



Relief Emergency Response Unit (ERU)

Purpose:

Ensure that essential relief goods are delivered rapidly, effectively and in a well coordinated and dignified manner to the appropriate beneficiaries in support of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners.

Activities:

- Support the affected national society
- Targeted beneficiary selection
- Registration of beneficiaries
- Rapid Relief Distribution Field Training
- Distribution of Relief Supplies
- Distribution Reporting
- Monitoring & Evaluation



Details

- Includes two 4X4 vehicles, housing and administration facilities, bibs, arm bands, other signage, training equipment, cooking equipment, food and other essential items.
- Also includes relief management response documents, templates and other tools.
- Self-sustaining for up to a 1 month period. Can operate independently for a total of 3 months.

Response Criteria

- Request by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies disaster management systems (FACT, RDRT, DMC)
- Request by the Red Cross or Red Crescent National Society affected by the disaster

Relief ERU Best Practices

- “*Distribution with Dignity*”: Delivering relief in such a manner that promotes the resilience of those receiving the support. Assists in the Movement’s responsibility to address potential abuses of power in relief operations.
- Ensuring safe and orderly distributions for all people involved.
- Incorporation of Sphere Project indicators, standards and guidelines.
- Integration of distribution *Mass Messaging* to ensure that key emergency messaging (health, wat/san, safety, nutrition and general social support) gets to the people in need.

Relief ERU Training

Relief ERU members participate in comprehensive and specialized training prior to an emergency so as to ensure the highest quality of services and response personnel. Relief ERU members are taught how to utilize specially developed relief tools, conduct rapid on-site training, target relief assessments, administer distributions and fulfill many other critical duties.

Deployment

The Relief ERU’s pilot deployment occurred in December 2003 (Dominican Republic) and has since been officially deployed in January 2004 (Iran), January 2005 (Sri Lanka and Indonesia) and May 2006 (Indonesia).

Administration

The Relief ERU is financed and managed by the International Disaster Response Unit of the American Red Cross. The International Federation utilizes this Relief ERU to fulfill the Red Cross and Red Crescent mandate of serving the most vulnerable affected by emergency situations.