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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 and Floods

Fact Sheet #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

September 22, 2010

Note: The last fact sheet was dated July 13, 2010.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Four named storms have made landfall in Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries to date during the 2010 hurricane season, which lasts from May to November. In recent months, rainfall accumulations significantly above average have exacerbated the effects of the storms in some areas, while also leading to floods and landslides in areas previously unaffected during the hurricane season.
- In early September, USAID/OFDA provided assistance to Guatemala in response to heavy rains that resulted in floods and landslides in areas already affected by Tropical Storm Agatha in late May; USAID/OFDA has also provided assistance to Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico during the 2010 Hurricane Season. However, despite significant rainfall in the region during August and September, national governments have primarily had the capacity to respond to humanitarian needs resulting from storms and floods.
- USAID/OFDA prioritizes hurricane preparedness and capacity building activities in the LAC region throughout the year to quickly respond to humanitarian needs during the hurricane season. USAID/OFDA has pre-positioned emergency relief commodities in the Bahamas, Belize, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, and St. Lucia, which can be supplemented with additional supplies from the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Miami, Florida. In addition, USAID/OFDA has agreements with air charter services for transportation of personnel and supplies, if needed. USAID/OFDA maintains country-based staff throughout the region to provide technical assistance to national governments and assess humanitarian impacts from recent storms and floods. The LAC Regional Office in San Jose, Costa Rica, is in close contact with mission disaster relief officers (MDROs) to identify potential requests for international assistance.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
TROPICAL STORM AGATHA (LANDFALL ON MAY 29, 2010)		
El Salvador	12 dead, 11,649 evacuated	GoES ¹ – June 1, 2010
Guatemala	174 dead, 154 injured, 397,808 affected	GoG ² – June 8, 2010
Honduras	18 dead, 16,673 evacuated	GoH ³ – June 3, 2010
HURRICANE ALEX (LANDFALL ON JUNE 30, 2010)		
Mexico	12 dead, 17,000 in emergency shelters, 26,000 houses damaged	GoM ⁴ – July 8, 2010
FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES⁵		
Brazil	72 dead, 157,000 displaced	CWS ⁶ – July 8, 2010
Costa Rica	106 in emergency shelters	REDLAC ⁷ – September 6, 2010
Guatemala	272 dead, 219,968 evacuated, 144,000 in emergency shelters, 600,000 affected	REDLAC – September 13, 2010
Honduras	114 dead, 3 missing, 3,400 affected	REDLAC – August 30, 2010
Mexico	230,000 affected, 800 in emergency shelters	REDLAC – September 6, 2010
Nicaragua	48 dead, 2,500 in emergency shelters, 48,800 affected	IFRC ⁸ – September 17, 2010

¹ Government of El Salvador (GoES)

² Government of Guatemala (GoG)

³ Government of Honduras (GoH)

⁴ Government of Mexico (GoM)

⁵ Numbers vary from cumulative to incident-based data depending on available information. Please see sources for additional information.

⁶ Church World Service (CWS)

⁷ The Risk Emergency Disaster Working Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC)

⁸ International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR 2010 LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN (LAC) HURRICANE SEASON	
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Brazil ⁹	\$105,133
USAID/OFDA Assistance to El Salvador	\$200,000
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Guatemala	\$1,379,944
State Assistance to Guatemala.....	\$189,735
DoD Assistance to Guatemala	\$971,000
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Haiti.....	\$1,147,815
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Honduras	\$150,000
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Mexico.....	\$423,530
Additional USAID/OFDA Regional Pre-Positioning Assistance	\$145,000
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance for 2010 LAC Hurricane Season and Floods	\$4,712,157

