

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN – DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2013

SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**\$19.7
million**

Total USAID/OFDA
Funding to LAC in FY
2013, Including DRR
Programs

**\$3.6
million**

Regional Programs with
DRR Components

**\$3.4
million**

Programs in Haiti with
DRR Components

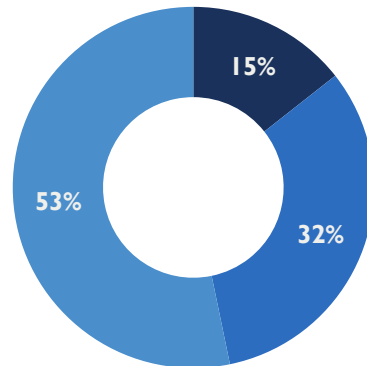
**\$1.5
million**

Programs in Nicaragua
with DRR Components

17

Partners Implementing FY
2013 Programs with DRR
Components

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY PROGRAM TYPE IN FY 2013



- Response Programs (15%)
- Programs that Integrate DRR with Disaster Response (32%)
- Stand-Alone DRR Programs (53%)

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR) FUNDING² TO LAC IN FY 2013

Stand-Alone DRR Programs \$10,478,065

Programs that Integrate DRR
with Disaster Response \$6,371,427

\$ 16,849,492
TOTAL USAID/OFDA
DRR FUNDING TO LAC IN FY 2013

OVERVIEW

- Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean³ (LAC) experience a range of natural hazards, including earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, tsunamis, landslides, volcanoes, forest fires, and droughts. El Niño and La Niña, extreme phases of natural climate cycles, periodically exacerbate the impacts of hydrometeorological events in the LAC region. Environmental degradation and poor land-use management also increase populations' vulnerability to natural hazards.
- USAID/OFDA supports disaster risk reduction (DRR) programs that save lives, alleviate human suffering, and reduce the social and economic impact of disasters in LAC. These programs include risk identification, prioritization, and reduction, as well as integration of DRR into post-disaster recovery and short-term rehabilitation projects. The focus of DRR funding in LAC is to enhance local and national self-sufficiency in disaster preparedness and management throughout the region. To this end, many of USAID/OFDA's programs target strengthening the capacity of established national and regional disaster management institutions to meet the majority of emergency needs after a catastrophic event.

¹ USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA).

² Total does not include other programs funded by USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance.

³ The LAC region encompasses Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

- Established in 1989, the Regional Disaster Assistance Program (RDAP) is the primary vehicle for USAID/OFDA's support to manage disaster risk in LAC. USAID/OFDA's team of five regional advisors based in San José, Costa Rica, and a consultant network of 20 disaster risk management specialists dispersed throughout the region oversee and monitor RDAP programs. Since its inception, RDAP has improved the emergency response capacity of disaster management personnel and governments in LAC countries. Over time, USAID/OFDA support has shifted from a strictly instructional approach to providing more technical assistance for planning, strengthening, and centralizing the role of national organizations in disaster management. Through RDAP, USAID/OFDA has expanded local and regional capabilities, improved intra- and inter-governmental coordination, and strengthened disaster preparedness, mitigation, and risk management activities.
- USAID/OFDA supports DRR activities in LAC through a wide range of programs. During FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$16.8 million for DRR projects throughout LAC, including programs that integrate DRR with disaster response. The programs discussed herein include both FY 2013-funded programs, as well as ongoing programs funded in previous fiscal years.

STAND-ALONE DRR PROGRAMS IN LAC

In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA's LAC team provided nearly \$10.5 million for stand-alone DRR initiatives that improve preparedness and aim to prevent and mitigate the worst impacts of disasters. USAID/OFDA provided additional funding for regional and global stand-alone programs that include activities in LAC to strengthen disaster preparedness and response.

At the regional and country levels, USAID/OFDA and implementing partners engaged communities, national and local governments, international and regional organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to develop effective strategies—tailored to the needs of at-risk populations—to reduce the risk of disasters. These programs reflect USAID/OFDA's commitment to support capacity development; strengthen linkages among risk identification, monitoring, early warning, and early action; and expand partnerships and joint programming opportunities. Analysis of existing capacities and social, economic, and environmental trends guide programs. When possible, USAID/OFDA programs address underlying causes of recurrent disasters, including environmental degradation and insufficient disaster planning resulting from rapid urban growth.

Global and Multi-Regional Programs Active in LAC

- **Monitoring Volcanic Activity:** Following the 1985 eruption of Nevado del Ruiz volcano in Colombia, which resulted in approximately 23,000 deaths, USAID/OFDA and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) established the Volcano Disaster Assistance Program (VDAP). During the program's 27-year history, USAID/OFDA has provided approximately \$22 million to support VDAP. To date, VDAP has responded to 27 major crises throughout the world, including 17 volcanoes in LAC, and helped build local capacity in 12 countries. At the request of host governments, VDAP teams travel to areas with significant volcanic risks throughout the world and use mobile volcano monitoring equipment to quickly assess hazards and help local agencies generate eruption forecasts. The early warning forecasts allow local authorities to evacuate high-risk areas before a disaster occurs, reducing fatalities and economic loss. VDAP programs also include training and technical assistance for local geologists to enhance preparedness and response for future volcanic events. VDAP programs focus on the East Asia and the Pacific and LAC regions, where many of the most potentially dangerous volcanoes are located. USAID/OFDA provided more than \$642,000 for VDAP activities in the LAC region, of which \$205,000 was provided by the LAC regional team. The funding supported the collection of remote sensing data, as well as technical expertise—provided both remotely and in person—for eruptions in Colombia and Peru.
- **Natural Hazards Mitigation:** In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided global support to USGS in support of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Interagency Agreement, a partnership that enables USAID/OFDA to quickly access USGS experts in the fields of hydrology, seismology, biology, tsunamis, landslides, mapping, cartography, and

geographic information systems. In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA drew on this agreement to deploy the USGS Earthquake Disaster Assistance Team (EDAT) to Haiti to collaborate with partners, improve earthquake monitoring, and collect valuable information about seismic hazards so that communities can build safer structures and reduce the impacts of future earthquakes.

