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

Bolivia – Floods

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

February 15, 2008

BACKGROUND AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Since November 2007, heavy rainfall has significantly affected the Bolivian departments of Beni, Cochabamba, Chuquisaca, La Paz, and Santa Cruz. Forecasts indicate that rains will continue into March, impacting productive land, secondary and tertiary road networks, and people.
- As of February 14, Cochabamba, La Paz, Santa Cruz, and Beni departments had received above-normal rainfall in January and February. Heavy rainfall forecast in these areas may prolong higher water levels in the river systems.
- To date, the floods and rains have affected nearly 57,000 families.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
Total Affected Population	56,986 families	February 13 – GOB ¹ Civil Defense
Number of Deaths	52	February 13 – GOB Civil Defense
Number of People Missing	5	February 13 – GOB Civil Defense

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Bolivia	\$372,550
USAID/Bolivia Assistance to Bolivia	\$37,775
U.S. Embassy in La Paz Assistance to Bolivia	\$32,915
DOD² Assistance to Bolivia	\$50,000
Total USAID, U.S. Embassy, and DOD Humanitarian Assistance to Bolivia.....	\$493,240

CURRENT SITUATION

- As of February 13, ongoing rain and ensuing flooding had affected 56,986 families, caused 52 deaths, and left 5 people missing since November 2007, according to the GOB Civil Defense. Preliminary assessments indicate that the floods have affected nearly 24,000 hectares of cropland, damaged 108 houses, and destroyed 469 others.
- On January 21, the GOB declared a national state of emergency due to the floods and issued emergency alerts in affected departments.
- Between January 24 and 29, USAID/OFDA deployed a seven-person assessment team to Beni, Cochabamba, La Paz, and Santa Cruz departments to assess damages, identify needs, and deliver emergency assistance. The USAID/OFDA team is coordinating closely with the GOB Civil Defense, the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, USAID/Bolivia and its mission disaster relief officer, the U.N., and relief organizations.
- On January 31, U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia Philip S. Goldberg flew to Santa Cruz on a plane carrying USAID/OFDA emergency relief supplies from La Paz. At the airport, the U.S. Ambassador held a joint press event with national GOB Civil Defense officials and a representative from the Santa Cruz Prefecture. On February 1, the USAID/Bolivia Director participated in a helicopter assessment of the community of San Pedro and delivered 1,000 hygiene kits and 1,000 water containers provided by USAID/OFDA.

Humanitarian Conditions in Affected Areas

- On January 30, a member of the USAID/OFDA team and a representative of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) met with Emergency Operation Center (COE) representatives from Beni Department to discuss the humanitarian response in affected communities of the department. Officials noted that rising water levels could result in further damages to infrastructure, including water distribution and transportation systems, and that the water level could overflow Trinidad's surrounding wall.
- On February 11, the GOB declared Beni Department a disaster zone due to damages caused by river overflows and flooding, according to the USAID/OFDA team. As of February 13, 13 municipalities in Beni had been affected, with 3,546 families relocated to temporary shelter camps, according to the departmental COE. The Joint Command is

¹ Government of Bolivia

² U.S. Department of Defense

executing a plan to evacuate approximately 30,000 people in the event that water levels overflow the city of Trinidad's surrounding wall.

- In Cochabamba Department, heavy rainfall resulted in the overflow of the Rocha River on February 2 and 3. On February 7, the GOB issued a red alert in Colcapirhua municipality due to damages caused by the river overflow. The USAID/OFDA team reported that flood-affected families have relocated to temporary shelters and schools. The GOB Civil Defense is providing food, mattresses, tents, and water containers to evacuees, and the Ministry of Health (MOH) is maintaining epidemiological surveillance systems in urban and rural areas of the department.
- On February 1, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers performed water site inspections at the Hampaturi and Incachaca water reservoirs in La Paz Department, in collaboration with USAID/OFDA staff and representatives from EPSAS, the GOB's water services company. According to the team, the collapse of the Hampaturi water system due to erosion of river overflow reduced the water supply by 50 percent, resulting in disruption of water services in several areas of La Paz Department. By February 14, the system had been repaired, and water distribution had improved.
- According to the USAID/OFDA team, officials from the GOB Ministry of National Defense continue to monitor water levels of the Piraí and Grande rivers in Santa Cruz Department. As of February 12, more than 1,000 families in Santa Cruz Department were in need of shelter. A U.N. Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team reported that more than 6,000 people were living in temporary camps as of February 12.

Emergency Relief Supplies

- On February 10, USAID/OFDA airlifted 310 rolls of plastic sheeting, 1,000 ten-liter water containers, and 1,536 hygiene kits from the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Miami to Bolivia. The total value of the USAID/OFDA supplies, including transport, was \$266,550. The airlift also included 48 small water purification units and 148 water testing kits donated by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. On February 11, the U.S. Ambassador presented the relief commodities to GOB Civil Defense officials, the Beni Prefect, and the Trinidad Mayor during a press conference held at the Jorge Henrich Arauz Airport in Trinidad. The emergency relief supplies will benefit nearly 2,000 families.

