

# LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN – DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**\$157.6  
million**

Total USAID/OFDA Funding  
for LAC in FY 2019<sup>3</sup>

**\$15.2  
million**

Programs in the Caribbean,  
Including Haiti

**\$9.3  
million**

Total Programs in Haiti

**\$3.9  
million**

DRR Programs in Colombia

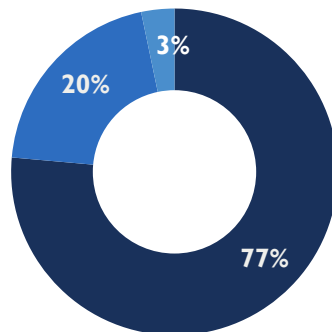
**\$1.9  
million**

DRR Programs in Ecuador

**28**

Partners Implementing  
FY 2019 Programs with DRR  
Components in LAC

## USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> FUNDING BY PROGRAM TYPE IN FY 2019



- Response Programs (77%)
- Stand-Alone DRR Programs (20%)
- Programs that Integrate DRR with Disaster Response (3%)

## DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR) FUNDING FOR LAC IN FY 2019

Stand-Alone DRR Programs	\$29,719,854
Programs that Integrate DRR with Disaster Response	\$4,800,000
<b>\$34,519,854</b>	

## OVERVIEW

- Countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region<sup>2</sup> experience a range of natural hazards, including droughts, earthquakes, floods, forest fires, hurricanes, landslides, tsunamis, and volcanoes. El Niño and La Niña phenomena occur periodically, exacerbating the impacts of hydrometeorological events in the LAC region. Unplanned urban expansion, environmental and natural resource degradation, and land-use management challenges also increase populations' vulnerability and exposure to natural hazards.
- USAID/OFDA supports DRR programs in LAC to improve emergency preparedness, mitigation, and response capacity at the local, national, and regional levels to aid in the journey to self-reliance. USAID/OFDA focuses on strategic, context-specific programs designed to meet particular risk reduction needs in each country, with capacity building as a consistent theme across DRR activities.
- In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$34.5 million to support DRR initiatives throughout the LAC region. USAID/OFDA staff based in the regional office in Costa Rica and the field office in Haiti engaged directly with community members, national officials, and other stakeholders to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the effects of disasters.

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

<sup>2</sup> 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, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

<sup>3</sup> Total USAID/OFDA funding for LAC encompasses stand-alone DRR programs, programs that integrate DRR with disaster response, and disaster response programs, including for the Venezuela Regional Crisis.

## STAND-ALONE DRR PROGRAMS IN LAC

In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$29.7 million for stand-alone DRR initiatives that improved preparedness and aimed to prevent and reduce the worst impacts of disasters. USAID/OFDA provided additional funding for global DRR programs that included activities in the LAC region. 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. Analysis of existing capacities and social, economic, and environmental trends guided program design, and USAID/OFDA programs addressed underlying causes of recurrent disasters, such as environmental degradation, when possible. The programs reflect USAID/OFDA's commitment to support capacity development; strengthen linkages among risk identification, monitoring, early warning, and early action; and expand partnerships among stakeholders at local, national, and regional levels.

### LAC Regional Programs

- **DRR in the Americas:** To reinforce DRR best practices in the LAC region and strengthen DRR programs among public- and private-sector organizations, particularly universities, USAID/OFDA entered into a cooperative agreement with Florida International University (FIU) in FY 2008. With more than \$4.2 million in FY 2019 funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support 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 FIU-managed DRR in the Americas program, universities in Latin America train professionals—including builders, land-use managers, and urban planners—to incorporate DRR into national plans for disaster risk management. In FY 2019, the program led workshops across the LAC region on topics such as the use of geographic information systems for DRR, public health emergency preparedness and response, and urban development; conducted courses for a graduate certificate on DRR, local development planning, and land use management; and offered online DRR training courses, among other activities. From FY 2008 to FY 2019, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$12.9 million for the DRR in the Americas program.
- **Reducing Earthquake Risks in Central America:** With \$500,000 in FY 2019 funding, USAID/OFDA supported the Global Earthquake Model Foundation (GEM) to strengthen the capacity for urban earthquake risk assessment and address the gap between risk assessment and the implementation of appropriate DRR measures in Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Ecuador. During the fiscal year, GEM developed new, peer-reviewed tools for urban earthquake risk assessment and supported national and local institutions to conduct risk assessments in the cities of Cali, Colombia; Quito, Ecuador; and Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic. The assessments will serve as case studies for DRR communication materials and trainings for the public, students, and technical experts in the three countries.
- **Raising Awareness on Dam Safety:** With \$200,000 in FY 2019 funding, USAID/OFDA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) began developing a training workshop to raise awareness on dam safety in Central and South American countries. In partnership with national meteorological and hydrological services in the region, the workshop will focus on dam safety practices, development of emergency action plans, establishment of downstream early warning systems in case of dam break, and execution of dam break scenarios.
- **Strengthening Humanitarian Coordination and Capacity:** The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) leads emergency response coordination efforts to ensure that humanitarian actors implement a coherent response. In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA supported OCHA with \$500,000 to build the capacity of OCHA's Regional Office for LAC by strengthening response and surge capacity, as well as collaborating with regional and national partners—including the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and Central American Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters (CEPREDENAC)—to maintain and increase preparedness and harmonize disaster response protocols in accordance with UN standards.

- **Health Sector Resilience in LAC:** With \$1.5 million in funding from USAID/OFDA, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) continued to support health sector resilience in the region. Building on previous USAID/OFDA-supported activities, the program aimed to enhance LAC countries' capabilities to provide appropriate, gender-sensitive, and timely health sector responses following disasters and other crises. In FY 2019, PAHO worked to develop guidelines and interventions to improve the resilience of health systems throughout the region, as well as increase the effectiveness and efficiency of disaster responses. Additionally, PAHO aimed to strengthen countries' capacities to prevent, prepare for, and control disease outbreaks through improved information sharing and technical assistance. Since FY 2013, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$6.4 million to PAHO for the Health Sector Resilience in LAC program.
- **RDAP:** USAID/OFDA continued to support Regional Disaster Assistance Program (RDAP) activities in the LAC region in FY 2019. Established in 1989, RDAP is the primary vehicle for USAID/OFDA's support to manage disaster risk in LAC. In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA's team of staff based in San José, Costa Rica, and a consultant network of 29 disaster risk management specialists throughout the region continued to oversee and monitor RDAP programs, which expanded local and regional capabilities, improved intra- and inter-governmental coordination, and strengthened disaster preparedness, mitigation, and risk management activities. In addition, USAID/OFDA maintained a network of more than 400 local surge staff available for activation, as needed, to respond timely to disasters throughout the region. Over the past decade, RDAP has provided training to thousands of emergency responders, including courses on DRR, emergency management systems, the incident command system (ICS), forest fire prevention and control, school safety, urban search-and-rescue (USAR), disaster management, and damage assessment and needs analysis. RDAP has also provided small grants to promote community-level DRR projects. The grants, averaging \$30,000 each and supporting projects for up to one year, contributed to host governments' DRR priorities and supported innovative DRR initiatives and pilot projects. In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$340,000 to evaluate RDAP program activities in the LAC region. Since FY 2008, USAID/OFDA has provided approximately \$60.3 million for RDAP.
- **Strengthening Resilience-Building Capacity at the Local Level:** With nearly \$1.2 million in FY 2019 assistance, USAID/OFDA supported the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) to promote the development and implementation of local, national, and regional DRR strategies in the LAC region, and specifically to advance the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR in the Americas. In FY 2019, UNISDR-supported activities included supporting countries in LAC to develop or adapt national DRR plans to align with the Sendai Framework, promoting resilience planning at the local level, strengthening science and technology partners' capacities to actively contribute to DRR, facilitating private sector investment in DRR and public-private partnerships, and mobilizing political support for the preparation of national DRR plans. With prior year funding from USAID/OFDA, UNISDR also continued to develop four national strategies aligned with the Sendai Framework and two local resilience action plans among national governments in the LAC region in FY 2019.
- **VDAP:** Following the 1985 eruption of Colombia's Nevado del Ruiz Volcano, which resulted in approximately 23,000 deaths, USAID/OFDA and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) established the Volcano Disaster Assistance Program (VDAP) to provide technical assistance to national volcano monitoring organizations, including training in hazard assessment, development of early warning plans, and installation and updating of volcano monitoring equipment. 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 enable 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. In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$605,000 in LAC-specific support to continue VDAP activities in the region—part of the nearly \$7 million in USAID/OFDA FY 2019 funding for worldwide VDAP activities, including additional activities in LAC. The funding supported volcano monitoring activities benefiting more than 4.9 million people, training for more than 220 individuals on geological procedures, and the provision of volcano monitoring-related technical expertise provided both remotely and in person.

