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

***Haiti –  
Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Programs***

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

September 29, 2009

**BACKGROUND**

Haiti is highly vulnerable to a range of natural hazards, including seismic hazards, hurricanes and tropical storms, flooding, mudslides, and other hydrometeorological disasters. In addition, environmental degradation and poverty form a cycle of structural food insecurity, which is exacerbated by frequent rapid-onset disasters, according to USAID-supported Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).

In 2001, USAID/OFDA began to provide funding to the U.N. Development Program (UNDP)<sup>1</sup> to support the development of national disaster management capacity using a systems approach. Since 2006, USAID/OFDA has provided training and technical assistance to improve the ability of local Haitians to prepare for and respond to disasters. To further plan for and implement preparedness and mitigation programs in Haiti, USAID/OFDA is formulating a comprehensive country strategy that incorporates elements to more effectively coordinate the humanitarian response to tropical storms, including through increased involvement in early recovery projects. The strategy will also promote strong coordination among U.S. Government agencies, the Government of Haiti (GoH), and members of the international community.

**USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR HAITI DISASTER RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS**

<b>Preparedness and Mitigation Funding, FY 2006 to FY 2009.....</b>	<b>\$1,100,045</b>
<b>Disaster Response Funding, FY 2006 to FY 2009 .....</b>	<b>\$14,567,691</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance to Haiti, FY 2006 to FY 2009.....</b>	<b>\$15,667,736</b>

**USAID Preparedness and Mitigation Assistance to Haiti in FY 2009**

- The GoH has established a National Disaster Risk Management System (NDRMS), of which the Civil Protection Directorate (DPC) is the executive secretariat. USAID has supported the development of NDRMS, in conjunction with UNDP, since the system’s inception in 1999.
- A USAID/OFDA regional advisor has been based in Haiti since December 2008, assisting with preparations for the 2009 Atlantic hurricane season. In January 2009, USAID/OFDA hired a local disaster risk management specialist, also based in Haiti. Along with GoH counterparts, these USAID/OFDA staff members have assessed disaster response needs and shortcomings in Haiti and helped design and obtain funding for programs that address the most critical needs. The USAID/OFDA regional advisor also served as the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) leader in Haiti from September through December 2008. The USAID/OFDA regional advisor has worked extensively with USAID/Haiti technical staff on developing complementary DRR activities for ongoing USAID/Haiti programming focusing on education; justice, democracy, and governance; economic growth and the environment; and food security and humanitarian assistance.
- The USAID/OFDA regional advisor continues to provide technical assistance to the GoH NDRMS in developing and implementing the DPC’s preparedness strategy and contingency plan. A cadre of trainers who received training under USAID/OFDA’s training program, in conjunction with the GoH, U.N., and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners, will continue to replicate this training in each of Haiti’s 10 departments. From late August through early September, an assessment team including USAID/OFDA staff members and specialists from Fairfax County urban search and rescue traveled to Haiti and subsequently recommended that USAID/OFDA provide search and rescue training to local disaster response personnel in major urban centers of the country.
- USAID/OFDA staff have worked closely with the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to establish a consultative mechanism for requesting DoD assets, should the GoH and the U.N. Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) signal the need for logistical support in disaster responses.

<sup>1</sup> In FY 2001, USAID/OFDA provided \$80,000 to UNDP to support the DPC/Risk Management System. In FY 2006, USAID/OFDA provided a follow-on grant of \$250,000 to UNDP; later in FY 2006, USAID/Haiti provided an additional \$472,000 to UNDP to continue preparedness and mitigation activities begun under the USAID/OFDA grant provided earlier in FY 2006. In FY 2007, USAID/Haiti provided an additional \$119,733 to UNDP to complete the program.

- USAID/OFDA has procured disaster response materials for both the DPC and the Haitian Red Cross in advance of the current hurricane season.
- Beginning September 2009, USAID/OFDA is supporting the American Red Cross (AmRC), Save the Children (SC), and the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) in implementing community-based disaster risk reduction activities that complement ongoing USAID programming. With USAID/OFDA funding, the AmRC is enhancing the capacity of two communities in Haiti to prepare for, mitigate, and respond to the adverse affects of climate change and disasters. In conjunction with local school and civil protection officials in Gonaives, SC is working to ensure that children are prepared, protected, and resilient to potential disaster situations. PADF is creating and reinforcing the capacities of civil protection officials in Artibonite Department, developing and updating local risk maps, and supporting local officials in risk mitigation projects.
- USAID/OFDA staff in Haiti continue to assist with the design and development of USAID/Haiti disaster preparedness, risk reduction, and mitigation activities. In addition, USAID/OFDA designed and facilitated the after action review process of the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince in response to the 2008 storms response and school collapse, providing significant support to help revise and enhance the U.S. Embassy's mission disaster relief plan.
- With funding from USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP), FEWS NET and U.S. Government employees are continuing to investigate ways to use global climate information to mitigate potential disasters, including food production shortfalls.

