



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)  
Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, San Jose, Costa Rica

**DISASTER RESPONSE**



Photo by Samantha Croasdaile, USAID

**USAID/OFDA regional consultant Fernando Calderón (second from left), and USAID mission disaster relief officer Peter Hearne (right) help deliver mattresses purchased with USAID/OFDA funds to remote temporary shelters in the southern zone of Honduras.**

**Helping Honduras after the Floods**

USAID/OFDA has provided approximately \$470,000 to Honduras in response to widespread flooding following heavy rains from Tropical Depression Number Sixteen in October. The flooding has affected

more than 320,000 people, mostly in the southern and northern parts of the country, displaced over 70,000 residents, and resulted in the deaths of 60 people. More than 42,000 people sought refuge in temporary shelters.



Photo by William Brands, USAID

**Firefighters and other local volunteers distribute USAID/OFDA-funded emergency supplies.**

USAID/OFDA is supporting four non-governmental organizations, including Aldea Global, Catholic Relief Services, CARE, and Save the Children, to purchase and deliver emergency relief supplies to affected families. USAID/OFDA is providing additional resources to the Government of Honduras (GOH) for the local transportation of relief supplies to displaced populations.

On October 20, the GOH declared a national emergency due the effects of the floods. In response, USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$50,000 through USAID/Honduras to the GOH Commission for Emergencies (COPECO) and CARE Honduras for the local purchase and distribution of emergency supplies such as mattresses, blankets, kitchen utensils, and hygiene kits to families in shelters. Fifty rolls of reinforced plas-

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**DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

**Community of Practice Advances Ideas in Chile**

Eighteen members of a community of practice that formed following a series of USAID/OFDA workshops more than three years ago had a productive meeting last month in Chile, advancing their ideas on disaster risk reduction from a perspective of environmental and land-use management.

Participants included USAID/OFDA representatives, staff from universities in Argentina, Chile, the United States, and Venezuela, and representatives from the Environment Ministry of El Salvador and the state legislature of Mendoza, Argentina. The event began on October 15 with a roundtable discussion on reducing disaster risk from the environmental and land-use management perspective. The discussion was part of an international geography conference at the University of La Frontera, in Temuco. On October 16 and 17, participants toured the municipalities of Puerto Varas and Puerto Montt and met with key actors involved in disaster risk reduction efforts in a region affected by recent intense volcanic activity.



Photo courtesy of Virginia Jiménez

**The community of practice toured several municipalities in Chile to observe disaster risk reduction efforts underway in the area.**

**DISASTER RESPONSE**

**USAID/OFDA Provides Belize With \$60,000 for Flood Relief**

USAID/OFDA is providing \$60,000 to Belize to help families affected by flooding. The regional office in San Jose, Costa Rica, has deployed two disaster management experts to assess the situation following heavy rains in late October that affected as many as 50,450 people. USAID/OFDA is providing \$50,000 to a local organization for the purchase and distribution of emergency supplies; another \$10,000 was provided to the Government of Belize for much-needed vehicle fuel during the emergency response.

# USAID/OFDA Responds to Widespread Flooding in Honduras



Photo courtesy of USAID/Honduras

**USAID/Honduras Director William Brands (left) helps distribute emergency supplies to affected families.**

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tic sheeting for temporary shelters, placed in the custody of CARE in 2005, were also provided to COPECO.

On October 25, USAID/OFDA airlifted emergency relief supplies worth \$135,000, including the cost of transportation, from the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Miami, Florida, to San Pedro Sula, Honduras. These supplies included 100 boxes of reinforced plastic sheeting, 3,000 ten-liter water containers, 3,000 wool blankets, 3,072 family hygiene kits containing soap, laundry detergent and personal care items, and two 10,000-liter water bladders for community water supply.

Tim Callaghan, USAID/OFDA senior regional advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean, traveled to Honduras to lead the five-member USAID/OFDA disaster assessment team on the ground and donate the USAID/OFDA emergency supplies to COPECO and CARE for distribution throughout Valle de Sula, in the northern zone.

Using an additional \$150,000 provided by USAID/OFDA, CARE/Honduras purchased hygiene kits, kitchen utensils, mattresses, and drinking water for 1,650 families in Valle de Sula, El Ramal del Tigre, and Tegucigalpa.

USAID/OFDA disaster management expert Fernando Calderón, who deployed to Honduras on October 21, and USAID/Honduras director William Brands visited affected areas on October 26 and helped CARE staff distribute relief items to displaced families.

Save the Children used \$50,000 provided by USAID/OFDA to purchase similar emergency supplies for hundreds of families in the southern zone. Calderón and USAID mission disaster relief officer (MDRO) Peter Hearne accompanied Save the Children staff to the area on October 28 to help distribute the relief items to remote temporary shelters in the southern zone.

USAID/OFDA continues to monitor the situation in Honduras.

## COMING UP

### Sub-Regional Strategy Workshops

The USAID/OFDA regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean will host strategy workshops for the disaster management experts affiliated with the USAID/OFDA regional training and technical assistance program implemented by the International Resources Group. The first workshop, for South American specialists, will be held November 20-21 in Quito, Ecuador; the Central America and Mexico workshop will be held December 3-4 in San Jose, Costa Rica; and the third workshop, for the Caribbean, will take place in Miami, Florida, December 15-16.

### INSARAG Middle East Meeting

USAID/OFDA senior regional advisor Tim Callaghan will travel to Dubai this month for the annual conference of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) Africa/Europe/Middle East Region on November 24-25. Callaghan, who is the INSARAG Americas chairman, will also participate in the INSARAG steering committee meeting on November 26.

### Haiti Response After-Action Meeting

USAID/OFDA will host an after-action meeting at the LAC regional office on December 2 to discuss the ongoing response to the humanitarian emergency in Haiti following several storms in August and September. Participants will also plan follow-up activities related to capacity building in the Caribbean nation.



Photo courtesy of Eduardo Gutierrez, U.S. Army

**A USAID/OFDA team member helps direct the unloading of emergency relief supplies in Haiti last September.**

### South American MDRO Workshop

USAID/OFDA regional advisor Phil Gelman is coordinating a workshop for USAID mission disaster relief officers (MDROs) in South America on December 4-5 in Lima, Peru, to discuss the role of MDROs in USAID/OFDA disaster response, preparedness, and risk reduction activities.

## DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The book can be obtained in digital format in English or Spanish from the Centro Regional de Información sobre Desastres (CRID).



### 'Time to Pass the Baton' Book Available in English, Spanish on CD, Internet

The USAID/OFDA publication, "Time to Pass the Baton: Disaster Risk Reduction from the Perspective of Environmental Management, Land Use Management, Finance and Public Investment," is now available in digital format from the Centro Regional de Información sobre Desastres (CRID).

The book, released in Spanish last year and in English this year, gathers valuable reflections on using disaster risk reduction as a development tool. The 304-page publication suggests strategies for the region in disaster risk reduction in three critical and interdependent areas as part of sustainable development – land use, environmental management, and public finances.

The book can be downloaded in whole or in part through CRID's Web site, [www.crid.or.cr](http://www.crid.or.cr). A limited number of CDs with the book are available for special events; contact Fabián Arellano, acting technical manager of the USAID/OFDA regional training program, for information: [farellano@ofda.gov](mailto:farellano@ofda.gov). The CD version is a collaborative effort between USAID/OFDA and CRID. For info about CRID, e-mail: [contactenos@crid.or.cr](mailto:contactenos@crid.or.cr).

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