- **Capacity Building for DRR in Higher Education Institutions:** With prior year USAID/OFDA support, the Central American University Higher Council (CSUCA) assisted universities in the LAC region to incorporate DRR into planning, management, research, and training. In coordination with the Network of Latin American and the Caribbean Universities for Disaster Risk Reduction, CSUCA supported partner institutions to conduct applied research on DRR, provided DRR courses to bolster risk management capacity in the region, and established and strengthened DRR centers at universities—modeled after existing centers in the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and Peru—to contribute to campus DRR initiatives and national DRR systems.
- **Building Civil Society DRR Capacity in LAC:** In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA continued to support the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) with prior year funding to increase collaboration between GNDR member organizations in LAC and other DRR stakeholders. By increasing civil society capacity to monitor and contribute to DRR action in accordance with commitments to the Sendai Framework, the project helped ensure that DRR policies are accountable to local communities, promote the inclusion of vulnerable populations, and build community resilience to natural disasters. Program activities concluded in March 2019.
- **Cash Response Readiness Programming in Latin America:** With prior year assistance, USAID/OFDA continued supporting GOAL to increase the capacity for timely cash-based response interventions in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay. In collaboration with Cash Learning Partnership, OCHA, and the UN World Food Program (WFP), GOAL aimed to strengthen the capacities of national disaster risk management systems (NDRMSs) and humanitarian stakeholders to implement cash transfer programming during crises. Additionally, USAID/OFDA funding supported the creation or strengthening of cash working groups in the seven countries. By conducting cash readiness assessments and training programs, GOAL helped NDRMSs identify the necessary policies and procedures to respond to crises and measures to improve cash transfer programming.
- **Strengthening NDRMSs:** Recognizing the potential for increased use of cash transfer programming to respond to natural disasters in the Caribbean and Central America, USAID/OFDA continued to support GOAL with prior year funding in FY 2019 to increase the capacity and preparedness of NDRMSs. The program, which concluded in March 2019, helped further increase the preparedness and coordination capacity of NDRMSs and other humanitarian actors in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to provide high quality, timely cash- or voucher-based interventions, when appropriate, in response to natural disasters.
- **Strengthening the Use of Social Media for Behavior Change Communication in DRR:** With prior year assistance, USAID/OFDA continued to support the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in FY 2019 to develop regionally appropriate guidance for the use of social media tools to strengthen DRR communication with communities in LAC. By improving knowledge and skills of social media platforms among at least 30 USAID/OFDA partner organizations implementing DRR activities, IFRC facilitated communication and engagement with target communities.
- **PREPARE:** Miyamoto International launched the Preparing Rescue and Emergency Personnel to Ameliorate the Response to Earthquakes (PREPARE) program in FY 2015 to strengthen the capacity of officials and USAR teams in Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Mexico to mitigate the economic and social impact of earthquakes. With previous year USAID/OFDA assistance, Miyamoto International continued to identify urban structures vulnerable to earthquakes; increase USAR teams' knowledge of building collapse scenarios and best response practices; and support municipal authorities to understand the potential effects of earthquakes, strengthen coordination for effective response, and implement damage assessments in the aftermath of disasters. USAID/OFDA has provided approximately \$5.2 million for the PREPARE program since FY 2015.
- **Building Tsunami Preparedness:** In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA continued to support NOAA with previous year funding to implement the multi-year Tsunami Ready program in coastal communities of Belize and Saint Vincent and the

Grenadines to advance tsunami awareness, education, and planning. Program activities included developing and distributing tsunami evacuation maps and emergency operation plans; installing tsunami signage; and supporting awareness, education, and training activities to save lives and livelihoods in the event of a tsunami. NOAA also implemented Tsunami Ready program activities in El Salvador, Grenada, and Haiti, and provided advice on Tsunami Ready programs implemented by other donors in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, the Dominican Republic, and Trinidad and Tobago. In addition, NOAA began developing Global Tsunami Ready guidelines.

### **Caribbean Regional Programs**

- **Youth-Led Community Action for Increased Disaster Resilience:** In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA provided \$500,000 to Caritas Antilles to implement the multi-year Youth Emergency Action Committee (YEAC) project. Building on previous USAID/OFDA-funded activities, Caritas Antilles conducted community-based DRR interventions in Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, and Saint Lucia through community disaster planning, trainings, and simulations. Program activities strengthened the capacity of YEACs to generate community engagement in disaster risk management, support the development of household-level disaster management plans, and facilitate YEAC integration within broader disaster management frameworks at the national, regional, and international levels.
- **Building the Capacity of Caribbean RCNS:** With \$1.8 million in FY 2019 funding, USAID/OFDA supported IFRC to continue building the capacity of Red Cross National Societies (RCNS) in The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines through training activities and peer-to-peer exchanges for national and local resilience planning. In FY 2019, IFRC expanded the initiative to Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago, using peer-to-peer support to facilitate training on issues such as community engagement, disaster planning and management, and leadership and volunteer development. Program activities also aimed to support communities to develop early warning systems, engage in contingency planning, and train and equip community disaster response teams to enhance community disaster resilience to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.
- **U.S.–Caribbean Resilience Partnership:** USAID/OFDA provided NOAA with nearly \$1.5 million in FY 2019 for the U.S.–Caribbean Resilience Partnership program to collaborate with Caribbean countries’ national meteorological and hydrological services (NMHSs) and national disaster management agencies to advance early warning and preparedness capacity for hurricane-related hazards. In partnership with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and NMHSs, NOAA continued to implement a multi-year pilot program in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, as well as expanded to Belize and Cancun, Mexico, to identify needs for storm surge planning and preparedness, conduct trainings, develop a wave-modeling system, and begin laying the foundation for a regional approach to storm surge and wave-modeling and forecasting in the Caribbean region. USAID/OFDA and NOAA also supported the initiation of the program in The Bahamas.
- **Supporting Practical Household Preparedness in the Dominican Republic and Haiti:** USAID/OFDA continued to support USGS with more than \$355,000 in FY 2019 funding to increase earthquake preparedness for vulnerable households in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. In coordination with GeoHazards International, USGS continued to develop locally appropriate earthquake preparedness guidance—including resource booklets in local languages and messaging strategies developed in collaboration with community members—for at-risk households in four cities in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Using the materials, GeoHazards International, USGS, and local partners conducted household preparedness activities, such as home hazard assessments and outreach on earthquake-resistant home construction.
- **Strengthening Humanitarian Logistics Preparedness and Response Capacity in the Caribbean:** In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA provided \$750,000 to WFP to strengthen the operational capacity of CDEMA and participating states to better prepare for and respond to emergencies. The program focused on enhancing CDEMA and select member states’ capacities in emergency telecommunications and supply chain management of relief commodities. WFP pre-positioned

emergency logistics response and coordination equipment in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago, and placed logistics staff at CDEMA to facilitate the institutionalization of WFP logistics expertise. WFP also provided technical assistance to develop a comprehensive and technologically advanced end-to-end supply chain management system to improve warehouse logistics and relief commodity management during emergencies.