#### **USAID Preparedness and Mitigation Assistance for Haiti, FY 2006 to FY 2008**

- Beginning in FY 2006, USAID/OFDA preparedness and mitigation programs focused on technical assistance as well as training for GoH officials, NGO staff, and members of local communities. USAID/OFDA has provided damage assessment and needs analysis courses—in which a total of 240 people have participated to date—and training for instructors for individuals who later lead similar courses in local communities. In late 2007, a Haitian team composed of disaster response personnel who had recently participated in USAID/OFDA training formed part of the initial humanitarian response to Tropical Storm Noel.
- USAID/OFDA has provided technical assistance in Haiti by maintaining damage evaluation and needs analysis equipment and materials, and updating or translating into French the training materials used by the GoH DPC.
- In early 2009, UNDP reported that USAID/OFDA assistance to Haiti had helped Haitians prepare for and mitigate disasters by standardizing the formation of civil protection committees, standardizing and improving training, strengthening local capacity, and integrating risk reduction at all levels.

#### **USAID/OFDA Disaster Response Assistance, FY 2006 to FY 2009**

- To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$5.2 million in humanitarian assistance to populations affected by Hurricane Gustav and a school collapse. In response to humanitarian needs, USAID/OFDA supported both a USAID/DART and an urban search and rescue team deployment to Haiti. In addition, USAID/OFDA funding has supported the provision of emergency relief supplies as well as nutrition and economic recovery and market systems interventions.
- In FY 2008, flooding due to Tropical Storm Noel in late 2007; damages due to Tropical Storm Fay, Hurricane Gustav, and Tropical Storm Hanna during the 2008 Atlantic hurricane season; and food insecurity related to the global food price crisis created humanitarian needs in Haiti. These disasters led to the deaths of at least an estimated 900 people and affected approximately 3.5 million others throughout the country. In response, USAID/OFDA provided a total of more than \$9.2 million in humanitarian assistance and deployed an assessment team and a USAID/DART to monitor humanitarian conditions and coordinate with GoH and relief agencies. USAID/OFDA assistance included the provision and transport of emergency relief supplies and programs to address needs in health, food security, economic recovery and market systems, humanitarian coordination and information management, protection, shelter and settlements, logistics, and water, sanitation and hygiene.
- In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA responded to floods in Haiti that killed 7 people and affected more than 4,000 families. USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 for the local procurement and distribution of emergency relief supplies and to support efforts to clear roads blocked by mud and landslides.

## USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI

FY 2006			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION ASSISTANCE</b>			
Regional Disaster Assistance Program (RDAP)	Preparedness and Mitigation Assistance	Countrywide	\$21,374
UNDP		Countrywide	\$250,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2006</b>			<b>\$271,374</b>

FY 2007			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION ASSISTANCE</b>			
RDAP	Preparedness and Mitigation Assistance	Countrywide	\$40,253
<b>DISASTER RESPONSE</b>			
GoH Ministry of Public Works	<i>Floods:</i> Income Generation, Logistics, WASH, Health, Agriculture and Food Security, Rehabilitation, Emergency Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, Capacity Building	Northwest, Nippes, and Grande-Anse departments	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2007</b>			<b>\$90,253</b>

FY 2008			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION ASSISTANCE</b>			
RDAP	Preparedness and Mitigation Assistance		\$20,582
<b>DISASTER RESPONSE</b>			
Catholic Relief Services (CRS), International Organization for Migration (IOM), SC/US, World Concern Development Organization, World Vision	<i>Floods:</i> Logistics and Emergency Relief Commodities, WASH, Agriculture and Food Security, Protection		\$648,723
AmRC, CHF, IOM, U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), PADF, Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), SC/US, USAID/Haiti, GoH, IOM, WFP, World Vision	<i>Hurricanes:</i> Logistics, Emergency Relief Supplies, Economy and Market Systems, Shelter and Settlements, Coordination, Health, Protection, WASH, Administrative Support	Countrywide	\$8,455,930
CRS	<i>Food Insecurity:</i> Agriculture and Food Insecurity	Countrywide	\$149,998
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$9,275,233</b>

<b>FY 2009</b>			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION ASSISTANCE</b>			
PADF	Haiti Emergency Response and Risk Management Program (PUGRD)	Artibonite	\$70,000
SC/US	Child-focused Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation, and Management Program	Gonaives	\$646,580
RDAP	Preparedness and Mitigation Assistance	Countrywide	\$51,256
<b>DISASTER RESPONSE</b>			
Fairfax County Search and Rescue	<i>School Collapse:</i> Search and Rescue, Transportation and Equipment, Administrative Support	Port-au-Prince	\$1,111,954
CHF, CRS, FONKOZE, Grupement Ingenieria Estrella, U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Concern Developmnet Organization	<i>Hurricanes:</i> Logistics, Emergency Relief Supplies, Economy and Market Systems, Nutrition, Administrative Support	Countrywide	\$4,151,086
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2009</b>			<b>\$6,030,876</b>

<b>USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED FROM FY 2006 TO FY 2009</b>	
<b>PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION</b>	<b>\$1,100,045</b>
<b>DISASTER RESPONSE</b>	<b>\$14,567,691</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, FY 2006 TO FY 2009</b>	<b>\$15,667,736</b>