

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 more than 185 national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies.

With more than 97 million volunteers, members, and staff, we use our presence in nearly every community to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the world's hardest-to-reach and most vulnerable populations.



Thanks to the Red Cross, this child now has a packaged bed net that will allow him to sleep protected from malaria.

How You Can Help

You can help those affected by countless crises around the world each year by making a financial gift to the American Red Cross International Response Fund, which will provide immediate relief and long-term support through supplies, technical assistance and other support to help those in need.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish). Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting Redcross.org.

A Deadly Threat

Malaria is an easily preventable and treatable parasitic disease spread by mosquitoes. Globally, 247 million acute cases of malaria occur each year, causing more than 900,000 deaths.

In fact, every 30 seconds, a child dies from malaria. The only proven way to prevent the disease is to not get bitten. And the best way to do that is to sleep under an insecticide-treated net.

The Red Cross Advantage

Together with partner Red Cross societies, the American Red Cross has an important role to play in preventing malaria around the world.

As the world's largest humanitarian network, the international community of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies has an unparalleled global reach, community knowledge and presence. By providing resources and training to Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers, we are able to educate at-risk families in some of the world's hardest-to-reach communities.

How We Respond

The American Red Cross works with our partners to distribute free bed nets—during national vaccination campaigns supported by the Measles Initiative, as well as after disasters such as floods and cyclones. Last year, through our work with partners, we helped distribute more than 5 million bed nets.

Because a net must be used properly to be effective, we also train volunteers to educate communities on the proper use of bed nets. We train volunteers who go house-to-house teaching community members about the risk, prevention and treatment of malaria.

To determine the best methods of increasing usage of bed nets, we also conduct operations research following net distribution. This research has led to the development and pilot test of a toolkit to train volunteers throughout the global Red Cross network on the best practices for malaria prevention.

Where We Work

For more than a decade, the American Red Cross has been partnering with other Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies to prevent malaria around the world. Currently, we have malaria education projects in Cambodia, Haiti, Madagascar, Mozambique and Uganda.

For more information, please visit www.redcross.org/international.