- **Strengthening DRCS Disaster Preparedness and Response:** USAID/OFDA, with prior year assistance, continued to support IFRC in FY 2019 to increase the capacity of the Dominica Red Cross Society (DRCS) and the communities that DRCS serves to prepare for and respond to disasters. Aiming to reduce the impact of disasters on affected populations in Dominica, IFRC increased DRCS's response effectiveness and facilitated increased information sharing during response operations. With USAID/OFDA support, IFRC and DRCS activities included assisting in the formation of disaster policy and strategy, conducting training in shelter management and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, implementing DRR initiatives, pre-positioning relief commodities, and revitalizing community disaster response teams.
- **Supporting Emergency Preparedness Through Expanded Emergency Shelter Capacity:** With prior year assistance, USAID/OFDA continued to support the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to enhance the capacity of the Government of Dominica (GoD) to shelter populations displaced by hurricanes. Based on assessments of displacement sites following Hurricane Maria in September 2017, IOM expanded the GoD's ability to address life-saving needs of internally displaced persons by rehabilitating or repairing collective centers, installing communication equipment in collective centers, pre-positioning relief commodities, and training local leaders and shelter management on best practices for collective center management. Program activities concluded in June 2019.

## Central America Regional Programs

- **Central America Weather-Ready Nations Phase I:** In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA provided \$100,000 to NOAA to continue partnering with national disaster management agencies and national meteorological and hydrological services in Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Guatemala, aiming to advance impact-based forecasting to improve early actions prompted by early warnings. The Weather-Ready Nations program prepares countries to respond to extreme weather events, shifting the focus of national meteorological and hydrological services from forecasting to describing the potential effects of hydrometeorological hazards.
- **Building Capacity for Urban DRR and Risk Information Management:** Through prior year funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support CEPREDENAC to promote education, improve coordination, and strengthen processes for urban DRR throughout Central America in FY 2019. Program activities included coordinating with national authorities to generate tools for risk reduction in housing and infrastructure planning, as well as supporting regional exchanges both between Central American emergency operations centers and with U.S. universities.
- **Supporting a Regional Approach to Storm Surge Forecasting:** With prior year assistance, USAID/OFDA continued to support NOAA's multi-year program in Belize and Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula that aims to build local capacity and develop tools and products for storm surge forecasting that will aid in risk reduction, preparedness, and evacuation efforts. In partnership with the WMO and national meteorological and hydrological services, NOAA worked to identify needs for storm surge planning and preparedness, conduct trainings, develop a wave-modeling system, and begin laying the foundation for a regional approach to storm surge forecasting and wave-modeling.
- **Strengthening Risk Management and Disaster Response Education:** With previous year funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support the Foundation for the Refugee Education Trust (RET) to increase the disaster resilience of schools in Costa Rica and Panama by institutionalizing the national risk management and DRR plans of both countries' ministries of education. Although the ministries had developed DRR public policies, the institutions lacked the capacity to implement policies at the national and local levels. To address this gap, RET conducted capacity building and

institutional strengthening activities, including developing implementation strategies for disaster risk management and promoting cooperation between the ministries of education. Program activities concluded in June 2019.

- **Protection of Persons with Disabilities in Emergencies Phase II:** USAID/OFDA continued to support the second phase of a UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) program designed to facilitate the protection of persons with disabilities during emergencies in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama in FY 2019 through prior year funding. The program worked to improve the ability of institutions implementing DRR programs to include persons with disabilities in their planning, preparedness, and response processes through workshops and the creation of standard guidelines. Program activities, which concluded in June 2019, supported the implementation of regional standards that include persons with disabilities in disaster management planning and increased public awareness regarding the needs of persons with disabilities during emergencies.

### **South America Regional Programs**

- **South America Flash Flood Guidance System:** With nearly \$1.2 million in USAID/OFDA FY 2019 funding, NOAA and WMO continued to partner with national meteorological and hydrological services to develop and implement a flash flood guidance system, improving early warning capabilities for flash floods for countries within the La Plata river basin in the northwestern region of South America, including Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. The project aimed to develop a comprehensive integrated database and flash flood forecasting system, enabling countries to model and predict potential hazards in the La Plata river basin.
- **Building Capacity for Inclusive Disaster Risk Management:** In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA continued to support Humanity and Inclusion—formerly known as Handicap International—with \$644,000 in funding to improve and disseminate inclusive disaster risk management frameworks. Program activities encompassed inclusive DRR training in Paraguay and Peru and engaging stakeholders from Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Peru to increase the protection and resilience of vulnerable individuals. In addition, Humanity and Inclusion provided small grants for several innovative pilot projects to capture best practices for the inclusion of at-risk groups in DRR systems and encouraged replication and dissemination of effective practices by local authorities and involved communities.

### **Country-Specific Programs**

#### *Chile*

- **Developing an Earthquake and Tsunami Early Situational Awareness System:** In April 2014, northern Chile experienced a magnitude 8.2 earthquake, and according to scientists, earthquakes of similar magnitude may occur in the future. With \$45,000 in FY 2019 funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support USGS to design and install a rapid situational awareness system—using inexpensive cellphone technology—that provides time-critical earthquake information that can be used for automated alerts and to inform response decisions in Chile.
- **Community-Based Wildfire Prevention:** Since FY 2016, USAID/OFDA has supported Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to coordinate with Chile’s National Forestry Corporation and local partner Caritas to develop, validate, and implement a model for community-based urban interface wildfire prevention. With prior year funding, the program trained and organized firefighters, local disaster prevention and emergency management officials, municipal authorities, and individuals from nine vulnerable communities in Chile’s Araucanía, Maule, and Santiago Metropolitan regions on wildfire preparedness, mitigation, and management techniques using the new model. In FY 2019, CRS developed a new forest fire prevention model and trained community members in wildfire prevention, preparation, and response, reaching more than 2,200 people. Program activities ended in June 2019.

#### *Colombia*

- **Strengthening Resilience and Response Capacity in La Guajira:** Ongoing insecurity and El Niño-related drought have resulted in food insecurity and lack of access to safe drinking water for ethnic Wayuu populations in northern Colombia’s La Guajira Department since 2014. Additionally, the influx of Venezuelan migrants and refugees, as well as

Colombian returnees, has strained already limited local resources in the department. With \$2.5 million in FY 2019 funding, USAID/OFDA supported Acción Contra el Hambre/Spain (ACH/Spain) to continue improving the resilience of Wayuu communities to drought and other shocks. Building off previous USAID/OFDA-funded activities in La Guajira, ACH/Spain promoted improved agricultural and livestock management techniques, conducted livelihood restoration and hygiene promotion interventions, and increased community access to safe drinking water by constructing or rehabilitating water sources. Additionally, ACH/Spain trained community leaders in DRR, first aid, and search-and-rescue measures, while helping establish DRR-related programs in educational institutions.

