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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)

Dominican Republic – Tropical Storm

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

November 2, 2007

BACKGROUND AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Beginning October 28, heavy rainfall from Tropical Storm Noel caused severe flooding in the southern, central, and western regions of the Dominican Republic. The storm and flooding killed at least 79 people, with 43 others reported missing. More than 65,000 individuals have been displaced according to the latest reports from the Government of the Dominican Republic (GODR).
- The storm and flooding also destroyed at least 600 houses and damaged more than 24,500 others, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). In addition, flooding damaged numerous roads and bridges and disrupted the country’s electrical power infrastructure. The tropical storm also damaged agricultural crops, including approximately 95 percent of banana, plantain, and tomato plantations in the southern provinces of Azua and Peravia, according to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).
- A seven-member USAID/OFDA assessment team, which began deploying on October 31, is now assessing needs and coordinating relief operations with the U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo, USAID/Dominican Republic, the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), the GODR, and other relief organizations.
- On the evening of November 2, USAID/OFDA is airlifting relief supplies, including 6,000 each of blankets, hygiene kits, and water containers to Santo Domingo, for distribution to approximately 30,000 beneficiaries. These relief supplies are valued at \$147,350, including transport.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE*		SOURCE
Total Affected Population	79 dead, 43 missing, 65,000 displaced	OCHA – November 2, 2007
Houses Damaged or Destroyed	600 houses destroyed, 24,500 houses damaged	OCHA – November 1, 2007

*Figures based on preliminary estimates.

FY 2008 Humanitarian Funding to Date

USAID/OFDA Assistance to the Dominican Republic \$747,350
Total USAID Assistance to the Dominican Republic \$747,350

CURRENT SITUATION

- On October 31, the GODR declared a state of emergency and requested international assistance. The GODR also announced an initial grant of \$2.9 million for affected areas through the Presidential Social Assistance Plan.
- The GODR’s Civil Defense reported that as of October 31, shelters had surpassed maximum capacity. The USAID/OFDA assessment team in the Dominican Republic indicated that largest immediate concern is access to clean water and related health and hygiene issues
- According to OCHA, major needs include food, shelter and hygiene supplies, medicine and medical supplies, and security. On October 31, the GODR’s National Emergency Commission activated the Emergency Operation Center, which is directing relief operations at the national, regional, and provincial levels in coordination with GODR ministries, and working with humanitarian organizations.
- On November 1, IFRC released an appeal requesting nearly \$680,000 to assist 15,000 beneficiaries for six months for Haiti and the Dominican Republic.
- On October 31, a U.N. Disaster Assessment and Coordination team began deploying to the Dominican Republic, supported by a team from Telecoms Sans Frontières.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On October 31, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Roland W. Bullen declared a disaster due to the effects of the tropical storm and floods. In response, USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$100,000 through USAID/Dominican Republic to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and World Vision for the local purchase and transport of potable water, shelter materials, and other emergency relief supplies.
- Based on additional needs, USAID/OFDA is providing an additional \$500,000 through USAID/Dominican Republic for emergency relief supplies, water, sanitation, and hygiene support, and other emergency relief activities.

- On November 1, three U.S. Coast Guard helicopters began conducting search and rescue operations and assisted with aerial assessments of affected areas to determine needs. Additional DOD helicopters and personnel are en route to the Dominican Republic.
- In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$2.4 million in assistance to countries affected by hurricanes Dean and Felix. Since 2000, USAID has provided more than \$145 million in response to the effects of hurricanes and tropical storms throughout Central America and the Caribbean.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
USAID/Dominican Republic	Emergency Relief Supplies, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, and other Emergency Relief Activities	Affected Areas	\$500,000
CRS	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$50,000
World Vision	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$50,000
USAID/Dominican Republic	Emergency Relief Supplies from USAID/OFDA's Miami Warehouse	Affected Areas	\$147,350
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN FY 2008			\$747,350
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN FY 2008			\$747,350

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of November 2, 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 the Dominican Republic 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