



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

**Latin America and the Caribbean –  
Hurricane Season 2008**

Fact Sheet #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

September 8, 2008

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated September 4, 2008.*

**KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- At present, a six-person USAID/OFDA disaster response team in Haiti continues to coordinate with the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince, USAID/Haiti, the U.S. Southern Command, the U.N. Mission to Haiti (MINUSTAH), and the Government of Haiti (GOH) to assess conditions, determine priority needs, and provide critical relief commodities to affected populations.
- In Haiti, flooding has affected populations in 9 out of 10 of the country’s departments and has displaced 82,600 people to temporary shelters. USAID/OFDA has allocated additional funding, totaling \$5 million to date. USAID/OFDA’s increased contribution brings the total U.S. Government commitment—including \$5 million reprogrammed from development to emergency relief programs by USAID/Haiti—to more than \$10 million.
- A preliminary U.N. Flash Appeal for Haiti requests approximately \$101 million in international assistance for emergency humanitarian and rehabilitation activities for approximately 800,000 people affected by tropical storms Gustav and Hanna, citing that an estimated 300,000 people out of 350,000 residents in the larger Gonaives area of Artibonite Department have been affected by flooding. In addition, the appeal indicates major agricultural losses, which present a serious threat to food security for vulnerable populations countrywide. The current appeal does not reflect additional possible needs related to effects of Hurricane Ike.
- On September 8, the USS Kearsarge, with helicopters and landing craft, arrived in Haiti to support relief operations. The U.S. Navy advance team and U.N. World Food Program staff are transporting commodities in helicopters to Gonaives for distribution.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
TROPICAL STORM FAY, HURRICANE GUSTAV, TROPICAL STORM HANNA, AND HURRICANE IKE		
<b>Cuba</b>	400,000 affected, 7 dead, 55,700 displaced	OCHA <sup>1</sup> – September 3, 2008 GOC <sup>2</sup> – September 8, 2008
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	8 dead, 6,000 people displaced, 1,253 houses damaged	OCHA – September 3, 2008
<b>Haiti</b>	300,000 affected, 154 dead, 20 missing, 35 injured, 3,307 houses destroyed, 11,827 houses damaged, 82,600 in shelters, 114,000 displaced	OCHA – September 3, 2008 GOH – September 7 and 8, 2008
<b>Jamaica</b>	72 communities impacted, 12 dead, 4,000 individuals directly affected	OCHA – September 3, 2008 IFRC – September 2, 2008 U.S. Embassy in Kingston – September 3, 2008

**FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO DATE**

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Cuba .....	\$100,000
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Dominican Republic .....	\$50,000
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Haiti <sup>3</sup> .....	\$5,000,000
USAID/Haiti Assistance to Haiti .....	\$5,000,000
DOD <sup>4</sup> Assistance to Haiti .....	\$500,000
DHS <sup>5</sup> Assistance to Haiti .....	Amount Forthcoming
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Jamaica .....	\$308,435
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Latin America and the Caribbean for Hurricanes.....</b>	<b>\$10,958,435</b>

<sup>1</sup> U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

<sup>2</sup> Government of Cuba (GOC)

<sup>3</sup> This amount includes actual assistance provided and funds allocated for forthcoming assistance as of September 8, 2008.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

## **CURRENT SITUATION**

### ***Bahamas***

- On September 6 and 7, Hurricane Ike passed over southeastern Bahamas as a Category Four hurricane with winds up to 120 miles per hour, primarily affecting the Inaguas islands, Mayaguana, and the Ragged Islands. Approximately 143 persons were displaced to two shelters. Initial reports indicate that the island of Inagua was extensively damaged, with an estimated 80 percent of buildings reported to be destroyed. The National Emergency Management Agency in the Bahamas (NEMA) anticipates the need for hygiene kits, water jugs and plastic sheeting.

