

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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STATEMENT BY CLAYTON M. McCLESKEY, ACTING SPOKESPERSON **USAID Deploys Disaster Assistance Response Team to Caribbean Region**

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) as Hurricane Irma - the strongest Atlantic hurricane on record - brings life-threatening rains, winds, and storm surges to the Caribbean. **The DART, an elite team of disaster experts, currently has staff in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Barbados, and the Bahamas**, who will coordinate with local authorities and humanitarian organizations on the ground to bring vital assistance to those affected by this hurricane and its aftermath. USAID has pre-positioned critical commodities in high-risk countries, including Haiti, to ensure relief supplies are immediately available to help communities in need.

As the world's humanitarian leader, the United States remains committed to providing life-saving assistance when a disaster strikes. The U.S. Government remains in close communication with government and civil-society officials throughout the region to coordinate relief efforts. Our thoughts and prayers are with those in Hurricane Irma's path.

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