



U.S. EMBASSY Belmopan, Belize
Office of Public Affairs

For Immediate Release

August 26, 2016

Press Release

**U.S. Embassy Announces USD \$315,000 in Emergency Relief
Support for Hurricane Earl Damage in Belize**

Belmopan - U. S. Ambassador to Belize H.E. Carlos Moreno announced additional assistance to Belize's recovery from damage from Hurricane Earl. Today's announcement follows the U.S. Embassy's efforts to act quickly to bring to bear all available resources after the National Emergency Management Organization's (NEMO) post storm assessments were completed. The U.S. government will make available USD \$50,000 from the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) Ambassador's Emergency Relief Fund and over USD \$245,000 in U.S. military assistance in relief to Belize. The U.S. government also provided USD \$20,000 in assistance immediately after the hurricane, totaling USD \$315,000 in overall assistance in response to Hurricane Earl. This support also builds on the Embassy's long-term disaster assistance, which totals over USD \$10.6 million from the U.S. government to Belize since 2006 to strengthen and supplement local response and recovery efforts.

Ambassador Moreno made available USD \$50,000 via USAID/OFDA Ambassador's Emergency Relief Fund to fund the Belize Red Cross Society's distribution of mattresses and linens to Belizeans recovering from damage to their homes during the storm. Ambassador Moreno handed over the items to Red Cross Director General Lily Bowman today and joined her for the first distribution of mattresses. Immediately after the storm, USAID/OFDA also provided the Belize Red Cross Society with USD \$10,000 for hygiene kits and the transportation and operation of an emergency water treatment plant in Bullet Tree, Cayo District. USAID/OFDA also provided USD \$10,000 to support helicopter flyovers to assess damage immediately following the storm.

The U.S. Embassy's Military Liaison Office through the U.S. military's Humanitarian Assistance Program (HAP) will also provide over USD \$245,000 in relief assistance to NEMO for emergency ration packs to feed people in shelters, cleaning supplies to assist with post storm cleanup, construction supplies to repair several damaged



U.S. EMBASSY Belmopan, Belize
Office of Public Affairs

shelters, and additional mattresses and supplies for immediate relief and to restock NEMO disaster relief supplies for future emergency responses.

Since 2010, the U.S. military's Humanitarian Assistance Program (HAP) has provided over USD \$10 million in assistance in a coordinated effort with Belize to help save lives. HAP aims to increase Belize's capacity to communicate, respond to and mitigate the impact of natural disasters, improve quality of life, and expedite recovery efforts. The U.S. military provided response equipment and training to NEMO and the Belize National Fire Service. It also built three NEMO disaster relief warehouses, four hurricane shelters, three Emergency Operation Centers, and hurricane-proof public buildings, including schools which also serve as shelters.

Through USAID/OFDA, the U.S. government has also provided over \$600,000 in training, small grants, and support since 2006. USAID/OFDA has trained NEMO instructors to deliver courses in school safety, damage assessments and analysis, and shelter management. Four country representatives have also successfully completed urban search and rescue regional courses. USAID/OFDA provided small grants to the Belize Search and Rescue Association and provided search and rescue training and equipment for NEMO Volunteers in the Stann Creek and Cayo districts. USAID/OFDA also works with the Belize Red Cross Society and the Ministry of Education to provide supplies, shelter facility upgrades, equipment, and training.

The U.S. government remains committed to partnering with the Government and people of Belize and the Red Cross Society on long-term disaster preparedness efforts. The U.S. government will continue to support the people of Belize as they recover from the effects of Hurricane Earl and prepare for future emergency responses.