



# USAID | DELIVER PROJECT

## Success Story

# Mexico Receives Shipment from the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT during H1N1 Pandemic



USAID/OFDA consultant Dr. Pedro Soto.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) kits arrive in Mexico City on May 2, 2009.

**More than 177 countries are now reporting cases of human infection with the virus.**

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The H1N1 flu virus (also called novel influenza A), a new virus of swine origin, first caused illness in Mexico and the United States in March and April 2009. After declaring a public health emergency on April 26, 2009, the United States Government (USG) has been actively and aggressively implementing the nation's pandemic response plan. Based on the growing threat of an influenza pandemic, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) mobilized critical resources to help control the spread of the 2009 H1N1 virus.

In response to an emergency request from the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance task force managing the USG response to the outbreak, the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT, Task Order 2, mobilized an emergency shipment to the Government of Mexico. The shipment included 100,000 personal protective equipment (PPE) kits, donated by USAID, with a value of \$1,000,000. The PPE kits included items such as coveralls, respirator masks, gloves and goggles that allow first responders to help others without risking their own personal safety.

Thanks to the hard work of the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT, managed by John Snow, Inc., and its partners, MAP International and UPS, the shipment reached its destination within 36 hours of the request. Under the project's leadership, warehousing partner MAP International prepared the 150-pallet shipment in four hours. Six 50-foot UPS freight trucks carried the goods to Miami, Florida, where a charter flight was waiting. The flight arrived in Mexico City at 2:30 p.m. on May 2, 2009. The 150 pallets of PPE kits represented over 100,000 pounds of freight.

The USG collaborated closely with the Mexican health authorities and international organizations to contain the H1N1 outbreak. Leslie Bassett, Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, emphasized the close cooperation to date between the U.S. and Mexican governments, saying, "The Government of Mexico, in concert with authorities around the world, is taking strong action to contain the spread of H1N1 influenza and assess the dangers it may pose. The United States, as a neighbor and friend, is collaborating with Mexico and the international community to address this global concern."

On June 11, 2009, in response to the ongoing global spread of the H1N1 virus, the World Health Organization (WHO) raised the pandemic alert level to Phase 6, which indicates that a global pandemic is underway. This WHO designation means that community-level outbreaks are ongoing in multiple parts of the world. More than 177 countries are now reporting cases of human infection with the virus.

The USAID | DELIVER PROJECT, funded by USAID, takes pride in this contribution to pandemic preparedness and response, and is prepared to quickly respond to future requests for commodities by the USG and the international community.

*The USAID | DELIVER PROJECT, Task Order 2, is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, and manages a global distribution mechanism for commodities to contain outbreaks of the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza and to limit its potential to spread globally. Task Order 2 also provides limited technical assistance to priority countries to effectively pre-position commodities in national and regional warehouses for rapid deployment in case of outbreaks.*

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The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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