### ***Cuba***

- On September 7, Hurricane Ike made landfall in eastern Cuba near Punta Lucrecia in Hulgwin province as a Category Four storm at approximately 2200 hours local time. According to unconfirmed reports from the GOC, an estimated 55,700 people have been evacuated in Guantanamo Province, including more than 40,000 from Baracoa city, where the storm reportedly produced 15 meter-high waves that destroyed nearly 80 houses.
- On September 8, the GOC reported that it was evacuating populations near the Jaibo, La Yava, and Los Asientos dams, all of which are threatened by Hurricane Ike.

### ***Dominican Republic***

- Tropical Storms Fay, Gustav, and Hanna all affected populations in the Dominican Republic. According to OCHA, Tropical Storm Gustav alone displaced more than 6,000 people, damaged 1,253 houses, and caused 502 people to move to temporary shelters.

### ***Haiti***

- As of late September 7, OCHA reported that heavy rains associated with the outer bands of Hurricane Ike have had a significant impact, particularly in Port de Paix Northwest Department and in Anse Rouge and Gonaïves in Artibonite Department. Several additional bridges are reportedly damaged or destroyed following further flooding, and the international airport in Port-au-Prince was closed for most of September 7. OCHA notes that rapid assessments are required to determine the impact of Hurricane Ike on northern areas in Haiti.
- According to the USAID/OFDA team, relief agencies began pre-staging emergency food commodities at the Port au Prince airport on September 7 in preparation for the arrival of the U.S. Navy ship early on September 8.
- As of September 7, the GOH Office of Civil Protection (DPC) reported official estimates of 114,000 people displaced throughout the country as a result of the recent storms. The total includes populations staying in temporary shelters and with host families. However, the DPC notes the difficulty of obtaining precise figures, and the number of displaced persons is likely considerably higher, particularly in and around the Gonaïves area.
- On September 7, poor weather conditions related to Hurricane Ike temporarily halted all access to Gonaïves by road and helicopter, preventing transport of additional relief commodities to the city. According to the USAID/OFDA team, relief agencies distributed high-energy biscuits, water, and hygiene kits to 4,000 people in Gonaïves instead of the planned 6,000 beneficiaries scheduled for September 7. OCHA reports that mounting security concerns and fuel shortages present additional challenges, and indicates that growing civil unrest may result in violence within Gonaïves.
- To date, relief organizations have distributed 242 MT of emergency food assistance to approximately 39,080 beneficiaries in seven departments across Haiti, with Southeast, Artibonites, and Northwest receiving the most food assistance to date. The U.N. World Food Program (WFP), CARE, Caritas, and partner organizations have provided rations to displaced persons in Port-au-Prince, Saint Michel de l'Atalaye, Port de Paix, Jeremie, Les Cayes, Miragoane, Grand Goave, Baint, and Jacmel, according to OCHA.
- Action Contre la Faim (ACF) has distributed hygiene kits, water purification tablets, blankets, and additional relief commodities to approximately 500 families in Port de Paix. USAID/OFDA is working closely with the International Organization for Migration, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the water, sanitation, and hygiene cluster to identify logistics and transport options in order to provide water generated by the USS Kearsarge for populations without access to safe drinking water.

### ***Jamaica***

- According to OCHA, 248 people remained in shelters in Jamaica as of September 5. The USAID/OFDA team, which began to arrive on August 28, reports that critical emergency needs have been met but that due to flood-related damages, early recovery needs exist.

## **USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

### ***Bahamas***

- In response to a request by NEMA, on September 8, a representative from USAID/OFDA deployed to conduct aerial overflights and assessments of the damage caused by Hurricane Ike. A USAID/OFDA disaster specialist has been

based at the National Emergency Operations Center to support NEMA counterparts in monitoring storm impacts and assessing needs.

### **Cuba**

- On September 3, U.S. Chief of Mission Jonathan D. Farrar issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the hurricane. In response, USAID/OFDA has approved \$100,000 in emergency relief funds to support relief operations of humanitarian assistance organizations.

