

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

**Latin America and the Caribbean¹
Humanitarian Assistance in Review, Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 – FY 2009**

The countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) are highly vulnerable to a range of natural hazards, including drought, earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, landslides, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions. In addition, disasters triggered by environmental and industrial incidents, such as forest fires and chemical and oil spills, pose a potential threat. At times, El Niño Southern Oscillation meteorological events and poor land use management exacerbate the effects of potential hazards. Several countries in the region also remain vulnerable to civil unrest and associated humanitarian consequences. Between FY 2000 and FY 2009, USAID/OFDA and USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) have provided humanitarian assistance in response to a range of natural hazards, including flooding in El Salvador, drought in Paraguay, and an oil spill in Ecuador.



Between FY 2000 and FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$65 million in humanitarian assistance to LAC countries. USAID/FFP provided approximately \$169.8 million in emergency food aid. In addition to Washington, D.C.-based staff and a regional office in San Jose, Costa Rica, with six Regional Advisors, USAID/OFDA maintains a network of 20 disaster risk management specialists and more than 200 on-call surge capacity response consultants, available for immediate deployment to conduct damage and needs assessments in response to disasters, and to help coordinate U.S. Government (USG) emergency response activities throughout the region. From October 2009 through May 2010, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$398 million in humanitarian assistance to Brazil, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, and Haiti, as well as regional LAC programs. This total includes approximately \$372 million in humanitarian assistance to Haiti following the January 12, 2010, magnitude 7.0 earthquake,² and more than \$8.5 million in humanitarian assistance to Chile following the February 27, 2010, magnitude 8.8 earthquake.

In recent years, USAID deployed multiple humanitarian assessment and response teams throughout the region, including six USAID Disaster Assistance Response Teams (USAID/DARTs) to Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Venezuela, and Caribbean region countries. In addition, USAID activated Washington D.C.-based Response Management Teams to support DART coordination and response efforts. To date in 2010, USAID/OFDA has deployed USAID/DARTs to Haiti following the January 12, 2010, earthquake and Chile following the February 27, 2010, earthquake to coordinate the USG response.

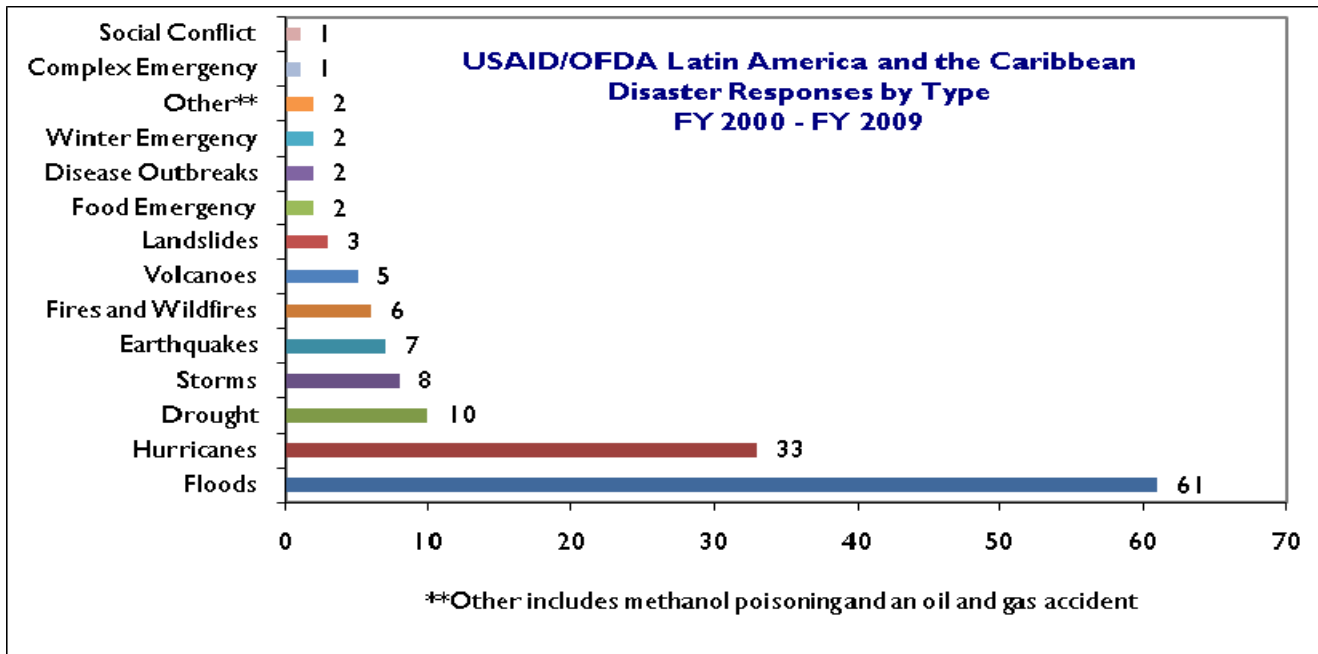
**USAID/OFDA AND USAID/FFP HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LAC³
(FY 2000 – FY 2009), IN MILLIONS**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	TOTALS
USAID/OFDA	\$3.2	\$15.9	\$1.8	\$0.8	\$9.4	\$1.8	\$6.6	\$5.5	\$17.6	\$2.9	\$65.5
USAID/FFP	\$2.3	\$5.0	\$6.0	\$14.1	\$6.6	\$12.5	\$15.3	\$6.9	\$61.8	\$39.3	\$169.8
TOTALS	\$5.5	\$20.9	\$7.8	\$14.9	\$16.0	\$14.3	\$21.9	\$12.4	\$79.4	\$42.2	\$235.3