- **Bolstering Earthquake Preparedness and Response in Pasto:** USAID/OFDA provided \$500,000 in FY 2019 funding to Miyamoto International to implement the PREPARE PASTO program, which aimed to utilize findings from the 2016–2017 USAID/OFDA-funded PREPARE seismic risk assessment to strengthen earthquake preparedness and response capacity in Colombia’s Pasto municipality, Nariño Department. Utilizing the assessment to inform targeted technical assistance and capacity building activities, Miyamoto International engaged with representatives from neighborhood associations to develop communications on risk reduction topics and facilitated DRR trainings and action planning workshops. Additionally, Miyamoto International aims to train USAR personnel on ICS, strengthening USAR capacity to conduct post-disaster assessments, prioritize and deploy municipal resources, and apply relevant tools to improve emergency response. Other program activities included developing a training course on seismic-resistant construction methods for municipal and private sector builders and engineers.
- **Minimizing Risks of Urban Forest Fires in Aburrá Valley:** Colombia remains vulnerable to forest fires due to climatic and geographic conditions, particularly in Antioquia Department’s Aburrá valley. With more than \$883,000 from USAID/OFDA in FY 2019, World Vision sought to implement prevention strategies at the community level to reduce the likelihood of forest fires. As such, World Vision conducted seminars to raise awareness among local authorities and communities, strengthened the capacity of fire fighters through trainings, and developed a risk map to inform potential DRR measures.
- **Supporting Small Businesses to Mitigate Disaster Risk in Medellín:** With prior year funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support Colombia’s National Merchants’ Federation (FENALCO) to implement DRR activities and promote community capacity for disaster risk management in low-income neighborhoods of Antioquia’s city of Medellín in FY 2019. The program, which continues through 2020, aims to assist 1,800 entrepreneurs to identify disaster risk and create business continuity plans in the event of an emergency. In addition, FENALCO promoted the development of early warning systems, including alarms and signposting, and provided training on sustainable environmental management techniques for small business owners.

### *Costa Rica*

- **Building an Earthquake and Tsunami Early Situational Awareness System:** USAID/OFDA supported USGS with nearly \$458,000 in FY 2019 funding to continue developing a rapid situational awareness system to provide earthquake information to Government of Costa Rica authorities. Based on previous USGS work in Chile, the program used cell phone technology to provide rapid earthquake updates that can trigger automated alerts and inform response activities in the event of a major earthquake.
- **Capacity Building for Municipal Emergency Committees:** In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA supported World Vision with prior year funding to continue strengthening communities’ ability to plan for and mitigate the effects of disasters through capacity building activities for members of local Municipal Emergency Committees (CMEs) in Costa Rica’s Alajuela and Guanacaste provinces. Aiming to address community vulnerabilities identified by CMEs after Tropical Storm Nate struck Costa Rica in 2017, the program developed training tools to incorporate lessons learned from previous disaster scenarios into municipal emergency plans and support improved response processes. Program activities also included strengthening community emergency protocols and plans, as well as training CME members in ICS



methodology. With USAID/OFDA prior year support, World Vision also continued to train CMEs in areas of Alajuela affected by Hurricane Otto in 2016.

### *Dominican Republic*

- **Reducing Earthquake Risk in the Dominican Republic:** With nearly \$89,700 in FY 2019 funding, USAID/OFDA supported USGS to train Dominican engineers, geotechnical professionals, and scientists in earthquake geology, including mapping the active fault zone and earthquake activity of the Dominican Republic's Septentrional Fault, to mitigate risks associated with earthquakes. In FY 2019, USGS staff held a workshop for more than 90 engineering and geological experts on earthquake geology and seismic hazard analysis methods and met with local government agency and emergency management representatives to develop earthquake mitigation plans.
- **Risk Reduction for Persons with Disabilities:** With prior year funding from USAID/OFDA, the Dominican Development Institute continued to support coordination between organizations in the Government of the Dominican Republic (GoDR) National System of Risk Management, aiming to reduce the vulnerability of persons with disabilities in 16 communities of Santo Domingo Province. Program activities—which ended in December 2018—included capacity-building measures designed to better integrate persons with disabilities and organizations working with these populations into community and municipal risk-management systems.
- **Supporting the GoDR Emergency Operations Center:** With prior year funding, USAID/OFDA assisted Plan USA to support the GoDR Emergency Operations Center (EOC), with the aim of increasing DRR capacity. By providing geospatial information system software and training EOC technicians in geospatial data management, program activities promoted development of protocols for the effective collection and sharing of critical information to inform emergency decision-making processes. The program concluded in January 2019.
- **Supporting Forest Fire Management Efforts:** With prior year funding from USAID/OFDA, Pronatura supported the implementation of the GoDR national strategy for fire management. In FY 2019, program activities aimed to improve coordination among GoDR agencies; encourage participation of NGOs, civil society actors, and private sector organizations in fire management activities at the municipal level; and provide technologies to improve the capacity of the GoDR Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, municipalities, districts, and community organizations to more effectively manage forest fires. To date, Pronatura has trained nearly 240 community leaders, members of forest firefighter brigades, and GoDR personnel.
- **Improving Domestic and Regional Humanitarian Response Capacity:** With prior year funding from USAID/OFDA, WFP worked with the GoDR to strengthen its emergency preparation and response capacity. The program included measures to improve inter-institutional coordination, strengthen the humanitarian supply chain and national telecommunication plans, improve emergency storage facilities, and strengthen social protection strategies for use in emergency contexts. With USAID/OFDA funding, WFP supported GoDR priorities, which emphasize improved disaster preparedness following Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017.

### *Ecuador*

- **Enhancing DRR and Resilience Capacity in Vulnerable Communities:** With \$500,000 in FY 2019 funding, USAID/OFDA supported the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) to strengthen DRR and resilience capacity of vulnerable communities in Ecuador's Carchi, Pichincha, and Sucumbíos provinces. Utilizing best practices and lessons learned from USAID/OFDA-funded activities in the country's Esmeraldas and Manabí provinces, ADRA aimed to train an estimated 7,200 representatives from local communities, government agencies, the private sector, and vulnerable populations—including persons with disabilities and women—to increase disaster awareness and preparedness. Program activities also included building public-private partnerships, developing DRR tools, establishing local risk reduction networks, forming community brigades, and strengthening municipal EOCs. During FY 2019, USAID/OFDA also continued to conduct similar interventions in Esmeraldas and Manabí through prior year funding.

- **Bolstering Resilience to Seismic Events in Esmeraldas and Manabí:** In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$1.4 million to Miyamoto International to implement the Ecuador Building Resilience Program II (EBRP II). EBRP II helped strengthen awareness of seismic risks and facilitate access to diversified vulnerability data among municipal and local actors to inform DRR measures in Esmeraldas and Manabí. The program also provided training and technical assistance on seismic-resistant construction to homeowners and builders and distributed communication materials to at-risk populations.
- **Building Ecuador's Earthquake Monitoring and Response Capacity:** With prior year funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support USGS to upgrade earthquake monitoring for the Government of Ecuador's Instituto Geofísico de la Escuela Politécnica Nacional (IGEPN) in FY 2019. Monitoring upgrades—including capacity for faster and more accurate earthquake data analysis, exchange, and processing, as well as improved coordination with Ecuador's emergency response agencies—helped strengthen IGEPN's ability to respond to significant earthquakes and increase collaboration and data exchange between IGEPN and USGS.
- **Improving Community Capacity for Risk Reduction and Early Warning:** With prior year funding from USAID/OFDA, World Vision worked to strengthen the risk management capacities of communities highly vulnerable to seismic and volcanic activity in Ecuador's central and south-central Andean regions. In FY 2019, the program conducted early warning, first aid, and search-and-rescue trainings for community members in Chimborazo, Cotopaxi, and Tungurahua provinces. In addition, World Vision strengthened local disaster management institutions and encouraged communities to install early warning systems. Program activities concluded in September 2019.

### *El Salvador*

- **Training and Equipping USAR Teams:** With prior year USAID/OFDA funding, World Vision helped strengthen El Salvador's national disaster response and USAR capacities by training 100 first responders in advanced first aid, collapsed structure search and rescue, hazardous materials first response, and ICS implementation in FY 2019. The program also developed an accreditation process for the mobilization and deployment of USAR teams, enabling timely and efficient response to emergencies. Additionally, World Vision provided personal protective equipment to USAR team members for future operations, reaching 100 responders.