### **Dominican Republic**

- On September 3, U.S. Ambassador P. Robert Fannin issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the tropical storms. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 through USAID/Dominican Republic for the local procurement and distribution of emergency relief supplies, including clean water storage containers, personal hygiene kits, and bedding items. The USAID/OFDA regional office in Costa Rica, in coordination with USAID/Dominican Republic, continues to monitor the situation to determine whether additional assistance is needed.

### **Haiti**

- On September 2, U.S. Ambassador Janet A. Sanderson issued a disaster declaration in response to Hurricane Gustav and resulting flooding throughout Haiti. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$100,000 through USAID/Haiti for the purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies for displaced populations and for the support of early recovery activities. On September 4, a USAID/OFDA-chartered aircraft arrived in Port-au-Prince, delivering USAID/OFDA emergency relief supplies including 5,088 hygiene kits, 10,800 ten-liter water containers, and 500 rolls of plastic sheeting. The USAID/OFDA supplies were transported to affected areas with assistance from the U.S. Coast Guard and Implementing partner International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- USAID/OFDA is working to program a total of \$5 million in emergency assistance to Haiti, including approximately \$435,000 provided to date for the procurement, transport, and distribution of relief commodities. In addition, USAID/Haiti is working to re-direct \$5 million in funds toward food and other assistance to meet critical needs related to the growing humanitarian crisis.
- On September 7, USAID/OFDA authorized the deployment of a three-person Americas Support Team (AST) to Haiti to supplement a U.N. Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team based in Gonaïves.
- DOD has approved up to \$500,000 for humanitarian assistance in Haiti in response to a USAID request for helicopter transport.

### **Jamaica**

- On September 2, U.S. Ambassador Brenda LaGrange Johnson declared a disaster due to the effects of the tropical storm. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$100,000 through USAID/Jamaica to Jamaica's Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) to support aerial reconnaissance and an air bridge to reach communities that have become isolated due to road damage, as well as the purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies. Following the storm, a USAID/OFDA regional advisor and consultant also deployed to support USAID/Jamaica and began to conduct surveys of affected areas. On September 4, USAID/OFDA supported an airlift of emergency relief supplies to Kingston, Jamaica. The relief supplies, consigned to ODPEM, included approximately 1,536 hygiene kits, 270 rolls of plastic sheeting, 7,800 jerry cans, and 3,425 wool blankets. The total value of the commodities, including transport, was \$208,435

#### **USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CUBA**

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
Caritas	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$100,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CUBA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CUBA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$100,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 8, 2008.

**USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
USAID/Dominican Republic	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$50,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 8, 2008.

**USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
USAID/Haiti	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$100,000
	Emergency Relief Activities <sup>2</sup>	Affected Areas	\$4,490,250
USAID/Haiti	Emergency Relief Supplies, Including Transportation	Affected Areas	\$334,503
OCHA	Logistics	Affected Areas	\$69,996
	Administrative Support		\$5,251
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$5,000,000</b>
<b>USAID/HAITI ASSISTANCE<sup>3</sup></b>			
	Emergency Relief Activities	Affected Areas	\$5,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$5,000,000</b>
<b>DOD ASSISTANCE<sup>4</sup></b>			
	Emergency Relief Activities	Affected Areas	\$500,000
<b>TOTAL DOD HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>DHS ASSISTANCE</b>			
	Transportation and Logistics	Affected Areas	FORTHCOMING
<b>TOTAL DHS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$10,500,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 8, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Additional funding pledged by USAID/OFDA.

<sup>3</sup> Funding reprogrammed from development to humanitarian relief activities.

<sup>4</sup> Funding approved for humanitarian relief activities in Haiti.

**USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
ODPEM	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$100,000
USAID/Jamaica	Emergency Relief Supplies, Including Transportation	Affected Areas	\$208,435
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$308,435</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$308,435</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 8, 2008.

<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR HURRICANES IN FY 2008</b>	<b>\$10,958,435</b>
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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. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Latin America and the Caribbean may be available at [www.reliefweb.int](http://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](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)