Countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region are highly vulnerable to a range of natural hazards, including droughts, earthquakes, forest fires, floods, hurricanes, and volcanic eruptions. Between FY 2007 and FY 2016, USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) and USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) provided humanitarian assistance in response to a diverse range of natural disasters in the region. Recent examples include an earthquake in Ecuador, floods in Paraguay and Uruguay, hurricanes in The Bahamas and Belize, El Niño-related drought in Haiti and Central America, and forest fires in Colombia.

USAID provided nearly $810 million to assist disaster-affected populations in the LAC region in the last decade. USAID/OFDA contributed approximately $507 million to support the provision of emergency relief items, logistical activities, and humanitarian coordination, as well as activities in the sectors of agriculture and food security, health, livelihoods, nutrition, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene. Nearly $303 million from USAID/FFP sustained efforts to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition among disaster-affected populations.

Between FY 2007 and FY 2016, USAID responded to 92 disasters in LAC and deployed humanitarian teams to the region as needed, including five Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DARTs). USAID deployed DARTs to Haiti following a hurricane in FY 2008, a building collapse in FY 2009, a severe earthquake in FY 2010, and a cholera outbreak in FY 2011, and to Chile following an earthquake in FY 2010. USAID also activated multiple Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Teams to support coordination and response efforts.