



**American  
Red Cross**

**JUNE 2025**

## **Hurricane Milton: Six-Month Report**

### **RESPONSE AT A GLANCE**



More than **500,000**  
**meals and snacks**  
served with partners



More than **153,300**  
**overnight shelter stays**  
provided with partners



More than **1,860**  
**households** provided  
with relief items



Reached an estimated  
**13,000 people** with  
disaster relief and  
recovery services

Cumulative figures as of April 9, 2025,  
for our Hurricane Milton response.

### **Providing shelter, care and comfort to hurricane survivors**

In October 2024, Hurricane Milton made landfall on Siesta Key near Sarasota, Florida, just two weeks after Hurricane Helene impacted the same area with severe coastal flooding. On the state's western Gulf Coast, the category 3 storm's 115 mph winds battered buildings and damaged infrastructure, while Milton's storm surge once again inundated low-lying communities.

As it neared and tracked across the Florida peninsula, the hurricane's outer bands also generated a historic and destructive tornado outbreak, spawning twisters that tore through neighborhoods and demolished homes and businesses across parts of southern and eastern Florida. In addition, rising floodwaters inundated still more dwellings as the hurricane passed through the center of the state.

Even before Milton's landfall, hundreds of American Red Cross volunteers and employees were already on the ground, delivering care and comfort to storm-weary residents who were still picking up the pieces from Helene. Working with our response partners, these dedicated disaster workers quickly pivoted to help provide safe shelter and other essential services when tens of thousands of evacuees sought refuge as the hurricane threatened.

After Milton's destructive passage across the state, Red Cross volunteers and employees also fanned out in our Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) to help people who had ridden out the storm at home. Driving directly into heavily-damaged neighborhoods, they delivered hot food, as well as ready-to-eat meals, drinking water, critical relief and cleanup supplies, and sorely needed emotional support to people in need — many of whom faced extended power outages due to Milton or were struggling to recover from other recent storms.

Above: Volunteer Taylar Sausen from Alaska surveys damage to a home in the Twin Cities Mobile Home Community in St. Petersburg, Florida. This home and many others in this neighborhood saw devastating damage from both Hurricane Milton as well as Hurricane Helene two weeks earlier. Photo by Marko Kokic/American Red Cross



**“It means a lot, because we’ve been without electricity for six days, and that is six days without food, so this really helps.”**

**CECILIA, A WIMOUMA, FLORIDA, RESIDENT, SPEAKING OF WARM MEALS DELIVERED TO HER NEIGHBORHOOD BY THE RED CROSS**

In Wimauma, Florida, a Red Cross ERV proved a welcome sight for local resident Ana and her daughter, Cecilia, who received warm meals from Red Cross volunteer Tom Smith. Ana explained how the high winds during Hurricane Milton had toppled a utility pole onto their house. “It means a lot,” she said, “because we’ve been without electricity for six days, and that is six days without hot food, so this really helps.”

In addition to critical shelter, feeding, and health and mental health services for hurricane survivors, the Red Cross also provided Immediate Financial Assistance that helped individuals and families meet urgent needs like paying for groceries and lost clothing, gas or transit expenses, rental deposits and more. Beyond these emergency funds provided early in our response, we also delivered a later round of Bridge Assistance — additional funds delivered about 90 days after the storm to help the most severely affected households overcome barriers to their recovery.

This assistance helps bridge the gap when a disaster destroys the community’s ability to help itself recover and other large-scale resources may not yet be available. As of April 9, 2025, the Red Cross had distributed approximately **\$6.6 million in direct financial assistance**, including Immediate and Bridge Assistance, to help hurricane survivors with their most pressing needs.

Powered by compassionate donors, the Red Cross will continue to support the people and communities impacted by Hurricane Milton in the challenging months — and years — ahead. Our trained case workers are helping hard-hit individuals and families make recovery plans and locate available resources to help them get back on their feet. In addition to the financial assistance provided to some of the most severely affected residents, we will continue to work alongside nonprofit, government and community partners to deliver critical support to the affected communities as people begin to rebuild their homes and lives.

