



**American
Red Cross**

DOWN THE STREET AND ACROSS THE GLOBE:

The Same Helpful Hand



On January 12, a series of earthquakes ranging from magnitude 6.5 to 7.3 struck Haiti. American Red Cross staff already on the ground before these devastating events occurred sprang into action in support of the Haitian Red Cross and its volunteers. In the days following the earthquakes, the American Red Cross deployed an additional 100 disaster relief experts to Haiti where they joined 500 Red Crossers from 30 nations around the world.

This collective response exemplifies the global presence and shared mission of all Red Cross chapters across America and all Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies around the world.

A GLOBAL ORGANIZATION WITH LOCAL RESPONSE

The American Red Cross is part of the world's largest humanitarian network—97 million volunteers strong, across 186 countries. In the same way that we have coordinated our response in Haiti, we make efforts here at home to ensure that when disasters affect friends and neighbors nationwide, we are prepared to respond.

Before disaster strikes, the Red Cross puts in place the structure and allies we need to respond effectively and efficiently with emergency shelter, food, health and mental health services and resources and referrals to aid in recovery. In the United States, we stock more than 20 emergency supply warehouses, maintain a fleet of more than 320 emergency response vehicles and an army of more than 85,000 trained disaster volunteers to prepare our communities. Overseas, the American Red Cross stocks three emergency supply warehouses with supplies for 25,000 in each and has a roster of highly skilled international disaster specialists ready to deploy at a moment's notice.

In your local community, volunteers train friends, neighbors and colleagues to avert the next disaster by teaching CPR and first aid. Around the clock, they stand ready to respond to smaller disasters, such as family home fires. We provide people affected by disaster with the resources they need to move towards recovery. Whether across the country or around the world, the American Red Cross is guided by the same mission and principles to prepare for, respond to and prevent emergencies.

"The American Red Cross, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, provides relief to those affected by disaster and helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies."

The Red Cross is not a government agency; we rely on private donations of time, talent, money and blood to do our work. We rely on the generosity and willingness of people and businesses to help others in need. We are proud of the fact that 91 cents of every dollar the American Red Cross spends goes to humanitarian services and programs.



American Red Cross International Disaster Responders Collin Chaperon, Bridgette Gaillis, Laurent Mikolajczak, Daniel Gideon, and Chloe Gansruegbregt plan for a supply distribution in Croix de Pres, Port-au-Prince.

Talia Frenkel/American Red Cross

DOWN THE STREET AND ACROSS THE GLOBE

YOU CAN HELP THE RED CROSS BUILD CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO DISASTERS AROUND THE WORLD

When you support your local chapter, you are supporting an integral part of the global Red Cross network that ensures our ability to be prepared for the next local, national, or international catastrophe. Gifts to your local chapter not only help your own community prepare for disaster, but every community around the world that needs this lifesaving service. Right now, the everyday work of the American Red Cross is helping the collective response on the ground in Haiti. Here are some of the ways we are helping:

Our Nationwide Network of Volunteers – Some very experienced American Red Cross volunteers across the country have been specially trained to respond to international disasters. A number of them are in Haiti now distributing critical relief supplies. In addition, we have sent more than 100 Creole-speaking volunteers to aid communication between doctors and their patients aboard the *USNS Comfort*. We have also deployed skilled mental health volunteers to assist survivors as they cope with the aftermath of the disaster. American Red Cross volunteers are also at airports greeting those arriving from Haiti, and helping to connect families with loved ones in the United States.

Our Gift of Life – The American Red Cross is coordinating shipments of lifesaving blood and blood products to meet the immediate medical needs of survivors in Haiti. Local Red Cross chapters are making this possible through the generous donations of so many Americans who roll up their sleeves to donate.



Demond Ausley and Regina Moore prepare blood for shipping to Haiti at the American Red Cross Badger-Hawkeye Blood Region facility in Chicago.

Geary Holmes/American Red Cross

YOU CAN HELP PREPARE YOUR OWN COMMUNITY TO RESPOND TO DISASTER

Community Presence – As we work with the Haitian Red Cross to respond to the international disaster, we are reminded of how each community-based chapter or society prepares and responds to meet the needs of friends and neighbors down the street. While supporting our partner society in Haiti, the American Red Cross continues to provide services across the United States every day. Right now, we are at work here at home in your local community, teaching lifesaving first-aid and CPR classes, responding to family home fires, and providing blood and blood products to those in need.

Local Support – Local chapters of the American Red Cross helped organize the vital community support to recruit and train staff and volunteers currently serving in Haiti, as well as to raise the crucial funds to support their fundamental mission. The generous support of local donors make it possible for the American Red Cross to respond to disaster needs here at home and around the world.

Local Programs – American Red Cross chapters are serving as a resource for Haitian communities located throughout the United States. Local Red Cross chapters are helping Haitian Americans find their loved ones in Haiti through family tracing services. Through the “Restoring Family Links” program, local chapter staff and volunteers initiate searches and make inquiries, working directly with family members and other local agencies to help find missing loved ones and send messages between separated family members.

To learn more about the work of American Red Cross in the U.S. and around the world, please visit redcross.org.