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

Latin America and the Caribbean – Hurricane Season 2010

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

June 4, 2010

BACKGROUND AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Between May 26 and May 30, Tropical Storm Agatha formed near Central America, making landfall along the western coast of Guatemala and causing heavy rainfall in 21 of 22 Guatemalan departments. The subsequent eruption of the Pacaya volcano on May 27 exacerbated the humanitarian needs resulting from the tropical storm. Heavy rains and flooding associated with Tropical Storm Agatha also affected all of El Salvador’s 14 departments and four western departments in Honduras.
- On May 30, U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala Stephen G. McFarland issued a disaster declaration due to the combined effects of Tropical Storm Agatha and the May 27 eruption of the Pacaya volcano. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$100,000 through USAID/Guatemala for the local purchase of emergency relief supplies, including blankets and shelter materials, for flood- and volcano-affected communities. USAID/OFDA also activated a nine-person assessment team in Guatemala, including a regional advisor, a military liaison officer, and a Guatemala-based disaster risk management specialist.
- In response to a U.S. Department of State (DoS) request, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) has deployed a team to assist with emergency operations through U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) to augment the U.S. Military Group at the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala City, in addition to a helicopter detachment from Joint Task Force–Bravo (JTF–B).
- On May 30, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires to El Salvador Robert I. Blau declared a disaster due to the effects of Tropical Storm Agatha. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$100,000 through USAID/El Salvador for the local purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies, including fuel for emergency response vehicles, shelter materials, and hygiene kits. As of June 4, a three-person USAID/OFDA assessment team, including an El Salvador-based disaster risk management specialist, was on the ground conducting damage assessments.
- On May 30, U.S. Ambassador to Honduras Hugo Llorens issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of Tropical Storm Agatha. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 through USAID/Honduras for the local purchase of emergency relief supplies, including blankets and shelter materials for at least 3,500 flood evacuees.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE
TROPICAL STORM AGATHA	
El Salvador	12 dead, 3 missing, 11,649 evacuated GoES ¹ – May 31, 2010
Guatemala	158 dead, 101 missing, 144,355 evacuated GoG ² – June 3, 2010
Honduras	16 dead, 1 missing, 11,828 evacuated GoH ³ – May 31, 2010

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO DATE FOR 2010 ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON

USAID/OFDA Assistance to El Salvador	\$100,000
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Guatemala	\$105,458
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Honduras	\$50,000
DoS Assistance to Guatemala	Forthcoming
DoD Assistance to Guatemala	\$584,000
Total USG⁴ Humanitarian Assistance for Tropical Depression Agatha	\$839,458⁵

¹ Government of El Salvador (GoES)

² Government of Guatemala (GoG)

³ Government of Honduras (GoH)

⁴ United States Government (USG)

⁵ Total USG assistance does not include anticipated funding from DoS.

CURRENT SITUATION

El Salvador

- Since May 26, heavy rains associated with Tropical Storm Agatha have affected all 14 departments of El Salvador, with damage centralized in the departments of San Salvador and Sonsonate.
- As of May 31, GoES officials reported that an estimated 11,649 people were housed in 185 emergency shelters. According to the USAID/OFDA assessment team, departments with the highest number of displaced persons include San Salvador, San Vicente, and Ahuachapán.
- According to the GoES Civil Protection, the storm destroyed or damaged more than 100 houses, at least 15 community centers, and approximately 5 bridges, as of June 2. The GoES Civil Protection also reported approximately 58 flooded areas and nearly 214 mudslides due to the storm.
- As of June 2, the GoES had suspended all emergency alerts issued during Tropical Storm Agatha, as conditions returned to normal. However, due to the heavy rainfall and ground saturation associated with Tropical Storm Agatha, the GoES warns that the risk for mudslides remains high.
- Displaced populations have begun returning to areas of origin as floodwaters subside. On June 3, USAID/OFDA staff in Honduras reported that approximately 3,600 people remained in 56 temporary shelters.
- The USAID/OFDA assessment team continues to work with GoES emergency officials, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), and municipal government leaders to conduct damage assessments and coordinate the response effort.

