



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

***Ecuador – Floods***

Fact Sheet #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

March 7, 2008.

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated February 29, 2008.*

**KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- On February 28, a U.N. Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team deployed to Ecuador. The UNDAC team is conducting assessments in flooded areas and is assisting the Government of Ecuador (GOE) with the coordination of the emergency response, information management, and civil-military cooperation. The UNDAC team plans to remain in Ecuador for approximately three weeks.
- U.N. agencies and the UNDAC team have begun sectoral working groups to discuss flood response and identify priority needs in affected provinces. The sectoral working groups are focusing on basic services and hygiene, food, health, infrastructure, livelihoods, shelter, and rescue, evacuation, and security. GOE Army Forces officials, GOE representatives, and field staff from USAID/OFDA, U.N. agencies, and other relief organizations are participating in sectoral meetings.
- On March 3, the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) issued an international appeal for an initial \$800,000 to meet the most pressing needs of women and children affected by flooding for the next three months.
- On March 3, USAID/OFDA airlifted 5,088 hygiene kits from the USAID/OFDA Miami warehouse to Guayaquil. USAID/OFDA consigned the shipment to the GOE Ministry of Health.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	
<b>Total Affected Population</b>	250,000-300,000	OCHA <sup>1</sup> – March 3, 2008
<b>Number of Deaths</b>	19	OCHA – February 29, 2008
<b>IDPs<sup>2</sup></b>	10,428	U.N. – March 4, 2008

**FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE**

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ecuador .....	\$557,535
DOD <sup>3</sup> Assistance to Ecuador .....	\$45,000
<b>Total USAID and DOD Humanitarian Assistance to Ecuador .....</b>	<b>\$602,535</b>

**CURRENT SITUATION**

- On March 1, USAID/OFDA field staff performed an aerial assessment of Guayas and Los Ríos provinces. According to USAID/OFDA, flooding has affected most of the cropland in Guayas and Los Ríos.
- INAMHI, the GOE National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology, reported that heavy rainfall will continue in several provinces in the week of March 3 to 10. INAMHI estimates that heavy rains will continue until May.

***Food***

- The GOE Ministry of Agriculture reported that floods have significantly damaged croplands in coastal provinces, particularly rice paddies, as well as the fisheries sector, including shrimp and tilapia farms. According to the U.N., the most affected provinces are Guayas, Los Ríos, and Manabí.
- As of March 1, the GOE had distributed more than 25,000 food rations to families living in temporary shelters.

***Shelter and Settlements***

- As of March 4, more than 10,000 persons remained in 245 temporary shelters in the provinces of El Oro, Esmeraldas, Guayas, Los Ríos, and Manabí, according to the U.N.
- In response to the need for temporary shelters for individuals displaced by flooding, USAID/OFDA provided 200 rolls of plastic sheeting that will benefit approximately 10,000 persons.

<sup>1</sup> U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

<sup>2</sup> Internally displaced persons

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Defense

**Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)**

- According to UNICEF, flooding damaged water distribution systems, limiting the access of affected populations to safe drinking water.
- On February 25, USAID/OFDA provided one 10,000-liter water bladder for communal use and 3,000 ten-liter water containers to the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) for distribution to flood-affected families.
- On March 6, USAID/OFDA also provided \$50,000 to support emergency health services, including epidemiological surveillance and information management, and WASH activities to support water treatment for affected populations through the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in response to an emergency appeal.

**USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- On February 21, U.S. Ambassador Linda Jewell declared a disaster due to the impact of the flooding. In response, USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$50,000 to ERC for the local purchase and transport of emergency relief supplies.
- USAID/OFDA also provided nearly \$170,000 to the American Red Cross (AmRC) for the procurement and distribution of emergency relief supplies to flood-affected families, benefiting approximately 6,445 people.
- On March 3, USAID/OFDA airlifted an additional 5,088 hygiene kits at a cost of \$107,503, including transport, from the USAID/OFDA Miami warehouse to Guayaquil. USAID/OFDA consigned the shipment to the GOE Ministry of Health. To date, USAID/OFDA has provided 8,160 hygiene kits, one 10,000-liter water bladder, 3,000 ten-liter water containers, and 200 rolls of plastic sheeting, benefiting approximately 40,800 persons.
- To date, DOD has provided emergency relief commodities at a cost of \$45,000. On February 26, DOD deployed a three-person Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team to provide support to the U.S. Military Group in Ecuador. With Humanitarian Assistance Program funds, DOD is also airlifting additional emergency relief supplies donated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The relief supplies were consigned to ERC for distribution to affected areas.

**USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ECUADOR**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
AmRC	Emergency Relief Activities	El Oro, Guayas, Los Ríos Provinces	\$169,320
ERC	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$50,000
ERC and Other Humanitarian Organizations	Airlift of Emergency Relief Supplies, Including Transport from USAID/OFDA Miami Warehouse	Cañar, El Oro, Guayas, Los Ríos, Manabí Provinces	\$176,932
GOE Ministry of Health	Airlift of Emergency Relief Supplies, Including Transport from USAID/OFDA Miami Warehouse	Affected Areas	\$107,503
PAHO	Health, WASH	Affected Areas	\$50,000
	Administrative Support		\$3,780
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$557,535</b>
<b>DOD ASSISTANCE</b>			
Various	Emergency Relief Supplies, Assistance with Rescue Operations	Affected Areas	\$45,000
<b>TOTAL DOD</b>			<b>\$45,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ECUADOR IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$602,535</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 7, 2008.

## **PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION**

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Ecuador may be available at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)