- **Action at the Frontline:** To facilitate greater understanding of resilience building at the community, civil society, and institutional levels, USAID/OFDA supports the Action at the Frontline program through the Global Network for Disaster Reduction (GNDR). Based on the findings of the “Views from the Frontline” initiative that highlighted the effects of small-scale, recurrent disasters on local communities, GNDR researches common enabling factors and limitations to disaster recovery and disaster risk adaptation. The research will also inform the establishment of the new U.N. post-2015 global development agenda frameworks. Active in nearly 60 sites worldwide, the Action at the Frontline program trains local populations in risk mitigation and encourages local participation in disaster planning activities that build resilience to potential crises. In the LAC region, the project is implementing activities in Chile, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

LAC Regional Programs

- **DRR in the Americas:** In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA entered into a five-year cooperative agreement with Florida International University (FIU), titled DRR in the Americas, to strengthen DRR programs among public and private organizations, particularly universities, and reinforce DRR best practices in the LAC region. In FY 2013, FIU continued support for the educational and professional development of the next generation of Latin American DRR leaders through scholarships, student and faculty exchanges, and small grants. Through the DRR in the Americas program, universities in Latin America have trained professionals—urban planners, land-use managers, and builders—to incorporate DRR into national plans for disaster risk management. Including nearly \$2 million in FY 2013 funding, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$6.5 million to support the DRR in the Americas program since 2008.
- **Emergency Health Preparedness:** In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$1.2 million in additional funding to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to increase preparedness in the health sector by advocating and providing technical support for improved health policy and legislation in the LAC region. USAID/OFDA has funded the PAHO health sector preparedness program since 2009 with more than \$5.8 million. Over the course of this five-year program, PAHO has developed a variety of technical materials, guidelines, and assessment tools that countries across the LAC region have utilized to set priorities and build disaster response plans. For example, PAHO created a Hospital Safety Index to assess the probability of whether a health facility will remain functioning in an emergency situation, as well as developed a Logistics Support System/Supply Management System to manage humanitarian health supplies during a crisis response.
- **Improving Regional Disaster Information Management:** In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$111,000 to PAHO to improve communication on disaster preparedness and response and strengthen disaster information management throughout LAC. The funding supports and strengthens the emergency and disaster response information networks of Chile’s National Emergency Office of the Ministry of the Interior, Colombia’s National Unit for Disaster Risk Management, and the Faculty of Medical Science at the Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala. The project also works closely with the regional Latin American Risk Management Information Centers Network (RELACIGER) to promote the integration of RELACIGER’s goals with those of national civil defense and protection organizations in affiliated countries.
- **Universities Network to Reduce Disaster Risk:** USAID/OFDA provided more than \$65,000 in FY 2013 to support the Network of Latin American and the Caribbean Universities for Disaster and Emergency Risk Reduction (REDULAC). In August, 24 participants from 16 countries in the LAC region attended the first consultation

meeting for REDULAC national chapter coordinators in Lima, Peru. The meeting provided an opportunity for participants to discuss transforming REDULAC from a community of practice to a more formal regional organization with a proposed structure and governing board. REDULAC, an association of academics and researchers in DRR studies, works to support existing national, sub-regional, and regional networks to raise awareness about DRR and advocate for higher education institutions and professionals to incorporate disaster risk management into their courses and practices.

- **LAVAS Third Annual Workshop:** USAID/OFDA provided more than \$35,000 in FY 2013 to support a workshop of the Latin American Association of Volcano Seismologists (LAVAS)—a group founded through VDAP that includes the principal volcano seismologists from all LAC countries with volcanic activity. LAVAS held its third annual workshop in Manizales, Colombia, in early 2013, which featured presentations by USGS scientists on principles of volcano seismology, patterns of precursory earthquake patterns used by VDAP to forecast eruptions, and seismic data for monitoring volcanic debris flows. The workshop also held discussion groups on infrasound technology and various other topics related to eruption prediction.
- **Strengthening Women’s Participation in DRR:** The Huairou Commission works globally to develop strategic partnerships and linkages among grassroots women’s organizations, advancing their capacity to collectively influence political spaces and enhance sustainable community development practices. In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided \$150,000 to support Huairou Commission activities in four LAC countries: Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, and Peru. These activities support collaboration among local communities, government officials, and local authorities to establish risk and vulnerability reducing priorities and plans. Associated grassroots women’s groups are also networking across neighborhoods and towns to expand the Huairou Commission’s Community Practitioner Platform on Resilience, which builds intercommunity support to promote women’s empowerment and gender-equitable DRR activities.
- **Public-Private Partnerships Regional Forum:** An important element of USAID/OFDA’s DRR work is to support regional events that facilitate knowledge exchange and increase public and private sector cooperation in disaster risk management. In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$22,000 to support the Latin American Economic System, the U.N. Office of Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), and the Government of Colombia’s National Agency for Disaster Risk Management to host the second regional seminar on public-private partnerships for DRR. The seminar, held in Cartagena, Colombia, in August, brought approximately 100 representatives from regional governments, disaster response organizations, and private sector entities in the LAC region to exchange DRR lessons learned and propose new strategies for coordinated efforts to support continuity of government services and business operations in the aftermath of a disaster.
- **Paul C. Bell, Jr., Risk Management Program:** In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA continued to support FIU for Phase V of the Paul C. Bell, Jr., Risk Management Program that began in July 2009. In FY 2013, FIU conducted a DRR Remote Sensing and Geographical Information Systems online course for 19 participants from eight LAC countries and an associated on-site workshop at FIU for the majority of the participants. The program also explored establishing a facility in South America to conduct research on disaster risk management, serve as a center for knowledge management, and develop academic programming on disaster risk. In addition, in FY 2013 the program continued to manage the Bell Fellowship awards for six individuals completing doctoral studies in disaster management. To date, total Phase V funding amounts to more than \$1.6 million. Previous phases of the program have assessed the state of disaster, emergency, and risk management instruction in higher education institutions in LAC; provided scholarships and facilitated faculty and student exchanges, as well as public and private sector internships; and distributed small grants to universities in Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Peru to carry out community DRR projects.

- **International Cooperative Framework for Disaster Reduction:** With continued support from USAID/OFDA, UNISDR is working to minimize the adverse impacts of natural hazards through enhancing the capability of vulnerable groups and local communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. The USAID/OFDA–UNISDR collaboration further develops government capacities to design and execute actions aimed at building the resilience of cities and communities to mitigate urban disaster risk. Among other activities in the LAC region, the UNISDR Making Cities Resilient global campaign, launched in May 2010, focuses on developing urban risk management strategies with participating municipalities. In FY 2013, the campaign continued the implementation of phase two activities—active through 2015—including city-to-city learning and cooperation, local action planning, and monitoring and evaluating the progress of building resilience in cities.
- **Integration of Global and Regional Seismic Risk Modeling Activities:** USAID/OFDA continued support to the Global Earthquake Model (GEM) Foundation in FY 2013 for ongoing projects that examine risks, social vulnerabilities, and resilience building associated with seismic hazards around the world, including in the LAC region. GEM is a public-private partnership that brings together national and international disaster management organizations, governments, scientific institutions, and individual experts, professionals, and practitioners to transfer knowledge, best practices, and technology to a number of earthquake-prone regions around the world. In particular, GEM is focused toward applying global best practices for seismic risk assessment at the local and regional levels through development and deployment of standards, databases, and software tools. The non-profit and independent GEM Foundation, which comprises a governing board with representatives from participating government agencies and private companies that fund the effort, guides the initiative.
- **Seismic Hazard Mapping and Prioritization of High Risk Locations:** With previous year funding, USAID/OFDA is supporting two complementary USGS projects that develop seismic hazard and risk products for the LAC region. The first project compiles geological and seismological data to serve as the basis for new seismic hazard maps for GEM, the Regional Center for Seismology in South America, and USGS to better assess the short- and long-term hazards facing South America. The second project focuses on identifying LAC locations with high seismic hazards coupled with high population density. Continued support for both projects strengthens regional capacity for seismology and engineering and increases earthquake hazard expertise.

Caribbean Regional Programs

- **Saving Lives in the Caribbean Through Preparedness:** USAID/OFDA provided \$150,000 to the American Red Cross (AmRC) in FY 2013 to increase the capacity of more than 75,000 people in 34 communities in the Bahamas, Belize, and Saint Lucia to help them better mitigate and respond to the adverse effects of climate change and disasters. The Saving Lives in the Caribbean Through Preparedness program builds on lessons learned from a previous USAID/OFDA-funded program, entitled Readiness to Respond. Through the Saving Lives program, AmRC is planning, implementing, and monitoring small-scale disaster mitigation projects, increasing long-term community engagement, and providing refresher trainings to community members, national Red Cross society staff, and volunteers to reinforce disaster management skills and knowledge.
- **Youth-Focused DRR:** With more than \$147,000 in USAID/OFDA funding in FY 2013, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) engaged and trained young people in hazard-prone communities in the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, and Saint Lucia on DRR and preparedness principles through the Youth Emergency Action Committees (YEAC) program. Now in the program's third phase, CRS is working to link YEACs and implementing partners across the region into a YEAC network to share ideas, best practices, lessons learned, and training opportunities, as well as to maintain relationships and momentum. The third phase focuses on consolidating and strengthening investments made to date by providing additional trainings for YEAC brigades at the neighborhood level to improve early warning systems and practice emergency plans and drills. Currently, 17 YEACs with a total membership of

more than 300 youth are providing positive leadership in their neighborhoods, raising awareness of disaster risks and emergency preparedness, and leading activities to analyze local risks and develop emergency plans.

- **Strengthening Youth Participation in Disaster Management:** In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 to support the youth session at the seventh annual Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency's Comprehensive Disaster Management conference, which took place in December 2012. The yearly conference provides a forum for networking, training, and sharing information on best practices across the Caribbean disaster management spectrum. The youth session of the December 2012 meeting focused on educating young participants on climate change, disaster risks, and disaster management, as well as empowering them to transfer this knowledge to their peers, families, and communities.

