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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 #7, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

September 12, 2007

Note: The last fact sheet was dated September 7, 2007.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On September 8 and 9, USAID/OFDA delivered emergency relief supplies to Puerto Cabezas, in the North Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN) of Nicaragua, via three airlifts, including one by a U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) C-130 cargo plane. USAID/OFDA coordinated the distribution of relief supplies with local authorities, DOD officials, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), and the Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC). The relief supplies, which included 580 rolls of plastic sheeting, 875 blankets, and 480 hygiene kits, have been distributed in 11 municipalities in RAAN. The relief supplies also included 1,000 ten-liter water containers, which U.S. military personnel delivered filled with water to four municipalities in RAAN, and 100 body bags, which were delivered to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The USAID/OFDA emergency relief commodities are valued at \$296,714, including transport.
- DOD continues to provide air support in Puerto Cabezas to transport emergency relief supplies and humanitarian staff to affected areas. As of September 12, two helicopters and ground staff continue to support a multi-national airlift in RAAN.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
HURRICANE FELIX *		
El Salvador	560 families affected	Government of El Salvador – September 4, 2007
Honduras	124 houses damaged or destroyed	PAHO – September 6, 2007
Nicaragua	67 dead, 110 missing, 162,373 affected, 16,633 houses damaged or destroyed	SINAPRED ¹ – September 10, 2007
HURRICANE DEAN		
Dominica	2 dead, 30 injured, 1500 houses damaged	PAHO – August 21, 2007 CDERA ² – August 21, 2007
Dominican Republic	1 dead, 300 houses destroyed or partially destroyed	PAHO – August 21, 2007
Haiti	9 dead, 4,151 families affected	OCHA ³ – August 24, 2007 IFRC ⁴ – August 26, 2007
Jamaica	4 dead, 3,207 houses damaged	ODPEM ⁵ – August 24, 2007
Martinique	1 dead	OCHA – August 24, 2007
Mexico	9 dead, 140,000 affected, 52,000 houses damaged	Mexican Red Cross – August 26, 2007
Saint Lucia	1 dead	OCHA – August 24, 2007

*Numbers may increase in countries affected by Hurricane Felix.

FY 2007 Humanitarian Funding to Date

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Belize	\$161,954
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Dominica	\$85,648
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Honduras	\$25,000
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Jamaica	\$572,244
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Mexico	\$249,957
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Nicaragua.....	\$1,170,296
USAID/OFDA Assistance to St. Lucia	\$40,432
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Latin America and the Caribbean for Hurricanes	\$2,305,531
DOD Assistance to Nicaragua	\$1,500,000
Total DOD Humanitarian Assistance to Latin America and the Caribbean for Hurricane Felix	\$1,500,000
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Latin America and the Caribbean for Hurricanes.....	\$3,805,531

¹ National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation, and Assistance (SINAPRED)

² Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA)

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)

CURRENT SITUATION

Nicaragua

- As of September 10, SINAPRED reported that Hurricane Felix destroyed approximately 9,860 houses and blew away the roofs of nearly 6,800 others, as well as damaged approximately 150 public buildings in Alamikamba, Bonanza, Puerto Cabezas, Rosita, San Andrés de Bocay, and Waspam municipalities in RAAN and Jinotega Department. In addition, flooding associated with the hurricane damaged approximately 12,000 latrines, which in turn contaminated an estimated 9,000 nearby wells.
- SINAPRED reported that needs in affected areas include food, shelter, safe drinking water, restoration of medical services, and rehabilitation of roads.
- USAID emergency team members conducted assessments in Awastara, Auhya Pihni, and Tuapi municipalities on September 8 and 9. The team concurred with the broader SINAPRED assessment, identifying shelter, medical supplies, and safe drinking water as immediate needs.
- On September 9, a commercial flight airlifted 2,000 water containers to Puerto Cabezas. NRC purchased the containers with USAID/OFDA funds.
- As of September 12, members of the USAID emergency team remain deployed to Puerto Cabezas to conduct damage and needs assessments in affected areas and monitor the distribution of essential relief supplies in coordination with the DOD.

Honduras

- On September 7, representatives from U.N. agencies and the Government of Honduras' Permanent Commission on Emergencies (COPECO) convened a meeting with donors and humanitarian organizations to review priority needs in affected departments, coordinate humanitarian assistance, and assess local and international preparedness and capacity to respond to a potential wide-scale disaster.
- Although several communities in Gracias a Dios Department and the Sula Valley continue to experience localized disaster conditions, COPECO has lifted all alerts throughout the country, and the COPECO National Commissioner indicated that the local organizations have the capacity to meet ongoing needs.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- USAID pre-positioned 23 disaster response specialists in Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize, and Mexico in advance of Hurricane Felix. USAID/OFDA also provided \$75,000 to support emergency preparedness activities in Nicaragua, Belize, and Honduras. Prior to hurricane season, USAID pre-positioned approximately \$45,000 in relief supplies with NRC to respond to emergency needs.
- 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, prior to the current hurricane season.

