



**American
Red Cross**

Making the Mission Possible: The Disaster Relief Fund

The Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) allows the American Red Cross to respond to disasters by providing immediate services like food, shelter and emotional support. It is the backbone of our Disaster Services program and it allows the Red Cross to help victims of disaster 24/7, 365 days a year.

The Disaster Relief Fund also supports the critical infrastructure that makes our disaster response possible, like warehouses, call centers, vehicle maintenance, volunteer training and travel costs, and communications.

It ensures that no matter where a hurricane, massive flood, large earthquake or any other large-scale disaster strikes, the Red Cross can respond immediately.

Meeting Basic Needs After a Disaster

In the wake of a disaster, the Red Cross provides life-sustaining support and paves the way for long-term recovery of communities and individuals.

Feeding: The Red Cross is often the first relief organization on the scene with a hot meal. We can provide up to one million hot meals a day within 72 hours of disaster notification by utilizing the following resources:

- Five mobile kitchens.
- National partner kitchens.
- Relationships with community vendors and caterers.
- Shelf-stable meals positioned in warehouses across the country.

Sheltering: Throughout the year, Red Cross chapters work at the local level to pre-identify and secure agreements for appropriate shelters, like schools, houses of worship, motels or commercial facilities. The Red Cross surveys each facility it opens to ensure it is an appropriate and safe place for those who seek shelter. By pre-identifying shelters, Red Cross disaster workers can open doors within hours of notification and get people out of harm's way.

Meeting Emergency Needs:

Following a disaster, the Red Cross provides direct assistance to individuals and families, including:

- Providing emotional support to clients as they tell their story.
- Assessing, triaging and providing services to meet disaster-related health and mental health needs.



Talia Frenkel/American Red Cross

- Developing a plan with clients for their immediate next steps to meet emergency needs, including how to use their resources.
- Providing referrals for necessary services and resources to meet their immediate needs in their community.
- Providing practical items that fulfill immediate needs, such as hygiene and clean-up supplies like mops, rakes and gloves, as well as other vital supplies.

Connecting Families: Disasters can separate even the best-connected families and loved ones. The Red Cross can aid in the search for the particularly vulnerable—those with health and mental health conditions.

In addition, with one simple registration at the Red Cross Safe and Well Web site, www.safeandwell.org, anyone can post a message about their well-being and provide peace of mind. For the major disasters in 2008, there were more than 25,000 such registrations.



Talia Frenkel/American Red Cross

Mobilizing the Volunteer Force

The Red Cross is only as strong as the volunteers on the ground providing direct care to those affected by disaster. Thanks to the support of the Disaster Relief Fund, our workforce includes:

- Tens of thousands of disaster workers, nationwide, who are ready to deploy at a moment's notice, often for weeks at a time.
- Volunteers with expertise in mission critical areas like running shelters and setting up communications infrastructure.
- Employees and volunteers who are trained by one of our more than 700 chapters.



Daniel Cima/American Red Cross

Disaster Readiness

Readiness is critical to minimizing the damage caused by disaster. The Disaster Relief Fund supports Red Cross efforts to put systems and plans into place to respond to disasters before they happen. Partnerships with local, state and federal governments, community organizations, individuals and corporate supporters enable us to readily provide emergency shelter, food, health and emotional support, as well as resources and referrals to aid in recovery.

Our national infrastructure includes:

- More than 20 emergency supply warehouses.
- More than 55,000 pre-identified shelter locations.
- Enough cots, blankets and shelf-stable meals to serve 500,000 people a day.
- A fleet of more than 320 emergency response vehicles (ERVs).
- More than 90,000 trained disaster workers.

American Red Cross

MISSION STATEMENT

The American Red Cross, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers, guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement, will provide relief to victims of disasters and help people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

How You Can Help

Help people affected by disasters like hurricanes, floods, tornadoes or wildfires, by making a financial gift to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. On those rare occasions when donations exceed Red Cross expenses for a specific disaster, contributions are used to prepare for and serve victims of other disasters.

Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for disasters and provide shelter, food, emotional support and other assistance to victims of all disasters. Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish). Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may be sent to your local American Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013. Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting RedCross.org.

2008 DRF Expenses