Caribbean Country Programs

Dominican Republic

- **Building Local Response Capacity:** USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 to the Corporación Ciudadana Santiago Solidario to support activities to mitigate the impact of disasters. The project aims to build the community's capacity to respond to disasters—namely landslides caused by heavy rains and earthquakes—through improved training in search-and-rescue techniques for local first responders. Corporación Ciudadana Santiago Solidario is implementing the project in 11 vulnerable communities on the banks of the Yaque del Norte River in Santiago de los Caballeros.
- **Reducing Vulnerability through Community-Level DRR:** USAID/OFDA continued to support the Dominican Development Institute (IDDI) in FY 2013 with funding from a previous year. IDDI's Disaster Preparedness to Achieve Communities with Resilience Capacity program focused on reducing vulnerability through community-level DRR training and capacity-building exercises in the Los Mina community in Santo Domingo, which an IDDI assessment found to be highly vulnerable to disasters due to a lack of awareness of DRR coupled with a high risk for disaster impacts. In FY 2013, the IDDI-trained team of volunteer program facilitators continued to participate in activities to mitigate and reduce disaster risks and better respond to disaster impacts, including through trainings, home visits, community forums, educational talks in schools, seminars for community and municipal leaders, and video conferences. The volunteer facilitators also staffed temporary shelters during Hurricane Sandy, which hit the country in October 2012.
- **Studying Hispaniola's Septentrional Fault:** With prior year funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support the USGS study and assessment of the seismic hazard risks to the city of Santiago de los Caballeros and other population centers within the rapidly growing Cibao Valley in northern Dominican Republic. Hispaniola is located along the seismically active Caribbean-North American plate boundary that comprises the Septentrional fault, which traverses the Cibao Valley. In FY 2013, USGS EDAT excavated and studied trenches across the Septentrional fault, completed field mapping of active fault traces, and taught a seminar at the Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra in Santiago. The team also participated in a U.N. conference in Haiti during July that examined the January 2010 Haiti earthquake and tsunami hazards associated with the Septentrional fault.

Haiti

- **Emergency Flood Mitigation and 2013 Hurricane Season Preparedness:** USAID/OFDA provided \$1.5 million in FY 2013 to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for emergency flood mitigation and hurricane season preparedness. IOM has collected aerial imagery, engaged with the local community, and prepared technical plans for its emergency flood mitigation project along the Millet Ravine in Haiti's capital city Port-au-Prince. The project, which benefits more than 60,000 Haitians living in low-lying areas, is building structures in the ravine to prevent future flooding and population displacement. IOM also selected and began working in 30 high-risk internally displaced persons (IDP) camps ahead of the 2013 hurricane season. Preparations included training community-based

organizations on basic disaster preparedness and first aid, distributing emergency preparation supplies to IDP sites, and updating evacuation policies to include vulnerable IDP populations.

- **Reducing Urban Risk in Port-au-Prince:** USAID/OFDA provided \$500,000 to GOAL in FY 2013 to mitigate the impact of disasters in Haut Turgeau and Debussy, two hazard-prone neighborhoods in Port-au-Prince. Using participatory risk mapping as part of an integrated neighborhood approach, the project aims to increase disaster resilience through physical infrastructure projects—such as renovating access routes, clearing out ravines, and constructing sustaining walls—to mitigate risks at the household and community level while building capacity for disaster preparedness and response. Among other activities, the project plans to link local disaster risk management teams—established, trained, and equipped through the project—to district, regional, and national disaster risk management structures, thereby helping operationalize Haiti’s National System for Disaster Risk Management at the community level.
- **Pre-positioning Relief Supplies Ahead of Disaster:** In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$400,000 to IOM to pre-position emergency relief supplies for potential disasters during Haiti’s rainy and hurricane seasons, such as destructive flooding, mud- and landslides, and cholera spikes. The pre-positioning of relief commodities—including plastic sheeting, hygiene kits, and water containers—ensures that supplies are available for a Government of Haiti (GoH)-coordinated response to an emergency. The funding also helped maintain a functional central warehouse in Port-au-Prince for the storage and distribution of relief commodities. IOM continues to work closely with the GoH Directorate of Civil Protection (DPC)—the agency responsible for emergency preparedness and response—and other humanitarian partners to support the delivery of relief commodities to affected populations in the event of an emergency.
- **Increasing Capacity to Support Displaced Populations:** USAID/OFDA provided \$250,000 to IOM in FY 2013 to support IDPs in Haiti. Through USAID/OFDA support, IOM has worked to improve the government’s disaster preparedness and response capabilities in preparation for the full transition of these responsibilities to the GoH. The IOM IDP program strengthens the capacity of the GoH to manage and coordinate IDP camps, provide emergency and transitional shelters, and coordinate the procurement and distribution of emergency relief supplies. Activities in FY 2013 addressed the challenges of prolonged displacement resulting from the 2010 earthquake, including the creation of return strategies for IDPs who remain in camps.
- **Strengthening Disaster Risk Management in South Department:** In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided \$250,000 to CRS to build disaster risk management capacity in South Department. The project addresses identified training and capacity-building needs and bridges gaps in early warning systems. The project also disseminates emergency preparedness information to improve coordination between GoH DPC and vulnerable communities. Among other activities, CRS is working with local authorities to design and develop an updated vulnerability map for South Department. CRS also plans to incorporate the newly required format and lessons learned from previous emergency simulation exercises into the departmental contingency plan and provide training on emergency response skills and international humanitarian principles, with a special emphasis on gender and protection concerns.
- **Building Resilience in Artibonite Department:** USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$250,000 to Mercy Corps in FY 2013 to increase the resilience of communities in Artibonite Department. The project supports GoH DPC members at the Artibonite sub-commune, commune, and departmental level to carry out timely and effective responses to disasters through raising community awareness, promoting community mobilization activities, and strengthening capacity and training programs. Mercy Corps is working with the department technical coordinators to bring the Artibonite emergency operating centers’ warehouses up to international standards with operational plans to maintain them, as well as providing basic emergency response training that includes designating roles and responsibilities,

learning standard operating procedures, and addressing the specific needs of different groups in emergencies. The program encourages Artibonite's 15 communes to complete community mitigation projects.

