Latin America and the Caribbean – Hurricane Season 2007

Fact Sheet #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007   August 24, 2007

Note: The last fact sheet was dated August 22, 2007.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On August 22, Hurricane Dean lost strength after making landfall in Mexico a second time, near the town of Tecolutla in Veracruz State, 40 miles south-southeast of Tuxpan, according to the National Hurricane Center. On August 23, Dean was downgraded to a tropical depression, but heavy rainfall continues in more than a dozen states, triggering mudslides in mountainous areas. The states of Veracruz, Puebla, and Hidalgo are the most directly affected.

- On August 23, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Leonard A. Hill declared a disaster in Belize due to the impact of Hurricane Dean, which passed through northern regions as a category five storm on August 20. In response, USAID/OFDA provided $50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Belmopan for the purchase and transport of emergency relief supplies to hurricane-affected northern Belize and airlifted emergency relief commodities to the Belize Red Cross.

- On August 23, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Clyde I. Howard declared a disaster in Dominica and St. Lucia due to the effects of Hurricane Dean, which passed over the islands on August 16 and 17. In response, USAID/OFDA provided $25,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Barbados to the Dominica Office of Disaster Management for the local purchase and transport of emergency shelter repair materials to affected areas. In addition, USAID/OFDA airlifted emergency shelter supplies to both islands.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE*		SOURCE
Belize	1,675 displaced 1,500 houses damaged	Government of Belize – August 22, 2007
Dominica	2 dead, 30 injured 1500 houses damaged	PAHO - August 21, 2007 CDERA[1] – August 21, 2007
Dominican Republic	1 dead, 300 houses destroyed or partially destroyed, 1,600 persons in shelters	PAHO[2]- August 21, 2007
Haiti	4 dead 2,000 families affected	OCHA[3]- August 19, 2007 IFRC[4] – August 22, 2007
Jamaica	4 dead, 1,188 people in 52 shelters 3,127 houses damaged	ODPEM[5], August 24, 2007
Martinique	1 dead	OCHA- August 19, 2007
Mexico	1,200 houses damaged	Government of Mexico - August 22, 2007
Saint Lucia	1 dead	OCHA- August 19, 2007

*Number expected to increase as assessments continue.

FY 2007 Humanitarian Funding to Date
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Belize $136,954
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Dominica $85,648
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Jamaica $572,243
USAID/OFDA Assistance to St. Lucia $40,432
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Latin America and the Caribbean for Hurricanes $835,277

CURRENT SITUATION

Belize

- According to the Government of Belize (GOB), Hurricane Dean caused significant damage to housing and agriculture in the northern districts of Corozal and Orange Walk, which the GOB has declared disaster areas. Preliminary GOB assessments indicate that the hurricane damaged more than 1,500 houses, causing an estimated

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[1] Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA)
[2] Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
[3] U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA)
[4] The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
[5] The Government of Jamaica's Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM)

$5 million in damage. Initial aerial estimates also indicated that the storm destroyed the entire export papaya crop, valued at more than $20 million, and caused at least $1.2 million in damage to the sugar crop.

- Hurricane Dean also led to widespread power outages, affecting the water pumping systems in northern districts. According to USAID/OFDA's Regional Advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean, the hurricane left the majority of the 36,000 people in the Corozal District without safe drinking water.

Dominica and St. Lucia

- From August 16 to 17, high winds, storm surge, and flooding from Hurricane Dean affected Dominica and St. Lucia. The hurricane caused widespread damage in the agricultural sector on both islands, according to initial damage assessments from government officials, USAID disaster specialists, and CDERA officials. Dean also damaged at least 500 houses on Dominica and additional housing and infrastructure in St. Lucia.

