

Urgent Need for Donations to Aid Hurricane Ida Survivors

Hard-Hit El Salvador Needs Relief for 10,000 People

Washington, D.C. – November 10, 2009 – With more than 10,000 survivors of Hurricane Ida in urgent need of food, medicine and shelter, donations are being collected through a safe website called www.PanAmericanRelief.org, the Pan American Development Foundation announced today.

“Our neighbors in El Salvador are desperate for emergency relief, and we are asking people to help at this critical time,” says Amy Coughenour, PADF’s deputy executive director. “Cash donations are the best since that allows us to quickly and efficiently obtain much-needed food, water and shelter in the region.”

PanAmericanRelief.org was created in 2008 by PADF to provide people with a safe and secure way to donate during a natural disaster. Donations are U.S. tax deductible.

Hurricane Ida slammed into El Salvador over the weekend, leaving more than 13,000 homeless and nearly 140 dead. Dozens of people are missing. In addition to damage to homes, entire communities are cutoff as a result of mudslides and destroyed bridges. President Mauricio Funes declared a state of emergency on Sunday evening.

PADF, the natural disaster response arm of the Organization of American States (OAS), is in contact with civil defense authorities as they determine specific needs for the survivors.

PADF is also working with one of its local partners, the American Chamber of Commerce in El Salvador, to coordinate relief. PADF has an agreement with the Association of American Chambers of Commerce of Latin America (AACCLA) to coordinate during natural disasters in the hemisphere.

About PADF

PADF is an independent, non-profit organization that creates public-private partnerships to assist the least advantaged people in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through these partnerships and as a unique affiliate of the Organization of American States (OAS), PADF creates economic opportunities, strengthens communities and prepares for and responds to natural disasters.

Having worked in every country in the region, PADF engages community-based groups, governments and the private sector in the process of implementing appropriate solutions for sustainable development.

In the past year, more than 5.6 million people in 18 countries benefited from PADF and its programs. www.padf.org

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