CONTEXT

- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) pre-season outlook issued in May indicated an 85 percent chance of an above normal hurricane season in the Atlantic. NOAA’s updated seasonal outlook in August predicts significant activity for the remainder of the season, with 12 to 17 named storms in addition to those to date. Of the additional storms, between 7 and 11 are expected to become hurricanes and between 4 and 6 may reach major hurricane status of Category Three or above on the Saffir-Simpson scale.
- As of August, tropical cyclone activity in the Atlantic was approximately 60 percent above normal, according to the National Hurricane Center. Seventeen named storms have developed in the Atlantic and Pacific this hurricane season, including nine hurricanes, five of which reached Category Four on the Saffir-Simpson scale. While most storms have not made direct landfall, rainfall amounts significantly above average during the June to November rainy season have exacerbated the effects of earlier storms and resulted in floods in additional areas.

Costa Rica

- As of September 6, heavy rains causing floods, landslides, and house damage had displaced 106 people to emergency shelters located in Guanacaste, Puntarenas, San José, and Cartago provinces. On September 14, heavy rains caused floods that damaged or destroyed 70 houses in the San José area and damaged water infrastructure servicing 70,000 people in the Desamparados area, according to Costa Rica-based USAID/OFDA disaster risk management specialist.
- The Government of Costa Rica (GoCR) National Emergency Commission (CNE) has declared a green alert for all of Costa Rica for the remainder of the rainy season, indicating the potential for floods due to high river levels and saturated land. To date, some areas under alert have already received as much as 50 percent above the average rainfall amounts. The CNE has requested that government institutions and local emergency committees activate emergency response plans and make funds available for emergency actions, as required.
- The GoCR has not requested international assistance to date; the magnitude of the disaster is within the GoCR’s capacity to respond. USAID/OFDA continues to monitor the situation from the LAC Regional Office in Costa Rica and remains in contact with government and humanitarian actors.

El Salvador

- In late May, heavy rains associated with Tropical Storm Agatha affected all 14 departments of El Salvador, particularly in the departments of San Salvador and Sonsonate. Associated floods and mudslides killed at least nine people and resulted in the evacuation of approximately 10,330 individuals, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The GoES Civil Protection Agency reported that as of June 2, floods and mudslides had damaged or destroyed transportation infrastructure, approximately 100 houses, and at least 15 community health centers.
- 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 provided \$150,000 through USAID/El Salvador for the local purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies. USAID/OFDA also activated an assessment team to coordinate the response effort.

Guatemala

- Heavy rains associated with Tropical Storm Agatha caused floods and mudslides in Sololá, Quetzaltenango, Retalhuleu, Suchitepéquez, Sacatepéque, Escuintla, Totonicapán, Huethuetenango, and Quiché departments in Guatemala, beginning in late May. 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 closure of La Aurora International Airport. As of June 25, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies reported that Tropical Storm Agatha and the Pacaya volcano had damaged 39,160 houses.

⁹ Does not include \$50,000 provided in response to floods in April 2010.

- 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 provided \$1.3 million for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and shelter and settlement projects, as well as the local purchase of emergency relief supplies. USAID/OFDA also activated a nine-person assessment team to identify humanitarian needs. The GoG has not requested additional assistance to respond to the effects of Tropical Storm Agatha and the Pacaya volcano.
- Recent heavy rainfall has exacerbated the effects of the previous storms. As of September 14, floods and mudslides in September had affected more than 53,000 individuals, according to the GoG National Emergency Response Commission (CONRED). CONRED also reported that floods and landslides have damaged nearly 10,000 houses as of September 10 and a total of 7,409 people remained in 101 temporary shelters as of September 16. CONRED has distributed food, water, personal hygiene items, and cleaning supplies to affected individuals.
- On September 6, 2010, Ambassador Stephen G. McFarland issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the floods and mudslides. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$100,000 through USAID/Guatemala to CONRED for the distribution of emergency relief supplies, including hygiene kits and blankets, to affected individuals. A three-person USAID/OFDA assessment team coordinated with the Guatemala MDRO and CONRED to define priority needs and participate on over-flights with CONRED and U.S. Centers for Disease Control representatives. On September 9, USAID/OFDA transported 500 rolls of plastic sheeting to Guatemala for consignment to the GoG for construction of emergency shelters for affected families, and on September 11, an additional 40 rolls of USAID/OFDA plastic sheeting arrived to support USAID/OFDA-funded transitional shelter activities conducted by the NGO SHARE Guatemala. On September 10, in response to a request from CONRED, USAID/OFDA activated an agreement with a local aircraft company to charter a helicopter to transport CONRED staff, structural engineers, and a geologist to conduct additional damage evaluations and needs assessments. As of September 17, CONRED has assessed approximately 90 percent of affected areas as a result of NAS and USAID/OFDA-funded over-flights, according to Guatemala-based USAID/OFDA disaster risk management specialist.

