

INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION

Project Location: Jamaica

Project Title: Special Objective – Jamaica Hurricane Recovery

Funding: US\$ 18 million

Life of SO: November 29, 2004 – December 29, 2006

IEE Prepared by: Karyll Johnston, SO2, USAID/Jamaica

Clearance: Karen McDonald-Gayle, SO2 _____
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Recommended
Threshold Decision: Categorical Exclusion/Negative Determination with
Condition /Deferral

CONCURRENCE

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**MISSION DIRECTOR'S
DECISION**

Approved: _____
Karen D. Turner

Date: _____

**LAC BUREAU
ENVIRONMENTAL
OFFICER'S DECISION**

Approved: _____
Jerry Bisson

Date: _____

Background: On September 10-11, 2004, Hurricane Ivan subjected the island of Jamaica to heavy rains and strong winds, causing significant human suffering and economic losses. About 14 percent of the total population, or some 369,685 persons were directly affected, and 17 persons lost their lives. Economic losses were also significant. Though agriculture was hardest hit, mining, the financial sector, services and the important tourism sector were also impacted. The Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ)'s assessment puts the damage at US\$362 million. Direct damage, which includes damage to infrastructure, amounts to nearly US\$300 million, while indirect losses are estimated at US\$62 million. GDP growth is forecast to drop from 4 percent to 2 percent for the coming year.

Damage was reported in the following categories, housing and household property, hotels and other tourism attractions, schools and colleges, public & private hospitals and health centers, agricultural crops, and livestock. Many of the coastal ecosystems on the south coast suffered some damage, while across the island, hundreds of trees were downed.

In October 2004, Congress passed a supplemental appropriation which provided US\$100 million "to respond to the disasters caused by hurricanes and tropical storms in the Caribbean region." Of this amount, US\$18 million is proposed for Jamaica. This supplemental funding allows USAID to provide recovery assistance that is both substantial and prompt. The proposed 14-month program will help the people of Jamaica quickly to rebuild and resume their path of sustainable development.

Program Description: The proposed activities of the Special Objective will give urgent attention to people's livelihood and shelter needs, targeting the neediest and hardest hit communities. To achieve the Special Objective "*Living conditions improved for Jamaicans affected by Hurricane Ivan*" three intermediate results (IRs) have been identified.

(IR1) Communities revitalized (\$8 million) - Assistance under this IR will be focused primarily on the most urgent rehabilitation needs of hardest hit communities in the parishes of Clarendon, St. Elizabeth, Manchester and St. Catherine, and will target lower income groups.

USAID housing assistance will include both self-help housing repair and new housing construction. In addition, community centers and water and sanitation systems will be repaired in target communities. Assistance will include strengthening local capacity to carry out the work (including compliance with environmental standards and building codes) and will create community-based income opportunities. Specific activities include:

- * repairs to roofs and building structures from wind and storm water damage
- * repairs to water and sanitation systems in communities suffering hurricane damage
- * construction of low-income housing (including site development infrastructure e.g. electrical connections, roads, water and sanitation systems)

- * training in repair and maintenance of water and sanitation systems

(IR2) Productive and export capability reestablished (\$ 6 million) - Under this IR, USAID will provide recovery assistance to small businesses and agricultural enterprises. This will include the provision of technical assistance to select businesses (agricultural and commercial) to develop business recovery work plans. Where applicable, support will include the rehabilitation of tourism enterprises and attractions. Technical and developmental support will be provided to the craft and giftware sector that is expected to provide employment, particularly for persons displaced from jobs due to the hurricane's impact. Specific business recovery activities include:

- * technical assistance to targeted firms in preparing business plans, financial proposals and strategies for market re-entry
- * grants to target small and medium enterprises to restart business activity and employment
- * technical assistance to coordinate restored production with markets
- * technical assistance and training in business skills for the crafts/giftware sector

Agricultural productivity will be stimulated through direct technical assistance. In addition, seeds, planting material, tools, irrigation equipment and other production inputs will be provided to support the restoration of productivity in the vegetable, fruit and poultry sub-sectors. Rebuilding of livestock housing will be carried out for intensive livestock operations. Day-old chicks will be provided as initial inputs. Support to the agricultural sector will include:

