

Amber Lupin

From: Disaster Management Alliance [alupin@padf.org]
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Disaster Management Alliance Update

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Hurricanes Fay, Gustav, Hanna, and Ike ravaged Haiti during August and September of this year. Hundreds were killed; nearly a million were affected. All ten of Haiti's departments suffered substantial damage and some estimate crop losses at 60 percent. "The damage caused by the passage of these four successive hurricanes in less than two months has set Haiti back several years," President Rene Preval told the UN General Assembly in New York.



The disaster management and business continuity committee in Haiti known as AGERCA and private sector partners rallied together support for hurricane relief by holding a week-long fundraising marathon. At least US\$472,241 was raised (\$300,000 cash and \$172,241 in-kind donations from 62 companies). The AGERCA committee launched an informative website (www.agerca.org.ht) to keep everyone informed.

Working with the Haitian Civil Defense Protection (DPC), AGERCA provided water, clothes, and dry food from donations raised during the telethon to priority areas identified by DPC.



Additionally, many of you have heard of the tragic school collapses that have recently occurred in Haiti. Many children have died because the school buildings were not properly constructed and maintained. We would like to recognize OFDA's efforts in contributing to emergency relief during the collapse in Petionville.

Fortunately, the AGERCA Committee will use many of the funds raised during the telethon, in addition to funding from PADF corporate partners, to renovate 15 schools so that they can withstand flooding and other severe weather. This important work will ensure the safety of many hundreds of school children.

The committee will also distribute seed and fertilizer to farmers affected by the hurricanes which will help in the recovery process and help prevent future food crises as experienced earlier this year.

This is amazing work and we should all congratulate AGERCA!

The Disaster Management Alliance

Louis Alexander
Senior Program
Director
(202) 458-6435
lalexander@padf.org

Christine Herridge
Director, Disaster
Management Alliance
(202) 458-6181
cherridge@padf.org

Amber Lupin
Communications
Advisor
(202) 458-6351
alupin@padf.org

Kristina Klassen
Program Assistant
(202) 458-6503
kklassen@padf.org

Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)
Organization of American States Building
1889 F Street NW, 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20006
Main: (202) 458-3969
Fax: (202) 458-6316
Email: padf-dc@padf.org
www.padf.org

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