

OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (USAID/OFDA)

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA



USAID/OFDA partner J/P Haitian Relief Organization (J/P HRO) provides emergency shelter assistance to hurricane-affected families in Jérémie City. Photo courtesy of J/P HRO

Six Months after Hurricane Matthew, USAID/OFDA Continues to Support Recovery in Haiti

Six months after the powerful Hurricane Matthew struck southwestern Haiti, affecting approximately 2.1 million people, the U.S. Government (USG) continues to provide humanitarian assistance to hurricane-affected communities to repair damaged homes, help children return to school, and improve household food security through economic and agricultural recovery activities.

As of April 4, USG assistance to Haiti for Hurricane Matthew totaled \$101.8 million, including \$42.6 million from USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP), \$39.5 million from USAID/OFDA, \$11 million from the U.S. Department of Defense, and \$8.7 million from the USAID Mission in Haiti (USAID/Haiti).

Immediately following the hurricane, USAID's Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) worked with the Government of Haiti, U.N. agencies, and other international organizations to prioritize the provision of emergency food assistance, safe drinking water, and health programs to help prevent the spread of water-borne illnesses such as cholera. The DART, in collaboration with other humanitarian organizations, also provided relief supplies to address emergency health care, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs. The DART officially demobilized in late December 2016 as part of the transition from emergency response to early recovery activities.

USAID/OFDA is now focusing on helping hurricane-affected families build back safer (BBS). With nearly \$6.7 million in funding from USAID/OFDA, four partners—the Agency for Technical *Continued on page 2*



USAID/OFDA Health Advisor Sonia Walia visits a USAID/OFDA-supported mobile clinic in Roseaux Commune, implemented by Doctors of the World. Photo by Irene Gago, USAID/OFDA



USAID/OFDA's response strategy prioritized the fast provision of safe drinking water throughout acutely affected areas. Photo courtesy of Save the Children

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Cooperation and Development, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), J/P HRO and Medair—are implementing BBS programs as the second phase of USAID/OFDA's shelter assistance strategy, aiming to provide technical assistance and durable shelter materials to more than 6,000 hurricane-affected households in Grand'Anse and Sud departments. As part of these programs, USAID/OFDA partners are providing training local carpenters and builders to ensure the inclusion of technically sound seismic- and cyclonic-resistant techniques, such as wind bracing, adapted to each houses' structure. Programs are also strengthening the disaster risk reduction capacities of local households through training and instructional materials to ensure that knowledge of disaster preparedness and mitigation practices remain in communities.

USAID is also supporting agricultural recovery and food security cash vouchers for vulnerable families in affected areas. With \$9 million in USAID support, including \$8 million from USAID/FFP and \$1 million from USAID/OFDA, CRS is implementing a two-pronged intervention to address immediate food security needs among the most vulnerable populations, as well as medium-term agricultural needs in eight communes in Grand'Anse and Sud departments. In the first phase, CRS provided more than 16,600 farmers with access to quality seeds and agricultural inputs during the recent spring planting season, by distributing one \$100 voucher to assist smallholder farmers in growing staple crops. Additionally, CRS is providing nearly 32,000 vulnerable households immediate cash support for food in the form of two, \$60 unconditional cash transfers during the lean season, which ends in May.

USAID/OFDA staff in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, continue to monitor USAID/OFDA-funded programs and coordinate with USAID/Haiti to support the transition to early recovery and development activities.

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USAID/OFDA Helps Colombia After Landslide

Heavy rainfall in southwestern Colombia generated a landslide in the small city of Mocoa in Putumayo Department, southwest Colombia, on April 1 that resulted in more than 310 deaths, injured more than 330 others, and displaced at least 4,500 people, according to the Government of Colombia (GoC).

Following the landslide, the GoC declared a state of emergency in Mocoa and activated emergency personnel to assist in relief efforts, including searching for survivors and evacuating affected people to safety.

The GoC National Unit for Risk and Disaster Management (UNGRD) deployed more than 1,300 response personnel and provided medical equipment, generators, safe drinking water, personal hygiene items, and other relief commodities to landslide-affected people in Mocoa, as of April 7.

The GoC also commissioned two water treatment plants to provide safe drinking water to the city. The Colombian Air Force used two C-130 aircraft to provide air transport for injured people, emergency personnel, and relief supplies for affected populations.

In addition, the Colombian Red Cross deployed a 54-person team to support GoC response efforts, including emergency health care services at a local hospital.

On April 7, U.S. Ambassador to Colombia Kevin Whitaker declared a disaster due to the effects of the landslide in Mocoa.

In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 to the International Organization for Migration to support the distribution of water, sanitation, and hygiene relief commodities to displaced populations in Mocoa.



Residents in Mocoa City, Colombia, observe search-and-rescue activities after the landslide. Photo courtesy of the Colombian Red Cross