Jamaica

- According to the results of a two-day rapid assessment led by ODPEM. Hurricane Dean resulted in damage in 6 of the island's 13 parishes. All the affected parishes are located on the south and south-western side of the island. Clarendon, Manchester, and Saint Catherine parishes sustained the most damage.
- The ODPEM-led rapid assessment, which included USAID emergency staff and other humanitarian organizations, determined that a total of 3,127 houses were either damaged or destroyed, and of these 1,582 houses were completely destroyed or uninhabitable. Early reports indicated that 13,000 people were impacted by Hurricane Dean. However, many areas, particularly in the highlands, have not yet been accurately assessed, and ODPEM estimates that the final affected number could be as high as 50,000.
- According to the U.N., provision of water is an immediate need in affected areas. Roofing materials, garbage and debris collection, repair of the electrical system, and school repairs are other identified recovery needs.
- According to the Government of Jamaica's Ministry of Agriculture, early reports from the agriculture sector indicate that the hurricane damaged 40 percent of the sugarcane crop, 100 percent of the banana crop on the two major estates, 80 percent of the small-holder banana crop in Westmoreland Parish, 75 percent of the coffee trees under three years old, and an estimated 20 percent of the top layer of the cocoa crop.

Mexico

- Although Hurricane Dean has been downgraded to a tropical depression, heavy rainfall continues in more than 12 states, triggering mudslides in mountainous areas. The states of Veracruz, Puebla, and Hidalgo are the most directly affected. According to August 24 media reports, several rivers overflowed their banks in the central Mexican state of Hidalgo, cutting off roads, damaging farmland, and resulting in the evacuation of more than 10,000 people.
- USAID's disaster assessment team has conducted visual assessments in Veracruz State and has reported damaged houses, uprooted trees, downed power poles, and significant crop damage.
- As of August 22, USAID's assessment team in Mexico reported that Cancun did not sustain significant damages due to Hurricane Dean. Pockets of damage were apparent in Chetumal and rural areas of Quintana Roo State, according to preliminary USAID assessments.
- According to the Government of Mexico (GOM), Hurricane Dean damaged nearly 1,200 houses and forced 14,581 people into shelters in Quintana Roo State at the height of the storm. As of August 22, 4,200 people remained in shelters in Othon P. Blanco Municipality.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- USAID deployed more than 20 disaster specialists throughout the Caribbean and Central America in advance of Hurricane Dean. Positioned in Barbados, Belize, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, and Nicaragua, the teams, in cooperation with local authorities, immediately assessed hurricane damage and resulting humanitarian needs.
- As of August 24, most emergency staff had redeployed to their original duty stations, and emergency teams in Jamaica and Mexico were in the process of standing down.
- 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.

Belize

- On August 23, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Leonard A. Hill declared a disaster in Belize due to the impact of Hurricane Dean.
- In response to the impact of Dean on Belize, USAID/OFDA provided $50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Belize for the purchase and transport of emergency relief supplies to hurricane-affected northern Belize. On August 23, USAID/OFDA called forward relief commodities, valued at $86,954 including transport, from the Miami

warehouse. The commodities, including 100 rolls of plastic sheeting, 1,056 hygiene kits, 500 blankets, and 5 chainsaws kits for debris removal, were airlifted to Belize on August 24 and consigned to the Belize Red Cross.
- USAID's emergency team in Belize continues to conduct assessments and identify needs in conjunction with the GOB's National Emergency Management Organization. On August 21 and 22, U.S. Embassy staff conducted aerial assessments utilizing U.S. Military helicopters.

Dominica and St. Lucia
- On August 23, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Clyde I. Howard declared a disaster in Dominica and St. Lucia due to the effects of Hurricane Dean.
- In response, USAID/OFDA provided $25,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Bridgetown to the Dominica Office of Disaster Management for the local purchase and transport of emergency shelter repair materials to affected areas. On August 24, USAID/OFDA also airlifted relief commodities to both islands. The commodities, including 75 rolls of plastic sheeting to help meet shelter needs in Dominica and 50 rolls of plastic sheeting to meet needs in St. Lucia, were consigned to the national emergency management agencies on both islands.
- On August 15, a four-person USAID assessment team arrived in Bridgetown in advance of Hurricane Dean's approach to the Eastern Caribbean, and two additional USAID disaster specialists deployed to Dominica and St. Kitts. As Hurricane Dean moved over Barbados and through the Caribbean Sea, the Bridgetown team redeployed to other parts of the region. A USAID disaster specialist remains in Dominica and is conducting assessments in conjunction with the Dominica Office of Disaster Management.

