



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE (BHR)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

HURRICANE KEITH

Final Fact Sheet, Fiscal Year (FY) 2001

November 17, 2000

This will be the final Fact Sheet issued for Hurricane Keith

Background

Hurricane Keith first formed on September 29 off the coast of the Yucatan Peninsula. After a long holding pattern offshore, Hurricane Keith made landfall over northeastern Belize and southeastern Mexico on the morning of October 1. At its peak, Hurricane Keith was a category four hurricane with winds up to 135 mph, which led to heavy rains over Belize, Nicaragua, Mexico and other areas of Central America.

Belize

- According to the U.S. Embassy in Belize, as of November 7, 50 Belize City residents remained in emergency shelters.
- The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) estimates the total damage due to Hurricane Keith is more than \$260 million. NEMO also reported that Hurricane Keith affected 25,400 people in Orangewalk district, 12,700 people in Belize district, and destroyed 840 homes on Ambergris Caye and Caye Caulker.

Nicaragua

- According to the Nicaraguan Secretary of disaster mitigation and prevention and the civil defense, Hurricane Keith affected 56 communities in six provinces along the Pacific coast of Nicaragua.
- Nicaragua civil defense officials also reported that 12 people died due to the hurricane and more than 3,900 people were evacuated from low-lying portions of the affected area.

U.S. Government Response

Belize:

- On October 2, the U.S. Ambassador to Belize, Carolyn Curiel, declared a disaster in response to the hurricane. USAID/BHR/OFDA responded with \$25,000 to meet immediate relief needs and also responded with the deployment of a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART)/Ground Operations (GO) Team.
- On October 7, upon completing all assessments and deliveries of relief commodities, 10 members of the USAID/DART/GO Team departed Belize. The remaining two members of the DART/GO Team departed Belize on October 10.
- The Department of Defense's (DOD) JTF-Bravo demobilized and redeployed all personnel and aircraft to Soto Cano, Honduras on October 7. Prior to departure, on October 7, DOD helicopters delivered 1.4 MT of food and medical supplies to five isolated villages.
- On October 27, USAID/BHR/OFDA provided \$22,500 to the U.S. Embassy to monitor USAID/BHR/OFDA relief efforts in Belize.
- USAID/BHR/OFDA provided \$10,390 to the U.S. Embassy's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement office to reimburse them for water and meals ready-to-eat (MREs) they allocated for the response. The water and MREs were distributed to the affected areas.
- In addition, November 1, USAID/BHR/OFDA contributed \$232,000 to the Pan American Health Organization emergency appeal in support of water/sanitation and vector control activities.

Nicaragua:

- On October 3, the U.S. Ambassador to Nicaragua, Oliver Garza, declared a disaster due to Hurricane Keith. USAID/BHR/OFDA responded on October 4 by providing \$25,000 for the local purchase of food, including rice, beans, sugar, oil, salt, and corn. This assistance provided 700 families in Leon and Chinandega with one week's ration of food.
- The USAID/BHR/OFDA two-person assessment team departed Nicaragua on October 7.
- On October 24, USAID/BHR/OFDA airlifted 40 rolls of plastic sheeting to Nicaragua at a total cost of \$12,650. The plastic was consigned to the Nicaraguan Red Cross and will provide temporary shelter for 160 families.

USG Assistance

Agency	Country	Assistance	Funding
USAID/ OFDA	Belize	Ambassador Authority	25,000
	Belize	Relief commodities and transportation	141,036
	Belize	Monitoring of USAID/OFDA relief efforts	22,500
	Belize	Grant to PAHO for water/sanitation and vector control activities	232,000
	Belize	Purchase and distribution of MREs and water	10,390
USAID/ OFDA	SUBTOTAL		\$430,926
USAID/ OFDA	Nicaragua	Ambassador Authority	25,000
	Nicaragua	Purchase and transport of 40 rolls of plastic sheeting	12,650
USAID/ OFDA	SUBTOTAL		\$37,650
USAID/OFDA	TOTAL		\$468,576
DOD	Belize	2 Blackhawks, 1 Chinook, 16 crew members	197,000
	TOTAL		\$197,000
TOTAL USG			\$665,576

NOTE: USAID/OFDA Fact Sheets can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html