

## **The World's Largest Humanitarian Network**

The American Red Cross extends its humanitarian mission around the world through its work as part of the global Red Cross network – the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and 185 other national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies.

With more than 13 million volunteers, we use our presence in nearly every community to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the world's hardest-to-reach and most vulnerable populations.



An American Red Cross relief worker administers first aid to a Haitian girl injured during the 2010 earthquake.

## **How You Can Help**

You can help people affected by disasters like floods, fires, tornadoes and hurricanes, as well as countless crises at home and around the world, by making a donation to support American Red Cross Disaster Relief. Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for and provide shelter, food, emotional support and other assistance in response to disasters.

Visit [Redcross.org](http://Redcross.org) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. Contributions may also be sent to your local American Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013.

## **A Growing Global Need**

Global trends such as rapid population growth, unplanned urbanization, environmental degradation and climate change have caused an increase in the frequency and severity of natural disasters. Although communities living in disaster-prone areas are the most at risk, they are often the least able to cope with the effects of disaster.

The American Red Cross helps vulnerable people worldwide prevent, prepare for and respond to disasters. Our emergency disaster response programs provide relief and recovery assistance to millions of people annually.

## **The Red Cross Advantage**

In collaboration with the global Red Cross network, the American Red Cross is constantly monitoring disasters around the globe. When disasters occur, the local Red Cross and Red Crescent society can often handle crises alone, but sometimes they need a helping hand.

In the chaos after a disaster, logistics pipelines can easily become clogged with well-intentioned offers of assistance, burdening those whose time could be better spent elsewhere. The coordinated approach of the global Red Cross network helps ensure that available resources match the needs on the ground, so disaster responders can concentrate on delivering assistance.

## **How We Respond**

When a national society reaches out for international assistance, the American Red Cross can respond by providing financial assistance, mobilizing relief supplies or deploying skilled people.

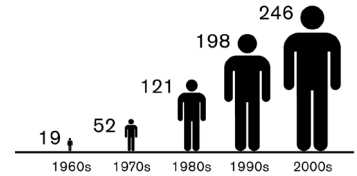
*Financial Assistance* – We provide cash for the rapid purchase of the most needed supplies. Cash reduces the time and cost of delivery and also stimulates the local economy, often undermined by a disaster.

*Relief Supplies* – To ensure the rapid delivery of assistance, we maintain relief supplies for 5,000 families at each of our warehouses in Panama City, Panama; Dubai, United Arab Emirates and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Stocks include hygiene kits, blankets, kitchen sets, tarps and mosquito nets.

*Technical Support* – The American Red Cross has developed a network of disaster response staff and volunteers who assess needs and implement vital relief services. The American Red Cross also manages two Emergency Response Units (ERUs), or trained teams specializing in specific disaster services. A Relief ERU assists with supply management and distribution, while an IT and Telecommunications ERU facilitates the flow of critical information.

**For more information, please visit [www.redcross.org/international](http://www.redcross.org/international).**

## **People Affected By Climate-Related Disasters (in Millions)**



Source: Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED)