

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

September 26, 2022

The Honorable Samantha Power  
Administrator  
United States Agency for International Development  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Power,

We write to urge you to continue to assist the Dominican Republic and its neighbors in the Caribbean in the wake of Hurricane Fiona by directing robust funding for U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) humanitarian assistance and disaster relief programs to the affected countries. Fiona has caused flooding, power outages, loss of life, and untold personal and municipal damage to the Dominican Republic, Turks and Caicos, Guadeloupe, and other Caribbean nations. We urge you to act swiftly to minimize the long-term damage to these countries.

Hurricane Fiona is the first hurricane to directly hit the Dominican Republic since Hurricane Jeanne in 2004. Although the total damage from Hurricane Fiona to the Dominican Republic and other Caribbean nations remains unclear, at least two Dominicans have died from the storm, at least 12,000 Dominicans have been forced from their homes, and at least 700,000 Dominicans are without power. Several towns in the eastern part of the country are isolated following Yuma River overflows and multiple regions are experiencing severe flooding.

We are grateful for your leadership of USAID to date, particularly your actions around recent natural disasters, including the recent flooding in Pakistan. As the U.S. Government's lead for international disaster assistance, we urge you to use all necessary resources to rapidly provide food, clean water, shelter, healthcare and medical supplies, basic services, and all other relevant forms of aid to the island. Further, given the size of Caribbean diaspora populations in New York, we also encourage USAID to keep all diaspora community members well informed of your efforts on the ground, including through engaging the public in Spanish and French when needed.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to support the Caribbean disaster response and recovery. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Gregory W. Meeks  
Chair  
House Foreign Affairs Committee



Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress