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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 #6, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

September 7, 2007

Note: The last fact sheet was dated September 5, 2007.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- After making landfall on September 4 as a category five hurricane, Felix moved inland over northeastern Nicaragua and Honduras. The hurricane severely impacted Honduras and Nicaragua, and resulted in heavy rainfall in Guatemala and Belize.
- In coordination with the Nicaraguan Red Cross, USAID emergency teams are conducting assessments of four of the most affected communities in Nicaragua on September 7. The teams are reaching the impacted areas via U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) helicopters, which will return to the assessed areas with relief supplies.
- On September 6, the first of four USAID/OFDA relief flights arrived in Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, with 120 rolls of plastic sheeting, 1,500 blankets, and 1,536 hygiene kits. A second relief flight, carrying the same amount of commodities, is scheduled to arrive in Nicaragua on September 7. The total value of both airlifts, including transport, is approximately \$200,000. The third and fourth airlifts, containing an additional 360 rolls of plastic sheeting and other essential commodities, will arrive in Nicaragua in the coming days. An initial distribution of the USAID/OFDA relief supplies began on September 7 in Sandy Bay and surrounding communities.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
HURRICANE FELIX *		
El Salvador	560 families affected	Government of El Salvador – September 4, 2007
Honduras	9,750 in shelters, 124 houses damaged or destroyed	PAHO ¹ – September 6, 2007
Nicaragua	130 dead, 70 missing, 100,000 affected, 9,948 houses damaged or destroyed	SINAPRED ² – September 7, 2007
HURRICANE DEAN		
Dominica	2 dead, 30 injured, 1500 houses damaged	PAHO – August 21, 2007 CDERA ³ – August 21, 2007
Dominican Republic	1 dead, 300 houses destroyed or partially destroyed, 1,600 persons in shelters	PAHO – August 21, 2007
Haiti	9 dead, 4,151 families affected	OCHA ⁴ – August 24, 2007 IFRC ⁵ – August 26, 2007
Jamaica	4 dead, 1,188 people in 52 shelters 3,207 houses damaged	ODPEM ⁶ – August 24, 2007
Martinique	1 dead	OCHA – August 24, 2007
Mexico	9 dead, 140,000 affected 52,000 houses damaged	Mexican Red Cross – August 26, 2007
Saint Lucia	1 dead	OCHA – August 24, 2007

*Numbers may increase in countries affected by Hurricane Felix.

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	\$572,244
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Mexico	\$249,957
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Honduras	\$25,000
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Nicaragua	\$1,044,562
USAID/OFDA Assistance to St. Lucia	\$40,432
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Latin America and the Caribbean for Hurricanes	\$2,179,797

¹ Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

² National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation, and Assistance (SINAPRED)

³ Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA)

⁴ U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA)

⁵ The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

⁶ The Government of Jamaica's Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM)

CURRENT SITUATION

Nicaragua

- According to SINAPRED, Hurricane Felix destroyed 7,930 houses and significantly damaged 13 public buildings, including health clinics, schools, and churches. The dock in Puerto Cabezas suffered damage and the town's airport control tower collapsed. Electricity has not been restored in Puerto Cabezas. The hurricane also totally destroyed the harvest in La Concordia Municipality, Jinotega Department.
- On September 6, five members of the USAID emergency team deployed to Puerto Cabezas and rural areas in the North Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN) to conduct preliminary damage and needs assessments. Assessments of the four hardest hit areas continued on September 7 in coordination with the Nicaraguan Red Cross and DOD.
- On September 7, the local media attributed an additional 24 deaths to Hurricane Felix. Twenty-four Miskitos fishermen were found in Honduran waters and were brought to Puerto Cabezas. Local authorities have not yet confirmed these reports.