¹ LAC countries include Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

² For the most up-to-date information regarding USAID/OFDA’s response to the Haiti earthquake, please visit: http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/countries/haiti/template/index.html/.

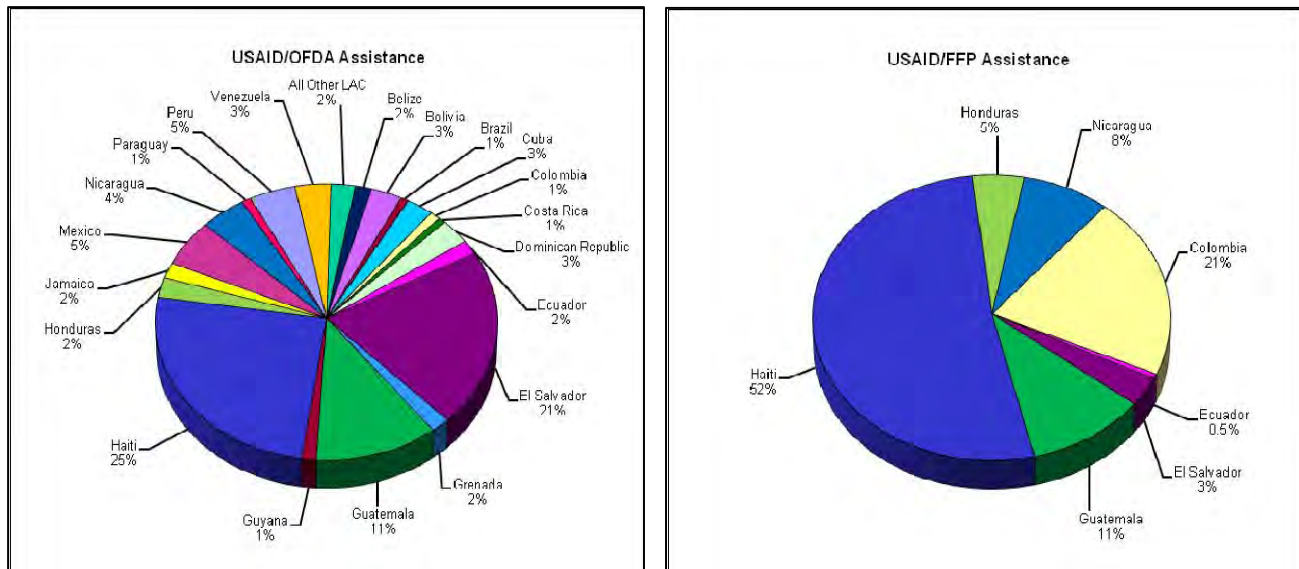
³ The rounded figures represent committed or obligated amounts through the end of FY 2009. Figures do not include more than \$81 million in standalone USAID/OFDA DRR assistance provided outside of declared disaster responses.



Recognizing unique vulnerabilities in the LAC region, USAID/OFDA supports disaster preparedness and mitigation programs aimed at reducing loss of life, alleviating human suffering, and reducing the social and economic impact of natural disasters. In the LAC region, USAID/OFDA developed a disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategy in 2009 to promote self-sufficiency in disaster preparedness and management at local and national levels; support regional disaster management and first-responder institutions; and strengthen the capacity of national emergency systems. Each country's strategy is based on an analysis of recurrent risks and vulnerable geographical areas within the country, with higher prioritization given to areas with greater at-risk populations. Additionally, USAID/OFDA resources help reduce the risk of natural disasters and increase local populations' resiliency and preparedness for natural disasters.

In total, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$81 million for preparedness and mitigation activities in LAC, including approximately \$18.1 million for new and ongoing programs in FY 2009. Active DRR programs in the LAC region include support for safer housing reconstruction in Peru, a tsunami and coastal hazards early warning system implemented by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, and volcano monitoring assistance throughout the region in collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey.

USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LAC BY COUNTRY (FY 2000 –2009)⁴



⁴ The rounded figures represent committed or obligated amounts through the end of FY 2009. Figures do not include more than \$81 million in standalone USAID/OFDA DRR assistance provided outside of declared disaster responses.