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

## ***Ecuador – Floods***

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

February 29, 2008

### **BACKGROUND AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- Heavy rains since mid-January have led to severe flooding in 13 provinces of Ecuador. Most affected are the western provinces of Guayas, Manabí, Esmeraldas, and El Oro, as well as the inland provinces of Los Rios, Cañar, and Carchi. According to the Government of Ecuador (GOE), the floods have killed 19 people and affected 300,000 others. On February 20, the GOE declared a national state of emergency.
- To date, flooding has destroyed more than 100,000 hectares of cropland in the coastal provinces, according to the GOE Ministry of Agriculture.
- On February 21, U.S. Ambassador Linda Jewell declared a disaster and requested USAID/OFDA assistance due to the effects of the flooding.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>		<b>SOURCE</b>
<b>Total Affected Population</b>	300,000	GOE Civil Defense – February 23, 2008
<b>Number of Deaths</b>	19	GOE Ministry of the Coastal Region – February 26, 2008
<b>IDPs<sup>1</sup></b>	20,000	GOE Civil Defense – February 23, 2008

### **FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE**

<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ecuador</b> .....	<b>\$230,712</b>
<b>DOD<sup>2</sup> Assistance to Ecuador</b> .....	<b>\$45,000</b>
<b>Total USAID and DOD Humanitarian Assistance to Ecuador</b> .....	<b>\$275,712</b>

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

- A five-person USAID/OFDA team arrived in Quito on February 24, to conduct assessments, determine humanitarian needs, and coordinate U.S. Government (USG) assistance. Members of the team and staff from the American Red Cross deployed to the port city of Guayaquil in Guayas Province on February 25 to assess the damage, meet with GOE officials, and oversee the arrival of USAID/OFDA relief commodities. On February 26, the USAID/OFDA team met with the Minister of the Coastal Region to discuss USG assistance. The team is coordinating USG humanitarian assistance with staff from the U.S. Embassy, including DOD personnel; the GOE; and international donors.
- Floods and mudslides have closed or restricted traffic over numerous roads, according to the GOE Civil Defense and the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC). The flooding has collapsed bridges over the Moraspungo, Santa Rosa, and Japara rivers in the Cotopaxi Province. Increased water levels are threatening the dam in Montalvo, Los Rios Province. Flooding has adversely affected water and electricity services.

### ***Emergency Needs***

- According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, more than 13,000 people are currently living in temporary shelters in the provinces of Bolivar, El Oro, Esmeraldas, Guayas, Los Rios, and Manabí.
- To date, an estimated 170 metric tons (MT) of relief supplies, including food, tarps, blankets, mattresses, and water containers, has arrived from the United States, Argentina, Chile, Japan, Spain, and Venezuela, according to the GOE. The U.N. World Food Program donated 132 MT of high-nutrition biscuits on February 25.
- The Ecuadorian military has requested additional zodiac boats, mobile kitchens, tents, and medical supplies to aid in the relief effort. In response, DOD is donating relief commodities and loaning boats to the GOE to assist with the transportation of food and medical supplies to affected communities.

<sup>1</sup> Internally displaced persons

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Defense

**Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene**

- The Ecuadorian Ministry of Urban Living and Development, the ERC, and Samaritan's Purse have provided water purification units in flood-affected areas, according to reports from USAID/OFDA staff in Ecuador. A USAID/OFDA staff member assessing conditions and coordinating humanitarian assistance has reported that affected populations generally have access to sufficient quantities of safe drinking water, due in part to the provision of these water purification units.
- According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), many shelters are crowded and lack adequate sanitation. IOM stated that staff are currently working with United Nations Emergency Team–Ecuador, the GOE Civil Defense, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide emergency shelter, food, water, and sanitation assistance to individuals affected by flooding.

**USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- On February 21, U.S. Ambassador Linda Jewell declared a disaster due the impact of the flooding. In response, USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$50,000 to the ERC for the local purchase and transport of emergency relief supplies. On February 25, USAID/OFDA airlifted relief commodities, including 3,072 hygiene kits, 3,000 ten-liter water containers, 200 rolls of plastic sheeting, and one 10,000-liter water bladder, at a cost of \$176,932, including transport, from the USAID/OFDA Miami warehouse to Guayaquil, Ecuador. USAID/OFDA consigned the shipment to the ERC.
- DOD is donating relief commodities worth approximately \$45,000, including mosquito nets, sanitary supplies, and bedding. The DOD has loaned ten sets of night-vision goggles and eight zodiac boats to Ecuador's National Police Force for rescue operations. In addition, the DOD has deployed a technical specialist in search and rescue operations to affected areas.
- In response to a request from USAID/OFDA, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is donating humanitarian relief commodities including 8,960 wipes for decontaminating household or school items, 5,200 alcohol pads, 24,000 vinyl gloves, 3,200 boot covers, and 7,000 biohazard trash bags. These items are funded by USAID/OFDA, and are on route to Ecuador with an estimated delivery date of March 2. A shipment of additional sanitation supplies is currently being prepared and will be transported by DOD.

**USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ECUADOR<sup>1</sup>**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
ERC	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$50,000
ERC and other humanitarian organizations	Airlift of Emergency Relief Supplies, Including Transport from USAID/OFDA's Miami Warehouse	Affected Areas	\$176,932
	Administrative Support		\$3,780
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$230,712</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>\$275,712</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of February 29, 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)

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/)