



# LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

## RDAP: SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM – JUNE 2012

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) are highly prone to a range of natural hazards, including earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, tsunamis, landslides, volcanoes, and drought. To reduce the effects of these hazards, USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) supports disaster risk reduction (DRR) programs that promote local, national, and regional self-sufficiency in disaster preparedness and management, building upon and strengthening the capacity of established institutions in the region.

USAID/OFDA’s Regional Disaster Assistance Program (RDAP), established in 1989, is the primary vehicle for USAID/OFDA’s support of disaster risk management in LAC. Through RDAP, USAID/OFDA maintains a network of disaster risk management specialists who provide technical assistance for disaster preparedness and mitigation activities in the region. The specialists also oversee a DRR course that includes instruction in disaster management concepts, training methodology, and technical disciplines.

In April 2011, RDAP launched the Small Grants Program to promote DRR projects at the community-level. The grants contribute to host governments’ DRR priorities and support innovative approaches and pilot projects, which inform future programming in the region. Grants are awarded on a rolling basis to local non-governmental organizations whose programs develop the capacity of communities to prepare, mitigate, respond, and recover from disasters. Awards average \$30,000 and support programs for up to one year.

To date, USAID/OFDA has provided approximately \$295,300 in small grants funding to nine community-level DRR projects in Belize, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Ecuador, Panama, and Peru. All projects align with USAID/OFDA’s regional DRR goals to safeguard the livelihood assets of vulnerable families, prevent shelter losses, strengthen local DRR and preparedness capacities, and ultimately save lives in the event of future disasters. Six of the grants will directly benefit more than 128,000 people while one grant aims to bolster countrywide disaster readiness.

### SMALL GRANTS PROJECTS

- BELIZE: Refurbishing Shelter and Communications for Hurricane and Flood Preparedness in Belize River Valley:** Through USAID/OFDA’s RDAP program, the Belize Red Cross helped upgrade community centers in Flowers Bank, Lemonal, and Rancho Dolores villages, equipping each center with a back-up generator to ensure steady power supply during and after a disaster. The Government of Belize Ministry of Works and National Emergency Management Organization have certified that the buildings comply with hurricane and flood shelter standards. Additionally, RDAP provided a storm-resistant VHF radio communication system to residents in the isolated May Pen village for use during emergencies. The project, which concluded in November 2011, will help ensure that approximately 1,000 individuals are better prepared to handle future disasters. **RDAP Funding.....\$30,000**
- BRAZIL: Family Level Resiliency to Drought in Ceará State:** Caritas will use its RDAP grant to increase rural resiliency to drought and decrease migration to urban centers by training community leaders and establishing alternative income sources for families in drought-prone Crateús, Quiterianópolis, and Tamboril municipalities, areas with a combined population of nearly 10,000 people. Community leaders will learn effective water management techniques and build rainwater collection and storage areas in the communities. RDAP’s Caritas project will also establish a cooperative that recycles plastic bottles and generates additional income, increasing residents’ resiliency during periods of drought. **RDAP Funding.....\$30,000**

- CHILE: Emergency Planning, Equipment, and Infrastructure for Preschools in Los Rios:** With support from RDAP, Fundación Integra is helping 13 preschools in the Los Rios Region prepare for future disasters. The nine-month project will benefit more than 2,000 children and 400 staff members by identifying and preparing evacuation routes, installing independently powered emergency alarm systems, and providing first-aid kits. **RDAP Funding.....\$34,043**
- COSTA RICA: Early Warning System for Forest Fires in La Amistad International Park Buffer Zone:** USAID/OFDA is partnering with the Fundación para la Cooperación Costa Rica-United States of America (CRUSA) and the Government of Costa Rica (GoCR) to implement an early warning detection and response system in three remote communities near La Amistad International Park. Through the 12-month RDAP program, CRUSA and the GoCR National System of Conservation Areas will provide forest firefighter training and communications and firefighting equipment to the Tres Colinas, Potrero Grande, and La Puna communities, which have a combined population of more than 2,000 people. The program will enable officials to broadcast radio announcements during future fires to ensure that people receive adequate warning and can move out of harm’s way. **RDAP Funding.....\$30,000**
- The DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Environmental Protection in Los Alcarrizos Municipality:** The Fundación Integra Niños Felices de América is implementing a 12-month RDAP-funded project in the El Chavón neighborhood of La Chapea Glen, Los Alcarrizos Municipality. The project, which will reforest the La Chapea watershed area, improve infrastructure, and sensitize community members to the importance of restoring and preventing pollution in the region, will benefit more than 100,000 people living near the La Chapea Ravine. **RDAP Funding.....\$46,488**
- ECUADOR: Reducing Coastal Risks Associated with Climate Change:** Through local partner EcoCostas, RDAP is working with government leaders from coastal districts in San Cristobal Island, Galapagos Province, and Manta, Manabi Province, to increase the resiliency of low-income communities vulnerable to natural disasters such as landslides and flooding. With RDAP support, EcoCostas will design emergency plans and provide disaster risk management training to community leaders. **RDAP Funding.....\$38,000**
- GUATEMALA: Response Equipment and First-Responder Training for Local Communities:** Through SHARE Guatemala, RDAP will provide emergency radio communications equipment and technical training to municipal and community leaders in 30 mostly indigenous communities of Tecpán Municipality, Chimaltenango Department. The program, which will benefit nearly 10,000 people, will also provide first responder training and equipment to nearly 300 volunteer members of disaster response committees throughout the 30 communities. Training will include a full-scale emergency simulation to test communications equipment, procedures, and protocols. **RDAP .....\$21,740**
- PANAMA: School Safety and Disaster Risk Management in Education in Bocas del Toro, Veraguas, and the Ngobe Bugle Indigenous Reservation:** Through RDAP, the Social Promotion and Development Program is supporting regional education leaders and local school supervisors to identify and assist schools at risk of disasters and to improve the resources available for disaster management. The project will develop a training guide that outlines disaster response strategies, coordinate simulations, and compile risk management plans for at least 30 schools comprising an estimated 3,000 children and staff in three indigenous reservation communities. **RDAP Funding.....\$35,000**
- PERU: Improving Nationwide Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA):** Firemen & Health Hope will use its RDAP small grant to standardize the post-disaster DANA process throughout Peru, alongside the Government of Peru National Civil Defense Institute (INDECI). The project will adapt INDECI’s National Information System for Prevention and Response to Disasters virtual platform to the DANA System, develop a DANA training course model, and provide training to regional instructors. **RDAP Funding.....\$30,000**