



**Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)
Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, San José, Costa Rica**

DISASTER RESPONSE



Earth and debris up to 50 feet deep buried homes in El Cambray II, Guatemala. Photo courtesy of CONRED

USAID/OFDA Responds to Guatemala Landslide

On October 1, 2015, a massive landslide that was triggered by heavy rains took place in the village of El Cambray II, Guatemala. Guatemalan authorities estimated that mud and debris covered approximately 17,500 square meters of the community.

Since November 2014, Cambray I and II settlements had been declared high-risk zones, but relocation of disaster-vulnerable populations has been complicated. This, together with the heavy rains, overflow rivers, land erosion, and drainage problems, contributed

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DISASTER PREPAREDNESS



Photo by Adam McBride USAID/OFDA

Participants at the DRR in Education Forum in St. Lucia

USAID/OFDA Supports DRR in Education Forum

USAID/OFDA, in collaboration with Sir Arthur Lewis Community College (SALCC), hosted the first Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction in Education in the Caribbean on October 13-15

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DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

USAID/OFDA Supports the Resilience of People with Disabilities in Panama

On August 26, the Evacuation Simulation Exercise in the Bethania headquarters of the Special Habilitation Institute of Panama (IPHE) took place in Panama City, Panama, as part of the pilot project to develop the "Integral Disaster Risk Management Guide for Inclusive Education Centers." The guide will be used as part of a larger project, the "Teenagers and youth with disabilities in Panama access inclusive and safe education"

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DISASTER PREPAREDNESS



Photo courtesy of IPHE

A participant of the Evacuation Simulation Exercise practices the pre-hospital evaluation system on a trauma patient.

USAID/OFDA Supports the Resilience of People with Disabilities in Panama

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project.

With financial support from USAID/OFDA, the project is implemented by IPHE and RET International, in conjunction with the National Civil Protection System (SINAPROC), National Disabilities Service (SENADIS), the Ministry of Education (MEDUCA), firefighters, SUME-911, and the national police, among other strategic partners.

The project aims to strengthen the IPHE and its educational community, increasing its resilience and ensuring inclusive and safe education during emergency or disaster situations.

The Evacuation Simulation Exercise allowed for the consolidation of lessons learned and identification of good practices, for incorporation into the final version of the "Integral Disaster Risk Management Guide for Inclusive Education Centers," and will enable its implementation in the other IPHE offices throughout the country.

"We appreciate the trust and support given by USAID/OFDA to make this innovative and rewarding experience possible. This has strengthened capacities and synergies in all directions, reaching many people (with and without disabilities) and organizations that have had the privilege to be involved," stated Magnolia Santamaría, National Program Coordinator for RET International in Panama.

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Photo courtesy of CONRED

Rescue workers search for trapped victims of the landslide.

USAID/OFDA Responds to Guatemala Landslide

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to the large impact of the landslide.

In its final report of the situation, the National Coordinator for Disaster Management of Guatemala (CONRED) reported that the landslide caused severe damage to 70 houses and that more than 100 houses remained at risk. Some homes were buried under more than 50 feet of dirt, mud, and debris.

Approximately 1,800 rescue workers and residents participated in rescue efforts. Emergency operations were able to recover 280 bodies, while dozens remained missing when the Government of Guatemala (GoG) discontinued search activities on October 14.

A total of 522 people were affected by the landslide, including 495 who had to be evacuated and stayed in temporary shelters provided by CONRED and other GoG institutions.

In response, on October 2, USAID/OFDA provided \$5,000 to CONRED for the immediate purchase of fuel and other non-food emergency supplies. Another \$50,000 was provided to Project Concern International to support shelter interventions.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

USAID/OFDA Supports DRR in Education Forum

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on the island of St. Lucia.

The forum brought together leaders in the education sector, educational practitioners, and stakeholders from 13 countries across the Caribbean and was streamed live online to a global audience.

The forum sought to increase awareness of disaster risk in the education sector of the Caribbean region, share lessons learned, test best practices on disaster risk management in the Caribbean region, and encourage the development of regional approaches for addressing disaster risk reduction in the education sector in the Caribbean region.

Participants listened to presentations by leaders in the field and took part in group discussions and panels where they had a chance to exchange lessons learned in their home countries and share best practices with their fellow participants.