- * technical assistance for the market and needs assessment, and input packages for select unprotected crops e.g. vegetables, fruit and poultry
- * provision of grants to restore cash crop production for the domestic market (grants will support the procurement of seeds, tools, equipment and supplies, including pesticides)
- * provision of grants to support the restoration of the poultry sector (this will include the provision of broilers, breeders and replacement pullets; inputs such as feeds and medicinal inputs; and the construction and repair of poultry facilities).
- * technical assistance and grants to support the supply of new planting material of selected traditional cash crops (N.B. This activity will not involve the procurement or introduction of non-native species to Jamaica)
- * technical assistance for a fisheries sector needs assessment and response package development for the sector. This needs assessment will focus on Jamaica's marine fisheries on the South Coast of Jamaica – hardest hit by Hurricane Ivan
- * training to farmers and fishers on sector best practices (e.g. land management, selective harvesting and agricultural best practices)

(IR3) Educational capacity in target schools restored (\$4 million) - Under IR-3, USAID will finance the repair of primary schools, in the parishes of Clarendon, St. Elizabeth, Manchester and St. Catherine, and as selected by the Ministry of Education. This will also involve the provision of equipment and furniture. The schools will be restored to pre-Ivan condition or better and will meet environmental standards and building codes.

Schools which also function as shelters will be improved to safely function operate in this additional capacity. Repair work will be done through subcontracts with NGOs or local building contractors. Activities will include:

- * repair, renovate, and refurbish select primary schools and a community college
- * provision of furnishings for damaged classrooms
- * water and sanitation improvements to school facilities
- * upgrade of facilities at schools which current serve as natural disaster shelters

Program Implementation: USAID proposes to use the services of an institutional contractor to oversee the program contemplated under this special objective. Contractor costs, including the cost of implementing the program components and management oversight for the program, are estimated at 20 percent of the total program and are incorporated in the budgets for each IR.

Environmental Impact and Mitigation Measures: Where the three components of this program involve the provision of technical assistance, in the form of educational training and social and institutional capacity building, there will be no negative impact on the physical or natural environment. In fact training and technical assistance will promote sector best practices with an emphasis on minimizing environmental concerns.

Construction activities funded under the Special Objective may have potential negative impacts on the environment. These have been summarized in Table 1 overleaf. Where the activity involves housing construction, the review of environmental impacts and an environmental impact assessment will be carried out as a requirement of USAID environmental considerations. In addition, Jamaica's local environmental agency, the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), has its own licensing and permitting process for specific classes of housing construction. The contractor is therefore responsible for ensuring that local environmental and planning requirements are met.

Under the agricultural program there is potential for impacts from poor land management and agrochemical use. Measures will be implemented to ensure best practices, in fertility, moisture management, and integrated pest management, are incorporated. Agricultural bio-chemicals selected for use under the activity will be eco-friendly, with pesticides being selected from the USEPA list of approved pesticides as well as meeting the approval of Jamaica's Pesticides Control Authority (PCA). For these activities a Supplemental IEE, will be prepared, in accordance with Section 216.3(b) of the Agency's Environmental Regulations, for Agency approval.

Table 1: Summary of Activities, potential environmental impacts and Mitigative Measures

