Relief and Recovery Efforts Continue in the United States and Caribbean

Just over a month ago, Hurricane Matthew carved a destructive path through the Caribbean and up the Southeast U.S. coast to the Carolinas. One month later, the American Red Cross continues bringing vital aid to disaster survivors across multiple U.S. states and in hard-hit Haiti.

More Than 6,200 Red Cross Workers Supply Aid to Southeastern U.S.

Hurricane Matthew’s powerful winds, storm surge and torrential rains battered the U.S. from Florida to southern Virginia, and the Red Cross is still hard at work in the affected communities, bringing relief and comfort for thousands of people. Compassionate volunteers and employees are providing shelter, hot meals and relief supplies, as well as aid and emotional support to individuals and families now turning to the challenges of recovery.

In flood-ravaged North Carolina, rain-swollen rivers continued to crest for a week or more following the storm’s landfall, forcing many people to remain in shelters and making it difficult to reach neighborhoods cut off by flooded roads. As soon as neighborhoods were safe to enter, Red Cross response vehicles moved swiftly to bring food, relief and cleanup supplies as people began to muck out their homes and rebuild their lives.

All told, more than 6,200 Red Cross disaster workers —more than 90 percent volunteers—came together to help people who lost so much to Hurricane Matthew.

We also mobilized three-quarters of our nationwide emergency response fleet, 25 partner-supported kitchens and truckloads of water, ready-to-eat meals, cots, blankets, kitchen items, cleaning supplies and comfort kits, insect repellant, gloves, masks, shovels, rakes, coolers and more.

Powerful storms like Matthew create greater needs than any one organization can meet alone.

Officials are reporting damage in the U.S. of at least $10 billion, making Matthew the costliest hurricane since Sandy.

In the weeks and months ahead, the Red Cross will work closely with the entire response community—government agencies, other nonprofit groups, faith-based organizations, area businesses and others—to coordinate ongoing relief and recovery efforts.

Above: In Lumberton, N.C., Sierra and her family pushed their cots together to form one giant bed at a Red Cross shelter. They are among the thousands of people who have sought refuge at a Red Cross shelter because their home suffered extensive flood damage. Daniel Cima/American Red Cross
Neighbours Helping Neighbours Recover in North Carolina

In Burgaw, North Carolina, Red Cross volunteer caseworkers Leween and James McIntosh joined hands with India Davis and her family, who had found refuge at a Red Cross shelter when their Pender County home was heavily damaged during Matthew’s onslaught. After grace was said, the volunteers joined the family for a Sunday dinner of Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes and beans, prepared by school cafeteria workers.

“It’s a miracle no one was hurt,” said Davis, a grandmother of two young boys.

Leween and James helped the Davis family obtain initial assistance, and will stay in contact to develop a plan for recovery from the losses they suffered. As hurricane survivors begin to piece their lives back together, our trained disaster workers will be helping with recovery casework across the affected communities. They’ll talk with impacted individuals and families to identify their most pressing needs, help make recovery plans, fill out paperwork and locate available resources from the Red Cross and our partners.

Hurricane Matthew Relief and Recovery in the U.S.: Projected Budget

Generous Red Cross donors are supporting ongoing relief and recovery for people affected by Hurricane Matthew across five states. Estimates show our relief effort could cost $21 million to $25 million. As of November 8, we’ve received nearly $13.3 million in designated donations and pledges, including the value of critical donated goods and services, to support Hurricane Matthew relief in the U.S.

Response at a Glance (Domestic)

More than 6,200 American Red Cross workers—over 90 percent volunteers—have mounted a massive response to help thousands of people devastated by Hurricane Matthew across five states including Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia.

378 shelters supported with over 102,000 overnight stays

More than 1.4 million meals and snacks served

More than 376,000 relief items distributed

—Cumulative figures as of November 1, 2016
Global Red Cross Network Brings Vital Relief to Haiti

Before Hurricane Matthew’s slow trek up the Southeast U.S. coast, the monster storm ravaged island nations in the Caribbean—particularly Haiti. The largest storm to hit the country in 50 years, Matthew caused widespread flooding and damaged infrastructure, crops and livestock, leaving more than 1 million people in dire need, many of them in isolated rural communities.

Working with the Haitian Red Cross, the American Red Cross has reached thousands of households with critical hygiene items, cooking supplies and shelter kits. Unclean water threatens the lives of residents, so Red Cross staff and volunteers jumped into action to combat the threat of cholera—providing soap, oral rehydration salts and water purification tablets. In addition, we are distributing cholera prevention kits to health centers and educating communities about prevention and treatment.

As relief efforts continue, the American Red Cross is assisting the Haitian Red Cross with logistics, communications and financial resources. Tapping into our established networks in Haiti, we are helping coordinate relief efforts with local authorities and partner organizations. Our more than 200 staff members based in Haiti—most of whom are Haitian—are providing emergency relief in hurricane-affected areas. In addition, we have deployed 14 disaster response specialists to lend expertise in areas such as emergency distribution and telecommunications support.

Meanwhile, more than 2,000 remote mapping volunteers from around the world helped make more than 2.5 million edits to OpenStreetMap for Haiti. These updates connect Red Cross field teams with important information about damage to buildings and roads, and help relief teams on the ground identify and reach affected communities.

Haitian Red Cross staff and volunteers partner with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to distribute relief supplies at the port of Anse d’Hainault, not far from where Matthew made landfall. Colin Chaperon/American Red Cross
Hurricane Matthew Relief and Recovery in the Caribbean: Projected Budget

Generous Red Cross donors are supporting ongoing relief and recovery for people affected by Hurricane Matthew in Haiti and throughout the Caribbean. Estimates show our relief effort could cost $4 million–$5 million. As of November 8, we’ve received $1.7 million in designated donations and pledges to support Hurricane Matthew relief in the Caribbean.

These costs include the logistics, staff and technology expenses that make our services possible. Figures are estimates and could change. An average of 91 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs.

**Relief Items:** Includes the distribution of relief items such as shelter materials and tools, cooking supplies, blankets and hygiene items.

**Health and Cholera Prevention:** Includes health interventions such as cholera prevention kits and education campaigns, support to health centers and water purification supplies.

**Early Recovery:** Includes assistance to help people who have lost their income, replace tools and other assets people need to work, and cash grants.

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American Red Cross disaster worker Rode Jean Philippe distributes cholera prevention kits to local residents in Coteaux Commune, Sud Department, Haiti. Jethro Joseph Sérémi/American Red Cross

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**Thank you!**

The American Red Cross must be prepared to respond quickly when disasters occur—across the country and around the world. From home fires that affect a single family to hurricanes that impact millions, those in need turn to the Red Cross in their darkest hours because they know they can depend on us with vital relief when it’s needed most. Your donation helps us fulfill this promise. We are grateful for your trust.