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

Latin America and the Caribbean – Hurricane Season 2007

Fact Sheet #5, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

September 5, 2007

Note: The last fact sheet was dated August 28, 2007.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On September 4 and 5, Hurricane Felix caused high winds and heavy rains across Central America. On September 4 at 0515 hours local time, Hurricane Felix made landfall 20 miles north of Puerto Cabezas, on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua, as a category five hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale. By late September 4, Hurricane Felix had slowed in speed and intensity, resulting in heavy rainfall as it continued across Nicaragua and Honduras.
- Prior to Hurricane Felix’s landfall, USAID/OFDA pre-positioned 23 disaster response experts in Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize, and Mexico. USAID also provided \$75,000 to support emergency preparedness activities in Nicaragua, Belize, and Honduras. Prior to the hurricane season, USAID pre-positioned with the Nicaraguan Red Cross approximately \$45,000 in relief supplies to respond to emergency needs.
- On September 4, the Government of Nicaragua (GON) requested international assistance for the North Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN), and U.S. Ambassador Paul A. Trivelli declared a disaster due to the effects of the hurricane. In response, USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$150,000 through USAID/Nicaragua to support emergency relief activities.
- On September 4, Hurricane Henriette struck Los Cabos, on the southern tip of Mexico’s Baja Peninsula, as a category one hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale. Hurricane Henriette is expected to make landfall on mainland Mexico on the afternoon of September 5. To date, there have been reports of minimal damage.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE*		SOURCE
Belize	1,675 displaced, 1,500 houses damaged	Government of Belize – August 22, 2007
Dominica	2 dead, 30 injured, 1500 houses damaged	PAHO – August 21, 2007 CDERA ¹ – August 21, 2007
Dominican Republic	1 dead, 300 houses destroyed or partially destroyed, 1,600 persons in shelters	PAHO ² – August 21, 2007
El Salvador	560 families	Government of El Salvador – September 4, 2007
Haiti	9 dead, 4,151 families affected	OCHA ³ – August 24, 2007 IFRC ⁴ – August 26, 2007
Honduras	40,000 evacuated	OCHA – September 5, 2007
Jamaica	4 dead, 1,188 people in 52 shelters 3,207 houses damaged	ODPEM ⁵ – August 24, 2007
Martinique	1 dead	OCHA – August 24, 2007
Mexico	9 dead, 253,000 affected in Puebla State 30,000 houses damaged in Quintana Roo State	Government of Mexico – August 26, 2007
Nicaragua	3 dead, 5,400 homes damaged, 38,000 homeless, 13,132 evacuated	GON – September 5, 2007
Saint Lucia	1 dead	OCHA – August 24, 2007

*Number expected to increase as assessments continue.

FY 2007 Humanitarian Funding to Date

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Belize	\$161,954
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Dominica	\$85,648
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Jamaica	\$572,243
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Mexico	\$250,000
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Honduras	\$25,000
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Nicaragua.....	\$175,000
USAID/OFDA Assistance to St. Lucia	\$40,432
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Latin America and the Caribbean for Hurricanes	\$1,310,277

¹ Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA)

² Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

³ U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA)

⁴ The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

⁵ The Government of Jamaica’s Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM)

CURRENT SITUATION

Nicaragua

- According to the GON, initial reports indicate that the storm resulted in three deaths and resulted in the evacuation of more than 13,000 residents to shelters. According to the U.S. Embassy in Managua, more than 90 percent of houses in Puerto Cabezas, located on the northeastern coast of the country, have suffered severe structural damage, while all houses have been destroyed in the communities of Sandy Bay and Bismona. In total, an estimated 38,000 people are homeless.
- Hurricane winds damaged 80 percent of electrical and telecommunications infrastructure in the area.
- Access to remote areas in RAAN is hindered by the fact that there are no all-weather roads between Puerto Cabezas and the rest of Nicaragua.
- On September 5, two USAID/OFDA disaster experts conducted aerial assessments of affected areas in Puerto Cabezas. The U.S. Department of Defense provided a Chinook military helicopter for the assessments. The results of the assessments will be used to target relief assistance to the most vulnerable populations.
- As of September 5, USAID disaster responders in Nicaragua reported that urgent needs included plastic sheeting to provide temporary shelter as well as hygiene kits and blankets.