Above: Wimauma, Florida resident Ana (left) and her daughter Cecilia (right) receive a meal served by Red Cross volunteer Tommy Smith after Hurricane Milton knocked out power for nearly a week in their community. Photo by Marko Kokic/American Red Cross





Joe Summa, 82, of Fort Pierce, Florida, found refuge in a Red Cross shelter after devastating tornadoes spawned by the outer bands of Hurricane Milton tore through his community and destroyed his home. Photo by American Red Cross South Florida Region

**“The Red Cross has just been unbelievable. Everyone has been so, so caring and supportive.”**

**JOE SUMMA, OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, WHO LOST HIS HOME TO A TORNADO OUTBREAK CAUSED BY HURRICANE MILTON**

**JOE’S STORY:** As Hurricane Milton barreled toward Florida, 82-year-old Joe Summa never expected a different natural disaster would upend his life. Joe was in his home in Fort Pierce, Florida, when he heard a sound unlike anything he’d ever heard before.

“I just knew it was going to be a tornado,” he said.

The outer rain bands of Hurricane Milton spawned a historic tornado outbreak in Florida, with multiple tornadoes confirmed in St. Lucie and neighboring counties. In Joe’s community, the impact was extensive. Dozens of homes were damaged or destroyed, some flipped from their foundations, and several fatalities were reported. For Joe and his daughter, who were both there at the time, it was a close call.

“That wind came up so fast, it just blew the house right away from us. My daughter and I were three feet from death,” he said. “I don’t believe our lives, or my life, will ever be the same.”

After evacuating, Joe moved between shelters for a couple of days before arriving at a Red Cross shelter in Port St. Lucie. “The Red Cross has just been unbelievable,” he said. “Everyone has been so, so caring and supportive.”

“I love the Red Cross,” he continued. “I will always love the Red Cross.”

## **Meeting long-term recovery needs in hard-hit communities**

As Milton survivors began to get back on their feet and rebuild their lives, the Red Cross launched extensive recovery operations to support them and their communities.

In addition to providing additional financial assistance to households whose homes were severely damaged or destroyed, we are also providing recovery grants to partner organizations who can help meet specialized response and recovery needs. This program provides funding to nonprofits and community-based groups to facilitate the expansion of current services and the creation of new programs that aid in individual and community recovery and the strengthening of resilience across the affected area.

This could include direct support for affected residents, such as home repair, food security needs, mental health programming and legal advocacy, as well as aid to the impacted communities — from empowering community members to inform and guide recovery efforts, to developing and implementing a range of preparedness and resiliency initiatives.

Along with these recovery grants, the Red Cross is also supporting affected communities by providing technical expertise to Long-Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs), community-led organizations comprised of local nonprofits and residents dedicated to helping their community recover after disasters strike. These groups often stay active in communities that have suffered from repetitive disaster impacts. This enables them to stand up faster and retain that important institutional knowledge when the next disaster strikes, so they won't have to start from scratch.

All these recovery activities — from direct financial assistance for those affected, to LTRG support and long-term recovery grants — will continue to help impacted individuals and families recover from the damage and destruction caused by Hurricane Milton, and help their communities become more resilient in the weeks, months and years to come.

## Empowering community-led recovery in Indian River County

As part of our LTRG support, in Indian River County, Florida, the Red Cross has funded a long-term recovery grant designed to empower communities affected by Hurricane Milton by helping them build the capacity of their Long-Term Recovery Group. A community needs assessment discovered vulnerabilities of the Indian River County community that were above average for the state of Florida, including a high percentage of disabled seniors and a higher-than-average unemployment level, as well as other factors like decreased access to healthcare and housing.

This capacity-building grant will help the LTRG serve residents of Indian River County who need further assistance to recover from Hurricane Milton, supporting financial, physical, and emotional assistance for people whose needs persist after immediate relief efforts have concluded. The LTRG's activities are focused on repairing and rebuilding homes, remediating mold and addressing other unmet needs, in a way that is comprehensive and tailored to this community's challenges.