### *Guatemala*

- **Strengthening Disaster Preparedness in Petén:** USAID/OFDA continued to support CARE in FY 2019 to strengthen the capacity of the Government of Guatemala National Coordination for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) in the country's Petén Department, a region susceptible to flooding and forest fires. With prior year funding, CARE conducted technical training and capacity building activities on disaster response coordination, ICS, information management, and post-disaster damage assessment. Additionally, CARE provided CONRED with equipment to improve disaster information management and decision making during an emergency. Program activities ended in August 2019.
- **Coordinating Urban DRR in Guatemala:** With prior year USAID/OFDA funding, Project Concern International (PCI) continued to reduce communities' vulnerability to floods, landslides, seismic activity, and strong winds through the *Barrio Mio* Scale Up program. In FY 2019, PCI coordinated with local communities, national and municipal agencies, private-sector partners, and universities and implemented a scalable model to improve shelters, reconfigure settlements, and develop water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure. PCI also provided technical assistance on financing and resource allocation to the Government of Guatemala (GoG) to support urban disaster risk mitigation and housing improvement activities in several municipalities. USAID/OFDA has provided approximately \$4.6 million to PCI to support urban DRR in Guatemala since FY 2015.

- **Improving Tools for Gender-Responsive DRR in Guatemala:** With prior year funding from USAID/OFDA, PCI continued to create and disseminate tools designed to integrate a gender perspective into GoG DRR programs and policies at the national, municipal, and community levels. Working with communities and local organizations in seven municipalities in two departments, program activities supplemented PCI's ongoing urban DRR activities in Guatemala and helped to promote the validation and adoption of gender-responsive DRR tools, including increasing the role of women in risk identification and management. Program activities ended in April 2019.

## *Haiti*

- **Enhancing Disaster Preparedness and Response Capacity in Haiti:** With nearly \$371,000 in FY 2019 funding, USAID/OFDA supported the American Red Cross (AmCross) to continue bolstering the capacity of the Government of Haiti (GoH) Department of Civil Protection (DPC) and the Haitian Red Cross (HRC) to coordinate disaster response activities. AmCross program activities, which focus on Haiti's Nord-Ouest, Ouest, and Sud departments, aimed to improve the integration of local, regional, and national response systems by training HRC staff and volunteers on contingency plan implementation. AmCross also conducted workshops to improve coordination between the DPC and other Haitian disaster risk management actors, distributed transitional shelter materials, conducted hygiene promotion campaigns, and bolstered sanitation infrastructure.
- **Bolstering Neighborhood Preparedness in Port-au-Prince:** Many marginalized communities in and near Haiti's capital city of Port-au-Prince are vulnerable to natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and landslides. In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$476,000 to Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI) to distribute relief commodities, including hygiene kits and water containers, to vulnerable residents of Ouest's Cité Soleil, Croix-des-Bouquets, and Tabarre communes in the event of a disaster, as well as conduct activities to help residents better mitigate and respond to future disasters. Through small-scale disaster mitigation projects, disaster preparedness and management trainings, and the creation of public-private partnerships for DRR, the project engages community members, local governments, and private sector actors to strengthen disaster preparedness and mitigation.
- **Strengthening Preparedness to Implement MPCA Activities:** With \$250,000 in FY 2019 funding, CRS continued to improve the capacity of relief actors to implement multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) response activities immediately following a disaster. CRS conducted a market system assessment, adapted a set of standardized tools for cash programming in Haiti, and established a minimum expenditure basket to identify the appropriate cash transfer amount following a disaster. By improving information management and reducing disaster response time, CRS helped increase the resilience of disaster-affected communities where markets are functional and capable of meeting beneficiary needs.
- **Supporting Research to Build Disaster Resilience:** With more than \$256,000 in FY 2019 funding, USAID/OFDA supported GOAL to conduct a study improving disaster resilience in Haiti, as well as adapt best practices throughout LAC to the Haitian context. GOAL aims to publish the study for peer review and disseminate it to relevant stakeholders throughout Haiti, facilitating increased partnership regarding disaster resilience among Haitian academic institutions and with universities throughout LAC.
- **Promoting Disaster Preparedness in Vulnerable Settlements:** With more than \$1.1 million in FY 2019 funding from USAID/OFDA, IOM continued to strengthen the capacity of the DPC at the departmental and national levels to manage the storage of USAID/OFDA-supplied relief commodities, including hygiene kits, plastic sheeting, and fixing kits sufficient to support 10,000 households in Haiti during crises. In FY 2019, IOM also continued to manage four warehouses storing pre-positioned USAID/OFDA-funded relief commodities and train warehouse personnel, including DPC and NGO staff, on relief commodity and warehouse management.
- **Bolstering Institutional Preparedness for Cash Transfers in Humanitarian Responses:** With more than \$920,000 in FY 2019 funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support Mercy Corps to co-lead the Cash Working Group with WFP, coordinating cash programming and improving cash transfer processes in Haiti. With USAID/OFDA funding, Mercy

Corps facilitated the adoption of cash transfer quality standards, provided targeted training to humanitarian actors, and reinforced partnerships between public and private sector actors. By combining capacity building with field-based pilot testing, the program helped provide the humanitarian community in Haiti with tools to successfully integrate cash into future responses in rural and urban settings. Additionally, in response to a series of recent economic shocks that have resulted in significant inflation, Mercy Corps provided MPCA to nearly 1,500 vulnerable households for three months and micro-grants to 100 small vendors selling essential items in Croix-des-Bouquets.

- **Bolstering Earthquake and Hurricane Response Preparedness:** In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA supported Miyamoto International with \$350,000 to develop sustainable post-earthquake and post-hurricane damage assessment systems, including building technical and institutional capacity for rapidly conducting assessments following a disaster. In coordination with the DPC, as well as other GoH institutions, Miyamoto International partnered with Haitian universities to train and certify engineers and technical specialists on post-disaster building damage and safety assessments.
- **Strengthening Humanitarian Coordination and Capacity Building:** With \$200,000 in FY 2019 funding from USAID/OFDA, OCHA continued to strengthen humanitarian coordination between the GoH and UN agencies, relief organizations, and other stakeholders to enable rapid, effective action in the event of a disaster. OCHA also supported information management activities and provided analyses of the Haitian humanitarian context, contributing to a common understanding among response actors of Haiti's needs, the GoH's humanitarian priorities, and existing response capacity.
- **Strengthening Departmental and National EOCs in Haiti:** USAID/OFDA continued to support the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) with \$360,000 in FY 2019 funding to build the capacity of national and departmental disaster management systems, including EOCs. USFS consultations and workshops promoted the integration of lessons learned from the Hurricane Matthew response in 2016 into DPC policy and strengthened contingency planning capacity. For example, USFS conducted a planning workshop—attended by 40 DPC staff—for developing and integrating response planning procedures and protocols.
- **Supporting Earthquake Monitoring:** USAID/OFDA provided more than \$182,000 in FY 2019 funding to USGS to work with the GoH Bureau of Mines and Energy to improve the bureau's ability to monitor earthquakes in Haiti.
- **Building the Capacity of Community- and Faith-Based Organizations:** With prior year funding, USAID/OFDA supported CRS to improve the capacity of Haitian community- and faith-based organizations to coordinate with local government authorities in the event of a disaster. The multi-year program, which began in September 2017 and was jointly supported by USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP), aimed to improve the capacity of 40 Haitian organizations to manage, implement, and report on disaster response projects. In collaboration with World Vision, the DPC, and other response actors, CRS conducted trainings on accountability, coordination, data collection, GBV prevention and response, child protection issues, and transparency in local and national response efforts. CRS also supported a rapid response fund that provided small grants to local organizations to respond to emergencies. From FYs 2017 to 2018, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1.6 million to support the program.
- **Preventing and Addressing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse:** USAID/OFDA has provided CRS with prior year funding to support more than 30 local organizations in three pilot countries, including Haiti, Indonesia, and the Philippines, to contextualize international protection from sexual exploitation and abuse standards and build staff capacity to prevent and respond to these violations. In Haiti, CRS conducted trainings on reducing risk through project design and gaining community trust through better communication mechanisms. The project supported local partners as they created organizational codes of conduct and standard operating procedures to respond to allegations. CRS also trained human resources staff on improving recruitment practices to avoid hiring perpetrators, as well as mapped local laws relating to sexual exploitation and abuse.

