American Red Cross
Pacific Islands Region

American Red Cross - 2026 Pacific Islands Region Impact Report

Responding to Disasters. Building Safer Communities. Supporting Those Who Serve.

Since March 2026, the American Red Cross Pacific Islands Region has experienced one of the most active disaster response periods in recent history. Across Hawai'i, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Red Cross volunteers and staff responded to repeated disasters, expanded safety and preparedness programs, strengthened military family support, and invested in long-term community resilience.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, volunteers, partners, and community supporters, the Red Cross has remained a trusted source of comfort, preparedness, and hope throughout the Pacific. From sheltering families during devastating typhoons to helping children learn lifesaving water safety skills, donor support continues to make a lasting difference across our region.



May 1, 2026. Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands.

Each day after the storm, Zoe King steps into her community focused on others, listening, checking in and helping neighbors connect to support. It is what she has done for nine years as an American Red Cross volunteer on Tinian, and it is what she continues to do now.

"I see myself in them," Zoe said. "We're not the only one. We're still fortunate... I'm blessed."

After the storm destroyed her family's home and flooding damaged many of the belongings they depended on, Zoe's family is staying in a hotel as they begin to rebuild. Even so, she keeps showing up for people who may never ask for help on their own, supported by the Red Cross as both a volunteer and a survivor.

"Please be kind," she said, "because we don't know what everybody's going through."

Photo by Scott Marder/American Red Cross.

Responding to Unprecedented Disaster Needs

The Pacific Islands Region has experienced an extraordinary series of back-to-back disaster responses since March 2026, launching 11 major operations across the region.

In Hawaii, Red Cross teams responded to numerous disasters, including the Spring Kona Lows, Hurricanes Lala, Lowell, and Nolo, as well as the Olowalu and Paia brushfires. These events required a wide range of disaster services, from sheltering and emergency supplies to health, mental health, and recovery support for affected communities statewide.

Beyond Hawaii, communities throughout Guam and the CNMI faced repeated impacts from Super Typhoons Sinlaku, Bavi, and Champi. For many families, recovery became an ongoing process as successive storms caused additional damage before earlier repairs could be completed.

During each of these responses, Red Cross teams supported shelter operations, distributed emergency supplies, provided health and emotional support services, and worked alongside local officials and community partners to help families begin recovery.

Similar efforts followed every major response, ensuring affected households had access to shelter, resources, and assistance during some of their most difficult moments.

Related Stories

- Facing Another Super Typhoon, Guam Communities Sheltered by the Red Cross and Department of Education (October 17, 2026)
- Red Cross Responds as Guam, Northern Mariana Islands Brace for Third Tropical Cyclone Since April (October 15, 2026)
- Red Cross Helping in Hawai‘i as Clean-Up Begins After Hurricane Lowell (September 9, 2026)
- Responding at Home: A Red Cross Volunteer's Experience in Nā‘ālehu During Hurricane Lala (August 25, 2026)



March 24, 2026. Haleiwa, Hawaii.

A Red Cross disaster assessment team, including deployed South Carolina resident Sally Krasevik met with Hale'iwa resident Jodi Young a single mom and originally from Australia. Jodi was affected during the first of a series of Kona low pressure storms in mid-March, that brought catastrophic flooding across the state of Hawai’i, hitting O’ahu’s North Shore especially hard. Her son was home from college for Spring Break and was able to help her with the tremendous task of cleaning out the damage from water and mud that invaded much of their home. Despite the extent of her own damage, Jodi was teary and emotional for her neighbors and dozens of others in her community who suffered much worse and had far less resources to help them recover.

Photo by Mimi Teller/American Red Cross

Making Hawai‘i Safer Through Water Safety Education

In 2026, the Red Cross expanded its commitment to drowning prevention and water safety through a landmark partnership with the City and County of Honolulu.

Through the Centennial Swim initiative, Red Cross water safety programming is expanding throughout O‘ahu, increasing access to swim instruction, lifeguard certification, Water Safety Instructor training, and community water safety education.

The initiative supports programming at 21 public pools and represents one of the most significant expansions of Red Cross Training Services in Hawai‘i in recent years.

