



**American Red Cross**



**TWO-MONTH PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE AMERICAN RED CROSS RESPONSE**

March 12, 2010

**A POWERFUL ENGINE OF RELIEF**

The American Red Cross responded moments after powerful earthquakes struck Haiti on January 12, 2010. In the first two months, the global Red Cross network collectively has reached more than 1.9 million people with food, water, relief supplies, medical services, sanitation and shelter.

The earthquakes and their aftershocks, which repeatedly hit just outside Haiti's capital city Port-au-Prince, killed an estimated 220,000 people and left an estimated 1.3 million people instantly homeless. Hundreds of thousands more are coping with the loss of loved ones and livelihoods.

American Red Cross responders have been working diligently since the initial quake to provide emergency relief and assistance to survivors. In coordination with other aid organizations, our assistance has been targeted primarily in Port-au-Prince, Leogane and Jacmel, with some support going to host families in rural communities. [Watch a video](#) and [view our interactive map](#) identifying communities where the Red Cross is currently working.

More than 50 disaster specialists representing the American Red Cross are in Haiti working along side thousands of Haitian Red Cross volunteers as part of a broader and coordinated network of Red Cross and Red Crescent responders from nearly 40 nations. An additional 70 American Red Cross volunteers provided translation services while the injured received medical care aboard

the USNS *Comfort*. Other international experts have come from as far away as Hong Kong and as close as the Dominican Republic to help the Haitian Red Cross respond to its country's emergency and longer-term needs. Together, we form a very powerful engine for relief and recovery that will support

to more than 650,000 people—half of the people without a place to live.

Tens of thousands of tarps, tents, ropes, timber poles and toolkits are being distributed to help protect Haitians from the seasonal rains.

Aid organizations collectively working on this critical issue are on track to reach the remainder of people without shelter on or before May 1. The Red Cross and its partner agencies continue to reach an average of more than 80,000 people a week with emergency shelter supplies. Keeping to this schedule, two-thirds of the total in need will have received assistance prior to April 1, which is the typical start of the rainy season. [Read more](#) about the race against the clock and challenges to provide shelter for all of those in need.

Our priority now is to put tarps and tents in the hands of people who have no covering at all, but we also recognize that these emergency shelters will not protect against the flooding or severe winds expected this spring and summer. Therefore, the Red Cross also plans to provide transitional shelters for 250,000 of the most vulnerable people. We have developed different shelter designs, some made of timber and others of steel, that are safe and robust and can be moved and extended by families where space and resources allow. Construction of these shelters will be done in phases as land ownership issues are resolved and debris is cleared.

**FACTS AT A GLANCE**

In the two months since the earthquake, the global Red Cross network has:

- Provided relief items for 400,000 people.
- Handed out nearly 99,000 tarps, tents and toolkits.
- Supplied meals for more than 1 million people.
- Distributed 40 million liters of clean drinking water.
- Built more than 1,100 latrines.
- Helped vaccinate more than 125,000 people.
- Coordinated the shipment of more than 1,800 units of blood to medical facilities.
- Treated more than 55,000 people at Red Cross hospitals or mobile clinics.
- Sent more than 23 million text messages with critical health advice to survivors.
- Received more than 28,400 registrations on its family linking Web site.
- Assisted more than 25,000 people who arrived in the U.S. following the earthquake.
- Deployed more than 600 responders to Haiti.

survivors in the years ahead. [Watch a video diary](#) from one American Red Cross responder in Haiti, as he explains the conditions on the ground and shares a dramatic story about saving a young boy's life.

**Shelter**

In the first two months after the earthquake left an estimated 1.3 million homeless, the Red Cross and other humanitarian agencies have already distributed emergency shelter materials

**THREE SIMPLE WORDS**

As soon as he heard news of the earthquake, Jacques, a Haitian American living in Queens, New York, desperately tried to reach his family in Port-au-Prince to learn if they were safe. Two days passed, he still could not reach his loved ones by telephone and began to assume the worst. But soon afterward, Jacques met Sonia Martinez with the American Red Cross at a community meeting, and she offered to help him enter his family members' information into the [Red Cross family linking Web site](#), through which relatives can reconnect when international disasters interrupt normal communications. Within a few days, Jacques learned through the site that at least one of his relatives had survived. With three simple words—"I am alive"—and the help of the Red Cross, Jacques found peace of mind and other missing loved ones in Haiti. [Learn more](#) about how the Red Cross helps restore family links for individuals separated by war or disaster.

The American Red Cross is making significant financial contributions to support the multiagency response to shelter needs. We are partnering with Habitat for Humanity to provide \$3.85 million for emergency shelter supplies to complement the tens of thousands we have already distributed, and we are also allocating \$16.7 million to support the purchase of transitional shelter materials.

**Food, Water and Other Relief Items**

At the same time that we are addressing immediate and longer-term shelter solutions, the Red Cross continues to provide life-sustaining food, water and basic relief items for Haitians.

Almost immediately following the earthquake, the American Red Cross provided 3 million pre-packaged meals as well as \$30 million to feed 1 million people for a month in partnership with the United Nations World Food Programme. Relief

workers are also providing 1.5 million liters of water each day in more than 120 locations throughout Port-au-Prince and outlying areas. Red Cross sanitation experts are constructing latrines and developing waste-disposal solutions in support of spontaneous settlements as well.

In addition, during the first two months more than 400,000 people have received basic supplies from the Red Cross, including hygiene kits, cooking tools, buckets, blankets and mosquito nets.

**Livelihood**

To complement ongoing aid distributions in Port-au-Prince and reach additional families in need, the American Red Cross will provide financial assistance to help an initial 16,000 families purchase and replace essential items over the next six months through a partnership with Haiti's largest microfinance institution, Fonkoze.