El Salvador

- As of September 5, the Government of El Salvador reported that 560 families had been evacuated from vulnerable areas in El Salvador.

Honduras

- As of September 5, OCHA reported that 40,000 people had been evacuated from vulnerable areas in Honduras.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- USAID deployed more than 20 disaster specialists throughout the Caribbean and Central America in advance of Hurricanes Dean and Felix to assess hurricane damage and resulting humanitarian needs, in cooperation with local authorities. Team members have deployed to Barbados, Belize, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, and St. Kitts.
- Since 2000, USAID has provided more than \$142 million in response to the devastating effects of hurricanes and tropical storms throughout Central America and the Caribbean.

Belize

- On August 23, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Leonard A. Hill declared a disaster in Belize due to the impact of Hurricane Dean.
- In response to the impact of Hurricane Dean on Belize, USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Belize for the purchase and transport of emergency relief supplies to hurricane-affected northern Belize. In addition, USAID/OFDA airlifted relief commodities, including plastic sheeting, blankets, hygiene kits, and chainsaws for debris removal, which arrived on August 24.
- USAID's emergency team in Belize has conducted assessments and identified needs in conjunction with the Government of Belize's NEMO. On August 21 and 22, U.S. Embassy staff conducted aerial assessments utilizing U.S. Military helicopters.
- In advance of Hurricane Felix, USAID deployed six disaster specialists to work with the USAID mission, U.S. Embassy, and the Government of Belize to assess the storm's impact and possible humanitarian needs.
- In anticipation of Hurricane Felix's impact, USAID/OFDA provided \$25,000 in preparedness assistance to support emergency relief activities in Belize.

Dominica and St. Lucia

- On August 23, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Clyde I. Howard declared a disaster in Dominica and St. Lucia due to the effects of Hurricane Dean.
- In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$25,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Bridgetown to the Dominica Office of Disaster Management for the local purchase and transport of emergency shelter repair materials to affected areas. On August 24, USAID/OFDA also airlifted plastic sheeting to help meet shelter needs on both islands.
- On August 15, a four-person USAID assessment team arrived in Bridgetown, Barbados, in advance of Hurricane Dean's approach to the Eastern Caribbean, and two additional USAID disaster specialists deployed to Dominica and St. Kitts. As Hurricane Dean moved over Barbados and through the Caribbean Sea, the Bridgetown team redeployed to other parts of the region. A USAID disaster specialist remains in Dominica and is conducting assessments in conjunction with the Dominica Office of Disaster Management.

El Salvador

- In advance of Hurricane Felix, USAID deployed one disaster specialist to work with the USAID mission, U.S. Embassy, and the Government of El Salvador to assess the storm's impact and possible humanitarian needs.

Guatemala

- In advance of Hurricane Felix, USAID deployed one disaster specialist to work with the USAID mission, U.S. Embassy, and the Government of Guatemala to assess the storm's impact and possible humanitarian needs.

Honduras

- In anticipation of Hurricane Felix's impact, USAID provided \$25,000 in preparedness assistance to support emergency relief activities in Honduras.
- On September 4 and 5, a seven-person assessment team arrived in Honduras to assess emergency needs.

Jamaica

- On August 20, U.S. Ambassador to Jamaica Brenda LaGrange Johnson declared a disaster due to the damage caused by Hurricane Dean.
- In response to the impact of the hurricane, USAID/OFDA dispatched relief commodities including plastic sheeting, blankets, ten-liter water containers, and hygiene kits, which arrived in Kingston on August 22. In addition, USAID/OFDA has provided \$175,000 to ODPEM for emergency relief supplies. USAID/OFDA also provided \$100,000 to support emergency health services through the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in response to an emergency appeal.
- A six-member USAID assessment team arrived in Jamaica on August 18 to support emergency response efforts of U.N. agencies, Government of Jamaica authorities, non-governmental organization partners, donors, and other disaster assessment teams. The USAID disaster assessment team in Jamaica has now ended operations.
- A USAID/ OFDA disaster specialist remains in Jamaica to help monitor relief programs, in coordination with the USAID Mission, U.S. Embassy, and ODPEM.

