



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

THE CARIBBEAN – Hurricanes

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

September 10, 2004

CARIBBEAN HURRICANES – NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

SOURCE

Hurricane Ivan	Affected population:	60,000 in Grenada ¹	USAID/DART
Hurricane Frances	Displaced population:	800 in the Bahamas	USAID/DART
	Homes damaged/destroyed:	80 in the Bahamas	

LOCATIONS OF USAID/DART

Currently an 11-person USAID/Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) is positioned in Jamaica, Haiti, and Grenada to respond to the effects of Hurricane Ivan. The DART Team Leader, based in San Jose, will support the USAID/DART teams in all three locations.

Jamaica: Deputy Team Leader, Information Officer, Communications Officer, and a USAID/OFDA Consultant arrived on September 9 to prepare for the potential effects of Hurricane Ivan.

Haiti: Deputy Team Leader arrived in Haiti on September 9 to monitor possible mudslides and flooding.

Grenada: Deputy Team Leader and a USAID/OFDA consultant are stationed at Embassy Grenada to assist the U.S. Embassy with assessments and planning. An Information Officer, Communications Officer, and Technical Specialist will arrive on September 10.

Barbados: Administrative Support Officer is supporting the USAID/DART from the USAID/OFDA regional office.

Total USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance to the Caribbean..... \$538,574

HURRICANE IVAN

Background

- The National Hurricane Center (NHC) reports that on September 7 Hurricane Ivan passed through the island of Grenada with sustained winds of 120 mph. Venezuela, as well as the islands of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, and Saint Lucia, experienced hurricane-related winds and heavy rains.
- According to the USAID/DART, Hurricane Ivan has killed at least 23 people and injured 150 others in Grenada. International media reported a total of 2 deaths in Tobago and Venezuela.
- The USAID/DART reports that approximately 60,000 people, out of Grenada’s population of nearly 90,000, are in need of assistance. Churches that were used as shelter suffered significant damage, and hundreds of homes were completely or partially destroyed.
- Initial reports indicate that the islands of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, and Saint Lucia sustained relatively minor damage. In the Grenadines, three main hospitals reportedly lost roofs, and much of Tobago lost power, water, or telephone services. Strong winds left parts of Barbados without power and damaged an estimated 200 homes. Saint Lucia reportedly sustained minor roof damage.

Current Situation: Grenada

- A USAID/OFDA consultant arrived in Grenada on September 8 and was joined by the USAID/DART deputy leader on September 10. The USAID/DART will conduct a rapid needs assessment, determine humanitarian assistance requirements, and coordinate USG assistance.
- USAID/OFDA is also coordinating with Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) and members of the Eastern Caribbean Donor Group (ECDG), which includes the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Forecast

- As of 5 p.m. EDT on September 10, the NHC reported that the eye of Hurricane Ivan was located approximately 80 miles east-southeast of Kingston, Jamaica. Hurricane Ivan should continue north and reach Jamaica late September 10 or early September 11. Hurricane Ivan should reach the Cayman Islands late September 11.

¹ *Numbers at a glance* represent estimates as of September 10, 2004. USAID/DART assessments are ongoing and will provide more specific information on the number of displaced persons and damaged or destroyed homes within the next few days.

- The NHC reports that maximum sustained winds are near 140 mph with higher gusts, making Ivan a Category 4 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale.² Hurricane force winds extend outward up to 60 miles from the center, and tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 175 miles from the center.
- Storm surge flooding of five to eight feet above normal tide levels, with large and dangerous battering waves, can be expected near the center of Ivan in the hurricane warning area. Rainfall amounts of six to ten inches, possibly causing flash floods and mudslides, can be expected along the path of Ivan.
- The NHC reports that a hurricane watch and tropical storm warning are in effect for parts of the Dominican Republic and Haiti. A hurricane watch is in effect for parts of Cuba, and a hurricane warning is in effect for all of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. A hurricane warning means hurricane conditions are expected within 24 hours.
- On September 9, three members of the USAID/DART arrived in Jamaica to prepare for the potential effects of Hurricane Ivan. One USAID/DART team member arrived in Haiti to monitor possible mudslides and flooding.
- According to international media reports, Cuba has begun preparing for the storm in 11 of its 14 provinces.

