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

Haiti – Earthquake

Fact Sheet #1 Fiscal Year (FY) 2011

October 1, 2010

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- As of September 29, USAID/OFDA grantees had reported completing 6,786 transitional shelters (t-shelters)—an increase of 931 t-shelters over last week’s total—and an additional 735 USAID/OFDA-funded t-shelters are under construction.
- Teams of engineers from the habitability assessment project funded by USAID/OFDA, the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid Office, and the World Bank continue to assess buildings throughout earthquake-affected areas. As of September 24, teams from the Government of Haiti (GoH) Ministry of Public Works, Transport, and Communication, the U.N. Office for Project Services (UNOPS), and the Pan-American Development Foundation, with assistance from Miyamoto International, had assessed 259,705 buildings out of an estimated 350,000 to 400,000 total buildings that require habitability assessments.
- Assessment figures indicated that 51 percent of houses are “green,” or safe for habitation, with another 26 percent classified as “yellow,” indicating that houses could be made safe with repairs, and the remaining 23 percent deemed “red,” or unsafe for habitation and requiring major repairs or demolition.
- On September 24, shortly after 1500 hours local time, an upper level cyclonic flow brought strong winds and heavy rains to the Haiti–Dominican Republic border, killing six people and injuring 67 others, according to the GoH Department of Civil Protection (DPC). As meteorological agencies did not predict the storm, the GoH and relief agencies were not able to issue advance storm alerts. However, earlier hurricane preparedness activities, such as flood mitigation work, coordination planning, and relief supply prepositioning, allowed for rapid needs identification and efficient implementation of relief efforts. USAID/OFDA grantees working in camps were well positioned to respond, and USAID/OFDA also provided prepositioned relief commodities to meet storm needs.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Estimated Deaths	230,000 ¹	GoH – February 15
Verified Number of Displaced Individuals in Settlements	1.2 million	IOM ² – August 31
Estimated Affected Population	3 million	U.N. – January 15

CONTEXT

- On January 12 at 1653 hours local time, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck southern Haiti. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the earthquake’s epicenter was located 10 miles southwest of the capital Port-au-Prince, West Department. The earthquake killed an estimated 230,000 people and affected approximately 3 million others, according to the GoH. On January 13, U.S. Ambassador to Haiti Kenneth H. Merten declared a disaster due to the effects of the earthquake. In response, the U.S. Government (USG) provided nearly \$1.2 billion to meet humanitarian needs in Haiti in FY 2010, including nearly \$663 million from USAID. The USAID contribution comprises more than \$372 million from USAID/OFDA, nearly \$173 million from USAID’s Office of Food for Peace, \$67 million from USAID’s Office of Transition Initiatives, more than \$47 million from USAID/Haiti, and \$3 million from USAID/Dominican Republic.
- During the months following the earthquake, humanitarian efforts met the immediate needs of earthquake-affected populations, through the provision of safe drinking water, food, household items, shelter assistance, sanitation facilities, and health services. USAID continues to work closely with other USG agencies, the GoH, international organizations, the U.N., and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to coordinate ongoing efforts and facilitate the transition from emergency relief activities to recovery operations, while preparing to respond to potential further deterioration in humanitarian conditions during the rainy and hurricane seasons.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

- On September 28, the CCCM Cluster reported the completion of a returns and relocation strategy, drafted and reviewed by key clusters. The strategy includes three options, which comprise, in order of preference: returns to areas of origin, moves outside of Port-au-Prince or with host families, and resettlement to planned sites. The CCCM Cluster is awaiting finalization of registration information prior to defining returns packages.

¹ Death estimates vary.

² International Organization for Migration (IOM)

September 24 Storm

- While the storm of September 24 was ongoing, a number of agencies, including USAID/OFDA, began conducting windshield assessments, and the U.N. Stabilization Mission in Haiti deployed five battalions across Port-au-Prince to assess damage to camps and neighborhoods. Within two days of the storm, relief agencies had reported assessing more than 300 camps and identified shelter needs of varying degree in 162 sites. The CCCM Cluster expects self-recovery activities to meet needs in a number of camps that did not sustain significant damage.
- In response to identified needs, on September 25, USAID/OFDA approved the release of a portion of the emergency relief supplies prepositioned in Haiti for the 2010 Atlantic hurricane season for distribution to storm-affected communities. The released commodities—consisting of 3,000 kitchen sets, 6,000 blankets, and 6,000 water containers—are sufficient to benefit approximately 3,000 affected families. USAID/OFDA plans to replenish the items to return USAID/OFDA prepositioned supplies in Haiti to pre-storm levels, sufficient for 100,000 people.
- As of the end of the day on September 28, results of ongoing storm assessments indicated that approximately 14,500 households require shelter assistance. Humanitarian agencies and the GoH identified shelter as the primary need resulting from the storm.
- Shelter Cluster partners reported distributing 8,115 pieces of plastic sheeting and 1,439 tents as of September 28, reaching more than 5,400 affected families or nearly 37 percent of the target beneficiary caseload. Shelter partners plan to continue distributions throughout the coming days. To address a shortage in shelter contingency stocks caused by the ongoing distributions, IOM is procuring 20,000 pieces of plastic sheeting through a USAID/OFDA grant, scheduled to arrive within 30 days.
- The Shelter Cluster noted that, prior to the storm, the majority of storm-affected families were residing under plastic sheeting and tents that were more than six months old and had begun to deteriorate. As shelter partners are operating under a pre-existing plan to replace emergency shelter materials after six months of use, many of those families were scheduled to receive replacement supplies in the near future regardless of the storm.

Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management

- The humanitarian response to the storm, led by the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), represents the first practical application of the international humanitarian plan for disaster response coordination in Haiti. Although not formally named as such, it tested the concept of the EJOINT—the humanitarian coordination hub—in which cluster leads from all sectors convene to synchronize assessments and response. From September 24 to 29, a USAID/OFDA field officer was embedded in the coordination cell to assist with information sharing and coordination.
- Agencies involved in the response have noted the usefulness of activating the coordination structure as a method for refining systems and generating actionable lessons in advance of a larger meteorological event. Specifically, organizations observed a need to have a full-time DPC staff member seated within the OCHA-led operation and an OCHA representative embedded at the DPC operations center to ensure constant communication and coordination with the GoH.
- USAID/OFDA staff noted that OCHA has been efficient in linking NGOs that have spare contingency shelter materials with those needing extra materials. In addition, NGOs have proven willing to share supplies.
- To keep local communities apprised of the evolving situation following the storm, local radio stations broadcast key safety messages developed by DPC, IOM, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to populations in affected areas. IOM also broadcast a live radio show in the Corail relocation camp to keep residents informed of the situation, and community mobilization staff explained the response to the affected population.

Hurricane Preparedness and Mitigation

- On September 25, USAID/OFDA grantee Catholic Relief Services (CRS) reported mobilizing cash-for-work teams to remove downed branches resulting from the storm at the Pétiön-ville Club/Golf Delmas 48 displacement camp. In addition, the J/P Haiti Relief Organization noted that CRS flood mitigation measures appeared to have been effective in preventing serious damage at the camp, and CRS recommenced cleaning and maintaining drainage ditches the day after the storm.
- Although the storm did not cause widespread flooding, on September 26, members of the mitigation taskforce—including staff from IOM, UNOPS, and others—undertook flood mitigation work and strengthened emergency shelters in five camps where standing water remained an issue, according to OCHA.

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 Haiti may be available at www.oneresponse.info/disasters/haiti and www.usaid.gov/haiti.
- 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, and warehouse space); 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/haiti
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int