



WEEKLY REPORT

October 29, 2012 Highlights:

Scenes from Hurricane Sandy, 2012



◆ **Hurricane Sandy**– Due to the passage of Hurricane Sandy which made landfall to the island last Wednesday the Mission closed operations mid day Tuesday October 23 and reopened Friday October 26. The category one hurricane caused severe damage to roofs, uprooting of trees, downing of utility poles and knocking out electricity in mostly affected eastern parishes. The hurricane was blamed for the death of one man and also forced 1,898 Jamaicans into 140 shelters. The National Emergency Operations Center was activated by the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM). USAID/OFDA stood up a 7-member team between October 23-27 with the local OFDA consultant embedded in ODPEM for 3 days. OFDA met frequently with and participated in damage assessments with the ODPEM. According to the ODPEM, Portland and St Thomas neighboring parishes on the eastern end of the island fared the worst from the slow-moving Category One system. USAID/Jamaica and other international donor partners await the decision of the Government of Jamaica (GoJ) following a meeting of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers today to determine the level of assistance, if required. In addition, the Mission is currently in contact with its partner agencies and grantees on the status of their projects and sites.

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ **JaMIN Song Competition Finals**– USAID/Jamaica in collaboration with the Agency for Inner City Renewal (AIR) will host the finals of the Jamaica Music Institute (JaMIN) Song Competition in recognition of Jamaica's and USAID's 50th anniversary. Following the recent launch of the JaMIN studio, the song competition was announced and is targeted at inner city youth (16-24 years) and focuses on development and youth empowerment. The song competition finals will be held on Saturday November 17, 2012 at the Ambassador Theatre in Trench Town, Kingston.

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