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

Haiti – Hurricane

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2011

November 6, 2010

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On November 5, the center of Hurricane Tomas passed between Haiti and Cuba, bringing tropical storm force winds over most of Haiti and total rainfall accumulations of up to 6 inches in affected areas.
- As of November 6, a 22-member USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) was coordinating U.S. Government hurricane preparedness and response activities in Haiti.
- In anticipation of Hurricane Tomas, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimated that the storm could affect 100,000 families or 500,000 individuals. To date, the USAID/DART has received reports of flooding and storm damage in seven of 10 departments of Haiti. However, humanitarian agencies have reported that assessed storm damage has been less severe than anticipated.
- In preparation for the 2010 hurricane season, USAID/OFDA pre-positioned commodities in Haiti, including 10-liter water containers, blankets, hygiene kits, and kitchen sets, to assist approximately 100,000 people. On November 3 and 4, in preparation for Hurricane Tomas, USAID/OFDA transported additional commodities from a warehouse in Miami, Florida, to Les Cayes and Port-au-Prince to assist an additional 25,000 individuals, for a total of 125,000 people. USAID/OFDA pre-positioned commodities to meet immediate needs, with further commodities available in the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Miami, Florida, to meet additional needs.
- USAID, the international community, and the Government of Haiti (GoH) immediately began conducting assessments after the storm. USAID/OFDA has approved the release of pre-positioned commodities in response to assessed humanitarian need.
- On November 6, the USAID/DART reported that the worst reported flooding to date has occurred in Léogâne, West Department. Approximately 20,000 reside in affected areas of Léogâne, according to USAID/OFDA grantee Save the Children/US (SC/US). SC/US identified food and safe drinking water as priority needs in the coming days. USAID/DART staff are working to gain access to the town.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Planning Figure for Affected Population	500,000 individuals	OCHA

FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE FOR HURRICANE TOMAS

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Haiti for Hurricane Tomas\$172,620
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Haiti for Hurricane Tomas..... \$172,620¹

CONTEXT

- On October 26, USAID deployed an 11-member USAID/DART to respond to the cholera outbreak in Haiti. On November 2, the USAID/DART expanded in size and focus to coordinate preparation and response efforts for Hurricane Tomas. Prior to the arrival of Hurricane Tomas, one USAID/DART member deployed to Les Cayes, South Department, to coordinate field response efforts with OCHA, the U.N. Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), and the U.S. Military in the area of Haiti closest to the storm's original predicted track. The USAID/DART activated 14 Haitian consultants nationwide to work closely with regional joint operations centers coordinated by OCHA and MINUSTAH to monitor and report on the situation throughout the country.
- In FY 2010, USAID/OFDA provided \$1,147,815 to purchase and pre-position commodities in Haiti for the 2010 hurricane season. USAID/OFDA strategically pre-positioned commodities in four cities in Haiti based on infrastructure and warehouse capacity and data from previous storm seasons indicating locations of vulnerable populations, roads, and bridges.

¹ This figure does not include \$1,147,815 in FY 2010 USAID/OFDA funding for the procurement and transport of pre-positioned commodities for Haiti.

Grand Anse and South Departments

- Assessment teams working in Grand Anse have reported damage to houses, livestock, and crops due to high winds. Preliminary assessments identified food, safe drinking water, and hygiene kits as immediate humanitarian needs. As of November 6, field staff reported that the GoH Department of Civil Protection (DPC), Haitian National Police, and MINUSTAH had distributed food and water bladders to two schools serving as shelters in the city of Jérémie, Grand Anse Department.
- USAID/OFDA has authorized the release of 3,000 kitchen sets, 5,500 hygiene kits, 8,500 water containers, 8,500 blankets, and 2,000 plastic sheets to assist approximately 27,500 people in Grand Anse and South departments of southwestern Haiti. USAID/OFDA grantee the International Organization for Migration (IOM) will distribute the commodities based upon ongoing needs assessments.
- The USAID/DART reported that the road between Jérémie and Les Cayes, South Department, was impassible as of the morning of November 6 and humanitarian agencies were seeking alternative methods of transport to access Jérémie.
- In South Department, non-governmental organizations conducted assessments on November 5 and 6 and reported minimal damage in and around Les Cayes.

Artibonite Department

- On November 5, the DPC evacuated vulnerable populations from flood-prone areas of Gonaïves city.
- As of November 6, damage assessments remained ongoing in Gonaïves, where severe flooding occurred in 2004 and 2008 due to tropical storms and hurricanes.
- Artibonite Department has experienced the majority of cholera cases in the recent outbreak affecting Haiti.

Southeast Department

- The USAID/DART has received reports that the road from Jacmel, Southeast Department, to Léogâne, West Department, was blocked due to landslide damage. More than 2,600 people self-evacuated from camps in Jacmel prior to the arrival of Hurricane Tomas.

Preparations, Evacuations and Preliminary Assessments in Port-au-Prince Area Camps

- On November 6, following heavy overnight rains, USAID/DART staff planned to conduct additional assessments in Port-au-Prince area displaced person camps. USAID/DART November 5 assessments of Terrain Acra and Ancien Aeroport Militaire indicated that hurricane-related winds and rain did not damage shelters, latrines, or water infrastructure in the camps.
- Beginning on November 3, the GoH and relief agencies significantly intensified disaster alert and storm risk mitigation messaging. The messaging included instructions via SMS and radio for packing up and securing tents, securing valuable documents, and seeking refuge with family or friends.
- OCHA and the international community have noted that large-scale, organized evacuation of at-risk camp residents in advance of the storm was not possible due to limited vehicle capacity, poor conditions of roads and traffic patterns in and around Port-au-Prince, and limited public shelter capacity due to earthquake damage. Typically in the event of a hurricane, Haitians seek shelter with friends and family. To facilitate such voluntary evacuations, the GoH made regular public transit buses from camps in Port-au-Prince free of charge, with buses re-routed to better serve camp populations. According to the GoH DPC, approximately 50 percent of Port-au-Prince area camp residents departed camps prior to the storm.
- Prior to the passage of Hurricane Tomas, specific operations to evacuate at-risk populations occurred on a case-by-case basis. On November 4, MINUSTAH and IOM transported approximately 1,500 vulnerable people—including women, children, and the elderly—from Corail Cesselesse camp to safe shelter. More than 4,000 additional camp residents remained to take shelter in the camp's six schools or seek shelter with friends or family. As of November 4, MINUSTAH and Haitian police remained in Corail Cesselesse to provide security for remaining persons and belongings. USAID/OFDA has authorized the distribution of up to 2,000 blankets pre-positioned in Port-au-Prince to populations evacuated from Corail Cesselesse camp.

U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Response

- The USS Iwo Jima is supporting the humanitarian response by providing aerial overflight assessments of damaged areas. In addition, the USS Iwo Jima has 10 medium lift helicopters that can assist in the delivery of emergency response personnel and supplies if necessary. The USS Iwo Jima also has capacity to provide limited medical assistance and engineering support.
- The DoD has deployed a Standing Joint Force Headquarters to augment the Haiti Military Liaison Office. This 15-person team will assist in initial humanitarian assessments and coordinate military support for the relief operation.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI FOR HURRICANE TOMAS

FY 2011			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Affected Areas	\$137,406
	Administrative Costs		\$35,214
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$172,620
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI FOR HURRICANES			\$172,620

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of November 6, 2010.

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. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for hurricane response efforts in Haiti can be found at www.interaction.org. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Haiti 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/