LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AND DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Founded in 1975, Chemonics is one of the world's leading partners in international development across various sectors, working in more than 76 countries today. In advance of and following destabilizing events such as natural disasters and armed conflict, we work with communities to recover and rebuild infrastructure, support stabilization efforts, and reduce future vulnerability to violent conflict and disasters.

Present in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) since 1979, Chemonics has managed a portfolio of more than 300 projects across various sectors. Our current LAC portfolio contains 20 projects spanning across several cross-cutting technical areas in Colombia, Peru, Honduras, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Mexico.

Current Disaster Response and Related Programming

- *USAID Famine Early Warning System Network*
- *USAID Global Health Supply Chain Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM)*
- *USAID OTI Sudan*
- *USAID OTI Burkina Faso*
- *USAID Paramos and Forests Activity in Colombia*
- *USAID Natural Wealth Project in Colombia*
- *USAID Artisanal Gold Mining Activity in Colombia*
- *USAID Human Rights Activity in Colombia*
- *Cargill Land Innovation Fund in Brazil*
- *USAID Biodiversity Project in Guatemala*
- *USAID Reforestation Project in Haiti*
- *USAID SERVIR and Climate Services Support (global program)*
- *USAID Adaptation Thought Leadership and Assessments (global program)*
- *USAID Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights (STARR) II IDIQ (global program)*

Our Gender, Equality, and Social Inclusion (GESI) Practice works to help projects tailor activities to the differentiated needs, interests, and capacities of vulnerable groups within programming, a central component of effective DRR. Chemonics understands that effective programming cannot happen without integrating gender issues and other vulnerable groups into all aspects of implementation and we have continuously demonstrated successful GESI integration. For example, the USAID-funded **Colombia Human Rights Activity (HRA)** led trainings on women's rights, gender diversity, GBV prevention, LGBTI rights and violence prevention. HRA also provided technical support to build the capacity of local governments in Colombia to provide legal and psychosocial assistance to Venezuelan migrants.

Our Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) team supports effective project reporting and learning from the onset and until project completion and can provide tailored support to thematic strategies, gender issues, and provide input for project decision-making. All our programs include a MEL plan to conduct assessments, analyze data, and inform programming. Our MEL team works to improve data collection and develop innovative indicators to ensure well-informed programming.

Disaster Preparedness, Recovery, and Response

Chemonics' work in disaster risk reduction helps countries more effectively respond to humanitarian crises caused by natural disasters and armed conflict. Since February 2000, we have implemented the USAID-funded **Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET)** program, which provides early warning

and analysis of food insecurity in 29 countries worldwide, including Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Haiti. FEWS NET empowers governments to find solutions to food insecurity by improving information systems and equipping decision-makers with tools to address food insecurity. Using geographic information systems (GIS) and other technologies, FEWS NET pinpoints exact locations of need and allows donors and governments to deploy resources in advance. Through FEWS NET we have developed food security outlooks, maps for internally displaced persons and refugee flows, and customized geographic information system technology to address early warning indicators. Some of the program's achievements include:

Geographical Information Systems

Chemonics has a proven ability to implement geographical information systems (GIS) to aid regions in need and empower decision-makers with reliable data. On FEWS NET, remote sensing and GIS application has proven critical in hard-to-access environment where other sources of data may be unreliable. Combining field data with remote sensing and GIS technology, FEWS NET produces comprehensive current and forecasting analysis on food security. GIS has allowed us to produce innovative tools such as flood mapping and crop monitoring to reduce food insecurity.

- Working with national and provincial governments to provide training and capacity building and improve community-based disaster response by establishing and maintaining emergency operations centers in Ecuador and El Salvador.
- Collaborating with the U.S. Northern Command and Mexico's national disaster response agency to train firefighters and develop programs that would improve response time and capabilities for effective emergency management.
- Participating in a joint food security assessment of camps housing Somali and Central African Republic refugees in Kenya and Chad.

