

## USAID'S BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (USAID/BHA)

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

### Colleagues from USAID/BHA Regional Office for LAC Honor and Thank RA Sidney Velado for His 15 Years of Dedicated Service

Colleagues from the USAID/BHA regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), national governments, first response agencies, humanitarian organizations, and communities throughout the region honor and thank Sidney Velado for his 15 years of friendship and dedicated service as a humanitarian, disaster management expert, and regional advisor (RA) for USAID/BHA.

Since 2005, Sidney has worked devotedly as a USAID/BHA RA, bolstering disaster risk management capacities in most countries of the LAC region. During the last 10 years, he led the Regional Disaster Assistance Program (RDAP), which has helped increase local and regional disaster risk management capabilities, improve intergovernmental coordination, and strengthen disaster preparedness and mitigation activities throughout the region.

“Sidney has been a crucial member of our LAC team, contributing immensely to the excellence of the RDAP program. He is leaving a legacy of his own; a footprint in disaster risk management capacity building that will endure for many years in the LAC region,” said USAID/BHA Senior Regional Advisor Tim Callaghan.

RA Velado led the RDAP team in disaster risk management strategic analysis, identifying and prioritizing geographical areas with recurrent natural hazards and the most vulnerable communities. He managed the formulation of disaster preparedness plans and the development of risk reduction, training, and technical assistance programs in 28 countries throughout the region. He has also led the implementation of multiple Latin American forums on disaster risk reduction (DRR), including



RA Sidney Velado attends an inauguration/award ceremony at the First Central American Forest Firefighter Brigade Mobilization Exercise in 2013. Photo by Krystal Hartman, USAID/BHA

forums on the incident command system, DRR in higher education, emergency management systems preparedness, and integrated fire management.

USAID/BHA RA John Kimbrough noted, “Words cannot express all the heartfelt gratitude we feel for Sidney’s friendship and support to the regional office. In the Caribbean, he managed the RDAP through very challenging times and circumstances with respect and professionalism, and his efforts will always be appreciated. We know we will see him again in the “usual places,” assisting those in need.”

“Sidney has been key to developing our DRR strategy and community approach programs, particularly in higher education. I want to congratulate Sidney on all his success over the past 15 years and thank him on behalf of the hundreds of emergency managers across the LAC region that have benefited from the capacity building courses he designed and implemented with our team of emergency management experts,” agreed USAID/BHA Program Officer Peter Schecter.

USAID/BHA RA Sidney Velado served in multiple humanitarian responses in the region. He led USAID/BHA’s response to Hurricane Felix in Nicaragua in 2008 and USAID’s Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) in Chile after the 8.8 magnitude earthquake in 2010. He has worked closely with the LAC regional team in various responses, including the Caribbean Hurricanes in 2017, Venezuela Regional Crisis from 2018 to 2020, and Brazil Wildfires in 2019. He has also provided support to USAID DARTs in other regions as required, including for the Pakistan Earthquake in 2005, Mozambique’s Zambezi River Valley Floods in 2007, the Angola Floods in 2007 and 2008, Ebola Virus Disease in Sierra Leone in 2015, and the Syria Complex Emergency in 2016.

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USAID/BHA RA Sidney Velado conducts an assessment in Roraima Department to determine most critical needs of Venezuelan migrants in Brazil. Since early 2018, Velado provided vital support to USAID’s Venezuela Regional Crisis DART humanitarian programming in Brazil. Photo by Irene Gago, USAID/BHA

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“Sidney is a true humanitarian at heart, an excellent professional who worked passionately for the LAC region, and a great friend who always dedicated time to listen to his coworkers. He is one of the most knowledgeable persons in the humanitarian sector I have ever met, who was always committed to sharing that in-depth knowledge and experience with colleagues at the LAC office and partners to ensure the best quality in humanitarian programming,” noted USAID/BHA Information Officer Irene Gago.

Before joining USAID/BHA, Sidney worked for more than 14 years with various international humanitarian and development organizations, including Care International, Food for the Hungry International, World SHARE, and World Vision.



USAID/BHA RA Velado served in multiple humanitarian responses in the region, including the Chile Earthquake DART in 2010 and the Venezuela Regional Crisis DART from 2018 to 2020. His in-depth knowledge has significantly contributed to ensuring the quality of humanitarian programming and bolstering DRR capacities throughout the region, *Photos by USAID*



RA Velado has provided support to USAID responses in other regions of the world as required, including the Ebola Virus Disease DART in Sierra Leone in 2015 and the Syria Complex Emergency DART in 2016. *Photo by USAID*



In December 2018, Brazil's Civil Defense and Protection Secretariat (SEDEC) honored USAID/BHA RA Sidney Velado with the Civil Defense Medal—an award given by the organization to distinguish those who have supported outstanding work in the area of disaster prevention and response—for his efforts to help DRR capacity building programs to protect the lives of inhabitants of Brazil. *Photo by Irene Gago, USAID/BHA*

USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance  
Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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