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

Haiti – Storms

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

September 11, 2008

BACKGROUND AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On August 16, Tropical Storm Fay passed over Haiti’s West Department. On August 26, Hurricane Gustav passed over Haiti, producing heavy rains and winds and particularly affecting Artibonite, Nippes, North, Central, West, and Southeast Department. Beginning on September 1, the approach of Tropical Storm Hanna led to additional rainfall and high winds throughout Haiti, affecting areas previously impacted by Hurricane Gustav.
- On August 28, the first member of a USAID/OFDA disaster team arrived in Haiti. On September 10, USAID designated the team as a Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART). The USAID/DART currently comprises seven staff members from USAID/OFDA and one representative of USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP). The USAID/DART is working closely with USAID/Haiti, the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), the Government of Haiti (GOH), U.N. organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and partner relief agencies to identify priority needs and facilitate international relief activities. On September 11, USAID activated a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team (RMT) to support the USAID/DART.
- On September 2, U.S. Ambassador Janet A. Sanderson issued a disaster declaration in response to Hurricane Gustav and resulting flooding throughout Haiti. In response, USAID/OFDA has allocated \$7.5 million in humanitarian assistance. The total value of U.S. Government (USG) humanitarian assistance is \$20 million.
- According to the USAID/DART, GOH officials have stated that recent storms have caused an estimated \$265 million in damage, particularly affecting housing, agriculture, public infrastructure, and education. The most affected departments are Artibonite, Southeast, South, Nippes, and West. The GOH has reiterated requests for international support for the three phases of relief, recovery, and rehabilitation.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Affected Population	850,000	GOH – September 11, 2008
Dead	328	GOH – September 11, 2008
Missing	50	GOH – September 11, 2008
IDPs¹	151,072	GOH – September 10, 2008
IDPs in Shelters	80,000 – 90,000	OCHA – September 10, 2008
Other Damage	10,842 houses destroyed, 35,125 houses damaged	GOH – September 11, 2008

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO DATE FOR HAITI HURRICANES IN 2008

USAID/OFDA Assistance²	\$7,500,000
USAID/FFP Assistance³	\$7,000,000
USAID/Haiti Assistance	\$5,000,000
DOD Assistance	\$500,000
DHS⁴ Assistance	Amount Forthcoming
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Haiti for Hurricanes in 2008	\$20,000,000

CURRENT SITUATION

- An eight-person USAID/DART is currently in Haiti. Two members of the USAID/DART remain in Gonaïves to coordinate USG commodity shipments from Port au Prince and to support local GOH disaster relief efforts.
- As of September 11, the GOH Office of Civil Protection (DPC) reported that approximately 850,000 people were affected following Fay, Gustav, Hanna, and Ike, according to OCHA. Most affected areas within Artibonite Department are Gonaïves, Grand Saline, and Desdunes. Areas between Tiburon and Les Cayes in South

¹ Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

² This amount includes actual assistance provided and funds allocated for forthcoming assistance as of September 10, 2008.

³ This amount does not include previous USAID/FFP contributions in response to other emergencies in FY 2008.

⁴ U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Department and between Cotes de Fer and Jacmel in Southeast Department are additional priorities for immediate assistance.

- The provision of safe drinking water remains an urgent need in Gonaïves due to limited access and transport capacity in the city, according to OCHA. Local officials are working to determine placement of several water bladders to best reach affected populations. Constraints to relief distributions in multiple areas include limited capacity, security concerns, and large numbers of residents arriving at distribution points.
- On September 11, the USAID Mission Director participated in a joint GOH and international donor meeting in Port au Prince to review the cumulative damage from tropical storms Fay, Gustav, Hanna, and Ike. The GOH DPC and Ministry of the Interior reported 328 confirmed deaths, 50 missing persons, and 186 injured persons related to the storms. The GOH DPC indicates that more than 150,000 persons were displaced throughout the country as of September 10. Furthermore, the storms destroyed 10,842 homes and damaged an additional 35,125.