- **Promoting Resilience in DRR Programming Through Measurement and Analysis:** With prior year funding from USAID/OFDA, GOAL provided technical assistance to USAID/OFDA implementing partners COOPI and the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) to conduct nearly 60 DRR assessments across Haiti, using a community resilience measurement and analysis tool developed by GOAL in 2011. The key findings and recommendations from these assessments will be shared among DRR actors in Haiti to provide evidence to support future disaster resilience programming. Program activities ended in December 2018.
- **Providing Technical Assistance to Improve Resilience in High-Risk Areas:** With prior year USAID/OFDA support, GOAL provided technical assistance to bolster community resilience in high-risk neighborhoods in Nord-Est Department's Ouanaminthe commune, as well as Port-au-Prince and Tabarre. In FY 2019, GOAL continued to conduct community resilience assessments and manage a training program on resilience assessment tools for government officials and other stakeholders. With USAID/OFDA support, GOAL provided national and international stakeholders with a tool capable of measuring and analyzing community resilience to disasters to help inform future DRR and response programs.
- **Creating a Haiti Emergency Response and Risk Reduction Fund:** With prior year funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support PADF to establish the Haiti Emergency Response and Risk Reduction Fund to immediately respond to emergency situations and enhance the resilience of vulnerable urban communities in Nord-Est and Ouest. In coordination with Urban Planning to Generate Resilience Against Disaster Events (UPGRADE) activities, the program expanded on existing DRR efforts, GoH development plans, risk analyses, and needs assessments to identify and support community capacity building and mitigation activities, particularly shelter and WASH programming.
- **UPGRADE:** In FY 2019, prior year funding from USAID/OFDA and USAID/Haiti supported PADF to continue a three-year urban resilience program, UPGRADE. The program utilized existing local urban development plans, needs assessments, and risk analyses to identify and prioritize specific community capacity-building and disaster mitigation activities in the vulnerable Martissant area of Port-au-Prince and Ouanaminthe commune. In FY 2019, PADF coordinated with the DPC and local actors to bolster community-level contingency planning, conduct simulation exercises, improve drainage infrastructure, rehabilitate community emergency evacuation shelters, strengthen community response teams, and support household emergency plans. The UPGRADE program also included a significant WASH component to deliver safe drinking water through the rehabilitation of public water supply networks and WASH infrastructure at churches and schools that serve as disaster shelters. In addition, the program supported sanitation awareness campaigns and rehabilitation of sanitation systems as part of the GoH's Hygiene-Friendly Schools Initiative, which emphasizes school-based hygiene behavior change to reduce the risk of waterborne diseases. Program activities ended in September 2019.
- **Implementing a Neighborhood Approach to Capacity Building:** In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA continued to support PCI to implement a neighborhood approach to respond to crises and create a platform for participatory DRR, humanitarian, and recovery programs in high-risk informal settlements. Since FY 2017, PCI has worked to develop recommendations regarding implementation of the approach in emergencies, providing the basis for rebuilding safer and more resilient neighborhoods. With prior year USAID/OFDA funding, PCI continued to operationalize the neighborhood approach by conducting capacity-building trainings with key humanitarian partners. PCI also developed companion training programs for local actors in Guatemala and Haiti to foster local support for the neighborhood approach.

### *Honduras*

- **Improving Local Disaster Prevention and Response Capacities:** With prior year USAID/OFDA funding, ADRA enhanced the capacity of local emergency volunteers to respond to crises in Honduras. In FY 2019, ADRA trained and provided technical assistance to 150 local volunteers, as well as nearly 70 members of five local emergency committees, in five at-risk communities in Honduras' capital city of Tegucigalpa. ADRA helped systematize volunteer capacity-

building procedures for the Honduran humanitarian community by implementing activities focused on improving DRR capacity, building community awareness and mobilization, and development policy and planning—including community emergency plans, risk maps, and a volunteer training manual.

- **Supporting Resilient Neighborhoods in Tegucigalpa:** USAID/OFDA has supported GOAL in Honduras to reduce urban disaster risk in three neighborhoods of Tegucigalpa’s Ulloa sector since FY 2013. With prior year USAID/OFDA funding, GOAL continued to conduct activities from Ulloa to the city’s Las Brisas, Los Pinos, and Villanueva sectors to reduce disaster risk through a neighborhood-based approach promoting local coordination and capacity for DRR. Program activities helped increase community capacity for disaster preparedness and response, protect livelihoods, and reduce housing and public infrastructure vulnerability, reaching more than 70,300 people to date. GOAL also supported national- and regional-level adoption of the neighborhood-based approach and fostered engagement among education actors and government institutions. Cumulatively, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$5.1 million to GOAL to support urban DRR activities in Tegucigalpa since FY 2013.
- **Institutional Strengthening of COPECO Regional Offices:** With prior year funding, USAID/OFDA continued to support Plan International in FY 2019 to strengthen the capacity of the Government of Honduras Permanent Standing Commission of Contingencies (COPECO) to coordinate disaster response activities. The program, which expanded on previous USAID/OFDA-funded activities in Honduras, provided information technology equipment to regional EOCs, training technical staff to effectively coordinate and manage disaster risk and management efforts, and supported seven regional COPECO offices to develop contingency and risk reduction plans. Under the program, Plan International also organized and trained USAR teams.
- **Strengthening National Institutions’ Technical and Operational Capacity:** In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA continued to support Save the Children (SCF) to build the technical capacities of COPECO and municipal fire departments in Honduras. With prior year funding, SCF trained community leaders, municipal emergency committee members, and young people on early warning systems in five Honduran municipalities. Additionally, SCF activities included developing a community guide to early warning systems with an outreach component that targeted two local schools and provided first aid and damage assessment training to firefighters.
- **Building DRR Training Capacity in the Education Sector:** With prior year funding, USAID/OFDA supported World Vision in FY 2019 to strengthen the capacity of the Honduran education system to support disaster prevention and mitigation. Through the project, World Vision collaborated with Government of Honduras education officials, university staff, and students to support the creation of DRR curricula and promote DRR research in high schools, universities, and non-formal educational institutions. World Vision also conducted trainings for university emergency committees to ensure disaster preparedness and response capacity. Program activities concluded in December 2018.

### *Jamaica*

- **Building Resilience and Community DRR Capacities:** Since FY 2014, USAID/OFDA has supported Habitat for Humanity in Jamaica to address risks associated with natural disasters, such as drought, flooding, hurricanes, and tropical storms. With prior year funding, Habitat for Humanity continued to create community redevelopment plans, implement DRR-oriented shelter and infrastructure improvements, and conduct community-awareness and coalition-building campaigns in St. Catherine Parish’s Portmore municipality in FY 2019. With USAID/OFDA support, Habitat for Humanity improved urban communities’ access to secure land tenure in a highly vulnerable area of Portmore, where many households reside in informal settlements. Program activities concluded in March 2019.

### *Panama*

- **Building Resilience Among Children, Adolescents, and Young People With Disabilities:** With \$150,000 in FY 2019 funding, USAID/OFDA supported RET International to institutionalize an inclusive, multi-sector, and community-based disaster risk management and first-response approach to hazards in Panama’s Herrera and Los Santos

provinces. Through advocacy, joint planning meetings, and trainings, RET worked with schools, communities, and local institutions to develop and strengthen disaster risk strategies, reinforce local coordination and communication, and conduct DRR awareness sessions for children, adolescents, and young people with disabilities. Additionally, RET conducted emergency drills and supported projects to strengthen evacuation plans, aiming to increase youth participation in disaster risk management.

