



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

Dominican Republic and Haiti – Floods

Fact Sheet #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

June 9, 2004

Note: The last fact sheet was dated June 2, 2004.

BACKGROUND

- Several days of heavy rains in late May caused rivers to overflow in areas near the southern border between the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The flooding devastated entire communities, caused massive loss of life, displaced tens of thousands of people on both sides of the border, and resulted in sizeable crop and livestock losses. The damage to highways and village roads also isolated communities from ongoing relief efforts.
- The most recent figures provided by the Government of the Dominican Republic's (GODR) Emergency Operations Center (COE) indicate that the flooding killed 414 people (393 in the town of Jimaní) and left approximately 270 people missing, all of whom are from Jimaní. Throughout the country, the flooding affected more than 15,000 people, displaced 1,600 families, and damaged or destroyed 3,000 houses.
- According to the June 5 U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) report, the most recent official figures indicate that the flooding in Haiti killed 1,059 people, injured 153 people, affected 6,226 families, destroyed 1,698 houses, and damaged 1,687 houses. Approximately 1,600 people are still missing in Haiti. Few of those missing are expected to be survivors.
- To date, USAID/OFDA has provided in response to the flooding in the Dominican Republic and Haiti is \$800,000. The USAID contribution in response to the flooding is \$1,328,700.

CURRENT SITUATION

Dominican Republic

- On May 27, a two-person team consisting of a USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor and USAID/OFDA Consultant traveled to the town of Jimaní and reported that although the floods did not cause significant damage to the water distribution network or the town's storage tank, no potable water was available in Jimaní at the time of the team's visit. The USAID/OFDA team also visited several other areas, including the town of Arenoso, where local Catholic priests reported that the flooding affected at least 12,000 people in the area and destroyed 7,600 hectares of rice fields, or 45 percent of the cultivated area in the zone. The team reported that no potable water was available in the Arenoso area and, that until the flood waters recede, damage to the water distribution system will be impossible to determine.
- On June 3, the GODR announced a reconstruction plan for the town of Jimaní. The plan includes road repair and shelter activities, as well as the dedication of a park to the victims of the flooding. According to a GODR spokesperson, 300 homes are under construction in Jimaní.
- The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reported on June 4 that a logistics officer will deploy to the Dominican Republic to improve logistics support in flood-affected areas by providing technical guidance, surveying the humanitarian situation, and coordinating those involved in the humanitarian response. As of June 4, WFP had distributed 10 metric tons (MT) of emergency food assistance to affected populations in the Dominican Republic using commodities available under the school-feeding program.
- The International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) reported on June 4 that the IFRC's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) mobilized disaster management delegates to the Dominican Republic and Haiti in order to support the two national societies. The Dominican Red Cross distributed food, water, and relief items to those affected by floods in the provinces of Independencia, Duarte, and Sanchez Ramirez.

Haiti

- As of June 1, the Multinational Interim Force (MIF) returned to the primary mission in Haiti of ensuring the security of Port-au-Prince, and is no longer carrying out humanitarian assistance missions.
- On June 4, the USAID/Haiti Mission Disaster Relief Officer and a USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor in Port-au-Prince traveled to Fonds Verrettes with staff from Catholic Relief Services (CRS). The road to Fonds Verrettes was passable, but access will be difficult as the rainy season continues. In Fonds Verrettes, USAID/Haiti and USAID/OFDA met with a representative of the Civil Protection Agency, as well as town leaders, who reported that the health clinic was not affected by the flooding and is operating as usual. According to USAID/Haiti and USAID/OFDA, there appeared to be no shelter needs in Fonds Verrettes, as survivors have moved in with friends or relatives.
- According to USAID/Haiti and USAID/OFDA, the town of Mapou remains flooded and is inaccessible by road.

No significant increase in respiratory infections, diarrhea or malnutrition has been reported. IFRC is sending a team to Mapou to provide psychological assistance to those affected by the floods. In addition, the work of recovering bodies and animal corpses in Mapou continues as the water level recedes.

- The USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor in Haiti reported that concerns exist regarding isolated areas that have suffered damage from the flooding and have not yet been reached by relief efforts.
- On June 5, UN OCHA reported that in the days and weeks to come, additional rain will cause more landslides and flooding in the Mapou area. An evacuation operation is ongoing in Bawa, and 103 families have been evacuated to date. Half of the population in the villages of Nan Roche and St. Michel will also have to be resettled. UN OCHA reported that a strong police presence in the region is required to ensure the effective distribution of relief supplies.
- WFP reported on June 7 that approximately 10,000 residents of the Southeastern Department villages of Barrois, St Michel, Nan Galet, Nan Roche, and Didier are in urgent need of food assistance and water. The floods have reportedly destroyed between 50 to 70 percent of the agricultural production in five villages of the Mapou area, and approximately 80 percent of the wells in the area are contaminated.

USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Dominican Republic

- On May 26, U.S. Ambassador to the Dominican Republic Hans H. Hertell issued a disaster declaration due to the magnitude of damage caused by the flooding.
- USAID/OFDA has provided a total of \$300,000 in emergency relief funds for the Dominican Republic, in support of the following relief activities: \$90,000 to World Vision to purchase and distribute emergency non-food relief supplies, including hygiene kits, mosquito nets, cooking kits, bedding, plastic sheeting for temporary shelters, and small potable water containers; \$10,000 to USAID/Dominican Republic to procure fuel directly for use by the Government of the Dominican Republic to facilitate road repair and to improve humanitarian access to the affected areas; \$100,000 to the IFRC appeal to support relief activities in the Dominican Republic; and \$100,000 to the PAHO appeal for emergency medical activities.
- On May 26, a USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor and a USAID/OFDA Consultant traveled to the Dominican Republic to conduct damage and needs assessments and to work closely with USAID/Dominican Republic and other relief agencies. On May 28, a second USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor traveled to the Dominican Republic to assist the USAID/OFDA team in country.

Haiti

- On May 26, U.S. Ambassador to Haiti James B. Foley issued a disaster declaration due to the damage caused by the flooding.
- USAID/OFDA has provided a total of \$500,000 in emergency relief funds to Haiti, in support of the following relief activities: \$140,000 to CRS to purchase and distribute emergency non-food relief supplies, including hygiene kits, cooking kits, blankets, and water containers; \$10,000 to USAID/Haiti for the procurement of fuel for use by the Government of Haiti's Ministry of Public Works to carry out urgent road repair in the affected area; and \$150,000 to the IFRC appeal to support relief activities in Haiti. USAID/OFDA also provided \$200,000 to WFP, including \$100,000 for the air transport of relief supplies and personnel and \$100,000 for road repair in flood-affected areas in southeastern Haiti.
- On June 2, a USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor traveled from the Dominican Republic to Haiti to coordinate with other organizations and participate in damage and needs assessments.
- USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) provided 990 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance, valued at \$828,700, to the WFP Emergency Operation (EMOP) in Haiti. The WFP EMOP, initially planned to target vulnerable populations affected by political and civil unrest, is also assisting the flood-affected population in Haiti. Therefore, the USAID/FFP contribution will be used both to assist flood victims (an estimated 31,000 beneficiaries) and to help replenish EMOP stocks (the EMOP targets 140,000 beneficiaries).

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
IFRC	Support for IFRC appeal for relief activities	Dominican Republic	\$100,000
PAHO	Support for PAHO appeal for emergency medical activities	Dominican Republic	\$100,000
USAID/Dominican Republic	Procurement of fuel for road repair	Dominican Republic	\$10,000
World Vision	Purchase and distribution of relief supplies	Dominican Republic	\$90,000
USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC			\$300,000

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amount as of June 9, 2004, for the current flooding emergency.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE²			
IFRC	Support for IFRC appeal for relief activities	Haiti	\$150,000
Catholic Relief Services	Purchase and distribution of relief supplies	Haiti	\$140,000
USAID/Haiti	Procurement of fuel for road repair	Haiti	\$10,000
WFP	Air transport and road repair	Haiti	\$200,000
USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI.....			\$500,000
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP ³	990 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Haiti	\$828,700
USAID/FFP HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI.....			\$828,700
USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI			\$1,328,700

² USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amount as of June 9, 2004, for the current flooding emergency.

³ USAID/FFP funding is for the WFP Emergency Operation (EMOP) established to address civil unrest in Haiti. USAID/FFP's contribution will be used both to help flood victims (an estimated 31,000 beneficiaries) and to help replenish EMOP stocks (the EMOP targets 140,000 beneficiaries).

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. For a list of organizations that are accepting donations for their response efforts, go to www.interaction.org/DR/index.html.
- 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 can be found at:
 - The U.S. Agency for International Development: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org
 - InterAction: www.interaction.org -> “How You Can Help”
- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.org.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/.