For island communities, water safety is a public health priority. Drowning remains one of the leading causes of preventable injury and death, making access to quality swim instruction and water competency training critically important.

By helping more children learn to swim, preparing lifeguards for service, and training future instructors, the Red Cross is helping build safer communities while creating pathways for leadership and employment.

This initiative demonstrates how donor support helps prevent emergencies before they occur by equipping people with lifesaving skills and knowledge.

Preventing Tragedy Before It Happens

While major disasters often generate headlines, home fires remain the most frequent disaster Red Cross volunteers respond to nationwide.

Through the *Sound the Alarm* campaign, volunteers and community partners across the Pacific Islands Region worked together to help families reduce the risk of home fire injuries and deaths through prevention and preparedness.

On October 24, 2026, Red Cross volunteers joined the Honolulu Fire Department and community partners to install free smoke alarms, develop home fire escape plans, and provide lifesaving fire safety education to Oʻahu families. These simple interventions can dramatically improve a family's chance of safely escaping a home fire.

The campaign serves as a powerful reminder that preparedness saves lives. Through volunteer engagement, community partnerships, and donor support, the Red Cross is helping families take practical steps to protect themselves before emergencies happen.

Serving Those Who Serve Us

The Pacific Islands Region is home to one of the nation's largest military communities, making Service to the Armed Forces a cornerstone of the Red Cross mission.

Throughout the year, the Red Cross provided emergency communications, deployment support, casework services, information and referrals, and assistance to military members, veterans, caregivers, and their families.

The organization also works alongside military installations and community partners throughout Hawaiʻi to strengthen support networks and improve quality of life for service members and their loved ones.

A recent story from the United Service Organizations (USO) highlighted Red Cross participation during RIMPAC 2026, where Red Cross therapy dog teams supported service members participating in the world's largest international maritime exercise. The story illustrates how Red Cross volunteers contribute not only during emergencies, but also through programs designed to support resilience, wellness, and connection within military communities.

For Hawaiʻi's military population, these services provide critical support during deployments, family emergencies, and other challenging circumstances while helping strengthen readiness and resilience.

Mission Growth - Thanks to You!

Strong communities require strong institutions. Throughout 2026, the Pacific Islands Region continued investing in partnerships, volunteer engagement, preparedness programs, and operational readiness to ensure the Red Cross remains prepared to serve communities whenever help is needed.

Donor support made it possible to expand community programs, strengthen disaster response capacity, and deepen partnerships with local governments, emergency managers, military installations, schools, and community organizations.

Notable examples include the expansion of Training Services through the Honolulu aquatics partnership, continued growth of volunteer engagement through Sound the Alarm and disaster response operations, and stronger collaboration with military and community partners throughout the Pacific.

These investments enhance the region's ability to respond effectively during disasters while also increasing preparedness and resilience before emergencies occur.

Nationally, approximately **91 cents of every dollar** spent by the American Red Cross supports humanitarian services and mission delivery, helping ensure donor investments have maximum impact.

Looking Ahead

The humanitarian needs facing our communities continue to evolve. Increasing disaster activity, growing preparedness needs, support for military families, and ongoing investments in community resilience all underscore the importance of sustained donor partnership.

Because of our donors, volunteers, partners, and supporters, families find shelter after disasters, children gain lifesaving water safety skills, homes become safer from fire risks, and military families receive critical support when they need it most.

Together, we are creating stronger, safer, and more resilient communities throughout Hawai‘i, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. **Mahalo, si yu'os ma'åse', and fa‘afetai for helping make this lifesaving work possible.**



May 1, 2026. Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands.

The American Red Cross opened a shelter on Tinian soon after Super Typhoon Sinlaku struck the island with winds over 130 miles per hour for more than two days, providing residents with a safe place to stay, along with food and water. Shelter workers pictured at the Tinian shelter are Peter King of Roslyn, New York, Brenda Kamish of Moravia, Iowa, Jim McKeown of Aurora, South Dakota, Michelle Mach of Germantown, Maryland, and Joseph Santos of Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands.

Photo by Scott Marder/American Red Cross.