- **Support to Haiti's National System for Disaster Risk Management:** In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$139,000 to the U.N. Development Program (UNDP) to support the GoH in further developing its national institutional capacity for disaster mitigation and response. UNDP continued to provide the GoH DPC with critical technical staff to enable strong management of DPC operations in the event of an emergency. The support contributed to timely preparation ahead of the 2013 hurricane season, particularly through the organization of departmental- and national-level disaster simulation exercises to improve coordination and incorporate lessons learned from previous responses.
- **Improving Haiti's Seismic Network:** USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$92,000 in FY 2013 to USGS to support a USGS EDAT mission to Haiti. The team provided technical assistance to Haitian partners from the GoH Bureau of Mines and Energy (BME) to improve the reliability of the Haitian national seismic network. The mission team also met with BME colleagues and stakeholders, including Haitian agencies and USAID/OFDA, to discuss and solicit feedback regarding a planned outreach project to create earthquake awareness materials for schools. In previous missions to Haiti, EDAT collected geological and seismological information to assess short- and long-term seismic hazards and emphasized capacity building and hands-on instruction with instrument deployment and operations in the field.
- **Community Initiatives in DRR:** With prior year funding from USAID/OFDA, World Concern Development Organization (WCDO) supported vulnerable urban communities in Port-de-Paix and Anse-à-Foleur in Haiti's Northwest Department to identify and reduce the risk and impacts of disasters. The project employed a comprehensive neighborhood approach and has retrofitted community infrastructure, including churches and schools, to resist hurricanes and earthquakes and trained local builders on government construction standards. WCDO also promoted public health and hygiene education and conducted infrastructure rehabilitation projects, including canal construction, to help reduce the risk of waterborne disease.

Jamaica

- **Increasing the Resilience of Farming Communities:** USAID/OFDA continued to support HelpAge International in FY 2013 with prior year funding for assisting farmers in nine communities in Jamaica's Portland and St. Catherine parishes. The program has worked to safeguard livelihoods from the impact of natural disasters—such as Hurricane Sandy, which struck Jamaica in October 2012—by helping to strengthen the preparedness and response capabilities of farmers, families with children, elderly persons, and communities at large through capacity building and training in crop and livestock protection. The project also employed an inter-generational approach to strengthen capacity by training children in disaster preparedness and empowering them to pass the information on to other household members, particularly older persons with low literacy levels.

Central America Regional Programs

- **Central America Flash Flood Guidance:** USAID/OFDA provided \$45,000 to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in FY 2013 to support flash flood guidance in Central America. In 2008, USAID/OFDA—in partnership with the U.N. World Meteorological Organization, the Hydrologic Research Center, and the national meteorological and hydrological services (NMHSs) of host countries—launched a collaborative program to assist NMHSs in monitoring potential flash floods, therein improving early warning lead time, enabling quick response, and ultimately reducing the loss of life and the economic impact of floods. The NOAA program aims to provide flash flood early warning guidance in countries with limited early warning capacity by utilizing targeted technology, conducting forecaster trainings, and providing technical assistance.

- **Strengthening National Emergency Management Capacities:** With previous year funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support the Central American Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters to strengthen the capacity of national risk management institutions in urban areas in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. The project developed national strategies for education and training in comprehensive disaster risk management, facilitated the development of protection and preparedness plans for educational institutions, and organized national and regional DRR conferences.

Central America Country Programs

El Salvador

- **Landslide and Environmental Vulnerability Assessments:** USAID/OFDA provided more than \$19,000 to USGS in FY 2013 to support a land vulnerability assessment in El Salvador. USGS provided a team of technical experts to work with the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) of El Salvador to conduct a general evaluation of the hydrologic, geomorphic, and environmental risks of a planned urban development near Nuevo Cuscatlán south of the capital San Salvador. As part of the assessment, the technical team examined potential impacts caused by surface runoff, erosion, and sediment generation that could increase flooding problems for communities downstream from the proposed development. The technical team's recommendations to MARN included a proposal to develop an integrated project-level disaster mitigation plan, and suggestions to address the proposed development's use of wastewater treatment systems and potential public health effects.
- **Strengthening Community Disaster Management Capacity:** With prior year funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support CRS in strengthening the disaster management capacities of vulnerable communities in the sub-watershed of El Salvador's Acahuapa River. The project has created community risk maps, trained youth on disaster preparedness, promoted community disaster awareness, and identified appropriate community-level risk mitigation projects in coordination with local government officials. Among other activities in FY 2013, the project helped 18 communities prepare for and respond to emergencies and organized DRR youth groups to implement approved community civil protection plans. CRS also supported members of the country's community civil protection committees to increase leadership skills and knowledge of first aid, which enabled the committees' members to replicate these trainings in their home communities.
- **Building Disaster-Resilient Communities:** USAID/OFDA continued to support Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US) in FY 2013 with a project to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable and food-insecure communities in rural El Salvador. Emphasizing school- and community-based DRR activities, the program has assisted 30 schools, 60 communities, and four municipalities to develop hazard risk reduction plans and policies. Additionally, the project has constructed 14 elevated silos, supported 17 fishing cooperatives, and distributed fruit trees to more than 1,000 households to increase the community's food self-sufficiency.

Guatemala

- **Securing Neighborhoods Against Natural Disasters:** Through prior year funding, USAID/OFDA supported CRS to implement the Safer Neighborhoods program in Quetzaltenango city. The program helped beneficiaries, local partners, and government officials address the disaster mitigation needs of vulnerable residents in four Quetzaltenango neighborhoods. Through cross-cutting strategies—including alignment with government plans and policy, linkage with the UNISDR's Making Cities Resilient campaign, participatory education, and gender mainstreaming—the project aimed to benefit residents by retro-fitting houses against flooding and seismic hazards, improving access to sanitation facilities and waste removal, and training and organizing communities and key stakeholders in disaster preparedness and management.
- **Improving Resilience in Urban Neighborhoods:** In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA continued to support Project Concern International (PCI) with prior year funding for the My Neighborhood program. The program works in

coordination with private-sector partners, national and municipal agencies, universities, and other local communities to reduce urban risks for residents of 17 informal neighborhoods in Mixco municipality near Guatemala City. Activities focused on decreasing vulnerability to landslides, floods, high winds, and seismic activity in informal settlements by developing a scalable model to improve water and sanitation infrastructure, reconfigure settlements, and improve shelters. The program utilizes the neighborhood approach—defined by USAID/OFDA as an integrated and multi-sectoral analytical framework centered on the geographic confines of neighborhoods in order to address disaster risks in the urban environment—to reinforce the livelihoods of participating urban households by facilitating an integrated, participatory, and consultative planning process with beneficiary communities.

