



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

Dominican Republic and Haiti – Floods

Fact Sheet #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

June 17, 2004

Note: The last fact sheet was dated June 9, 2004.

BACKGROUND

- Several days of heavy rains in late May caused rivers to overflow in areas near the southern border between the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The flooding devastated entire communities, caused massive loss of life, displaced tens of thousands of people on both sides of the border, and resulted in sizeable crop and livestock losses. The damage to highways and village roads also isolated communities from ongoing relief efforts.
- The most recent figures provided by the Government of the Dominican Republic's (GODR) Emergency Operations Center (COE) indicate that the flooding killed 414 people (393 in the town of Jimaní) and left approximately 270 people missing, all of whom are from Jimaní. Throughout the country, the flooding affected more than 15,000 people, displaced 1,600 families, and damaged or destroyed 3,000 houses.
- According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), the most recent official figures indicate that the flooding in Haiti killed 1,059 people, injured 153 people, affected 6,226 families, destroyed 1,698 houses, and damaged 1,687 houses. Approximately 1,600 people are still missing in Haiti. Few of those missing are expected to be survivors. In addition, USAID/Haiti has reported that 6,350 families are in need of emergency food and non-food assistance.
- To date, USAID/OFDA has provided \$900,000 in response to the flooding in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The U.S. Government (USG) contribution in response to the flooding amounts to more than \$2 million.

CURRENT SITUATION

Dominican Republic

- The International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) reported on June 14 that distributions of plastic sheeting, hygiene kits, and kitchen supplies have occurred in Jimaní.
- According to a June 9 IFRC report, three operational centers in the affected departments of Independencia, Elias Piña, Duarte, and Sanchez Ramirez have been established. In addition, a logistics base in Pedernales on the border will help to serve the town of Mapou in Haiti, and additional warehousing is being organized in Barahona.
- On June 9, the IFRC reported that two water treatment units are producing water for 38,000 people in Elias Piña, and that water tanks with a capacity of between 1,000 and 4,000 liters have been installed in the beneficiary communities.
- The IFRC reported on June 4 that the IFRC's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) mobilized disaster management delegates to the Dominican Republic and Haiti in order to support the two national societies.
- On June 3, the GODR announced a reconstruction plan for the town of Jimaní to include road repair and shelter activities, as well as the dedication of a park to the victims of the flooding.
- On May 27, a two-person team consisting of a USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor and USAID/OFDA Consultant traveled to the town of Jimaní and several other areas, including the town of Arenoso. The USAID/OFDA team remained in country for assessment and coordination purposes until June 3.

Haiti

- On June 13, U.N. World Food Program-chartered (WFP) helicopters, partially funded by USAID/OFDA, delivered a total of seven metric tons (MT) of rice, wheat soya blend, vegetable oil, and fortified biscuits, as well as emergency relief supplies, to the southeastern town of Mapou to meet the needs of 325 families for one week. According to WFP, approximately 10,000 people in Mapou currently require food assistance. The floods have reportedly destroyed between 50 to 70 percent of the agricultural production in five villages of the Mapou area, and approximately 80 percent of the wells in the area are contaminated. The water level in Mapou is reportedly subsiding slowly, and the mud lake that formed after the flooding may need between 14 and 36 months to dry out.
- On June 12, WFP trucks transported more than 27 MT of food to Fonds Verrettes to meet the needs of 1,430 families for one week. In addition, on June 11, WFP delivered more than four MT of food to the village of Pichon, located 10 km from Mapou, for distribution to 230 flood-affected families.
- On June 10, WFP delivered 15 MT of food assistance to the Mapou area, with helicopter transportation provided by the Multinational Interim Force-Haiti (MIF-H), to meet the needs of 742 families.

- On June 4, the USAID/Haiti Mission Disaster Relief Officer and a USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor in Port-au-Prince traveled to Fonds Verrettes with staff from Catholic Relief Services (CRS). The USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor remained in Haiti until June 10 to assist with coordination of ongoing relief efforts.

USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Dominican Republic

- On May 26, U.S. Ambassador to the Dominican Republic Hans H. Hertell issued a disaster declaration due to the magnitude of damage caused by the flooding.
- USAID/OFDA has provided a total of \$300,000 in emergency relief funds for the Dominican Republic, in support of the following relief activities: \$90,000 to World Vision to purchase and distribute emergency non-food relief supplies, including hygiene kits, mosquito nets, cooking kits, bedding, plastic sheeting for temporary shelters, and small potable water containers; \$10,000 to USAID/Dominican Republic to procure fuel directly for use by the Government of the Dominican Republic to facilitate road repair and to improve humanitarian access to the affected areas; \$100,000 to the IFRC appeal to support relief activities in the Dominican Republic; and \$100,000 to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) appeal for emergency medical activities.
- From May 26 to June 3, a USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor and a USAID/OFDA Consultant conducted damage and needs assessments in the Dominican Republic and worked closely with USAID/Dominican Republic and other relief agencies. On May 28, a second USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor traveled to the Dominican Republic to join the USAID/OFDA team in country.
- USAID/OFDA has arranged for two U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) landslide specialists to travel to the Dominican Republic and Haiti to analyze the factors that contributed to the magnitude of the flooding disaster and to propose measures to mitigate the effects of future flooding and landslide events. The USGS experts plan to arrive in the Dominican Republic on June 21.

Haiti

- On May 26, U.S. Ambassador to Haiti James B. Foley issued a disaster declaration due to the damage caused by the flooding.
- USAID/OFDA has provided a total of \$600,000 in emergency relief funds to Haiti, in support of the following relief activities: \$140,000 to CRS to purchase and distribute emergency non-food relief supplies, including hygiene kits, cooking kits, blankets, and water containers; \$10,000 to USAID/Haiti for the procurement of fuel for use by the Government of Haiti's Ministry of Public Works to carry out urgent road repair in the affected area; and \$250,000 to the IFRC appeal to support relief activities in Haiti. USAID/OFDA also provided \$200,000 to WFP, including \$100,000 for the air transport of relief supplies and personnel and \$100,000 for road repair in flood-affected areas in southeastern Haiti.
- From June 2 to June 10, a USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor worked in Haiti to coordinate with other organizations and participate in damage and needs assessments.
- USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) provided 990 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance, valued at \$828,700, to the WFP Emergency Operation (EMOP) in Haiti. The WFP EMOP, initially planned to target vulnerable populations affected by political and civil unrest, is also assisting the flood-affected population in Haiti. Therefore, the USAID/FFP contribution will be used both to assist flood victims (an estimated 31,000 beneficiaries) and to help replenish EMOP stocks (the EMOP targets 140,000 beneficiaries).
- The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) funded a total of \$335,209 to the MIF-H for flood assistance in Haiti. The MIF-H flew Chinook (CH-47) and Black Hawk (UH-60) helicopters at a cost of \$258,791 to deliver 413,000 pounds of relief supplies to affected areas and to transport 443 people to conduct damage assessments. The MIF-H also provided \$76,418 of assistance with the delivery 27,000 liters of water, 240 cases of fruit, and 840 cases of bread to flood-affected populations.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
IFRC	Support for IFRC appeal for relief activities	Dominican Republic	\$100,000
PAHO	Support for PAHO appeal for emergency medical activities	Dominican Republic	\$100,000
USAID/Dominican Republic	Procurement of fuel for urgent road repairs	Dominican Republic	\$10,000
World Vision	Purchase and distribution of relief supplies	Dominican Republic	\$90,000
USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC			\$300,000

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amount as of June 17, 2004, for the current flooding emergency.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
IFRC	Support for IFRC appeal for relief activities	Haiti	\$250,000
Catholic Relief Services	Purchase and distribution of relief supplies	Haiti	\$140,000
USAID/Haiti	Procurement of fuel for urgent road repair	Haiti	\$10,000
WFP	Helicopter transport and road repair	Haiti	\$200,000
USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI.....			\$600,000
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP ²	990 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Haiti	\$828,700
USAID/FFP HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI.....			\$828,700
USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI			\$1,428,700
DOD ASSISTANCE			
MIF-H	Helicopter transport of personnel and relief supplies	Haiti	\$335,209
DOD HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI.....			\$335,209
USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI.....			\$1,763,909

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amount as of June 17, 2004, for the current flooding emergency.

² USAID/FFP funding is for the WFP Emergency Operation (EMOP) established to address civil unrest in Haiti. USAID/FFP's contribution will be used both to help flood victims (an estimated 31,000 beneficiaries) and to help replenish EMOP stocks (the EMOP targets 140,000 beneficiaries).

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. For a list of organizations that are accepting donations for their response efforts, go to www.interaction.org/DR/index.html.
- 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; ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information on making donations and volunteering can be found at:
 - The U.S. Agency for International Development: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org
 - InterAction: www.interaction.org -> “How You Can Help”
- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.org.