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

## ***Bolivia – Floods***

Fact Sheet #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

March 9, 2007

*NOTE: The last fact sheet was dated March 5, 2007.*

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- USAID/OFDA is providing two U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) standard medical kits to affected populations in Bolivia. Each kit contains medical supplies and equipment to treat approximately 10,000 people for three months. The kits are en route to Bolivia and scheduled to arrive by March 14. Local health organizations will deliver the medical kits.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	
<b>Total Affected Population</b>	396,930	GOB <sup>1</sup> – March 7, 2007
<b>Deaths</b>	51	GOB – March 7, 2007
<b>Internally Displaced Persons</b>	25,000	OCHA <sup>2</sup> – February 28, 2007

### **FY 2007 USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE**

<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance for Bolivia Floods .....</b>	<b>\$846,541</b>
<b>USAID/Bolivia Assistance for Bolivia Floods .....</b>	<b>\$213,640</b>
<b>Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance for Bolivia Floods .....</b>	<b>\$1,060,181</b>

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

- Flooding in eight of Bolivia's nine departments has affected nearly 400,000 people and resulted in the deaths of 51 others. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, rains continue in Bolivia, and light to moderate rains are forecast for the majority of the country in the coming days.
- Large areas of Beni and Santa Cruz departments remain affected by floods. In Trinidad, Beni Department, floodwaters have begun to recede, but rivers throughout the department are rising and may flood new areas. In northern Pando Department, overflowing rivers are increasingly threatening communities.

#### *Estimates of Loss*

- Floodwaters have killed an estimated 30,000 cattle in Beni Department alone, according to the Beni Ranchers' Association, resulting in a loss of approximately \$6 million. Ranchers expect the situation to worsen as animals succumb to diseases that emerge as the water recedes.
- USAID disaster specialists remain in Bolivia to assess conditions and help coordinate USAID humanitarian assistance.

#### *Health*

- The humanitarian community continues to monitor the health of affected populations. The GOB Ministry of Health and Sports is supporting a campaign to prevent the spread of water- and sanitation-related diseases.
- The two WHO standard medical kits provided by USAID/OFDA will assist additional populations affected by disease.

#### *Distribution of Relief Supplies*

- Three non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are distributing USAID/OFDA relief supplies previously airlifted to Bolivia. World Vision is distributing 2,000 water containers, 2,000 hygiene kits, and 20 rolls of plastic tarpaulin. The Center for Research, Investigation, and Services (CIES), a local health NGO, is distributing 1,800 water containers and 2,000 hygiene kits. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is distributing the remaining 4,000 water containers, 3,336 hygiene kits, and 270 rolls of plastic tarpaulin.

<sup>1</sup> Government of Bolivia

<sup>2</sup> U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

**USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- On January 22, U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia Philip S. Goldberg declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding. In response, USAID has provided more than \$1 million to assist affected populations. USAID staff have been on the ground in Santa Cruz and Beni departments conducting assessments to determine humanitarian needs.
- To date, USAID/OFDA and the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) have supported three airlifts of humanitarian commodities worth \$375,616, including transport. The airlifts have included a total of 7,800 water containers, 7,336 hygiene kits, and 290 rolls of plastic tarpaulin from USAID/OFDA, and four water pumps from DOD. USAID/OFDA provided transport for the first two airlifts, and DOD provided transport for the third airlift.
- Through existing programs, USAID/Bolivia has provided \$213,640 in temporary shelters, health supplies, medical services, and emergency relief supplies including kitchen cooking kits, mosquito nets, and sprayers. USAID/Bolivia has also supported emergency road repairs.
- Details on USAID assistance are listed below.

**USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BOLIVIA**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
ADRA	Emergency Relief Supplies <sup>2</sup>	Santa Cruz Department	\$65,000
American Red Cross	Agriculture and Food Security	Affected Areas	\$100,000
USAID/Bolivia	Health; Emergency Relief Supplies; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Affected Areas	\$304,399
USAID/Bolivia <sup>3</sup>	Emergency Relief Supplies	Santa Cruz and Beni Departments	\$375,616
	Administrative Support		\$1,526
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$846,541</b>
<b>USAID/BOLIVIA ASSISTANCE</b>			
USAID/Bolivia	Emergency Relief Supplies, Emergency Shelter, Health, and Emergency Repairs for Roads	Affected Areas	\$213,640
<b>TOTAL USAID/BOLIVIA</b>			<b>\$213,640</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BOLIVIA IN FY 2007</b>			<b>\$1,060,181</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 9, 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Includes transport.

<sup>3</sup> ADRA, CIES, and World Vision are distributing the supplies.

**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 Bolivia may be available at [www.reliefweb.org](http://www.reliefweb.org).
- 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](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)