Mexico

- On August 19, in advance of Hurricane Dean, USAID deployed six disaster specialists to work with the USAID mission, U.S. Embassy, and the Government of Mexico (GOM) to assess the storm's impact and possible humanitarian needs. The USAID team has conducted disaster assessments in conjunction with the GOM in Veracruz State.
- On August 27, U.S. Ambassador Antonio O. Garza, Jr., requested USAID/OFDA assistance in response to the effects of Hurricane Dean.
- In response to the hurricane, USAID/OFDA is providing \$250,000 through the American Red Cross to the Mexican Red Cross for the local purchase and transport of roof repair materials to affected areas.
- In advance of Hurricane Felix, USAID deployed four disaster specialists to work with the USAID mission, U.S. Embassy, and GOM authorities to assess the storm's impact and possible humanitarian needs.

Nicaragua

- On September 4, U.S. Ambassador Paul A. Trivelli declared a disaster due to the effects of the hurricane.
- In response, USAID/OFDA has provided \$150,000 through USAID/Nicaragua to support the local procurement and transport of emergency relief activities to affected areas. In anticipation of Hurricane Felix's impact, USAID provided \$25,000 in preparedness assistance to the Nicaraguan Red Cross. Prior to the hurricane season, USAID pre-positioned relief supplies, including hygiene kits and kitchen sets, valued at approximately \$45,000.
- As of September 5, a 10-person USAID assessment team arrived in Managua to coordinate hurricane response activities with U.N. agencies, the U.S. Department of Defense, GON authorities, and non-governmental organizations. The USAID team is currently conducting assessments to determine what additional assistance is needed.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BELIZE

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
U.S. Embassy Belmopan	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$50,000
U.S. Embassy Belmopan	Emergency Preparedness	Affected Areas	\$25,000
Belize Red Cross	Emergency Relief Supplies from USAID/OFDA's Miami Warehouse	Affected Areas	\$86,954
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BELIZE IN FY 2007			\$161,954
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BELIZE IN FY 2007			\$161,954

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of September 5, 2007.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DOMINICA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Dominica Office of Disaster Management	Emergency Shelter Repair Supplies	Affected Areas	\$25,000
Dominica Office of Disaster Management	Emergency Relief Supplies from USAID/OFDA's Miami Warehouse	Affected Areas	\$60,648
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DOMINICA IN FY 2007			\$85,648
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DOMINICA IN FY 2007			\$85,648

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of September 5, 2007.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HONDURAS

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
USAID/Honduras	Emergency Preparedness	Affected Areas	\$25,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HONDURAS IN FY 2007			\$25,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HONDURAS IN FY 2007			\$25,000

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of September 5, 2007.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
ODPEM	Pre-positioned Emergency Preparedness Supplies	Affected Areas	\$25,000
ODPEM and NGOs	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$100,000
USAID/Jamaica	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$50,000
PAHO	Emergency Health Activities	Affected Areas	\$100,000
Various	Emergency Relief Supplies from USAID/OFDA's Miami Warehouse	Affected Areas	\$297,243
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA IN FY 2007			\$572,243
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA IN FY 2007			\$572,243

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of September 5, 2007.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Mexican Red Cross	Emergency Shelter Repair Supplies	Affected Areas	\$250,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO IN FY 2007			\$250,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO IN FY 2007			\$250,000

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of September 5, 2007.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
USAID/Nicaragua	Emergency Preparedness	Affected Areas	\$25,000
USAID/Nicaragua	Emergency Relief Activities	Affected Areas	\$150,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA IN FY 2007			\$175,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA IN FY 2007			\$175,000

USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of September 5, 2007.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ST. LUCIA

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
St. Lucia National Emergency Management Organization	Emergency Relief Supplies from USAID/OFDA's Miami Warehouse	Affected Areas	\$40,432
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ST LUCIA IN FY 2007			\$40,432
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ST LUCIA IN FY 2007			\$40,432

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of September 5, 2007.

TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR HURRICANES IN FY 2007	\$1,310,277
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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 hurricane response efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean can be found in the “How Can I Help” section of http://www.usaid.gov/locations/latin_america_caribbean/hurr_2007/, 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 services can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Hurricane
 - 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.int.

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