



PRESS RELEASE

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U.S. Agency for International Development
Strategic Development Office (503) 2501-3471
U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section (503) 2501-2471
Email: kazucena@usaid.gov
<http://www.usaid.gov/sv>
<http://elsalvador.usembassy.gov/>

USAID DELIVERS DONATIONS BROUGHT BY THE USNS COMFORT

SAN SALVADOR- The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), as part of the contribution from the American people to El Salvador, coordinated the delivery of donations from U.S. non-governmental organizations and brought by the hospital ship USNS Comfort.

On June 27, USAID and members of the U.S. Army distributed 70 pallets containing medical supplies, school supplies, wheelchairs, clothing, shoes, bed clothes and toys.

Six institutions –El Salvador Rotary Club, Caritas International, *Nuevos Horizontes* Foundation, Salvadoran Foundation for Health and Human Development, Order of Malta Association, Academy for Educational Development– and the Ministry of Health, through its Eastern Health Office, will be in charge of distributing donations to child centers, health units, hospitals, orphanages, schools and mayors' offices that serve vulnerable groups mainly in the Department of La Unión.

The visit of the USNS Comfort is benefitting Salvadorans, especially in La Unión, through medical care and services such as minor surgeries and computerized axial tomography. USAID is coordinating on-land programs in the areas of health, education and environment protection. This is the Comforts second mission to El Salvador. In 2007, the Comfort offered its services in Sonsonate.

USAID is playing a key role in this humanitarian mission. USAID has provided logistic support to the Ministry of Health Eastern Office and has helped promote medical consultations in preparation for the visit of the hospital ship. Also, USAID has helped disseminate HIV/AIDS prevention messages.

In the educational field, USAID and its partners have coordinated a week-long program through a mobile bus that is providing entertainment for children while they wait for their medical consultation. Moreover, USAID is carrying out the "Seeing well to learn better" campaign which includes book donation for school age children and talks on school management and strengthening of reading skills in five schools. Finally, USAID, through its environment program, has provided educational materials on sea turtle protection and improved management of critical watersheds.

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