

# HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN REVIEW

HAITI – JANUARY 2010 – PRESENT



HAITI IS A CARIBBEAN COUNTRY LOCATED ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE ISLAND OF HISPANIOLA.

## OVERVIEW

USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) not only responds to urgent needs related to humanitarian emergencies, but also funds programs that leave communities stronger and more resilient to future disasters. In Haiti, recurrent floods and landslides associated with the rainy and hurricane seasons, and unpredictable events—such as the January 2010 earthquake and the cholera outbreak that began in October 2010—require USAID/OFDA to focus both on providing immediate response to affected populations and on supporting disaster risk reduction (DRR) programs that promote local and national self-sufficiency in disaster preparedness and management. Since the earthquake, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$450 million to assist affected populations and build resilience.

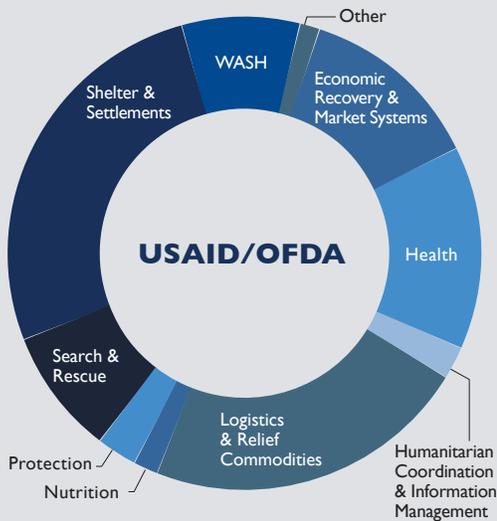
## 2010 EARTHQUAKE

On January 12, 2010, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck near Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince. On January 13, 2010, U.S. Ambassador to Haiti Kenneth H. Merten declared a disaster due to the effects of the earthquake. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that the earthquake displaced an estimated 1.5 million individuals to informal settlements and additional populations to hosting situations. In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, USAID/OFDA deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to provide humanitarian assistance and coordinate the USG response. At its height, the DART comprised 545 individuals—511 urban search and rescue team members and 34 USAID/OFDA staff members. Following initial life-saving efforts, USAID/OFDA supported a neighborhood-based approach to facilitate returns to areas of origin and help re-establish pre-earthquake social and economic structures. As part of this approach, USAID/OFDA provided shelter support—including transitional shelters, repairs to damaged houses, and host family support—to approximately 300,000 people. To date, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$400 million in response to the Haiti earthquake. In Fiscal Years (FY) 2010 and 2011, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) also contributed more than \$205 million to fund emergency food assistance and voucher programs for earthquake-affected populations. In addition, USAID/Haiti has provided more than \$47 million for relief activities, and USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) has provided more than \$138 million for post-earthquake recovery and stabilization initiatives.

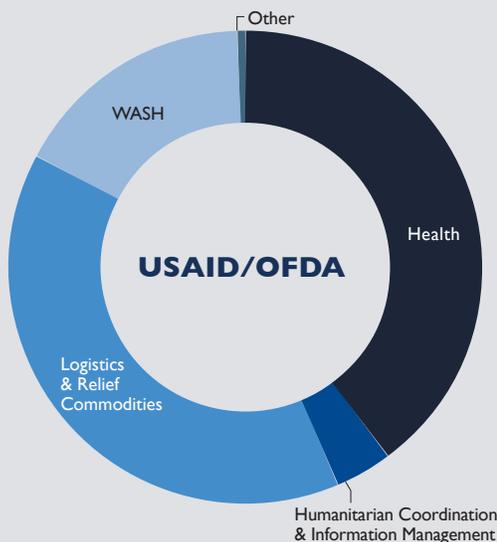
## CHOLERA OUTBREAK

On October 21, 2010, the Government of Haiti (GoH) Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) confirmed a cholera outbreak in Artibonite Department—the first reported cases of cholera in Haiti in nearly a century. On October 22, 2010, Ambassador Merten declared a disaster due to the effects of the cholera outbreak. The outbreak subsequently spread to each of Haiti's 10 departments, resulting in more than 130,000 reported cholera cases and more than 2,700 deaths by the end

