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

**LOGISTICS AND RELIEF COMMODITIES SECTOR UPDATE – JUNE 2010**

**SECTOR OVERVIEW**

As the lead U.S. Government (USG) office for international disaster response, USAID/OFDA facilitates and coordinates the purchase and movement of emergency relief commodities worldwide. USAID/OFDA stockpiles relief supplies at regional warehouse hubs in Miami, Florida; Pisa, Italy; and Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Stockpiled commodities include commonly needed items such as blankets, plastic sheeting for temporary shelter construction, family hygiene kits, 10-liter collapsible water containers, 10,000-liter water storage bladders, and trailer-mounted water treatment units. To respond rapidly in the aftermath of a disaster, USAID/OFDA maintains a full-time logistics team. During large-scale response operations, USAID/OFDA can supplement the team with USAID/OFDA-trained logisticians, including staff from the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) Disaster Assistance Support Program and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams from Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and Los Angeles County Fire Department.

USAID/OFDA logistics officers in Washington, D.C., coordinate the delivery of relief supplies from regional warehouse hubs to affected areas via air, sea, or land. Logistics personnel in the field receive the commodities and ensure that supplies reach implementing partners for distribution to affected populations. USAID/OFDA may pre-position personnel and emergency relief supplies in the event of an impending disaster, such as a hurricane or volcanic eruption, in order to provide assistance to affected communities as humanitarian needs arise. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$157 million for relief commodities—in-kind and through grants and associated transport—to 54 countries throughout the world. Between October 2009 and May 2010, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$101 million for logistics and relief commodities—representing more than five percent of USAID/OFDA's total funding in FY 2010 to date—to 39 countries.

**SUPPORTING LIFE-SAVING EFFORTS IN HAITI**

Less than 24 hours after the magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck southern Haiti on January 12, 2010, the USAID/OFDA logistics team was on the ground in Port-au-Prince working to restart airport operations so that the USAID/OFDA-supported USAR teams and other international USAR teams could begin their live-saving efforts. Logistics experts worked alongside members of the U.S. Air Force's Special Operations Command to offload more than 100 tons of search and rescue equipment in 48 hours. During the first 30 days of the response, USAID/OFDA logistics officers in Washington, D.C., contracted more than 50 relief commodity flights, which were received and processed by USAID/OFDA logisticians in Haiti, along with veteran logisticians from USFS, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Los Angeles County Fire Department. The six logisticians in Haiti and the logistics team in Washington, D.C., played an essential role in the response by serving as the civilian coordinator among the U.S. military, the U.N., and the non-governmental community; directing airport and port operations; reporting logistical needs; and providing USAR, medical, and pharmaceutical logistics support. As of April 28, the USAID/OFDA logistics team had dispatched 19,000 rolls of plastic sheeting, nearly 21,000 kitchen sets, 116,600 10-liter collapsible water containers, nearly 107,000 hygiene kits, 22 water bladders, 11 portable water units, and 9 standard medical kits.

**ASSESSING LOGISTICAL NEEDS IN SUDAN**

A USAID/OFDA logistics officer traveled to Sudan to conduct a logistical needs assessment between December 1 and 22, 2009. The logistics officer evaluated the processes associated with the procurement and distribution, as well the targeting and monitoring of the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC)-led Non Food Item (NFI) Common Pipeline into Darfur—the largest humanitarian pipeline in the world.

**USAID/OFDA CONTACT**

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