

**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

**Latin America and the Caribbean¹
Humanitarian Assistance in Review, Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 – FY 2009**

The countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) are highly vulnerable to a range of natural hazards, including drought, earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, landslides, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions. In addition, disasters triggered by environmental and industrial incidents, such as forest fires and chemical and oil spills, pose a potential threat. At times, El Niño Southern Oscillation meteorological events and poor land use management exacerbate the effects of potential hazards. Several countries in the region also remain vulnerable to civil unrest and associated humanitarian consequences. Between FY 2000 and FY 2009, USAID/OFDA and USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) have provided humanitarian assistance in response to a range of natural hazards, including flooding in El Salvador, drought in Paraguay, and an oil spill in Ecuador.



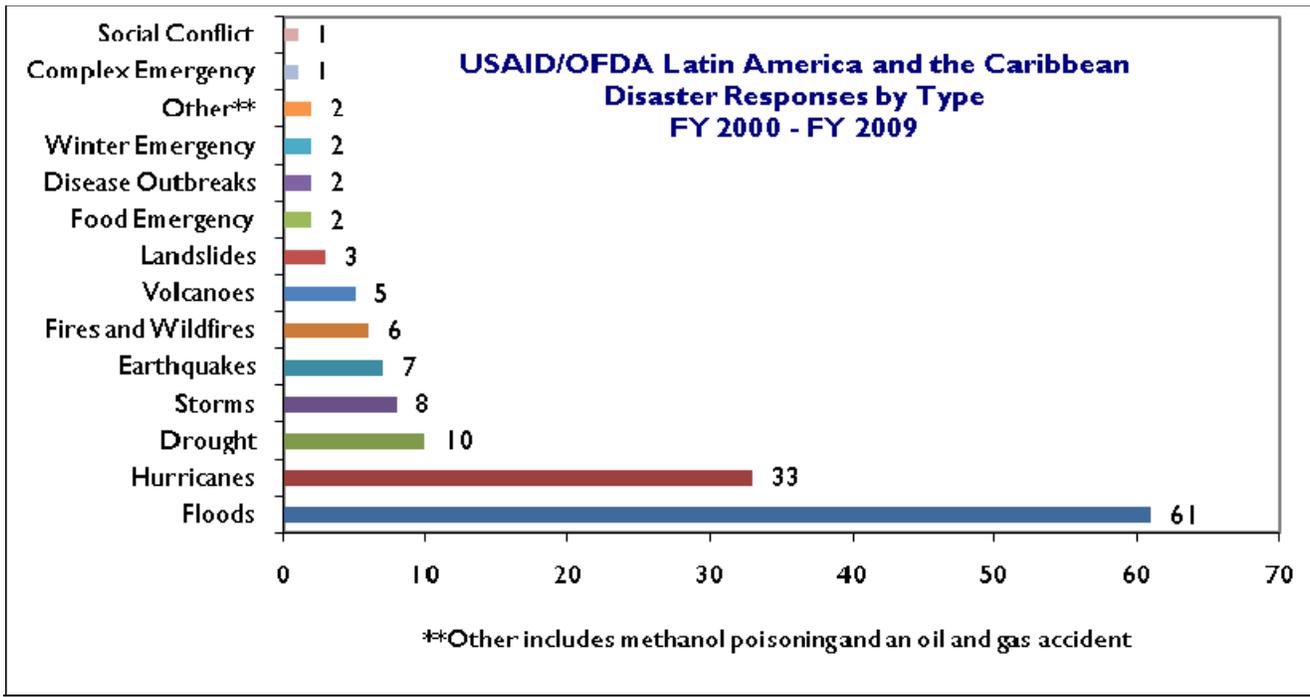
Between FY 2000 and FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$65 million in humanitarian assistance to Latin America and the Caribbean. USAID/FFP provided approximately \$169.8 million in emergency food aid. In addition to Washington, D.C.-based staff and a regional office in San Jose, Costa Rica, USAID/OFDA maintains a network of 21 disaster risk management specialists and more than 200 on-call surge capacity response consultants in the region, available for immediate deployment to conduct damage and needs assessments in response to disasters, and to help coordinate U.S. Government emergency response activities throughout the LAC region.

In recent years, USAID deployed multiple humanitarian assessment and response teams throughout the region, including six Disaster Assistance Response Teams (USAID/DARTs) to Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Venezuela, and Caribbean region countries, including Grenada, and Jamaica. USAID activated Washington D.C.-based Response Management Teams to support DART coordination and response efforts. In addition, USAID/OFDA deployed disaster management experts and activated surge capacity consultants for emergencies in Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua Panama, Paraguay, and Peru.