Shelter

- USAID/Bolivia is pre-positioning additional USAID/OFDA plastic sheeting, hygiene kits, and water containers in the community of El Puente, Santa Cruz Department, in the event that ongoing rains result in the relocation of lowland neighboring communities. USAID/Bolivia is also providing USAID/OFDA plastic sheeting and metal structures to ADRA and the Centro de Investigación, Estudios y Servicios en Salud (CIES) to set up 100 tents and a health post in the community of Santa Ana de Yacuma, Beni Department.

Emergency Food Assistance

- According to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), a total of 36,000 families in Bolivia are in need of food. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that WFP is donating 10 metric tons (MT) of high energy biscuits to assist flood-affected individuals, particularly children and pregnant and lactating women. The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) has provided more than 14,000 rations of baby food.
- The USAID/OFDA assessment team reported that as of February 12, the GOB had distributed approximately 500 MT of food to affected families and was preparing an additional 300 MT of food for distribution.

Health

- According to the USAID/OFDA team in Bolivia, the GOB MOH has issued dengue fever alerts in Beni, Cochabamba, and Santa Cruz departments. Forty health specialists deployed to Cochabamba Department continue to fumigate affected areas and provide health services. GOB officials have activated emergency health operations surveillance centers in Beni, Cochabamba, and Santa Cruz departments. The MOH continues to maintain epidemiological surveillance systems in urban and rural areas. In January, the MOH confirmed 109 cases of dengue fever but found no indication of a spread of the disease.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On January 27, U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia Philip S. Goldberg determined that the flooding warranted U.S. Government (USG) assistance and requested USAID/OFDA disaster support.
- In response, USAID/OFDA contributed an initial \$100,000 through USAID/Bolivia to ADRA for the purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies and to CIES for health services for affected families in Beni Department.
- Prior to the current rainy season, USAID/OFDA relief supplies were on hand in the cities of Trinidad, La Paz, and Santa Cruz. USAID/Bolivia, working through ADRA and CIES, set up 210 tents and a health center for approximately 250 families in Trinidad, utilizing USAID/OFDA pre-positioned relief supplies.
- In response to humanitarian needs, the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) has provided \$50,000 for the local purchase and distribution of relief commodities to affected households in Cochabamba and Santa Cruz departments

through the GOB Civil Defense. On January 24, SOUTHCOM deployed three military liaison officers to provide assistance at the U.S. Embassy in La Paz.

- USAID/Bolivia's Office of Integrated Alternative Development, working through ACDI/VOCA, has provided relief assistance, including bedding, mosquito nets, food, temporary shelter, clothing, fuel, and other relief items, to affected families in the Chapare Region, Cochabamba Department. ACDI/VOCA is providing emergency relief supplies and food to communities in the municipality of Puerto Villaroel and the indigenous communities of Via Recuate, Tres Islas, Carpenahu, Carpenahu Nueva, Santa Isabel, Puerto las Flores, and Tres Bocas. The value of this assistance is more than \$28,000.
- With support from USAID/Bolivia's Office of Health, John Snow, Inc. (JSI) is conducting epidemiological surveillance activities and providing assistance with fumigation and control of mosquito focus areas, in coordination with the Cochabamba Departmental Health Service and local authorities. This support is valued at nearly \$10,000. Both the ACDI/VOCA and JSI interventions are benefiting approximately 730 families in Cochabamba Department.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BOLIVIA IN FY 2008

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
ADRA	Emergency Relief Supplies	Beni, Santa Cruz Departments	\$75,000
CIES	Health	Beni Department	\$25,000
	Airlift of Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$266,550
	Administrative Support		\$6,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$372,550
USAID/BOLIVIA ASSISTANCE			
JSI	Health	Cochabamba Department	\$9,510
ACDI/VOCA	Emergency Relief Supplies	Cochabamba Department	\$28,265
TOTAL USAID/BOLIVIA			\$37,775
U.S. EMBASSY ASSISTANCE			
	Aerial Assessments, Transport of Humanitarian Personnel and Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$20,597
	Transport of Emergency Relief Supplies and Personnel	Beni Department	\$12,317
TOTAL U.S. EMBASSY			\$32,915
DOD ASSISTANCE			
GOB Civil Defense	Emergency Relief Supplies	Cochabamba, Santa Cruz Departments	\$50,000
TOTAL DOD			\$50,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BOLIVIA IN FY 2008			\$493,240

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of February 15, 2008.

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 Bolivia may be available at 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 – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int