### *Paraguay*

- **Bolstering DRR in Central Department:** With nearly \$1.5 million in FY 2019 funding, USAID/OFDA supported ACDI/VOCA to strengthen the ability of the Government of Paraguay and vulnerable households to prepare for, mitigate, and adapt to climate-related shocks in the country's Central Department. Building off previous USAID/OFDA-funded activities in Paraguay's Caazapá and Presidente Hayes departments, which ended in November 2018, the program aimed to strengthen food security and livelihoods, while enhancing the government's capacity to provide weather information services and coordinate risk prevention measures with local institutions. Additionally, ACDI/VOCA provided psychosocial support services and protection trainings to promote collective resilience.

### *Peru*

- **Strengthening Peru's Social Protection System:** Recurrent natural disasters—including earthquakes, flooding, landslides, and volcanoes—in Peru have increased populations' vulnerability to food insecurity and malnutrition. Additionally, as of September 2019, nearly 861,000 Venezuelan migrants and refugees were sheltering in Peru, straining host community resources. In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA provided \$500,000 to WFP to support the Government of Peru (GoP) Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (MIDIS) to adapt social protection programs to support vulnerable groups following an emergency. Building on previous WFP programming in Peru, the UN agency supported MIDIS to implement the National Strategy of Shock-Responsive Social Protection, which will improve the flexibility of response, rehabilitation, and monitoring and evaluation systems. Program activities also included training local leaders on food and nutrition interventions at community kitchens; developing new assistance models for cash-based programming, holding high-level, multi-sector coordination meetings; and developing strategic communication plans.
- **Increasing Resilience in Arequipa and Caylloma:** With prior year funding from USAID/OFDA, ADRA continued to integrate disaster risk management into the institutional disaster management toolkits of local governments in Peru's Arequipa and Caylloma provinces in FY 2019. In coordination with the GoP and civil society organizations, ADRA trained local stakeholders in disaster risk management techniques to enable local governments to more effectively respond to crises. Additionally, ADRA trained agricultural producers to improve harvesting and grain processing activities to mitigate the impact of natural hazards, including earthquakes, droughts, and volcanic activity.
- **Reinforcing Innovative Mechanisms for DRR in Rímac:** In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA supported COOPI with prior year funding to provide technical DRR assistance to municipal authorities in the capital city of Lima's Rímac District. Building on previous USAID/OFDA-supported activities, the program aimed to expand the capacity of authorities to improve building safety in the district, conducted drills to test evacuation routes and train communities in DRR, integrated the use of geographic information systems in disaster risk management and urban management, and worked with local authorities to develop emergency protocols. Additionally, COOPI helped improve air and soil quality by promoting forestation and efficient water usage to mitigate the risks posed by environmental degradation.
- **Reducing Risk in Piura:** With prior year funding, USAID/OFDA supported Plan International to build resilience to future emergencies at the institutional, school, and community levels in Piura Province's La Arena and Tambo Grande districts in FY 2019. Evaluating previous efforts at disaster mitigation and preparedness in the region, the program aimed to identify best practices, weaknesses, and implementation gaps, including building on lessons learned from the 2017 flooding associated with the Coastal El Niño phenomenon. With USAID/OFDA support, Plan International trained volunteers in needs assessment data collection and immediate disaster response, including selecting evacuation routes, identifying safe areas and temporary shelters, and forming community groups for debris removal and clearing of access

roads. Additionally, Plan International worked with local universities to support innovative solutions to mitigate the impact of crises.

- **Increasing Community Resilience to Disasters in Cajamarca:** USAID/OFDA supported Practical Action through prior year funding to strengthen the disaster resilience of local governments and rural communities in Peru's Cajamarca Region, an area vulnerable to drought, heavy rainfall, and flooding. In FY 2019, the program helped build local capacity—including by training community members and government officials in early warning systems, first aid, and search-and-rescue—to raise awareness of disaster risk management approaches, implement DRR strategies with the participation of local authorities and civil society, and develop and implement local technologies to reduce risks posed by disasters. Program activities concluded in September 2019.
- **Reducing Disaster Risk in Urban Settlements:** With prior year USAID/OFDA funding, the Center for Disaster Studies and Prevention in Peru (PREDES) worked with local communities and municipal officials in Lima's San Juan de Miraflores District to increase DRR capacity and disaster preparedness utilizing existing technical instruments in FY 2019; PREDES undertook the project in coordination with the GoP National System for Disaster Risk Management (SINAGERD). The project enabled local populations to implement risk reduction and preparedness measures, creating tools and establishing teams of volunteers to intervene and provide assistance in the event of an emergency. Program activities included conducting awareness campaigns and disseminating information materials, leading training workshops for local leaders, equipping volunteer response groups, and organizing disaster simulation drills.
- **Transferring DRR Best Practices in Lima:** In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA supported PREDES to strengthen the disaster management capacity of the Municipal Association of Lima–North (MMLN) following local elections through prior year funding. The MMLN comprises seven districts with an estimated population of 1.9 million people, approximately 550,000 of whom reside in areas highly vulnerable to natural disasters. The project—which ended in September 2019—built awareness of disaster-related risks and increased the disaster management capacity of the MMLN and associated municipalities, ensuring effective transfer of knowledge and processes related to DRR to the incoming authorities.
- **Enhancing Community-Based DRR in Northwestern Peru:** With prior year USAID/OFDA funding, SCF continued to build the capacity of communities in Peru's La Libertad and Lambayeque regions to minimize risks posed by earthquakes, flooding, and heavy rainfall. In FY 2019, the program worked with local communities, municipal employees, and the GoP to improve the capacity of local governments to implement DRR and disaster response activities. SCF also increased community awareness of disaster risks, informed local businesses of DRR measures that can render supply chains less vulnerable to disasters, and worked with communities and construction workers to make buildings more resilient to natural disasters.
- **Improving Child Protection in Disaster Risk Management Systems:** In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA continued to support SCF with prior year funding to integrate child protection practices into disaster risk management strategies in Piura's Catacaos and Cura Mori districts. Following the 2017 floods in the districts, relief agencies identified the need for a disaster response management approach that addresses protection needs of children affected by disasters. SCF worked with local governments, communities, and educational institutions to build capacity and develop risk management tools for the protection of children during crises. Program activities included training vulnerable communities and local and regional authorities in child protection principles and providing technical assistance to update disaster management tools to incorporate child protection measures.
- **Building DRR Coordination and Capacity:** With prior year USAID/OFDA funding, the UN Development Program (UNDP) continued a multi-year program in FY 2019 to support improved coordination and decision-making processes for disaster response among national and local authorities in Peru. The program aimed to provide tools and methodologies—including a geo-referenced tool to provide critical data to decision makers—to SINAGERD to support



the adoption of a territorial approach to disaster risk management, grouping provinces and districts by geography, accessibility, and exposure to natural hazards. UNDP also helped develop strategies to ensure that facilities critical to humanitarian operations, including airports and seaports, remain functional following a disaster.

- **Strengthening Government DRR Capacity:** USAID/OFDA supported WFP in FY 2019 to help the GoP address food and nutrition needs following a disaster. With prior year funding, WFP disseminated damage assessment and needs analysis methodology, trained officials in humanitarian supply chain management, provided technical assistance to upgrade disaster information systems, and held workshops to develop a national emergency operations plan. WFP also supported the National Institute of Civil Defense (INDECI) to further strengthen its logistics capacities with respect to the humanitarian supply chain, including pre-positioning and delivering emergency food assistance. Program activities concluded in May 2019.
- **Improving National USAR Capacity:** With prior year USAID/OFDA funding, World Vision continued to strengthen the capacity of Peru’s first-responder system and provide technical assistance to USAR teams by supporting the GoP to develop standardized training and response protocols across agencies in FY 2019. In coordination with INDECI, World Vision also organized workshops and simulations to train first responders such as the Calloa and Lima USAR teams, as well as volunteers, particularly the General Corps of Volunteer Firefighters of Peru. Additionally, World Vision provided search-and-rescue equipment and supplies to USAR teams. Program activities concluded in July 2019.