Guatemala

- Since May 26, heavy rains associated with Tropical Storm Agatha have caused flooding and mudslides in Sololá, Quetzaltenango, Retalhuleu, Suchitupéquez, Sacatepéquez, Escuintla, Totonicapán, Huehuetenango, and Quiché departments in Guatemala. On May 27, the Pacaya Volcano—located 25 miles south of Guatemala City—erupted, covering the capital in a layer of ash and causing the temporary closure of La Aurora International Airport.
- As of June 3, the GoG reported that the volcano and tropical storm had collectively resulted in 158 deaths, with at least 101 people reported missing. Additionally, the GoG reports that officials have evacuated approximately 144,355 people from houses in affected areas.
- According to the U.N. Country Team in Guatemala (UNCT), heavy rainfall and volcanic ash fall have affected farmland in the volcano's proximity, with farmers reporting heavy crop losses. The UNCT also reported that the storm had impacted at least half of the southern coast's production of sugar cane, sugar, bananas, and shrimp.
- On June 2, the GoG released a national recovery and reconstruction document describing planned interventions in humanitarian and livelihoods assistance, economic recovery and food security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and institutional strengthening.
- As of June 3, the U.N. had established a cluster system in Guatemala to coordinate response efforts in the health, shelter, food, agriculture, early recovery, and water, sanitation, and hygiene sectors.
- On June 1, representatives from the nine-person USAID/OFDA assessment team in Guatemala met with the President of Guatemala, Ambassador McFarland, and other GoG and USG officials to discuss the ongoing response effort.
- The SOUTHCOM team, U.S. Military Group staff, and JTF-B assets in Guatemala continue to airlift supplies to isolated affected communities. DoD helicopter detachments have worked closely with the GoG National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) and USAID/OFDA personnel to deliver emergency food assistance and relief commodities to affected areas. DoD has completed five missions to date with additional missions planned on June 4 and 5. Additional DoD assets have been conducting assessments of bridges and roads in storm-affected coastal areas.
- In addition, DoS—in close coordination with GoG officials, CONRED, USAID/OFDA, DoD, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—has utilized existing in-country air assets to provide initial reconnaissance and support for search and rescue missions and delivery of relief supplies to affected populations.

Honduras

- Since May 26, heavy rains associated with Tropical Storm Agatha have caused extensive flooding in Honduras, primarily affecting Choluteca, Valle, Cortés, and Francisco Morazán departments. On May 31, the GoH declared a state of emergency due to the effects of the tropical storm.
- On June 2, the GoH suspended all alerts issued during Tropical Storm Agatha as weather conditions returned to normal. However, as of June 4, the storm had resulted in 16 deaths, with nearly 12,000 people displaced and at least one person reported missing, according to the GoH.
- As of May 31, the GoH Ministry of Agriculture reported that heavy rains and floods had damaged or destroyed up to 14,000 acres of farmland.

- According to the U.N. Disaster Management Team in Honduras, WFP had delivered emergency food assistance for approximately 2,000 affected families, totaling 27 metric tons, as of June 2. Additionally, the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is acquiring emergency relief commodities, including kitchen sets and hygiene kits, for affected families.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

El Salvador

- On May 30, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Robert I. Blau declared a disaster due to the effects of Tropical Storm Agatha. In response, USAID/OFDA has provided \$100,000 through USAID/El Salvador for the local purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies. A USAID/OFDA assessment team remains on the ground conducting damage assessments.

Guatemala

- On May 30, U.S. Ambassador Stephen G. McFarland issued a disaster declaration due to the combined effects of Tropical Storm Agatha and the May 27 eruption of the Pacaya volcano. In response, USAID/OFDA has provided \$100,000 through USAID/Guatemala for the local purchase of emergency relief supplies. USAID/OFDA has also activated a nine-person assessment team in Guatemala.
- DoD has deployed a team from SOUTHCOM to augment the U.S. Military Group at the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala City, in addition to a helicopter detachment from JTF–B.

Honduras

- On May 30, U.S. Ambassador Hugo Llorens issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of Tropical Storm Agatha. In response, USAID/OFDA has provided \$50,000 through USAID/Honduras for the local purchase of emergency relief supplies.

FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR 2010 ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EL SALVADOR

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
USAID/El Salvador	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$100,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EL SALVADOR IN FY 2010			\$100,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EL SALVADOR IN FY 2010			\$100,000

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
USAID/Guatemala	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$100,000
	Administrative and Support Costs		\$5,458
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA IN FY 2010			\$105,458
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA IN FY 2010			\$105,458
DOS ASSISTANCE			
	Emergency Relief Activities	Affected Areas	Forthcoming
TOTAL DOS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA IN FY 2010			Forthcoming
DOD ASSISTANCE²			
	Emergency Relief Activities	Affected Areas	\$584,000
TOTAL DOD HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA IN FY 2010			\$584,000

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HONDURAS

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
USAID/Honduras	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$50,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HONDURAS IN FY 2010			\$50,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HONDURAS IN FY 2010			\$50,000

TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR HURRICANES IN FY 2010³			\$839,458
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¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of June 4, 2010.

² DoD funding represents anticipated or actually obligated amounts as of June 3, 2010.

³ Total USG assistance does not include anticipated funding from DoS.

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 Latin America and the Caribbean 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