**USAID/OFDA AND USAID/FFP HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LAC¹
(FY 2000 – FY 2009), IN MILLIONS**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	TOTALS
USAID/OFDA	\$3.2	\$15.9	\$1.8	\$0.8	\$9.4	\$1.8	\$6.6	\$5.5	\$17.6	\$2.9	\$65.5
USAID/FFP	\$2.3	\$5.0	\$6.0	\$14.1	\$6.6	\$12.5	\$15.3	\$6.9	\$61.8	\$39.3	\$169.8
TOTALS	\$5.5	\$20.9	\$7.8	\$14.9	\$16.0	\$14.3	\$21.9	\$12.4	\$79.4	\$42.2	\$235.3

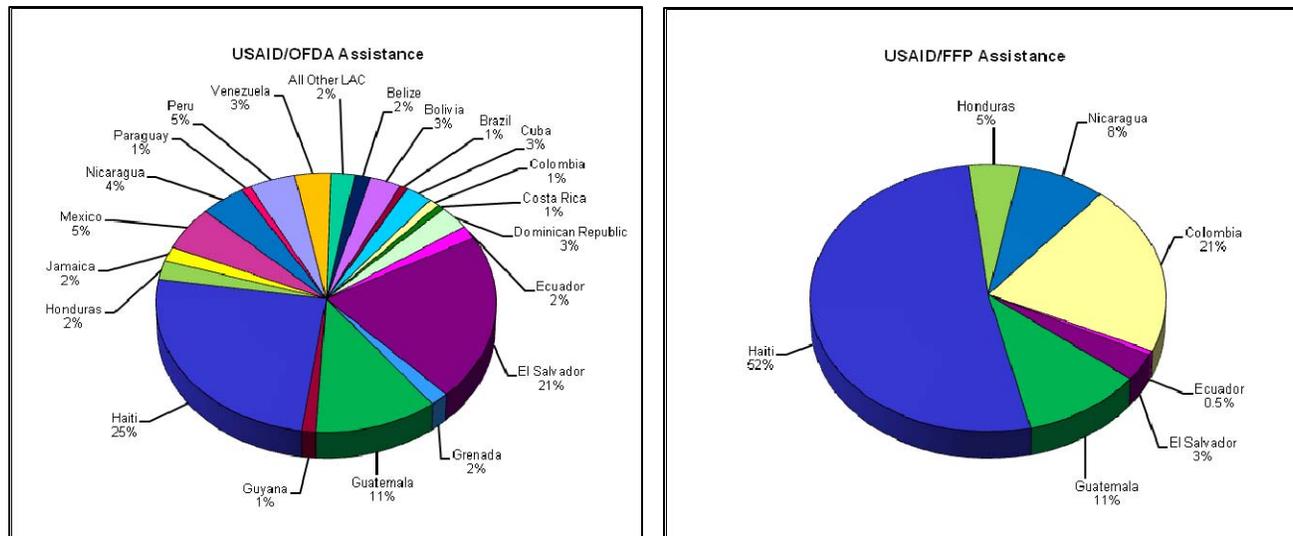
¹ The rounded figures represent committed or obligated amounts through the end of FY 2009. Figures do not include more than \$81 million in standalone USAID/OFDA Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) assistance provided outside of declared disaster responses.



Recognizing unique vulnerabilities in the LAC region, USAID/OFDA supports disaster preparedness and mitigation programs aimed at reducing loss of life, alleviating human suffering, and reducing the social and economic impact of natural disasters. In the LAC region, USAID/OFDA developed a disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategy in 2009 to promote self-sufficiency in disaster preparedness and management at local and national levels; support regional disaster management and first-responder institutions; and strengthen the capacity of national emergency systems. Each country's strategy is based on an analysis of recurrent risks and vulnerable geographical areas within the country, with higher prioritization given to areas with greater at-risk populations. Additionally, USAID/OFDA resources help reduce the risk of natural disasters and increase local populations' resiliency and preparedness for natural disasters.

In total, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$81 million for preparedness and mitigation activities in LAC, including approximately \$18.1 million for new and ongoing programs in FY 2009. Active DRR programs in the LAC region include support for safer housing reconstruction in Peru, a tsunami and coastal hazards early warning system implemented by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, and volcano monitoring assistance throughout the region in collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey.

USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LAC BY COUNTRY (FY 2000 –2009)²



² The rounded figures represent committed or obligated amounts through the end of FY 2009. Figures do not include more than \$81 million in standalone USAID/OFDA DRR assistance provided outside of declared disaster responses.