



***Dominican Republic – Tropical Storm***

Fact Sheet #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

November 5, 2007

**KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- An eight-member USAID/OFDA assessment team, which began deploying on October 31, is working with USAID/Dominican Republic, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the U.S. Peace Corps to coordinate and deliver relief supplies. Since November 3, Peace Corps volunteers have assisted in offloading commodities at the Santo Domingo airport.
- On November 4, USAID/OFDA dispatched a second airlift of relief supplies to Santo Domingo containing 5,400 ten-liter water containers, 5,088 hygiene kits, and 150 rolls of plastic sheeting. The airlift also carried ten 10,000-liter water bladders, each of which – when full – can serve between 600 and 700 people. These relief supplies are valued at \$203,178, including transport.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE*		SOURCE
<b>Total Affected Population</b>	85 dead, 48 missing, 66,568 displaced	GODR <sup>1</sup> – November 4, 2007
<b>Houses Damaged or Destroyed</b>	737 houses destroyed, 15,905 houses damaged	GODR – November 4, 2007

\*Figures based on preliminary estimates.

**FY 2008 Humanitarian Funding to Date**

**USAID/OFDA Assistance to the Dominican Republic ..... \$1,150,528**  
**Total U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) Assistance to the Dominican Republic<sup>2</sup> ..... \$30,000**  
**Total USG Assistance to the Dominican Republic..... \$1,180,528**

**CURRENT SITUATION**

- According to preliminary assessments conducted by the U.N., GODR, and a USAID/OFDA assessment team, the most affected areas are Barahona Province in western Dominican Republic and the Bajo Yuna area in northern Dominican Republic.
- Throughout affected areas, flooding has damaged and destroyed infrastructure and led to significant loss of homes, livestock, and other personal property. Flood waters have damaged 46 bridges and highways, and standing water has cut off communication to 137 communities. The GODR Emergency Operation Center (COE) reports that flooding has damaged 15,905 homes and destroyed 737 others. Standing water has caused damage throughout the country.
- Of the approximately 67,000 people displaced, more than 23,000 are currently in official shelters, which GODR officials have established in numerous schools, as well as government buildings, churches, libraries, and other buildings. The remaining 43,500 displaced persons are taking shelter with relatives and friends.
- According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 40 percent of the water distribution system and 60 percent of the country’s 122 aqueducts have been damaged. OCHA also reported that public shelters are experiencing a shortage of relief supplies and some hospitals and other medical facilities have reached maximum functional capacity. The USAID/OFDA assessment team noted that in areas with extensive damage, public shelters are becoming overtaxed and sanitation is deteriorating.
- The U.N. Country Team is finalizing a flash appeal which will focus on sectors including coordination and communications, food and nutrition, health, shelter, and water and sanitation. The appeal will also contain a request for a Central Emergency Response Fund grant.

**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. USAID/OFDA also provided an additional \$500,000 through USAID/Dominican Republic for emergency relief supplies, water, sanitation, and hygiene support, and other emergency relief activities.
- In response to the need for health services for flood-affected populations, USAID/OFDA is providing \$200,000 for the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) emergency appeal.

<sup>1</sup> Government of the Dominican Republic

<sup>2</sup> DOD has also provided in-kind helicopter support for the distribution of emergency relief supplies.

- In addition to providing helicopter support for the distribution of USAID/OFDA and UN cargo, U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) has purchased emergency relief commodities using its own humanitarian assistance funding. SOUTHCOM provided \$30,000 for the local purchase of water purification tablets, personal hygiene supplies, diapers, and other infant items. Recipient communities have been identified, and transportation and distribution are ongoing.
- USAID/OFDA has delivered ten 10,000-liter water bladders, 150 rolls of plastic sheeting, 6,000 blankets, 11,400 ten-liter water containers, and 11,136 hygiene kits from the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Miami to Santo Domingo via two airlifts. USAID/OFDA is distributing the relief supplies through the GODR, including the Ministry of health, and implementing partners including the Asociacion para el Desarrollo de San Jose de Ocoa, the Dominican Red Cross, Fundasur, El Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral, Sodin, and World Vision.

### Regional Funding

- In addition to the assistance detailed above, in FY 2007, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$2.4 million in assistance to countries affected by hurricanes Dean and Felix. For more information please review the USAID/OFDA Latin America and the Caribbean Hurricane Season 2007 fact sheets, which can be found on the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/).
- 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.

### USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
USAID/Dominican Republic	Emergency Relief Supplies, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, and other Emergency Relief Activities	Affected Areas	\$500,000
PAHO	Health	Affected Areas	\$200,000
CRS	Emergency Relief Supplies	San Cristobal Province	\$50,000
World Vision	Emergency Relief Supplies	Bahoruco and Barahona provinces	\$50,000
GODR and implementing partners	Emergency Relief Supplies from USAID/OFDA's Miami Warehouse	Affected Areas	\$350,528
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$1,150,528</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$1,150,528</b>
<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ASSISTANCE</b>			
SOUTHCOM	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Supplies	Affected Areas	\$30,000
<b>TOTAL DOD HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN FY 2008<sup>2</sup></b>			<b>\$30,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$1,180,528</b>

<sup>1</sup>USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of November 5, 2007.

<sup>2</sup>DOD has also provided in-kind helicopter support for the distribution of emergency relief supplies.

### 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](http://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](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)