Intermediate Result/Activity	Potential Environmental Impact	Conditions recommended for mitigation
IR 1: Training for improved water and sanitation systems	No Impact	Training to be provided in basic waste, sanitation and environmental management to ensure environmental safeguarding for these and future local projects, including: proper use and maintenance of latrines, proper use and conservation of water, construction, and use of improved hurricane and energy-efficient housing techniques
IR 1: Housing repairs	Large amount of debris will be generated	Binding agreement, at inception, between collaborators, including local environmental authorities agreeing to method and site for disposal of waste materials
IR1: Repairs to and construction of water and sanitation systems	Improper site and technology selection for sanitation facilities can lead to harmful environmental effects	Technologies will incorporate site-specific engineering inputs.
IR 1: Low Income Housing Construction	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improper consideration of sanitation facilities will lead to harmful environmental effects 2. impact on biodiversity of extensive removal of plants in land preparation 	The contractor will be required to address all environmental considerations associated with this activity as well as conformation with the permitting process administered by the Government of Jamaica's National Environment and Planning Agency.
IR 2: Training and Technical Assistance business recovery and market coordination	No Impact	Training to emphasize the transfer of best business management practices, including environmental management systems (EMS).
IR 2: Grants to farming sector; cash crop production	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. land degradation due to the poor agricultural practices 2. Contamination of waterways by agro-chemicals 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training on agricultural best practices, including land management and agro-chemical use to be conducted with recipients. 2. Promotion of organic farming, and integrated pest management (IPM) 3. Agrochemicals to be selected for EPA approved list
IR 2: Grants to poultry and marine fisheries industry	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Generation of Nitrogen rich waste 2. Over-fishing 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Best practices in organic and inorganic waste disposal to be promoted 2. Best practice training to be provided
IR 3: Repairs and Upgrades to Schools and Community	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Generation of Debris 2. Ground cover removal for any new construction 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Binding agreement, prior to project inception, between collaborators and local environmental authorities, agreeing to method and site for disposal of waste materials 2. Trees/plants to be planted where construction activity has resulted in land clearing

Monitoring and Reporting: This Intervention will be managed within the USAID/Jamaica- Caribbean Office, based in Jamaica, by a USAID Technical Officer. Each activity will have site specific impact and mitigation measures that will be applied after the contractor has completed attached checklists as per "Regulation 216 Guidelines

for Jamaica¹". Checklists will be approved by the Cognizant Technical Officer (CTO) prior to activity implementation. The CTO will be responsible for overseeing, verifying and monitoring the implementation of mitigative measures throughout the life of the activity, ensuring compliance with the categorical exclusion and negative determination threshold decisions recommended for this program. In addition USAID/J-CAR will ensure that all environmental compliance activities are elaborated in all technical reports.

The CTO, together with partners, will be responsible for elaborating a report on environmental compliance in six months and again at the end of the project. USAID/J-Car's Mission Environmental Officer will review and approve these compliance reports. Appropriate sections of USAID/LAC Environmental Guidelines will be followed for corresponding activities of Hurricane Ivan Grenada Community Revitalization.

Recommendations for Threshold Decision:

Categorical Exclusion/Negative Determination with Conditions/Deferral

Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i), (v) and (xiv), a **Categorical Exclusion** is recommended for activities which involve the provision of technical assistance, education training, and social and institutional capacity building, which have no significant effect on the environment. Section 216.2 (c) specifically describes those activities that are wholly technical assistance and training as being qualified for categorical exclusion.

A **Negative Determination with conditions** is recommended for activities under the IRs involving small-scale construction, and soil and water conservation, agriculture and economic sector re-activation. Significant adverse environmental impacts are not reasonably foreseeable from implementation of these activities. The activity will have site specific impact and mitigative measures that will be applied as described in the previous sections. Potential minor impacts will be identified and mitigative measures applied by contractors/grantees through the review of approved "Regulation 216 Guidelines for Jamaica", and completion of the appropriate checklist. The contractor or grantee will be required to submit for USAID review and approval appropriate monitoring protocols. Furthermore, the following language will be included in Grant Agreement, and in all contracts and agreements under this activity:

"The Grantees and/or Contractors agree that all activities funded under this Agreement will comply with all environmental requirements applicable to USAID-financed activities, including those set forth in Title 22 of the United States Code of Federal Regulations Part 216.

For activities relating to agro-chemicals a **Deferral** is recommended, and in accordance with the procedures set forth in 22 CFR 216.3(b)(1), a supplemental IEE will be submitted to LAC Bureau upon final design of activities not specified in this document as well as when project specifics regarding use of chemicals are known.

¹http://inside.usaid.gov/LAC/RSD/E/docs/Jamaica_Guidelines.doc

General Conditions

All sub-grants issued under this agreement/contract shall contain a requirement that:
“Under no circumstances will funds be used for the procurement or use of pesticides, the purchase of equipment which could be used for commercial timber harvesting, nor activities, projects or programs, including management plans involving commercial timber harvesting unless the appropriate environmental assessment is conducted and is approved by the LAC BEO.”

Language in contracts and agreements should be included to ensure that the contractor/grantee is aware of and implements required mitigations or other prescribed environmental management measures pertinent to Regulation 216.

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