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

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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.

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.

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.