HURRICANE FRANCES

Background

- From September 2 to 4, Hurricane Frances passed through the Bahamas with maximum sustained winds ranging from 120 mph to 145 mph, according to the NHC. The Bahamian National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) reports significant property damage in all islands of the Bahamas, particularly Grand Bahama, the Abacos, Mayaguana, San Salvador, Cat Island, Eleuthera, and New Providence, including the capital Nassau.
- The USAID/DART reports that Hurricane Frances killed 2 people and displaced more than 800 residents.
- The hurricane damaged or destroyed more than 80 homes and damaged sea walls, schools, bridges, roads, and docks, according to the USAID/DART. Strong winds knocked down trees and blocked roads, as well as damaged telecommunications and electricity systems, interrupting the delivery of potable water to the outlying islands, known as the family islands.
- CDERA reports the hurricane caused minimal damage in Turks and Caicos islands, despite strong winds and rains.

Current Situation: Commonwealth of the Bahamas

- On September 1, four members of a USAID/DART and a USAID/OFDA consultant to the Bahamas established an operations center in Nassau in advance of Hurricane Frances. The USAID/DART met with representatives from the U.S. Embassy, the National Disaster Response Center, and PAHO.
- The USAID/DART assisted the U.S. Embassy and local counterparts in assessing the impact of Hurricane Frances, determining humanitarian assistance requirements, and coordinating USG humanitarian assistance.
- On September 5 and 6, the USAID/DART participated in multi-agency damage assessments of the affected islands. The USAID/DART reported that, given the intensity of Hurricane Frances, the Bahamas experienced minor damage to houses and infrastructure in most areas and moderate to severe damage only in localized settlements on some of the family islands.
- The USAID/DART reports the most urgent needs are the provision and distribution of drinking water in Grand Bahama Island and temporary roofing materials in the islands of Grand Bahama, San Salvador, and Cat Island.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Grenada

- On September 8, 2004, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Mary Ellen Gilroy issued a disaster declaration for Grenada due to the damage caused by Hurricane Ivan.
- USAID/OFDA is providing \$50,000 to support local purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies, in-country air transport, and aerial assessments of affected areas in Grenada.
- As of September 10, USAID/OFDA has conducted one airlift of emergency relief supplies from Miami to Grenada, including 10,160 water containers, 500 rolls of plastic sheeting, and 4 water bladders. The plastic sheeting will meet the needs of 25,000 beneficiaries. The water purification unit is capable of processing enough water for 10,000 people per day. The total value of USG emergency relief supplies, including transport, is \$253,750.
- USAID/OFDA is supporting an emergency damage assessment of the Grenada electric power system. Two electrical engineers are due to arrive in Grenada on September 13.

Commonwealth of the Bahamas

- On September 5, 2004, U.S. Ambassador John D. Rood issued a disaster declaration for the Commonwealth of the Bahamas due to the damage caused by Hurricane Frances.
- USAID/OFDA is providing \$50,000 to support local purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies, in-country air transport, and aerial assessments of affected areas in Grenada.

² The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale rates a hurricane from 1 to 5 based on the hurricane's present intensity. This is used to give an estimate of the potential property damage and flooding expected along the coast from a hurricane landfall. Wind speed is the determining factor in the scale, as storm surge values are highly dependent on the slope of the continental shelf in the landfall region.

- As of September 10, USAID/OFDA has conducted three airlifts of emergency relief supplies from Miami to the Bahamas, carrying 4,000 blankets, more than 2,300 hygiene kits, 4,800 jerry cans, 200 rolls of plastic sheeting, 9 water bladders, and one high-capacity water purification unit. The hygiene kits will support the needs of one family for two weeks, and the plastic sheeting will meet the needs of 10,000 beneficiaries. The water purification unit is capable of processing enough water for 10,000 people per day. The total value of USG emergency relief supplies, including transport, is \$184,824.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE CARIBBEAN

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO GRENADA¹			
U.S. Embassy Bridgetown	Air transport, distribution of emergency relief supplies, and aerial assessments	Countrywide	\$50,000
Various	Emergency relief supplies	Countrywide	\$183,500
Various	Airlift of emergency relief supplies	Countrywide	\$70,250
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$303,750
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO THE BAHAMAS¹			
U.S. Embassy Nassau	Air transport, distribution of emergency relief supplies, and aerial assessments	Countrywide	\$50,000
Various	Emergency relief supplies	Countrywide	\$149,124
Various	Airlift of emergency relief supplies	Countrywide	\$35,700
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$234,824
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE CARIBBEAN IN FY 2004.....			\$538,574

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amount as of September 10, 2004.

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 response to Hurricane Ivan can be found in the “How Can I Help” section of www.usaid.gov - Keyword: Ivan, 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 can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - 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.org.

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