Among this group are 6,000 host families in rural communities now caring for loved ones who fled the disaster zone. An additional 10,000 women who have lost their homes, business or both will

also receive a grant to help meet their families' immediate needs as well as a small loan to restart their businesses and restore their families' source of income.

**Health**

When the Haitian government decided that it needed to resume vaccination campaigns to help prevent the spread of disease following the January 12 earthquake, the Red Cross was one of the first organizations to respond—making resources available to protect at least 250,000 children and adults from measles, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus.

With 120 volunteer vaccinators on the ground, the Red Cross and its partners began vaccinating as many as 10,000 people in a single day. One month later, more than 125,000 people have received this lifesaving opportunity. The American Red Cross contributed \$374,500 to support the health ministry's emergency campaign and has made a commitment along with its Measles Initiative partners to

---

**“We had nothing before. The Red Cross is helping us to overcome a terrible situation.”**

*—Beatrice Jean-Baptiste of Peggyville, Haiti*

---



Rosie (left) and her family are now covered by a tarp provided by the Red Cross in response to the January earthquakes in Haiti.

assist with future efforts as well. [Read more and watch a video](#) about the importance of disease prevention activities following an emergency of this magnitude and the challenges ahead in Haiti.

Additionally, more than 55,000 people have been treated at Red Cross hospitals and mobile clinics in Port-au-Prince and surrounding communities. The American Red Cross has also coordinated the shipment of more than 1,800 units of blood to Haiti for ongoing treatment of the ill and injured.

### LOOKING AHEAD

In coming months and years, the American Red Cross will work with partners to rebuild the many services that communities require to function, including establishing water and sanitation systems, health programs and sustainable livelihoods. The American Red Cross will also play an important role in helping to prepare the country for future emergencies, including the upcoming Caribbean hurricane season.

To accomplish this, the American Red Cross will be expanding its pre-earthquake delegation in Haiti and partnering with local organizations, including the Haitian Red Cross. As additional recovery plans are confirmed, they will be shared with the American public, which has generously invested in Haiti through the work of the American Red Cross.

### FINANCIALS

Since the January Haiti earthquake, the American Red Cross has seen an outpouring of support from compassionate individuals, corporations and foundations throughout the United States. The American Red Cross has received approximately \$354 million (as of March 10, 2010) for the Haiti relief and development efforts.

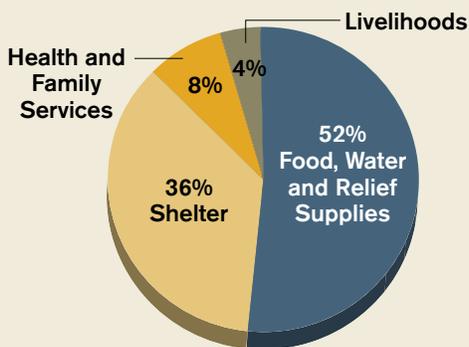
More than \$32 million has been pledged through a record-breaking mobile giving

### THANK YOU

Thank you for coming to the aid of the families left homeless, hungry and frightened by the January Haiti earthquake. To follow the American Red Cross response as it evolves, please visit [redcross.org/haiti](http://redcross.org/haiti). You can also receive regular updates through the Red Cross [Mobile Apps](#), [Blog](#), [Disaster Online Newsroom](#), [Flickr](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) sites.

You can help the victims of countless crises, like the recent earthquake in Haiti, around the world each year by making a financial gift to the American Red Cross International Response Fund, which will provide immediate relief and long-term support through supplies, technical assistance and other support to help those in need. The American Red Cross was able to respond immediately to this earthquake—even before donations were received—because of contributions already made to the International Response Fund. Please consider helping the Red Cross as we prepare for the next emergency. Call **1-800-RED CROSS** or visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org).

### American Red Cross Funds Spent/Allocated for Haiti Earthquake Response Total: \$106.4 Million



Reflects funds spent/allocated as of 3/10/10.

effort in which people texted “Haiti” to 90999 to donate \$10. Thank you for enabling the American Red Cross to respond immediately and effectively as the needs on the ground evolve.

To date, the American Red Cross has spent or allocated more than \$106.4 million to meet the most urgent needs of earthquake survivors in Haiti. Aimed at immediate relief, approximately 52 percent of the funds committed thus far have been for food, water and relief supplies; 36 percent have been allocated for shelter; 8 percent have been dedicated for health and family services; and 4 percent for livelihoods. As the response progresses and recovery begins, the Red Cross will continue to support these priority areas and longer-term assistance initiatives, including shelter, until the last donated dollar is spent.

The American Red Cross is committed to using every dollar wisely. An average of 91 cents of every dollar received is invested directly into humanitarian services and programs.

### LOOKING AFTER THE MOST VULNERABLE

After his grandmother died in a heat wave in France several years ago, American Red Cross volunteer [Christophe Lobry-Boulanger](#) saw an opportunity to make sure others did not suffer the same lack of care in emergencies. Recently, while deployed to Haiti, Christophe took the initiative to identify and bring aid to two predominantly senior communities in Port-au-Prince, overlooked by others and in desperate need of food, water and medical care.

In one, a nursing care facility had been heavily damaged in the earthquake, forcing a group of approximately 50 seniors to evacuate into tents nearby. Suffering from dementia and chronic physical ailments common with age, these individuals received food and medical assistance from the Red Cross. Without the support of family, these men and women may have been forgotten or at least neglected for many more weeks, had Christophe not sounded the alarm.



American Red Cross volunteer Christophe Lobry-Boulanger (center) and members of the Haitian Red Cross plan a delivery of blankets and hygiene kits to residents of two nursing care facilities in Haiti.