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, 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 valued at nearly \$87,000, including transport. A USAID emergency team in Belize conducted assessments and identified needs in conjunction with the Government of Belize (GOB).
- In anticipation of Hurricane Felix's impact, USAID/OFDA provided \$25,000 in preparedness assistance to support emergency relief activities in Belize. USAID/OFDA also pre-positioned six disaster specialists to work with the U.S. Embassy in Belmopan and the GOB to assess the storm's impact and possible humanitarian needs.

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. Two USAID disaster specialists deployed to Dominica and St. Kitts to assess hurricane-related damage. On August 24, USAID/OFDA airlifted plastic sheeting to help meet shelter needs on both islands. The total value of the plastic sheeting including transport was approximately \$101,000.

El Salvador

- In advance of Hurricane Felix, USAID deployed one disaster specialist to work with USAID/El Salvador, the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador, and the Government of El Salvador to assess the storm's impact and possible humanitarian needs.

Guatemala

- In advance of Hurricane Felix, USAID deployed three disaster specialists to work with USAID/Guatemala, the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala City, and the Government of Guatemala to assess the storm's impact and possible humanitarian needs.

Honduras

- In anticipation of Hurricane Felix's impact, USAID provided \$25,000 in preparedness assistance to USAID/Honduras to support emergency relief activities. From September 4 to 8, a seven-member USAID emergency team worked with USAID/Honduras, the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa, and the Government of Honduras to assess emergency needs.

Jamaica

- On August 20, U.S. Ambassador Brenda LaGrange Johnson declared a disaster due to the damage caused by Hurricane Dean. In response, USAID/OFDA dispatched relief commodities including plastic sheeting, blankets, 10-liter water containers, and hygiene kits valued at more than \$297,000 including transport. In addition, USAID/OFDA provided \$275,000 to support emergency health services and for the purchase of additional emergency relief supplies. From August 16 to 25, a USAID six-member assessment team supported emergency response efforts. One disaster specialist remains in Jamaica to help monitor relief programs.

Mexico

- On August 27, U.S. Ambassador Antonio O. Garza, Jr. requested USAID/OFDA assistance in Mexico due to the effects of Hurricane Dean. In response, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$250,000 through the American Red Cross to the Mexican Red Cross for the local purchase and transport of roof repair materials to affected areas. USAID/OFDA's assistance is benefiting 4,000 hurricane-affected families in Quintana Roo State. In advance of Hurricane Dean, USAID deployed six disaster specialists to work with USAID/Mexico, the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, and the Government of Mexico (GOM) to assess the storm's impact and possible humanitarian needs.
- In advance of Hurricane Felix, USAID deployed four disaster specialists to work with USAID/Mexico, the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, and GOM authorities to assess the storm's impact and possible humanitarian needs.

Nicaragua

- On September 5, U.S. Ambassador Paul A. Trivelli declared a disaster due to the effects of Hurricane Felix. In response, USAID/OFDA has provided \$675,000 to support emergency programs for affected populations and funding for local purchase of essential supplies. USAID/OFDA has also delivered 820 rolls of plastic sheeting, 3,552 hygiene kits, 3,875 blankets, 1,000 ten-liter water containers, and 100 body bags from the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Miami to Puerto Cabezas via five airlifts. The total value of emergency relief supplies, including transport, is \$495,296.
- As of September 12, a 10-person USAID assessment team remains in Nicaragua coordinating hurricane response activities with U.N. agencies, DOD, Government of Nicaragua (GON) authorities, and non-governmental organizations. USAID emergency assessments are ongoing to determine what additional assistance is needed.
- DOD is assisting relief efforts in Nicaragua through air support for assessments and the delivery of 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
U.S. Embassy Belmopan	Emergency Preparedness	Affected Areas	\$25,000
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			\$161,954
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BELIZE IN FY 2007			\$161,954

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of September 12, 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 September 12, 2007.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HONDURAS

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
USAID/Honduras	Emergency Preparedness	Affected Areas	\$25,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HONDURAS IN FY 2007			\$25,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HONDURAS IN FY 2007			\$25,000

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of September 12, 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	\$297,244
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA IN FY 2007			\$572,244
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA IN FY 2007			\$572,244

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of September 12, 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	Affected Areas	\$249,957
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO IN FY 2007			\$249,957
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO IN FY 2007			\$249,957

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of September 12, 2007.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
USAID/Nicaragua	Emergency Preparedness	Affected Areas	\$25,000
Multiple	Emergency Relief Activities	Affected Areas	\$350,000
PAHO	Emergency Health Services	Affected Areas	\$300,000
Various	Emergency Relief Supplies from USAID/OFDA's Miami Warehouse	Affected Areas	\$495,296
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA IN FY 2007			\$1,170,296
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA IN FY 2007			\$1,170,296
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ASSISTANCE			
DOD	Airlift of USAID/OFDA Emergency Relief Supplies from Puerto Cabezas to affected areas	Affected Areas	\$1,000,000
DOD	Airlift of third party relief supplies from Puerto Cabezas to affected areas	Affected Areas	\$500,000
TOTAL DOD HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA IN FY 2007			\$1,500,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA IN FY 2007			\$2,670,296

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of September 12, 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

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of September 12, 2007.

TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR HURRICANES IN FY 2007			\$2,305,531
TOTAL DOD HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR HURRICANE FELIX IN FY 2007			\$1,500,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR HURRICANES IN FY 2007			\$3,805,531

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.