Honduras

- **Strengthening Urban Risk Reduction in Tegucigalpa:** In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$805,000 to GOAL for operationalization of a neighborhood approach to reduce urban disaster risk in three neighborhoods in the Ulloa sector of the Honduran capital Tegucigalpa. Ulloa—a neighborhood characterized by limited urbanization regulations and home to low-income families—is vulnerable to a number of hazards, including flooding, land- and rockslides, and fires. GOAL’s two-year project reduces the vulnerability of housing and critical infrastructure, protecting livelihoods, and increasing community capacity for disaster preparedness and response for more than 16,500 people. The Ulloa urban DRR project will serve as a model for risk reduction in other parts of Tegucigalpa and additional cities in Honduras.

Nicaragua

- **Using the Neighborhood Approach to Increase Disaster Resilience:** In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1.3 million to CRS to implement the two-year United Neighbors project in 20 vulnerable urban neighborhoods of Chinandega Department. The project increases communities’ disaster resilience through a youth-led participatory neighborhood approach. CRS is working with local and national government representatives and neighborhood groups to conduct risk analysis, hazard mapping, and disaster planning exercises.
- **Fostering Urban Emergency Preparedness and Response:** With nearly \$150,000 in FY 2013 support from USAID/OFDA, PCI is increasing the resilience of hazard-prone urban communities in Chinandega, León, and Managua municipalities through an urban emergency preparedness and response program. The program supports an intensive eight-week capacity-building training for NGOs, which assists local communities to prepare for and respond to future disasters. The trainings offer advice to NGOs on drafting emergency preparedness plans, situating the plans within Nicaragua’s multi-hazard early warning system, and collaborating with municipal disaster response authorities.
- **Reducing Hydrometeorological Risk in Lower Coco River Communities:** Through previous year funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support CRS in FY 2013 to ensure that communities residing near Nicaragua’s Lower Coco River have a long-term plan for reducing risks from chronic flooding and other hydrometeorological disasters. Among activities in FY 2013, the Lower Coco River Risk Reduction project directly trained nearly 430 community members in risk reduction concepts and practices; organized more than 280 community leaders in 16 communities into local disaster mitigation and response committees and emergency rescue brigades, and provided training to the brigades; incorporated the participation of over 1,800 community members in disaster response simulations; and constructed a strategically placed evacuation shelter with additional designs and plans for expansion.
- **Community-Level Disaster Preparedness:** With prior year USAID/OFDA support, CARE helped communities in Managua and Masaya departments in Nicaragua prepare for, mitigate the impact of, and respond to geological and hydrometeorological hazards. Among other activities in FY 2013, the program facilitated the preparation of community and municipal risk reduction plans in 11 municipalities. The plans, which incorporate a gender and

disability approach to DRR, accompanied training and advocacy workshops to improve DRR knowledge among participating community members.

South America Regional Programs

- **Regional Platform for DRR in the Americas:** USAID/OFDA contributed \$100,000 in support to the UNISDR-sponsored Third Regional Platform for DRR in the Americas, which took place in November 2012 in Santiago, Chile. The forum brought together key stakeholders in South America to discuss the DRR-related actions and commitments of governments, international associations, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, media, and the private sector, as well as community, scientific, and academic institutions. The forum promoted knowledge sharing, planning, monitoring, and strategic decision-making in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action 2010–2015.
- **Tsunami Preparedness Workshop:** With support from USAID/OFDA, other U.S. Government agencies, and the U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, the International Tsunami Information Center provides tsunami preparedness training to seismologists, volcanologists, and emergency response authorities in Central and South America. In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 to NOAA to support the attendance of 18 country representatives from Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru at a workshop held in Chile in March. The training informed participants about new tsunami alert products that the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center will introduce in October 2014. In addition, the training included lessons learned from past tsunami events, challenges in implementing effective early warning systems, evacuation considerations, and simulation exercises to test emergency protocols and procedures.
- **Increasing Resilience Across South America:** With USAID/OFDA funding from a previous year, AmRC helped strengthen the resilience of nearly 50 vulnerable communities in Colombia, Ecuador, and Paraguay. In FY 2013, AmRC continued to raise awareness in participating communities of disaster risks, including those related to climate change, and mobilized appropriate preparedness and response mechanisms. AmRC provided technical assistance to schools and communities in Colombia conducting disaster simulation exercises. In Ecuador, AmRC supported educational campaigns to increase community awareness and knowledge of hazard mitigation strategies. AmRC also expanded disaster preparedness in hazard-prone, vulnerable communities in Paraguay through developing emergency response plans and training first responders.

South America Country Programs

Brazil

- **Disaster Management, Planning, and Preparedness:** USAID/OFDA provided \$100,000 in FY 2013 to support a training program through the Government of Brazil (GoB) National System of Civil Defense to increase the disaster management capabilities of the GoB's Civil Defense Training Unit. Implemented in 12 cities across the country, the project is training more than 30 national instructors in USAID/OFDA DRR and disaster response management courses to improve and further strengthen Brazil's emergency planning, preparedness, and response capacity. These activities build on more than 25 years of integrated risk management planning between USAID/OFDA and the GoB.

