

BOLIVIA

FLOODS

Much higher than normal rainfall between January and March 2001 in the Bolivian highlands caused flooding in all of the country's nine departments. Peri-urban and rural areas in La Paz and Cochabamba departments were hardest hit in January and February, while western Oruro Department and rural municipalities in La Paz

Department were affected by rains and flooding in March. According to the Bolivian Red Cross, more than 47,700 families were affected throughout Bolivia. Many adobe homes were heavily damaged by floodwaters. Damage to cropland, estimated at 119,163 hectares by the Bolivian Ministry of Agriculture, included the loss of crops critical to household food supplies. At USAID/Bolivia's request, a USAID/OFDA regional advisor traveled to Bolivia on January 27 to assist with damage and needs assessments.



On February 1, U.S. Ambassador V. Manuel Rocha declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding. USAID/OFDA provided \$25,000 through USAID/Bolivia to ADRA/Bolivia for the local purchase of water containers, chlorine solution for water treatment, and transportation for 112 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities already in country. In addition, on February 6, USAID/OFDA airlifted 360,000 sq. ft. of plastic sheeting to Bolivia at a total cost of \$76,915, including purchase and transport. The plastic sheeting was consigned to ADRA/Bolivia and was used for the construction of temporary shelters in the municipality of Viacha in the department of La Paz.

As part of its response to the flooding, the Integrity Health Program (PROSIN), USAID/Bolivia's health project with the private sector, reprogrammed \$10,000 of disaster funding to meet the immediate health needs of flood victims. A portion of these funds was provided to PAHO for the local purchase and transport of water containers and chlorine solution.

On March 21, USAID/OFDA provided an additional \$15,000 through USAID/Bolivia to CARE and ADRA/Bolivia for the construction of temporary shelters and to respond to other critical humanitarian needs. With USAID/OFDA funding, CARE and ADRA/Bolivia constructed a total of 539 temporary shelters benefiting approximately 3,200 people in the departments of La Paz, Oruro, and Potosi.

The Narcotics Affairs Section (NAS) of the U.S. Embassy in La Paz provided five airlifts in support of emergency relief operations. The NAS flights transported a total of 27 MT of Bolivian civil defense relief commodities and 74 passengers. The total cost of the NAS assistance was \$45,050.

USAID/OFDA Assistance	\$116,915
Other USG Assistance	\$55,050
Total USG Assistance	\$171,965

CENTRAL AMERICA

DROUGHT

Persistent dry spells and irregular patterns of rainfall during the past two years in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua led to widespread drought conditions by late July 2001. The drought caused serious crop damage during the first planting cycle, resulting in low yields throughout the affected areas. Falling international coffee prices reduced seasonal employ-

ment opportunities for small farmers and the landless poor, further decreasing food security among these groups. Although August brought rain to some areas, rainfall was uneven and erratic, making it difficult to project success for the second planting season between September and November. Because of low yields from the first planting season, potential failure of the second planting season, and the disappearance of alternative sources of income, up to 150,000 of the most vulnerable rural families in the region faced imminent economic hardship.

GUATEMALA

On September 3, 2001, the Government of Guatemala declared a state of public calamity for the drought-affected areas of the country. According to USAID/Guatemala, 12,700 families were affected by the drought, particularly in the departments of Baja Verapaz, Chiquimula, El Progreso, Jalapa, Jutiapa, Retalhuleu, San Marcos, Santa Rosa, and Zacapa.

On September 5, U.S. Ambassador Prudence Bushnell issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the drought. USAID/OFDA responded by providing \$25,000 to USAID/Guatemala to fund a grant to CRS to purchase critical relief supplies targeting acutely malnourished children from 4,774 families in 147 communities in the departments of Zacapa and Chiquimula. USAID/Guatemala also authorized CRS to utilize 311 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance already in country, valued at \$270,000, to provide 30 days of emergency food rations for the same 4,774 families. In addition, USAID/FFP provided 1,130 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at \$475,000, to WFP to aid drought victims throughout the affected areas.

HONDURAS

On July 19, 2001, the Government of Honduras declared a food shortage emergency in the 104 municipalities most affected. According to USAID/Honduras, 50,000 families were affected by the drought, particularly in the departments of Comayagua, Copan, El Paraiso, Francisco Morazan, Intibuca, and La Paz.

On August 15, U.S. Ambassador Frank Almaguer issued a disaster declaration due to effects of the drought. USAID/OFDA responded by providing \$25,000 to USAID/Honduras to fund Zamorano Agricultural School for the purchase and distribution of seeds and tools, and deployed a regional advisor to assess the situation, coordinate with local authorities, and identify additional humanitarian needs.

USAID/OFDA subsequently provided an additional \$150,000 through USAID/Honduras to Zamorano for the procurement and distribution of corn and bean seeds to 4,000 of the most severely affected families trying to recover during the second planting season. In addition, USAID/Honduras authorized CARE and WFP to utilize more than 2,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities already in-country, valued at \$668,753, to provide immediate assistance to the drought-affected families. USAID/FFP and USDA provided an additional 4,287 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency and Section 416(b) surplus food assistance, valued at \$1,629,100, to WFP to continue feeding Honduran drought victims.

NICARAGUA

According to the Nicaraguan Ministry of Agriculture and USAID/Nicaragua, 50,000 families were affected by the regional drought, particularly in the departments of Chinandega, Estelli, Jinotega, Leon, Madriz, Matagalpa, and Nueva Segovia.