Logistics and Relief Supplies

- As of September 10, the USG has transported emergency food, water, and relief commodities provided by the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and multiple relief organizations on 26 missions to and within Haiti using a combination of DOD and DHS air and sea assets as well as two commercial flights funded by USAID/OFDA. The USS Kearsarge remains stationed outside of Port au Prince, and U.S. Navy helicopters and smaller sea vessels are scheduled to transport more than 260 metric tons (MT) of critical relief supplies to Port de Paix in Northwest Department, Les Cayes in South Department, and Gonaïves in Artibonite Department in the coming days.
- The second airlift of USAID/OFDA relief commodities, including 10,200 ten-liter water containers, 5,088 hygiene kits, 700 rolls of plastic sheeting, and 2 water bladders, arrived in Port au Prince on September 11. The emergency relief supplies will benefit more than 5,000 families and provide shelter support for temporary facilities such as child-friendly spaces. The total value of the commodities, including transport, is \$414,512.

Access

- USG air and sea assets are greatly facilitating the transport of critical relief supplies to priority areas as identified by WFP in coordination with the GOH DPC and humanitarian organizations in Haiti. However, ground transport remains severely restricted by ongoing flooding in some areas and damaged roads and impassable bridges throughout the country. The USAID/DART reports that two main challenges—the identification of suitable landing sites for helicopters and the provision of physical security in remote areas—continue to hamper the delivery of relief commodities to rural areas.
- According to the USAID/DART, WFP is working to identify a means of transporting assistance from hubs such as Les Cayes to more isolated areas along the southern peninsula. Teams are working to determine whether smaller helicopters from WFP and the U.N. Mission to Haiti (MINUSTAH) may be able to land at ad hoc landing sites.
- The USAID/DART, USAID/Haiti, and DOD are working closely with the GOH regarding immediate support for infrastructure rehabilitation to facilitate emergency relief efforts. On September 10, USAID/Haiti staff attended a joint GOH and donor meeting regarding results from recent infrastructure assessments. In addition to four impassable bridges on primary roads, an unknown number of bridges on secondary roads are also damaged or collapsed following recent flooding. Furthermore, additional bridges are weakened and may collapse in the event of additional rains. The GOH Ministry of Public Works, Transport, and Communications (TPTC) plans to submit a formal needs assessment and request for assistance in the coming days. The GOH maintains road construction equipment valued at approximately \$30 million in country, although flooding may impede the GOH from accessing the needed equipment.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

- The lack of access to clean drinking water poses the main health threat to affected populations, according to the USAID/DART. OCHA has warned about the potential for an increase in water-borne illnesses including malaria and dengue fever within three weeks.
- The U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has provided 73,000 liters of safe drinking water, OXFAM has contributed 2,000 five-gallon containers of water, and the USS Kearsarge continues to generate and transport safe drinking water to Gonaïves. The U.N. Development Program (UNDP) has conducted a WASH assessment in coordination with GOH officials in Southeast Department. Several NGOs are conducting assessments in Gonaïves in Artibonite Department, Cabaret in West Department, and Marigot, Baint, Belle Anse, and Jacmel in Southeast Department.

Health

- OCHA reports that with the exception of those located in Gonaïves, most hospitals and health centers throughout the country are operational and have not been significantly damaged by the recent storms. However, interrupted road transport is resulting in fuel shortages and impacting the provision of basic health services, particularly in South, Southeast, Nippes, Artibonite, and Northwest departments.

- On September 10, a U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) disease epidemiologist and staff from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) finalized a disease surveillance form based on input from the GOH Ministry of Health and participants in the health sector cluster in Haiti. PAHO plans to distribute the surveillance form in the next scheduled health cluster meeting on September 12.

International Humanitarian Response

- On September 10, the U.N. issued a flash appeal for more than \$107 million for immediate relief efforts to support approximately 800,000 people affected by recent tropical storms in Haiti. The appeal cites a current planning horizon of six months, and indicates that a revised appeal is scheduled for release within one month in order to reflect needs identified in ongoing assessments.