Chile

- **Sustainable National Seismic Monitoring System:** USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$22,000 to USGS in FY 2013 to provide technical assistance to the Chilean National Emergency Office of the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security and the University of Chile for the establishment of a comprehensive national seismic monitoring system. USGS technical staff collaborated with institutional partners on issues related to technology transfer, seismic monitoring, and use of USGS National Earthquake Information Center (NEIC) products for emergency response. In addition, USGS collaborated with research partners on the development of seismic velocity models, and identified ground truth seismic events—earthquakes that occur in close proximity to installed seismic equipment, allowing

scientists to test and calibrate the equipment—and other seismic monitoring parameters required by the NEIC to improve seismic monitoring in Chile.

- **Risk Management and Gender Seminar:** USAID/OFDA provided \$20,000 in FY 2013 to support a gender and risk management seminar in Chile. In addition to logistical support, USAID/OFDA funding helped develop advocacy materials on incorporating gender perspectives into risk management policies. Following the IV International Conference on Gender and Disasters, the seminar brought together local, national, and international organizations working in Chile to share lessons learned and discuss best practices for incorporating gender into disaster planning and management. Participants organized a working group that has successfully engaged the Government of Chile (GoC) and civil society on the issue of gender in disasters and has secured staff and a budget within the GoC's National Emergency Office of the Ministry of Interior and Public Security to specifically support gender programming. Participants also established a ministerial gender group, comprising representatives of other GoC ministries, and developed gender-sensitive hygiene kits.

Ecuador

- **Strengthening Volcano Monitoring Networks:** In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$18,000 to the Geophysical Institute of Ecuador's National Polytechnical School to support DRR initiatives related to volcano monitoring networks in Ecuador. The initiatives aim to systematize lessons learned through previous response to eruptions of Tungurahua volcano in central Ecuador and center on strengthening volcano monitoring networks by providing updated equipment, tools, and training courses, as well as creating and distributing information materials.
- **Increasing Community Preparedness and Disasters Response:** With previous year funding, USAID/OFDA supported CARE to strengthen the disaster preparedness and response capabilities of community institutions. CARE's activities benefited 30 communities in rural and urban areas of Cumandá, El Triunfo, General Antonio Elizalde, La Troncal, and Pallatanga municipalities by building institutional capacity for disaster risk management at the local, provincial, and national levels. The program rehabilitated houses located in high-risk areas, with a focus on assisting the most vulnerable populations—including women, children, disabled persons, and the elderly.

Paraguay

- **Building Drought Resilience:** USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$392,000 in FY 2013 to the Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (ACDI/VOCA) to promote resilience among drought-affected households in San Pedro Department. The program trains participating shareholder farmers on climate-smart farming strategies and agricultural techniques to improve local food production and improves access to formal credit systems and informal saving and lending activities within local cooperatives and associations. The program builds on work established under the USAID-funded Iniciativa Zona Norte program, which supports livelihood activities that reduce household vulnerability to economic stresses and strengthens the capacity of San Pedro communities to mitigate the negative effects of drought.

Peru

- **DRR Shelter and Housing Support:** In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA supported CARE with nearly \$37,000 to systematize aspects of a rural housing upgrades process, including collaborative activities among Government of Peru (GoP) authorities, private sector staff, and civil society members. Following the magnitude 8.0 earthquake that struck the central coast in August 2007, USAID/OFDA supported CARE activities in the Pisco-Chincha area that developed several alternative earthquake-resistant building models for transitional housing in rural and peri-urban areas. More than 1,000 houses constructed between FY 2010 and FY 2012 with USAID/OFDA support utilized these models. Leveraging various GoP programs at the municipal, regional and national levels, as well as private sector collaboration, also resulted in at least 10,000 additional houses built with these methods. These programs successfully addressed the lack of a national housing policy applicable to rural and peri-urban houses in Peru and, in

late 2011, the GoP announced a program to support rural housing upgrades for those houses constructed post-earthquake.

- **Reducing Vulnerability to Natural and Technological Risks:** With previous year funding, USAID/OFDA supported CARE in FY 2013 to mitigate hazards associated with vulnerable housing and coordinate with the GoP National Institute for Civil Defense and National Meteorology and Hydrology Service (SENAMHI) to produce national guidelines for community-based early warning systems. As part of the project, SENAMHI received scientific equipment for 10 conventional and two automatic weather stations in the Puno Region, which will strengthen the weather forecast service and early warning system capacities. In addition, CARE and national officials worked with the private sector to design shelter options for various disaster scenarios.
- **Supporting Urban Risk Reduction:** With previous year funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support SC/US in FY 2013 to help hazard-prone urban communities in Lima become more disaster resilient. The two-year program targeted nearly 17,500 people in Villa El Salvador District located south of Lima’s metropolitan center. The program improved disaster resilience at the neighborhood, municipality, metropolitan, and national levels through participatory integrated risk assessment and planning processes; supported livelihoods through the provision of cash grants and loans; and mitigated shelter construction risks by providing training to construction companies and disseminating information on safe building practices. The program aligned with municipal and national DRR strategies, including decentralization, and worked closely with the GoP and other stakeholders.

PROGRAMS THAT INTEGRATE DRR WITH DISASTER RESPONSE

In addition to stand-alone DRR programs implemented to prevent or mitigate the effects of hazards in the region, USAID/OFDA integrated preparedness and mitigation into disaster response, early recovery, and transition programs. These initiatives, which were in accordance with regional DRR strategies, incorporated risk reduction objectives into a broad range of sectoral interventions to increase the resilience of communities to future shocks. In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA sought to prevent and treat acute malnutrition, improve food security, and strengthen livelihoods throughout LAC.