Chemonics supports response and recovery efforts at national, regional, and local levels. Our multifaceted approach aims to strengthen the capacity of and confidence in public institutions so they can better deliver essential services and facilitate recovery. Following the 2010 earthquake, the Haiti Recovery Initiative implemented short-term activities to prevent political instability from interfering with humanitarian efforts. Activities included:

- Instituting a cash-for-work program to support community revitalization, creating more than 50,000 temporary jobs and clearing more than 460,000 cubic meters of rubble
- Installing 1,700 solar lamps in Saint Marc, Port-au-Prince, and Cap-Haitien to improve public safety
- Relocating 1,400 internally displaced families in Petionville in collaboration with the International Organization of Migration
- Procuring temporary wooden shelters and rehabilitated public spaces to improve sanitation and security

Increasing Local Capacity to Prepare for and Respond to Disasters

Through FEWS NET we strengthen the analytical capacities of network partners to produce and disseminate credible food security early warning analysis. In Haiti, FEWS NET has trained Haiti Meteorological Service, GeoWRSI, GeoClim, and analysts from key government institutions, the UN, and NGO partners on integrated food security phase classification (IPC) analysis, which is designed to assist governments and humanitarian actors quickly understand a crisis (or potential crisis) and take action. Training included technical assistance, protocols for disaster classification, tools for rapid and effective communication, and methods of quality assurance. FEWS NET has also helped facilitate information sharing of climate data through Climate Hazards Group InfraRed Precipitation with Station Data (CHIRPS). Through the **Human Resources for Health 2030** (HRH2030) program, we are strengthening the Colombian Family Welfare Institute's social service workforce at both the national and local level to guarantee better protection and welfare for children, adolescents, and

families in Colombia. Under the Consolidation and Enhanced Livelihood Initiative (CELI North/South) in Colombia, we helped stimulate sustainable economic development, build social capital, and encourage licit lifestyles free from violence through rapid-response activities to build peace and confidence in the state.These efforts continue to strengthen self-reliance and prove critical to empower government actors and communities affected by conflict or disaster to recover from humanitarian crises and better withstand potential future shocks.

Through the $9 billion USAID-funded **Global Health Supply Chain Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM)** program, we have developed some of the most advanced rapid response procurement and supply systems in the world to deliver health commodities and respond to changing requirements on the ground in approximately 60 countries. These systems are set up to both reduce and respond to disasters, including when severe health emergencies hit. Under the GHSC-PSM umbrella, we strengthen preparedness and response via multi-million task orders that enable rapid and effective procurement and delivery of health commodities worldwide, helping countries respond to emerging threats. In LAC GHSC-PSM is currently implementing activities in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, and Haiti. Through the program's Technical Assistance Francophone Task Order, we are empowering health leaders in Haiti to improve national supply chains and the availability of HIV/AIDS, malaria, and maternal and child health and family planning commodities.

Rapid Response and Project Management

Chemonics is known for our efficient project management systems and practices that enable quick staffing, with a deep understanding of the changing sociopolitical context in LAC thanks to our in-house technical teams that ensure projects have the necessary tools and knowledge for real-time, iterative situational analysis needed for effective international response. Our Peace, Stability, and Transition technical practice, for example, provides direct support to all disaster response, relief, and humanitarian assistance programs, while our Agriculture and Food Security and Environment and Natural Resources practices drive thought leadership to successfully address disasters generated by drought and poor land management.

Chemonics' reputation as a high-quality project management organization holds true in that we can quickly scale our systems and practices to rapidly respond to staffing needs worldwide. To rapidly hire and onboard project staff, we rely on our existing ties and knowledge of local labor markets to quickly identify candidates – releasing scopes of work and rapidly moving through open and fair competition to identify the right people with the right experience to serve on any given project on a long- or short-term basis. For example, we are accustomed to filling surge staffing needs on USAID Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) programs where quick staffing for emergency response is critical in high-risk contexts. We are well versed in rapid startup and rapid response, having implemented 20 OTI programs globally, including 5 current OTI programs. On our OTI programs we maintain an internal bench of experts available to be fielded at any given time, a surge external "bullpen" of local and international experts and always pre-identify field experts to mobilize on a demand-driven basis.