Honduras

- According to the GoH, Tropical Storm Agatha caused the deaths of at least 14 people and displaced more than 3,400 others. In addition, the storm destroyed or damaged more than 1,900 houses, and damaged transport infrastructure, schools, water distribution systems, and health care facilities. On May 30, U.S. Ambassador 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. In addition, USAID/OFDA has pre-positioned emergency relief supplies in Honduras to prepare for the 2010 hurricane season.
- On August 30, REDLAC reported that several weeks of heavy rains caused floods that killed approximately 114 people and affected 3,400 others. On August 31, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reported Central District as the most vulnerable to floods, due to insufficient drainage that has exacerbated the effects of heavy rains and floods. On September 14, the GoH National Emergency Response Commission (COPECO) declared a national green alert in response to the effects of Tropical Storm Karl, according to a USAID/OFDA disaster risk management specialist. COPECO also issued a yellow alert for the Ulúa River watershed area due to the controlled release of water from the El Cajón dam. In response, COPECO requested the activation of all local emergency committees to monitor the situation and prepare to respond as necessary.
- A USAID/OFDA disaster management specialist deployed to Honduras to assess the situation in coordination with the USAID/Honduras MDRO. To date, USAID/OFDA has not received a request for assistance associated with the recent floods.

Mexico

- As of July 8, the GoM reported that Hurricane Alex and Tropical Depression Two had damaged or destroyed nearly 26,000 houses, and that 17,000 people remained in approximately 110 evacuation centers in affected areas in Nuevo León, Coahuila, and Oaxaca states. On July 10, U.S. Ambassador Carlos Pascual declared a disaster due to the effects of floods resulting from Hurricane Alex and Tropical Depression Two. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$350,000 through USAID/Mexico for the local purchase and delivery of emergency relief supplies. USAID/OFDA also activated a five-person assessment team and deployed a USAID/OFDA advisor to U.S. Northern Command.
- Heavy rains since late August in southern Mexico have caused floods that have affected approximately 1 million people in the southern states of Oaxaca, Veracruz, Chiapas and Tabasco, according to the GoM. On September 6, REDLAC reported that the most affected states are Veracruz, where floods affected approximately 100,000 people in 57 municipalities, and Tabasco, where floods have affected 130,000 people and flooded 60 percent of the state's territory. In response, the GoM National Defense Secretary deployed more than 550 troops and military assets to affected areas to assist with evacuations and rescues. GoM authorities distributed food, water, blankets, and hygiene items.

- On September 17, Hurricane Karl made landfall in central Veracruz State as a Category Three hurricane, exacerbating flood conditions. The hurricane resulted in 12 deaths and produced rainfall that caused floods, and damaged houses, bridges, and utility infrastructure. As of September 18, GoM Civil Protection General Coordinator reported that 2,800 people in four municipalities resided in temporary shelters, with an unknown number of people in temporary shelters in another five municipalities. The GoM National Defense Secretary activated the Mexican Army, the Mexican Air Force’s National Defense Plan III, and the Mexican Armada’s Navy Plan to assist disaster affected populations.
- A Mexico-based USAID/OFDA’s disaster risk management specialist is monitoring the situation and two Mexico-based USAID/ OFDA surge consultants remain on alert. To date, USAID/OFDA has not received a request for assistance associated with the recent hurricane or floods.