LAC Regional Program

- **Regional Disaster Assistance Program:** In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$6.3 million to the International Resources Group (IRG) to continue RDAP activities in the LAC region. Among other activities in FY 2013, RDAP provided DRR and emergency response support for the following events and emergencies: volcanic activity at Popocatepetl in Mexico and Nevado del Ruiz in Colombia; an earthquake in Guatemala; floods in Paraguay; and floods and damages associated both with Hurricane Sandy in Haiti and Jamaica and hurricanes Ingrid and Manuel in Mexico. RDAP continued to offer country-specific urban search-and-rescue (USAR) activities designed to build and strengthen USAR capacities, prepare countries to receive international USAR support, and strengthen the legal, administrative, logistical, and operational foundations for national USAR systems. RDAP also provided small grants to promote DRR projects at the community level. The grants, which average \$30,000 and support projects for up to one year, contribute to host governments’ DRR priorities and support innovative initiatives and pilot projects that develop community capacity to prepare for, mitigate the impact of, respond to, and recover from disasters. In addition, through RDAP, USAID/OFDA maintains a network of disaster risk management specialists throughout the LAC region that provide technical assistance on disaster preparedness and mitigation activities, as well as oversee a multi-course DRR program with instruction in disaster management concepts and training methodology.

USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2013¹

LOCATION	PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	PARTNER	SUBTOTAL	TOTAL
USAID/OFDA STAND-ALONE DRR FUNDING IN LAC²					
Brazil	Disaster Management, Planning, and Preparedness	Natural and Technological Risks	USAID/Brazil	\$100,000	\$100,000
	Saving Lives in the Caribbean Through Preparedness	Risk Management Policy and Practice	AmRC	\$150,000	
Caribbean	Youth-Focused DRR	Risk Management Policy and Practice	CRS	\$147,506	\$347,506
	Strengthening Youth Participation in Disaster Management	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Multiple Partners	\$50,000	
Central America	Central America Flash Flood Guidance	Natural and Technological Risks	NOAA	\$45,000	\$45,000
Chile	Sustainable National Seismic Monitoring System	Natural and Technological Risks	USGS	\$21,618	\$41,618
	Risk Management and Gender Seminar	Risk Management Policy and Practice	USAID/EI Salvador	\$20,000	
Dominican Republic	Building Local Response Capacity	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Corporación Ciudadana Santiago Solidario	\$50,000	\$50,000
Ecuador	Strengthening Volcano Monitoring Networks	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Geophysical Institute of Ecuador's National Polytechnical School	\$18,358	\$18,358
El Salvador	Landslide and Environmental Vulnerability Assessments	Natural and Technological Risks	USGS	\$19,180	\$19,180
Haiti	Emergency Flood Mitigation and 2013 Hurricane Season Preparedness	Natural and Technological Risks, Risk Management Policy and Practice	IOM	\$1,500,000	\$3,382,679
	Reducing Urban Risk in Port-au-Prince	Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	GOAL	\$500,000	

	Pre-positioning Relief Supplies Ahead of a Disaster	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	IOM	\$401,940	
	Increasing Capacity to Support Displaced Populations	Risk Management Policy and Practice	IOM	\$250,000	
	Strengthening Disaster Risk Management in South Department	Risk Management Policy and Practice	CRS	\$250,000	
	Building Resilience in Artibonite Department	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Mercy Corps	\$249,939	
	Support to Haiti's National System for Disaster Risk Management	Risk Management Policy and Practice	UNDP	\$139,100	
	Improving Haiti's Seismic Network	Natural and Technological Risks	USGS	\$91,700	
Honduras	Strengthening Urban Risk Reduction	Economic Recovery and Market Systems; Natural and Technological Risks; Risk Management Policy and Practice; Shelter and Settlements; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	GOAL	\$805,486	\$805,486
	DRR in the Americas	Risk Management Policy and Practice	FIU	\$1,998,714	
	Emergency Health Preparedness	Risk Management Policy and Practice	PAHO	\$1,150,000	
	Monitoring Volcanic Activity	Natural and Technological Risks	USGS	\$205,000	
LAC	Improving Regional Disaster Information Management	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	PAHO	\$111,305	\$3,612,498
	Universities Network to Reduce Disaster Risk	Risk Management Policy and Practice	USAID/EI Salvador	\$65,396	
	LAVAS Third Annual Workshop	Natural and Technological Risks	USAID/Colombia	\$35,551	

	Strengthening Women's Participation in DRR	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Huairou Commission	\$25,000	
	Public-Private Partnerships Regional Forum	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Multiple Partners	\$21,532	
Nicaragua	Using the Neighborhood Approach to Increase Disaster Resilience	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	CRS	\$1,327,657	\$1,477,212
	Fostering Urban Emergency Preparedness and Response	Risk Management Policy and Practice	PCI	\$149,555	
Paraguay	Building Drought Resilience	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems	ACDI/VOCA	\$391,822	\$391,822
Peru	DRR Shelter and Housing Support	Risk Management Policy and Practice	CARE	\$36,706	\$36,706
South America	Regional Platform for DRR in the Americas	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Multiple Partners	\$100,000	\$150,000
	Tsunami Preparedness Workshop	Natural and Technological Risks	NOAA	\$50,000	
TOTAL USAID/OFDA STAND-ALONE DRR FUNDING IN LAC				\$10,478,065	
USAID/OFDA DISASTER RESPONSE WITH DRR COMPONENTS IN LAC³					
LAC	RDAP	Logistics and Relief Commodities, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Administration Support	IRG	\$6,371,427	\$6,371,427
TOTAL USAID/OFDA DISASTER RESPONSE WITH DRR COMPONENTS IN LAC				\$6,371,427	
TOTAL USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING IN LAC IN FY 2013				\$16,849,492	

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. This chart captures all USAID/OFDA DRR funding provided in FY 2013; program descriptions in the fact sheet reflect USAID/OFDA-supported DRR programs active during the fiscal year, regardless of year of funding.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents actual or obligated amounts as of September 30, 2013.

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. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at www.interaction.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, and warehouse space); 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:
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.821.1999.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at
<http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>