Honduras

- On September 6, a member of the USAID emergency team traveled to three municipalities in Cortes Department as part of a joint assessment mission with U.N. staff. The team confirmed reports of localized flooding resulting in contaminated drinking water supplies. Municipal authorities are working in coordination with the Government of Honduras (GOH), U.N., and relief agencies to meet the needs of affected populations.
- The U.N. World Food Program is providing hygiene kits and cooking utensils to those remaining in shelters following the hurricane, and PAHO is responding to water needs among the sheltered population.
- The GOH has evacuated people to shelters following reports of rising rivers. As of September 6, PAHO reported that approximately 10,000 people had relocated to shelters. The GOH has scheduled a meeting with the international donor community for September 7 to announce the governments' decision regarding the need for international assistance.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- USAID pre-positioned 23 disaster response specialists in Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize, and Mexico in advance of Hurricane Felix. USAID/OFDA also provided \$75,000 to support emergency preparedness activities in Nicaragua, Belize, and Honduras. Prior to the hurricane season, USAID pre-positioned approximately \$45,000 in relief supplies with the Nicaraguan Red Cross to respond to emergency needs.
- 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, 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. A USAID emergency team in Belize conducted assessments and identified needs in conjunction with the Government of Belize (GOB).
- In anticipation of Hurricane Felix's impact, USAID/OFDA provided \$25,000 in preparedness assistance to support emergency relief activities in Belize and pre-positioned six disaster specialists to work with the USAID mission, U.S. Embassy, and the GOB to assess the storm's impact and possible humanitarian needs.

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. Two USAID disaster specialists deployed to Dominica and St. Kitts to assess hurricane-related damage. On August 24, USAID/OFDA airlifted plastic sheeting to help meet shelter needs on both islands.

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 three disaster specialists 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-member USAID emergency team arrived in Honduras to assess emergency needs.

Jamaica

- On August 20, U.S. Ambassador Brenda LaGrange Johnson declared a disaster due to the damage caused by Hurricane Dean. In response, USAID/OFDA dispatched relief commodities including plastic sheeting, blankets, 10-liter water containers, and hygiene kits. In addition, USAID/OFDA has provided \$275,000 to support emergency health services and for the purchase of additional emergency relief supplies. USAID also dispatched a six-member assessment team to support emergency response efforts, and although the USAID disaster assessment team in Jamaica has ended operations, one disaster specialist remains in country to help monitor relief programs.

Mexico

- On August 27, U.S. Ambassador Antonio O. Garza, Jr. requested USAID/OFDA assistance in Mexico due to the effects of Hurricane Dean. In response, USAID/OFDA provided approximately \$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. USAID/OFDA's assistance will benefit 4,000 hurricane-affected families in Quintana Roo State. 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.
- 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 5, U.S. Ambassador Paul A. Trivelli declared a disaster due to the effects of the hurricane. In response, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1 million to support emergency programs for affected populations and the delivery and distribution of relief supplies, through two airlifts as well as funding for local purchase of essential supplies. As of September 7, a 10-person USAID assessment team remains in Nicaragua coordinating hurricane response activities with U.N. agencies, DOD, Government of Nicaragua (GON) authorities, and non-governmental organizations. USAID emergency assessments are ongoing to determine what additional assistance is needed.
- DOD is assisting relief efforts in Nicaragua through air support. On September 7, DOD aircraft delivered essential supplies, including a water purification system, and provided air support for USAID/OFDA assessments. DOD is also assisting with search and rescue efforts for Nicaraguan fishermen who are missing due to the hurricane.

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 7, 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 7, 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 7, 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	\$297,244
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA IN FY 2007			\$572,244
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA IN FY 2007			\$572,244

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of September 7, 2007.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Mexican Red Cross	Emergency Shelter Repair Supplies	Affected Areas	\$249,957
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO IN FY 2007			\$249,957
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO IN FY 2007			\$249,957

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of September 7, 2007.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
USAID/Nicaragua	Emergency Preparedness	Affected Areas	\$25,000
USAID/Nicaragua	Emergency Relief Activities	Affected Areas	\$350,000
PAHO	Emergency Health Services	Affected Areas	\$300,000
Various	Emergency Relief Supplies from USAID/OFDA's Miami Warehouse	Affected Areas	\$369,562
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA IN FY 2007			\$1,044,562
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA IN FY 2007			\$1,044,562

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of September 7, 2007.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ST. LUCIA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
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

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents commitments or actual expenditures as of September 7, 2007.

TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR HURRICANES IN FY 2007	\$2,179,797
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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.