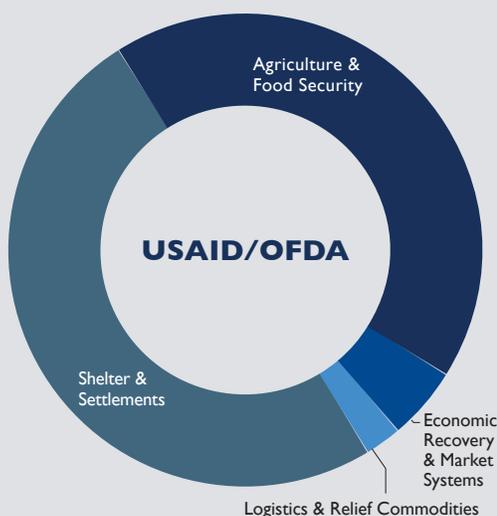
## ASSISTANCE FOR THE HAITI EARTHQUAKE FY 2010 – 2012



## ASSISTANCE FOR THE CHOLERA RESPONSE FY 2011 – 2012



## ASSISTANCE FOR THE HURRICANE SANDY RESPONSE FY 2013



of 2010, according to MSPP. USAID/OFDA responded quickly, deploying a DART to identify humanitarian needs and coordinate USG response efforts with GoH priorities. Although the cholera outbreak originated in an area unaffected by the January 2010 earthquake, USAID/OFDA earthquake response programs continued to provide essential water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and health services that were credited with reducing the impact of the cholera outbreak in densely populated areas. To enhance the response, USAID/OFDA supported humanitarian partners in establishing more than 30 cholera treatment facilities and nearly 130 oral rehydration points; provided commodities to prevent the spread of cholera, including chlorine tablets to treat 100 percent of municipal water systems for three months; and distributed supplies to treat affected populations, including oral rehydration salt sachets for 160 percent of the total anticipated caseload in the first three months. In FY 2011 and 2012, USAID/OFDA support of more than \$40 million prevented the spread of cholera, decreased the number of cases requiring hospitalization, and reduced the fatality rate. In addition, USAID/OTI provided \$2.78 million and USAID/Haiti provided more than \$1.9 million for the cholera response.

## HURRICANE SANDY

Hurricane Sandy brought heavy rains, strong winds, and flooding to Haiti in late October 2012. The hurricane resulted in more than 50 deaths, affected nearly 40,000 families, and damaged or destroyed approximately 28,000 houses in Haiti. In addition, the storm destroyed more than 90,000 hectares of crops, compounding harvest losses triggered by Tropical Storm Isaac in August 2012 and drought conditions earlier in the year. On October 31, U.S. Ambassador to Haiti Pamela A. White declared a disaster due to the effects of the hurricane. USAID/OFDA activated 10 local disaster relief consultants who provided real-time information to USAID/OFDA on affected areas throughout the country. Humanitarian partners distributed pre-positioned USAID/OFDA emergency relief items to an estimated 35,000 affected people and, following the disaster declaration, both distributed seeds and conducted seed fairs in order to enhance crop yields for future planting seasons as well as assisted in repairing damaged houses, building transitional shelters, and targeted training for the self-repair of homes. To date in FY 2013, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.7 million in humanitarian funding to respond to the effects of the hurricane. In addition, USAID/FFP provided more than \$15 million for food and cash voucher distributions, cash-for-work activities, and seed voucher distributions, among other interventions.

## DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

USAID/OFDA also supports a range of DRR programs aimed at enhancing local and national disaster preparedness and management in Haiti. These programs include risk identification and reduction, as well as post-disaster recovery and short-term rehabilitation projects to enable affected communities to build back better. To this end, USAID/OFDA's DRR programs are focused on strengthening the resiliency of Haitian communities while building the capacity of the GoH Department of Civil Protection (DPC)—the government agency responsible for emergency preparedness and response—to meet emergency needs following a disaster. For example, in FY 2012 USAID/OFDA provided support to the U.N. Development Program for a project that seconded critical technical staff to work with the DPC to enhance preparation for the 2012 hurricane season, particularly through the organization of disaster simulation exercises to improve national coordination with department-level DPC units. With support from USAID/OFDA and others, 2012 marked the first year that the GoH organized disaster simulation exercises in each of Haiti's 10 departments. In addition, USAID/OFDA support to humanitarian partner IOM contributed to the development of standard procedures for managing evacuation centers where Haitians can shelter before and during storms. During Hurricane Sandy, 19,000 people in Haiti used these designated centers throughout the country.