Nicaragua

- As of September 10, heavy rains in the Central and Pacific regions of Nicaragua had caused floods and landslides. Floods have affected more than 12,600 people, many of whom are residing in temporary shelters located throughout the country, according to the U.N. Resident Coordinator’s Office in Nicaragua. The Government of Nicaragua’s National Emergency Response System (SINAPRED) has distributed food, water, mattresses, blankets, clothing, and other emergency supplies to more than 8,000 affected residents nationwide.
- USAID/OFDA has pre-positioned emergency relief supplies in Nicaragua in preparation for the 2010 Atlantic hurricane season.
- USAID/OFDA continues to monitor the situation from the LAC Regional Office in Costa Rica. To date, USAID/OFDA has not received a request for assistance associated with the recent floods.

FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR 2010 LAC HURRICANE SEASON STORMS AND FLOODS

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BRAZIL

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
CRS	Emergency Relief Supplies	Alagoas and Pernambuco states	\$100,000
	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Affected Areas	\$5,133
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BRAZIL FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010²			\$105,133
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BRAZIL FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010			\$105,133

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EL SALVADOR

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
USAID/El Salvador	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$150,000
USAID/El Salvador	Pre-positioning of Emergency Relief Supplies		\$50,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EL SALVADOR FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010³			\$200,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EL SALVADOR FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010			\$200,000

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
CRS	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Escuintla, Guatemala, and Solola Departments	\$300,000
Mercy Corps	WASH, Emergency Relief Supplies	Alta Verapaz, Baja Verapaz, El Progreso, and Zacapa Departments	\$345,000
Share	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Jutiapa and Chimaltenango Departments	\$421,378
USAID/Guatemala	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$250,000
	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Affected Areas	\$58,108
	Administrative Support Costs		\$5,458
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010			\$1,379,944
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010			\$1,379,944
STATE ASSISTANCE⁴			
	Emergency Relief Helicopter Support	Affected Areas	\$189,735
TOTAL STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010			\$189,735
DOD ASSISTANCE⁵			
	Emergency Relief Activities	Affected Areas	\$971,000
TOTAL DOD HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010			\$971,000

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Various	Pre-positioning of Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$928,000
	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Affected Areas	\$219,815
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010			\$1,147,815
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010			\$1,147,815

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HONDURAS

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
World Vision	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$50,000
USAID/Honduras	Pre-positioning of Emergency Relief Supplies		\$25,000
World Vision	Pre-positioning of Emergency Relief Supplies		\$25,000
USAID/Honduras	Hurricane Season Preparedness		\$50,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HONDURAS FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010			\$150,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HONDURAS FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010			\$150,000

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
USAID/Mexico	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$350,000
	Logistics and Relief Commodities		\$73,530
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010			\$423,530
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010			\$423,530

ADDITIONAL USG PRE-POSITIONING ASSISTANCE TO THE LAC REGION⁶

<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Various	Pre-positioning of Emergency Relief Supplies	Bahamas; Belize; Jamaica; St. Lucia; Nicaragua	\$145,000
TOTAL ADDITIONAL USAID/OFDA PRE-POSITIONING ASSISTANCE TO THE LAC REGION IN FY 2010			\$145,000
TOTAL ADDITIONAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE LAC REGION FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010			\$145,000

TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR STORMS AND FLOODS IN FY 2010**\$4,712,157**¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 22, 2010.² Does not include \$50,000 provided in response to floods in April 2010.³ Does not include \$836,680 provided in response to floods in November 2009.⁴ State funding represents anticipated or actually obligated amounts as of September 22, 2010.⁵ DoD funding represents anticipated or actually obligated amounts as of September 22, 2010.⁶ Additional USAID/OFDA funding to the LAC region for pre-positioning of 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 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