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

## **Latin America and the Caribbean – Hurricane Season 2007**

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

August 20, 2007

### **BACKGROUND AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- Hurricane Dean did not cause significant damage to the Eastern Caribbean islands, except for Dominica and St. Lucia, and Martinique. In Dominica, local reports indicate a major impact on the agricultural sector, damage to house roofs, uprooted trees, and power outages across the island. Heavy rainfall resulted in several landslides. Local damage assessment teams are on the ground collecting information, surveying the area, and estimating total damages, according to the U.S. Embassy in Barbados. In St. Lucia, local authorities have reported extensive damage to the agricultural sector, damage to homes and the pediatric wing of the general hospital. Heavy rainfall also caused several landslides and floods in the island, although water and electricity services have been restored.
- On August 19, Hurricane Dean hit Jamaica as a category four hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale. Jamaica's Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) estimates that at least 300,000 people will be affected by Hurricane Dean, particularly communities located in the southern part of the island that were impacted by hurricanes Emily, Ivan, and Wilma in 2004 and 2005.
- USAID has 22 emergency staff positioned throughout the Caribbean, Central America, and Mexico to respond to Hurricane Dean. Working closely with USAID Missions and U.S. Embassy staff, USAID emergency teams will conduct damage assessments, identify needs, and coordinate assistance with local disaster officials.
- USAID is closely tracking the progress of Hurricane Dean as it nears Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. A six-person emergency assessment team is located in Mexico, including three disaster managers in the Yucatan, to work with Mexican authorities and the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City in the event that international assistance is requested.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>		<b>SOURCE</b>
<b>Dominica</b>	2 dead	OCHA <sup>1</sup> - August 19
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	1 dead, 1,580 in shelters	OCHA- August 19
<b>Haiti</b>	4 dead, 10 injured, 5,154 in shelters	OCHA- August 19
<b>Jamaica</b>	240 homeless, 5,000 in shelters*	USAID/OFDA Assessment Team – August 20
<b>Martinique</b>	1 dead	OCHA- August 19
<b>Saint Lucia</b>	1 dead	OCHA- August 19

\*Figures based on very preliminary figures.

### **FY 2007 Humanitarian Funding to Date**

**USAID/OFDA Assistance to Jamaica** ..... \$125,000  
**Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to the Caribbean**..... \$125,000

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

#### **Jamaica**

- Hurricane Dean impacted several Jamaican parishes, causing flooding in Saint Thomas, Saint James, Saint Catherine, Saint Andrew, and Clarendon parishes. Many main roads are impassable and some areas are without power.
- On August 20, U.S. Ambassador to Jamaica Brenda LaGrange Johnson declared a disaster as a result of Hurricane Dean. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$100,000 for the purchase and transport of emergency relief items for the most affected areas on the island.
- In advance of Hurricane Dean, USAID/OFDA provided \$25,000 to Jamaica for emergency preparedness activities through ODPEM. In addition, ODPEM is utilizing zodiac boats and other relief supplies provided by USAID in 2004 in response to Hurricane Ivan. Prior to the onset of the hurricane, ODPEM conducted preparedness activities, including drain cleaning, road maintenance, pre-positioning of food and relief supplies, dispatching radios to the parishes, identifying shelters, evacuating populations, and establishing an emergency operations center.
- On August 18, a six-person USAID assessment team arrived in Kingston ahead of Hurricane Dean. The team is coordinating with U.N. agencies, Government of Jamaica authorities, non-governmental organizations,

<sup>1</sup> U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

donors, and other disaster assessment teams. On August 20, two USAID/OFDA consultants joined ODPEM on an air assessment of the affected areas. Once assessment teams have returned, ODPEM will release an updated report.

## USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- USAID/OFDA is monitoring Hurricane Dean’s track and impact from the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Regional Office in San Jose, Costa Rica, as well as from Washington, D.C. USAID/OFDA staff and consultants are also based in Barbados, Belize, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, and Nicaragua. In total, 22 USAID emergency staff are deployed to respond to the impact of Hurricane Dean.
- Since 2000, USAID has provided more than \$142 million in response to the devastating effects of hurricanes and tropical storms throughout Central America and the Caribbean.

### USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE*</b>			
ODPEM	Emergency Preparedness Supplies	Affected Areas	\$25,000
ODPEM	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$100,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$125,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA - 2007 HURRICANE SEASON</b>			<b>\$125,000</b>

\* USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of August 20, 2007.

## 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 hurricane-affected countries 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)

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/).