Emergency Food Assistance

- To date, relief organizations have distributed approximately 461 MT of emergency food commodities to 71,528 beneficiaries throughout Haiti, including approximately 27,400 people in Gonaïves, Artibonite Department, 24,000 people in Southwest Department, 7,700 people in Northwest Department, 4,000 people in Nippes Department, more than 2,500 people in South Department, and 2,400 people in Grand Anse Department.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE SUMMARY

Haiti

- On September 2, U.S. Ambassador Janet A. Sanderson issued a disaster declaration in response to Hurricane Gustav and resulting flooding throughout Haiti. In total, the USAID/DART is working to program a total of \$7.5 million in funding from USAID/OFDA for programs to assist disaster-affected populations in Haiti.
- On September 4, a USAID/OFDA-chartered aircraft arrived in Port au Prince, delivering USAID/OFDA emergency relief supplies including 5,088 hygiene kits, 10,800 ten-liter water containers, and 500 rolls of plastic sheeting. Worth nearly \$335,000 including transport, the supplies were transported to affected areas with assistance from the U.S. Coast Guard and implementing partner IOM. On September 11, a second USAID/OFDA-chartered aircraft arrived with 10,200 ten-liter water containers, 5,088 hygiene kits, 700 rolls of plastic sheeting, and 2 water bladders, valued at \$414,512, including transport. This airlift will benefit more than 5,000 families and provide shelter support for temporary facilities such as child-friendly spaces.
- USAID/OFDA is providing \$500,000 to PAHO in response to PAHO's appeal for funding to support health activities for individuals affected by Hurricane Gustav and Tropical Storm Hanna. This funding will assist 10,000 people.
- USAID/OFDA is also providing more than \$1.5 million to IOM. This assistance will support shelter and settlements projects as well as humanitarian coordination activities.
- On September 7, USAID/OFDA authorized the deployment of a three-person Americas Support Team (AST) to Haiti to supplement the U.N. Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team based in Gonaïves.
- USAID/Haiti is working to re-direct \$5 million in funds toward food and other assistance to meet critical needs related to the growing humanitarian crisis.
- USAID/FFP is providing food assistance worth \$7 million through implementing partner WFP. One representative of USAID/FFP is currently serving on the USAID/DART.
- DOD has approved up to \$500,000 for humanitarian assistance in Haiti in response to a USAID request for helicopter transport.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI FOR HURRICANES IN 2008

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
American Red Cross	Logistics, Emergency Relief Supplies	Artibonite, Grand Anse, and South East Departments	\$500,000
IOM	Shelter and Settlements, Coordination	Affected Areas	\$1,506,008
OCHA	Logistics	Affected Areas	\$69,996
PAHO	Health	Affected Areas	\$500,000
USAID/Haiti	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$150,000
	Emergency Relief Activities ²	Affected Areas	\$4,019,730
USAID/Haiti	Emergency Relief Supplies, Including Transportation	Affected Areas	\$749,015
	Administrative Support		\$5,251
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI IN FY 2008			\$7,500,000
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Affected Areas	\$7,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI IN FY 2008			\$7,000,000
USAID/HAITI ASSISTANCE³			
	Emergency Relief Activities	Affected Areas	\$5,000,000
TOTAL USAID/HAITI HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI IN FY 2008			\$5,000,000
DOD ASSISTANCE⁴			
	Emergency Relief Activities	Affected Areas	\$500,000
TOTAL DOD HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI IN FY 2008			\$500,000
DHS ASSISTANCE			
	Transportation and Logistics	Affected Areas	FORTHCOMING
TOTAL DHS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI IN FY 2008			\$0
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI FOR HURRICANES IN FY 2008			\$20,000,000

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 11, 2008.

² Additional funding pledged by USAID/OFDA.

³ Funding reprogrammed from development to humanitarian relief activities.

⁴ Funding approved for humanitarian relief activities in Haiti.

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 Latin America and the Caribbean may be available at 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 – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/