Jamaica
- On August 20, U.S. Ambassador to Jamaica Brenda LaGrange Johnson declared a disaster due to the damage caused by Hurricane Dean.
- In response to the impact of the hurricane, USAID/OFDA dispatched relief commodities to assist 3,000 families, or 12,000 people, who lost houses, belongings, and livelihoods. The 420 rolls of plastic sheeting will also be used to provide temporary repairs to schools, shelters, and health facilities to prevent further damage from rain. The commodities, which also included 6,250 blankets, 5,000 ten-liter water containers, and 2,592 hygiene kits, arrived in Kingston on August 22. USAID/OFDA has also provided $175,000 to ODPEM for emergency relief supplies.
- Although the full extent of damage due to the hurricane is not yet known, ODPEM estimates that as many as 50,000 people may have been affected, losing houses, roofs, or belongings. The relief supplies provided by USAID/OFDA will assist approximately 20 percent of the estimated population in need. Other donors, including the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the U.K.'s Department for International Development (DFID), U.N. agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are also providing assistance in Jamaica.
- In response to an emergency appeal, USAID/OFDA provided $100,000 to support emergency health services through the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).
- A six-member USAID assessment team, which arrived in Jamaica on August 18, continues to support emergency response efforts of U.N. agencies, Government of Jamaica authorities, NGO partners, donors, and other disaster assessment teams. With the concurrence of the U.S. Embassy in Kingston and USAID/Jamaica, the USAID disaster assessment team in Jamaica is in the process of closing down.

Mexico:
- On August 19, in advance of Hurricane Dean, USAID deployed six disaster specialists to assess the storm's impact and possible needs in consultation with the USAID mission, U.S. Embassy, and the GOM.
- The GOM prepared thoroughly for Hurricane Dean, issuing public warnings, evacuating residents, opening shelters, and preemptively turning off electricity in affected areas.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BELIZE

Implementing Partner	*Activity*	*Location*	*Amount*
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE[1]			
U.S. Embassy Belmopan	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	$50,000
Belize Red Cross	Emergency Relief Supplies from USAID/OFDA's Miami Warehouse	Affected Areas	$86,954
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BELIZE IN FY 2007			**$136,954**
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BELIZE IN FY 2007			**$136,954**

[*] USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of August 24, 2007.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DOMINICA

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE[1]			
Dominica Office of Disaster Management	Emergency Shelter Repair Supplies	Affected Areas	$25,000
Dominica Office of Disaster Management	Emergency Relief Supplies from USAID/OFDA's Miami Warehouse	Affected Areas	$60,648
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DOMINICA IN FY 2007			$85,648
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DOMINICA IN FY 2007			$85,648

[*] USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of August 24, 2007.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE[1]			
ODPEM	Emergency Preparedness Supplies	Affected Areas	$25,000
ODPEM and NGOs	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	$100,000
USAID/Jamaica	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	$50,000
PAHO	Emergency Health Services	Affected Areas	$100,000
Various	Emergency Relief Supplies from USAID/OFDA's Miami Warehouse	Affected Areas	$297,243
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA IN FY 2007			$572,243
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA IN FY 2007			$572,243

[*] USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of August 24, 2007.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ST. LUCIA

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE[1]			
St. Lucia National Emergency Management Organization	Emergency Relief Supplies from USAID/OFDA's Miami Warehouse	Affected Areas	$40,432
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ST LUCIA IN FY 2007			$40,432
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ST LUCIA IN FY 2007			$40,432

[*] USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of August 24, 2007.

TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR HURRICANES IN FY 2007	$835,277

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. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for their hurricane response efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean can be found in the "How Can I Help" section of http://www.usaid.gov/locations/latin_america_caribbean/hurr_2007/ ,   or by calling the Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) at 703-276-1914. 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; ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information on making donations and volunteering services can be found at:
    - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Hurricane
    - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
    - InterAction: www.interaction.org ➔ "Guide to Appropriate Giving"
    - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.