On August 3, 2001, U.S. Ambassador Oliver Garza issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the drought. USAID/OFDA responded by providing \$25,000 to USAID/Nicaragua for the local purchase and distribution of food and seeds. USAID/OFDA also sent a regional advisor to Nicaragua to assess the humanitarian situation, coordinate with local authorities, and determine additional emergency needs. USAID/OFDA subsequently provided \$150,000 to USAID/Nicaragua to purchase fertilizer and improved seed varieties of corn, beans, sorghum, and sesame, to benefit 5,000 families in the most drought-affected areas.

On September 17, a USAID/OFDA assessment team returned to Nicaragua to evaluate the preparations for the second planting season and to identify any unmet humanitarian needs. Based on the findings of the team, USAID/OFDA provided an additional \$300,000 to USAID/Nicaragua for the local purchase and distribution of emergency food rations, including rice, beans, and corn, as well as seeds and fertilizer for 2,650 families who had been unassisted in Chinandega Department.

USAID/Nicaragua worked closely with its implementing partners in the field, including ADRA, CRS, PCI, and SC/US to coordinate the distribution of these food rations through a two-month food-for-work program. This emergency assistance complemented the more comprehensive food-for-work programs established in August in drought-affected areas. This included

USAID/FFP and USDA contributions of diverted non-emergency food assistance, valued at \$4.3 million, as well as emergency food aid totaling 6,773 MT of P.L. 480 Title II and USDA Section 416(b) surplus commodities, valued at \$3 million. In addition, USDA provided \$400,000 for the purchase of seeds and tools. Through these combined emergency food programs, more than 50,000 drought-affected families were assisted.

USAID/OFDA Assistance \$675,000
Other USG Assistance \$10,783,053
Total USG Assistance \$11,458,053

CENTRAL AMERICA

HURRICANE

Hurricane Keith first formed on September 29, 2000, off the coast of the Yucatan Peninsula. After a long stationary 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 217 km per hour, which led to heavy rains over Belize, Nicaragua, Mexico, and other areas of Central America. The Belize National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) estimated damage due to Hurricane Keith at approximately \$522 million with some 38,000 people affected. In Nicaragua, Hurricane Keith affected 56 communities in six provinces along the Pacific coast and resulted in the evacuation of more than 3,900 people from low-lying areas.

BELIZE

On October 2, 2000, U.S. Ambassador Carolyn Curiel declared a disaster in response to the damage caused by Hurricane Keith. USAID/OFDA provided \$25,000 to assist with immediate emergency relief needs. In addition, USAID/OFDA deployed a DART/GO Team, comprised of USAID/OFDA and Miami-Dade Fire Rescue personnel, and emergency relief commodities, including 192,000 sq. ft. of plastic sheeting, 1,000 wool blankets, 1,000 five-gallon collapsible water containers, 1,008 hygiene kits, and various medical supplies. The commodities were consigned to NEMO for distribution throughout the affected areas. The total value of USAID/OFDA's assistance, including the purchase and transport of emergency relief commodities and the deployment of the USAID/DART/GO team, was \$141,690. The USAID/DART/GO team assisted NEMO with damage assessments, needs analysis, and the delivery of relief commodities.



Hurricane Keith, with winds in excess of 200 km/hour, destroyed homes and displaced residents in Ambergris Caye, Belize (photo by Joseph Shultz, USAID/LPA).

DOD's Southern Command provided air assets from Joint Task Force (JTF) Bravo, including one Chinook (CH-47) and two Blackhawk (UH-60) helicopters, for assessments and delivery of relief items and six support personnel (in addition to the helicopter crews) to assist with the distribution of emergency relief supplies. Total DOD assistance was valued at \$197,000.

On October 27, USAID/OFDA provided \$22,125 to the U.S. Embassy in Belmopan to monitor USAID/OFDA relief efforts in Belize. USAID/OFDA

also provided \$10,390 to the U.S. Embassy's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement office (INL) as reimbursement for potable water and meals ready-to-eat (MREs) that INL had reallocated for the response. The water and MREs were distributed to victims in affected areas. In addition, on November 1, USAID/OFDA contributed \$232,000 to PAHO's emergency appeal in support of vector control and water and sanitation activities.

NICARAGUA

On October 3, 2000, U.S. Ambassador Oliver Garza declared a disaster due to the damage caused by Hurricane Keith. USAID/OFDA provided \$25,000 for the local purchase of emergency food, including rice, beans, sugar, vegetable oil, salt, and corn, which supplied 700 families in Leon and Chinandega

with one week's ration. On October 24, USAID/OFDA airlifted 96,000 sq. ft. of plastic sheeting to Nicaragua at a cost of \$4,800 for shipment. The plastic was consigned to the Nicaraguan Red Cross and provided temporary shelter for 160 families.

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$461,005
Other USG Assistance\$197,000
Total USG Assistance\$658,005

USAID/OFDA Expands Caribbean Disaster Mitigation Efforts

The Caribbean Region is extremely vulnerable to natural hazards including earthquakes, severe storms, hurricanes, floods, tsunamis, landslides, volcanoes, droughts, and wildfires. In addition, the incidence of technological and environmental disasters is increasing as a result of poor land use management, rapid and uncontrolled urbanization, and inadequate waste

management. The human and economic impact of these hazards can be devastating to precarious island economies. For example, Hurricane Luis in 1995 caused a single year loss to Anguilla's GDP of more than 14%, and damaged or destroyed nearly 40% of total housing on the island. Recent improvements have been made in national and regional capacities to