#### *Trinidad and Tobago*

- **Urban Disaster Resiliency and Preparedness:** In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA provided \$1 million to Miyamoto International to enhance preparedness among national and local disaster management authorities and first responders to respond to earthquakes in Trinidad and Tobago’s capital city of Port of Spain. Through a multi-year program, Miyamoto International plans to develop an earthquake risk analysis to determine potential impacts of an earthquake and inform stakeholders of preparedness and mitigation measures. Additionally, Miyamoto International engaged the private sector in DRR and preparedness planning by conducting workshops and seminars. By working with multi-sector stakeholders, Miyamoto International facilitated the incorporation of risk management and response best practices, strategies, and tools into national and local planning processes and strengthened public–private collaboration.

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## **PROGRAMS THAT INTEGRATE DRR WITH DISASTER RESPONSE**

In addition to stand-alone DRR programs implemented to prepare for or mitigate the effects of disasters in LAC, USAID/OFDA integrated preparedness and mitigation into disaster response in Haiti during FY 2019.

#### *Haiti*

- **Enhancing Disaster Response Capacity in Vulnerable Communities:** In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA initiated a three-year, \$4.8 million project with World Concern Development Organization (WCDO) to repair and rehabilitate emergency evacuation centers in 100 settlements in Grand’Anse, Nippes, Sud, and Sud-Est departments, which are particularly vulnerable to cyclones, flooding, and earthquakes. The project also includes providing preparedness and response training to commune- and local-level civil protection committees and volunteer groups, as well as engaging residents of participating settlements in neighborhood-based evacuation planning activities.

**USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING FOR LAC IN FY 2019<sup>1</sup>**

LOCATION	PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	PARTNER	SUBTOTAL	TOTAL
<b>USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR STAND-ALONE DRR PROGRAMS<sup>2</sup></b>					
LAC Regional	DRR in the Americas	Humanitarian Studies, Analysis, or Applications; Risk Management Policy and Practice	FIU	\$4,225,819	\$9,020,876
	Reducing Earthquake Risks in Central America	Natural and Technological Risks	GEM	\$500,000	
	Raising Awareness on Dam Safety	Natural and Technological Risks	NOAA	\$200,000	
	Strengthening Humanitarian Coordination and Capacity	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM)	OCHA	\$500,000	
	Health Sector Resilience in LAC	Health, HCIM	PAHO	\$1,500,000	
	RDAP Evaluation	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	RTI	\$339,599	
	Strengthening Resilience-Building Capacity at the Local Level	Risk Management Policy and Practice	UNISDR	\$1,150,340	
	VDAP	Natural and Technological Risks	USGS	\$605,118	
Caribbean Regional	Youth-Led Community Action for Increased Disaster Resilience	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Caritas Antilles	\$500,000	\$4,855,494
	Building the Capacity of Caribbean Red Cross National Societies	Risk Management Policy and Practice	IFRC	\$1,800,000	
	U.S.-Caribbean Resilience Partnership	Natural and Technological Risks	NOAA	\$1,450,000	
	Supporting Practical Household Preparedness in the Dominican Republic and Haiti	Natural and Technological Risks	USGS	\$355,494	
	Strengthening Humanitarian Logistics Preparedness and Response Capacity in the Caribbean	Risk Management Policy and Practice	WFP	\$750,000	
Central America Regional	Central America Weather-Ready Nations Phase I	Natural and Technological Risks	NOAA	\$100,000	\$100,000
South America Regional	South American Flash Flood Guidance System	Natural and Technological Risks	WMO	\$450,000	\$1,794,000
		Natural and Technological Risks	NOAA	\$700,000	
	Building Capacity for Inclusive Disaster Risk Management	Protection	Humanity and Inclusion	\$644,000	
Chile	Developing an Earthquake and Tsunami Early Situational Awareness System	Natural and Technological Risks	USGS	\$45,000	\$45,000
Colombia	Strengthening Resilience and Response Capacity in La Guajira	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Risk Management Policy and Practice, WASH	ACH/Spain	\$2,500,000	\$3,883,154

	Bolstering Earthquake Preparedness and Response in Pasto	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Miyamoto International	\$500,000	
	Minimizing Risks of Urban Forest Fires in Aburrá Valley	Risk Management Policy and Practice	World Vision	\$883,154	
Costa Rica	Building an Earthquake and Tsunami Early Situational Awareness System	Natural and Technological Risks	USGS	\$457,710	\$457,710
Dominican Republic	Assessing Earthquake Faults in the Dominican Republic	Natural and Technological Risks	USGS	\$89,659	\$89,659
Ecuador	Enhancing DRR and Resilience Capacity in Vulnerable Communities	Risk Management Policy and Practice	ADRA	\$500,000	\$1,850,000
	Bolstering Resilience to Seismic Events in Esmeraldas and Manabí	Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	Miyamoto International	\$1,350,000	
Haiti	Enhancing Disaster Preparedness and Response Capacity in Haiti	Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	AmCross	\$370,568	\$4,475,139
	Bolstering Neighborhood Preparedness in Port-au-Prince	HCIM, Natural and Technological Risks, Risk Management Policy and Practice, WASH	COOPI	\$476,193	
	Strengthening Preparedness to Implement MPCA Activities	MPCA	CRS	\$250,000	
	Supporting Research to Build Disaster Resilience	Risk Management Policy and Practice	GOAL	\$256,365	
	Pre-Positioning Relief Supplies for Rapid Response to Crisis-Affected Populations	Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	IOM	\$1,109,269	
	Bolstering Institutional Preparedness for Cash Transfers in Humanitarian Response	ERMS, MPCA, Risk Management Policy and Practice	Mercy Corps	\$920,251	
	Bolstering Earthquake and Hurricane Response Preparedness	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Miyamoto International	\$350,000	
	Strengthening Humanitarian Coordination and Capacity Building	HCIM	OCHA	\$200,000	
Panama	Strengthening Departmental and National EOCs in Haiti	Risk Management Policy and Practice	USFS	\$360,000	\$150,000
	Supporting Earthquake and Tsunami Readiness	Natural and Technological Risks	USGS	\$182,493	
	Building Resilience Among Children, Adolescents, and Young People with Disabilities	Risk Management Policy and Practice	RET	\$150,000	
Paraguay	Bolstering DRR in Central Department	Agriculture and Food Security, Protection, Risk Management Policy and Practice	ACDI/VOCA	\$1,498,822	\$1,498,822
Peru	Strengthening Peru's Social Protection System	Risk Management Policy and Practice	WFP	\$500,000	\$500,000

Trinidad and Tobago	Urban Disaster Resiliency and Preparedness	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Miyamoto International	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR STAND-ALONE DRR PROGRAMS</b>					<b>\$29,719,854</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS THAT INTEGRATE DRR WITH DISASTER RESPONSE</b>					
Haiti	Enhancing Disaster Response Capacity in Vulnerable Communities	Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	WCDO	\$4,800,000	\$4,800,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS THAT INTEGRATE DRR WITH DISASTER RESPONSE</b>					<b>\$4,800,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING FOR LAC IN FY 2019</b>					<b>\$34,519,854</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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 2019; program descriptions in the fact sheet reflect USAID/OFDA-supported DRR programs active during the fiscal year, regardless of year of funding.  
<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents actual or obligated amounts as of September 30, 2019.

## 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](http://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:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org).
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://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>