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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 #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

August 28, 2007

Note: The last fact sheet was dated August 24, 2007.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- From August 21 through August 24, Hurricane Dean caused heavy rains and landslides, which affected nine states in Mexico, and resulted in severe damage to the agricultural sector in some areas. On August 21, Hurricane Dean struck the states of Campeche, Quintana Roo, and Yucatán as a category five hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale. After passing over the Bay of Campeche, Hurricane Dean re-entered Mexican territory as a category two hurricane on August 22 through Tecolutla, Veracruz State. Dean continued through Central Mexico as a tropical storm, affecting Hidalgo, Jalisco, Colima, Michoacán, and Puebla states before dissipating over the Pacific Ocean.
- On August 27, U.S. Ambassador Antonio O. Garza, Jr., requested USAID/OFDA assistance in response to the effects of Hurricane Dean. USAID/OFDA is providing \$250,000 through the American Red Cross to the Mexican Red Cross for the local purchase and transport of roof repair materials, hygiene kits, and other essential relief supplies to affected areas.

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	9 dead 4,151 families affected	OCHA ³ - August 24, 2007 IFRC ⁴ – August 26, 2007
Jamaica	4 dead, 1,188 people in 52 shelters 3,207 houses damaged	ODPEM ⁵ , August 24, 2007
Martinique	1 dead	OCHA- August 24, 2007
Mexico	9 dead, 253,000 affected in Puebla State 30,000 houses damaged in Quintana Roo State	Government of Mexico - August 26, 2007
Saint Lucia	1 dead	OCHA- August 24, 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 Mexico	\$250,000
USAID/OFDA Assistance to St. Lucia	\$40,432
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Latin America and the Caribbean for Hurricane Dean	\$1,085,277

CURRENT SITUATION

Belize

- The Belize Ministry of Health estimated that Hurricane Dean directly affected 20,000 people. The Belize National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) reported that power outages continue to affect water and sanitation systems, particularly in Corozol District. NEMO and the Belize Defense Force have distributed food and water in Corozol District.

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)

- OCHA reported that water and sanitation systems in Orange Walk District are functioning, and 80 percent of electric power had been restored as of August 24.

Dominica and St. Lucia

- Hurricane Dean caused widespread damage in the agricultural sector as well as damaging infrastructure on Dominica and St. Lucia, according to initial damage assessments from government officials, USAID disaster specialists, and CDERA officials.

Jamaica

- ODPEM reported that 889 houses assessed in the Rocky Point and Portland Cottage areas in Clarendon Parish sustained damage due to storm surge or high winds, with approximately 65 percent of the houses considered seriously damaged or destroyed.
- On August 24, a member of the USAID assessment team participated in a food drop flight organized by ODPEM to five remote locations in Saint Andrew Parish in mountainous areas on the eastern part of the island. Roads leading to these areas were washed away or blocked by landslides caused during Hurricane Dean. ODPEM reported that the National Water Commission was providing water stations to address short-term needs while working to restore the water supply and the electricity needed to power water systems.

Mexico

- According to recent field reports from USAID/OFDA staff, Hurricane Dean particularly affected nine states, including Campeche, Hidalgo, Jalisco, Colima, Michoacán, Puebla, Quintana Roo, Yucatán, and Veracruz. On August 23, the USAID assessment team conducted visual damage and needs assessments in Poza Rica, Tecolutla, and Gutierrez Zamora municipalities in Veracruz State. As of August 24, local officials confirmed nine hurricane-related deaths in Puebla and Hidalgo states.
- In Puebla State, Hurricane Dean affected an estimated 253,000 persons, according to the Mexican General Directorate of Civil Protection (DGPC). In anticipation to the hurricane, Mexican authorities evacuated approximately 5,000 persons, of which 3,200 stayed in temporary shelters at the height of the hurricane. As of August 24, more than 1,000 persons remain in shelters in Puebla.
- In Veracruz State, Hurricane Dean affected more than 27,000 people, of which 19,240 remain in 54 shelters, according to the DGPC. In Hidalgo State, more than 1,000 persons remain in shelters as of August 24.
- As of August 26, the DGPC reported that Hurricane Dean damaged an estimated 30,003 houses in Quintana Roo State, and destroyed an estimated 27,848 hectares of the corn crop in Yucatán State.

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, St. Kitts, and Nicaragua, the teams, in cooperation with local authorities, immediately assessed hurricane damage and resulting humanitarian needs.
- As of August 28, most emergency staff had redeployed to their original duty stations, and the emergency team in Jamaica had stood 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 Hurricane 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. In addition, USAID/OFDA airlifted relief commodities, including plastic sheeting, blankets, hygiene kits, and chainsaws for debris removal, which arrived on August 24.
- USAID's emergency team in Belize has conducted assessments and identified needs in conjunction with the Government of Belize's NEMO. 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 plastic sheeting to help meet shelter needs to both islands.

- On August 15, a four-person USAID assessment team arrived in Bridgetown, Barbados, 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 including plastic sheeting, blankets, ten-liter water containers, and hygiene kits, which arrived in Kingston on August 22. In addition, USAID/OFDA has provided \$175,000 to ODPEM for emergency relief supplies. USAID/OFDA also provided \$100,000 to support emergency health services through the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in response to an emergency appeal.
- A six-member USAID assessment team arrived in Jamaica on August 18 to support emergency response efforts of U.N. agencies, Government of Jamaica authorities, non-governmental organization partners, donors, and other disaster assessment teams. The USAID disaster assessment team in Jamaica has now ended operations.
- A USAID/ OFDA disaster specialist remains in Jamaica to help monitor relief programs, in coordination with the USAID Mission, U.S. Embassy, and ODPEM.

Mexico:

- On August 19, in advance of Hurricane Dean, USAID deployed six disaster specialists to work with the USAID mission, U.S. Embassy, and the Government of Mexico (GOM) to assess the storm's impact and possible humanitarian needs. The USAID team has conducted disaster assessments in conjunction with the GOM in Veracruz State.
- On August 27, U.S. Ambassador Antonio O. Garza, Jr., requested USAID/OFDA assistance in response to the effects of Hurricane Dean.
- In response to the hurricane USAID/OFDA is providing \$250,000 through the American Red Cross to the Mexican Red Cross for the local purchase and transport of roof repair materials, hygiene kits, and other essential relief supplies to affected areas.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BELIZE

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
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

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of August 28, 2007.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DOMINICA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
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

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of August 28, 2007.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
ODPEM	Pre-positioned 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 Activities	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

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of August 28, 2007.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Mexican Red Cross	Emergency Shelter Repair Supplies, Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$250,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO IN FY 2007			\$250,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO IN FY 2007			\$250,000

USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of August 28, 2007.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ST. LUCIA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
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

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of August 28, 2007.

TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR HURRICANE DEAN IN FY 2007	\$1,085,277
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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. 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.