

PRESS RELEASE

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
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United States Government to provide USD 150,000.00 for Hurricane Sandy Relief efforts in Jamaica

In response to the Government of Jamaica's request for assistance to the disaster affected people in Jamaica following Hurricane Sandy, the United States Government through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) has committed USD 150,000.00 in international disaster assistance funds.

On Friday November 2, 2012 U.S. Ambassador to Jamaica, Pamela E. Bridgewater advised Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller that disaster assistance funds will be provided for immediate disaster relief for affected people in Jamaica. "I am pleased that the United States government has responded positively to the Government of Jamaica's request for assistance following the devastation left as a result of Hurricane Sandy. This assistance is provided based on my determination, as the Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy, that Jamaica's government requires the support of its friends to effectively respond to this natural disaster."

Hurricane Sandy made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane on the southeastern coast of Jamaica some 8 km (5 miles) east of Kingston at approximately 2:00 p.m. on October 24, 2012. Maximum sustained winds at landfall were estimated to be 130 km/h (80 mph) with a forward movement of about 22 km/h (14 mph) and total accumulation of rainfalls exceeding 100 mm (4 inches). The Hurricane impacted mostly the central and eastern parishes of the island. According to the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) parishes most severely affected include: Portland, St. Thomas, St. Mary and Kingston & St. Andrew where there was damage to many homes and small commercial enterprises including roof damage and flooding as well as complete destruction of crops and vegetation. Assistance will focus on restoring the livelihoods in these hard-hit parishes in coordination with ODPEM.

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