

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND RELIEF COMMODITIES SECTOR UPDATE



A USAID/OFDA partner in DRC transports relief commodities from Kinshasa to Tshikapa Airport in the Kasai region. Photo by George Aboagye/Agility

Addressing the Needs of Conflict-Affected Populations in DRC

Continuing conflict between armed actors loyal to the Government of Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and fragmented armed groups has contributed to high levels of food insecurity and population displacement in many areas of DRC. Since 2016, humanitarian access constraints, poor infrastructure, and violence, particularly in central DRC's Kasai region, have resulted in deteriorating humanitarian conditions and large-scale internal displacement and refugee outflows. Priority needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in DRC include food, health, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services.

In response, USAID/OFDA supports humanitarian partners to identify needs and assist conflict-affected populations in DRC. In FY 2017, USAID/OFDA provided NGO and UN partners more than \$17 million to procure and distribute relief commodities and provide humanitarian logistics support to benefit hundreds of thousands of conflict-affected people across DRC.

Additionally, between July and September 2017, USAID/OFDA's Logistics Unit organized a series of relief commodity shipments totaling nearly 300 metric tons of relief commodities to DRC to support IDPs in the Kasai region. USAID/OFDA delivered blankets, kitchen sets, plastic sheeting, and water purification tablets to partners in the Kasai region's Kananaga, Mbuji Mayi, and Tshikapa cities in September for onward distribution to conflict-affected populations.

Sector Overview

As part of its effort to ensure rapid responses to humanitarian emergencies around the world, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) stores emergency relief supplies, such as blankets, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, plastic sheeting, and water containers, at warehouses in Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Miami, United States; Pisa, Italy; and Subang, Malaysia.

In addition to stockpiling emergency relief items, USAID/OFDA deploys logistics personnel to assist directly with U.S. Government responses when a disaster strikes. With support from colleagues in Washington, D.C., deployed logistics personnel manage the transport and consignment of relief commodities to USAID/OFDA partners operating in disaster-affected areas. USAID/OFDA's Logistics Unit also provides technical assistance to non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UN agencies, and host government counterparts in the immediate aftermath of a disaster and supports disaster risk reduction efforts to mitigate the impact of future disasters.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2017, through grants and in-kind contributions to humanitarian partners, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$272 million for emergency relief commodities and associated transport, as well as for other logistical support.



USAID/OFDA stockpiles emergency relief items at four warehouses around the world for use when disaster strikes. Photo by USAID/OFDA's Logistics Unit



A young girl collects safe drinking water from a newly rehabilitated water point funded by USAID/OFDA and installed by a USAID partner in Yemen. Photo courtesy of a USAID partner

Providing Life-Saving Commodities in Yemen

In 2017, ongoing conflict, protracted political instability, economic turmoil, rising food and fuel prices, and high unemployment exacerbated humanitarian need in Yemen. Nearly 21 million people require humanitarian assistance, including 7.3 million people in need of emergency food commodities, approximately 2 million IDPs, and 1 million returnees. In addition, a resurgent cholera outbreak resulted in more than 783,000 suspected cholera cases, including 2,124 related deaths, in Yemen between April 27 and September 30.

In FY 2017, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$22 million to implementing partners for logistics support in Yemen, including the procurement, pre-positioning, and distribution of emergency relief commodities such as kitchen sets, shelter kits, and WASH items.

A portion of this USAID/OFDA support enabled the Logistics Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian logistics activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—to transport and store more than 500 metric tons of humanitarian supplies and relief commodities in September.

Supporting Haiti in the Wake of Hurricane Matthew

Hurricane Matthew made landfall in Haiti on October 4, 2016, resulting in nearly 550 deaths and affecting an estimated 2.1 million people, including 806,000 people who required immediate food assistance. The storm brought destructive winds, heavy rainfall, and dangerous storm surge, leading to widespread flooding and extensive damage to crops, houses, and infrastructure, primarily in eastern Haiti's Grand'Anse and Sud departments.

In response to the humanitarian needs following Hurricane Matthew, USAID/OFDA transported emergency relief items from its warehouses in Dubai, Miami, and Pisa. USAID/OFDA procured and distributed blankets, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, plastic sheeting, and water purification tablets to partners in Haiti to support responses to health, shelter, and WASH needs for an estimated 943,000 people.

Of this assistance, USAID/OFDA airlifted approximately 9,100 rolls of reinforced plastic sheeting to help meet the emergency shelter needs of up to 500,000 people affected by Hurricane Matthew. With USAID/OFDA support, NGO partners provided plastic sheeting, fixing kits, and technical assistance to more than 47,000 households to rebuild after Hurricane Matthew's destruction.

In addition to relief commodities transported to Haiti, USAID/OFDA provided emergency relief items to hurricane-affected populations in The Bahamas. An estimated 28,000 people in The Bahamas received emergency relief items to address critical needs, including access to safe drinking water and shelter.

USAID/OFDA provided more than \$3.8 million in FY 2017 to procure and distribute emergency relief commodities to people in need in The Bahamas and Haiti in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew.



USAID/OFDA-provided plastic sheeting covers a home damaged by Hurricane Matthew in Haiti's capital city of Port-au-Prince. Photo by Kelly Bradley/USAID

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