Largo, Florida residents Chase (left), 10, Julian (behind Chase), 8, and their mother Tamara, color a picture alongside St. Petersburg, Florida resident Aaliyah, 9, and Red Cross volunteer Gary Gage at a shelter in Palm Harbor, Florida. Tamara was grateful to have a safe place for her family after Milton brought damaging winds and water into their community. Photo by Marko Kokic/American Red Cross

# Generous Donors Power Hurricane Milton Relief and Recovery

Thanks to generous supporters, the Red Cross has raised \$13.0 million designated for our Hurricane Milton response to help people impacted by this disaster—including the value of critical donated goods and services. As of April 9, 2025, the Red Cross had already spent or made commitments to spend approximately \$20.1 million on emergency relief and recovery efforts for Hurricane Milton. To fill this gap, and to continue to support the long-term recovery needs of people and communities affected by Hurricane Milton in the months to come, the Red Cross is also using funds from our combined Hurricanes Milton and Helene designation.<sup>1</sup>

Hurricane Milton Expenses and Commitments <sup>2,3</sup> (in millions)						
As of April 9, 2025						
Expense Categories	Food, Shelter and Relief Items	Health and Emotional Support	Financial Assistance	Community Recovery and Resilience	Total	Expense %
Long-term recovery programs to help unmet needs	–	–	\$5.2	\$0.5	\$5.7	28%
Deployment of volunteers and staff (includes airfare, lodging, meals and vehicles)	\$3.5	\$0.5	\$0.8	–	\$4.8	24%
Financial assistance, food and other relief items	\$2.9	\$0.1	\$1.4	–	\$4.4	22%
Full-time Red Cross employees	\$0.7	–	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.9	5%
Freight, postage and warehousing	\$0.7	–	–	–	\$0.7	3%
IT, communications and call centers	\$0.4	–	\$0.1	–	\$0.5	3%
Temporary disaster hires	\$0.2	–	\$0.1	\$0.2	\$0.5	3%
Equipment, maintenance and fueling of Red Cross emergency vehicles and rented trucks	\$0.3	–	–	–	\$0.3	1%
Kitchen, shelter and other logistics that enable service delivery	\$0.2	–	\$0.1	–	\$0.3	1%
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>\$8.9</b>	<b>\$0.6</b>	<b>\$7.8</b>	<b>\$0.8</b>	<b>\$18.1</b>	<b>90%</b>
Management, general and fundraising <sup>4</sup>					\$2.0	10%
<b>Total Spent and Committed</b>					<b>\$20.1</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>1</sup> As of April 9, 2025, the Red Cross had raised \$51.5 million for the combined Hurricanes Milton and Helene designation.  
<sup>2</sup> Dollar figures are rounded to the nearest \$100,000; therefore, expenses \$49,999 and below are represented as zero.  
<sup>3</sup> Includes expenses reimbursed by the state of Florida.  
<sup>4</sup> Management, general and fundraising expenses support our work at its core and are indispensable to running the organization and helping people in need. They include the people and systems to maintain our enterprise-wide computer and telecommunications, HR and payroll systems to support nearly 18,000 employees and more than 265,000 volunteers, fundraising and communications functions, and other support services across all program lines. Ninety cents of every dollar spent for Hurricane Milton will support delivering care and comfort for people affected by this disaster.



The Red Cross must be ready for every disaster, big or small, and we respond to about 65,000 disasters each year—including home fires, severe weather, floods and wildfires. Those in need turn to the Red Cross in their darkest hours because they know they can depend on us right after the disaster and throughout their recovery. Your donation helps us fulfill this promise. We are grateful for your trust.

▶ To learn more about our response and some of the people we’ve helped, please visit our Hurricane Milton Story Map at [redcross.org/hurricane-milton](https://redcross.org/hurricane-milton).