 4, a USAID/OFDA-chartered aircraft arrived in Port-au-Prince, delivering USAID/OFDA emergency relief supplies including 5,088 hygiene kits, 10,800 ten-liter water containers, and 500 rolls of plastic sheeting. Worth nearly \$335,000 including transport, the supplies were transported to affected areas with assistance from the U.S. Coast Guard and implementing partner IOM.
- USAID/OFDA is providing \$500,000 million to PAHO in response to PAHO's appeal for funding to support health activities for individuals affected by Hurricane Gustav and Tropical Storm Hanna. This funding will assist 10,000 people.
- USAID/OFDA has also provided more than \$1.5 million to IOM. This assistance will support shelter and settlements projects as well as humanitarian coordination activities.
- In total, The USAID/DART is working to program a total of \$7.5 million in funding from USAID/OFDA for programs to assist disaster-affected populations in Haiti.
- USAID/Haiti is working to re-direct \$5 million in funds toward food and other assistance to meet critical needs related to the growing humanitarian crisis.
- On September 7, USAID/OFDA authorized the deployment of a three-person Americas Support Team (AST) to Haiti to supplement the UNDAC team based in Gonaïves.
- USAID/FFP is providing food assistance worth \$7 million through implementing partner WFP.
- DOD has approved up to \$500,000 for humanitarian assistance in Haiti in response to a USAID request for helicopter transport.

**Jamaica**

- On September 2, U.S. Ambassador Brenda LaGrange Johnson declared a disaster due to the effects of the tropical storm. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$100,000 through USAID/Jamaica to Jamaica's Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) to support aerial reconnaissance and an air bridge to reach communities that have become isolated due to road damage, as well as the purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies. Following the storm, a USAID/OFDA regional advisor and consultant also deployed to support USAID/Jamaica and began to conduct surveys of affected areas. On September 4, USAID/OFDA supported an airlift of emergency relief supplies to Kingston, Jamaica. Consigned to ODPEM, the relief supplies included approximately 1,536 hygiene kits, 270 rolls of plastic sheeting, 7,800 jerry cans, and 3,425 wool blankets. The total value of the commodities, including transport, was \$208,435.

**FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR 2008 ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON**

**USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO COSTA RICA**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
U.S. Embassy in San Jose	Logistics	Affected Areas	\$40,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO COSTA RICA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$40,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO COSTA RICA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$40,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 10, 2008.

**USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CUBA**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
Caritas	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$100,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CUBA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CUBA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$100,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 10, 2008.

**USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
USAID/Dominican Republic	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$50,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 10, 2008.

**USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
IOM	Shelter and Settlements, Coordination	Affected Areas	\$1,506,008
OCHA	Logistics	Affected Areas	\$69,996
PAHO	Health	Affected Areas	\$500,000
USAID/Haiti	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$150,000
	Emergency Relief Activities <sup>2</sup>	Affected Areas	\$4,934,242
USAID/Haiti	Emergency Relief Supplies, Including Transportation	Affected Areas	\$334,503
	Administrative Support		\$5,251
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$7,500,000</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Affected Areas	\$7,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$7,000,000</b>
<b>USAID/HAITI ASSISTANCE<sup>3</sup></b>			
	Emergency Relief Activities	Affected Areas	\$5,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/HAITI HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$5,000,000</b>
<b>DOD ASSISTANCE<sup>4</sup></b>			
	Emergency Relief Activities	Affected Areas	\$500,000
<b>TOTAL DOD HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>DHS ASSISTANCE</b>			
	Transportation and Logistics	Affected Areas	FORTHCOMING
<b>TOTAL DHS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$20,000,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 10, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Additional funding pledged by USAID/OFDA.

<sup>3</sup> Funding reprogrammed from development to humanitarian relief activities.

<sup>4</sup> Funding approved for humanitarian relief activities in Haiti.

**USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
ODPEM	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$100,000
USAID/Jamaica	Emergency Relief Supplies, Including Transportation	Affected Areas	\$208,435
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$308,435</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$308,435</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 10, 2008.

<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR HURRICANES IN FY 2008</b>	<b>\$20,498,435</b>
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**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](http://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](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)