

Red Cross Brings Help to Earthquake Survivors

On April 25, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake devastated Nepal, with powerful aftershocks causing additional damage and loss of life over the following weeks. The earthquake and aftershocks—including a 7.3 magnitude quake on May 12—have taken more than 8,600 lives, injured thousands and left more than 800,000 homes destroyed or damaged. As many as 8 million people—nearly a third of the country's population—have been affected.

More than 7,000 Red Cross volunteers and staff have been mobilized in areas impacted by the earthquake. The Nepal Red Cross, with extensive experience responding to natural disasters, moved quickly to provide first aid, search and rescue support, and other vital aid for people coping with lost homes and loved ones. Assisted by partners from the global Red Cross network, including the American Red Cross, Nepal Red Cross disaster response teams are also distributing relief supplies and providing shelter materials, meals and clean water to survivors.



In the village of Sathi Ghar, Kavre province, a Nepal Red Cross worker speaks with a survivor. She had been searching the rubble for a photo of her husband, who died in the quake.

Myriad Challenges Complicate Relief Efforts

In the mountainous village of Dhunche, roads in and out were destroyed by the earthquake, along with the local hospital, where patients and injured survivors were taking shelter in tents outside. Alongside global Red Cross partners, the Canadian Red Cross set up a field hospital in Dhunche, with supplies and staff carried in by helicopters. American Red Cross disaster specialists Glen and Julie Bradley supported dozens of Red Cross teams on the ground by setting up satellite communications, networking and radio capability—including for the hospital in Dhunche. It's an essential tool for the region's only functioning medical facility.

Difficult conditions continue to hamper relief efforts around Nepal. Aftershocks and landslides have caused more damage in the affected areas and present serious risks to survivors and relief workers, while limited transportation infrastructure and rugged terrain impede delivery of supplies. And the looming onset of monsoon season will mean additional challenges as the global Red Cross network works to meet the urgent needs of those affected and assist them with their recovery.

The American Red Cross Stands With Nepal

Thanks to generous donations from the American public, the American Red Cross has raised \$25.6 million to support emergency relief efforts in Nepal, and, as of May 18, we have already spent or committed \$9.2 million to the global Red Cross response.

“There certainly is a long road ahead, but I believe the people of Nepal have reason for hope, given the incredible generosity of so many.”

—Red Cross President and CEO Gail McGovern upon her return from the quake zone in Nepal

These funds are being used to provide earthquake survivors with essential relief supplies, such as water containers, tarps and kitchen sets. In addition, 19 American Red Cross disaster specialists have deployed to Nepal to support emergency relief efforts, set up cash transfer programming

so survivors can meet immediate needs, and provide information management and telecommunications capacity.

The American Red Cross is also providing remote mapping and information management support—which are essential to local Red Cross branches, who can be overwhelmed during large-scale emergencies. Updated maps are crucial

for Red Cross workers and volunteers struggling to reach the millions affected, from the capital of Kathmandu to remote mountain villages. More than 5,000 digital volunteers have contributed to mapping Nepal. As additional relief and recovery needs are identified, the American Red Cross will continue working closely with the Nepal Red Cross and the global Red Cross to coordinate additional support.

American Red Cross on the Ground

In addition to direct financial support and supplies, the American Red Cross response includes the following:

- **Relief Supplies and Cash Transfer:** The American Red Cross is providing relief supplies and has deployed 12 disaster specialists to identify key needs and support relief activities.
- **Assessments and Coordination:** Three information analysts and one field coordinator have deployed to support and manage earthquake response efforts.
- **Information Technology and Telecommunications:** Three specialists are providing IT and telecom support, including three American Red Cross voice and data satellite systems.
- **Geographic Information Systems (GIS):** Along with Humanitarian OpenStreetMap volunteers, we are helping create and update operational maps to support relief workers.
- **Restoring Family Links:** American Red Cross chapters are working with global Red Cross partners to reconnect family members separated by the earthquake.

Helping Nepal's Children and Families Prepare for Disasters

The American Red Cross has been working in Nepal for more than a decade. In recent years, we have helped students and teachers in 220 schools to prepare for disasters by training them in first aid and light search and rescue, organizing emergency simulations and drills, and creating school disaster preparedness plans.

When the quake hit, 15-year-old Regish Giri—who took part in a Nepal Red Cross earthquake preparedness program at his school—was at home with his family and knew what to do.

Regish, who lives in the hard-hit Sindhupalchowk District, remembers, “I was playing with my little brother in my room when everything started to shake,” he said. “I knew we needed to cover our heads and get to an open space.”

Regish picked up his younger brother and convinced his frightened aunt and mother to come outside. “We were falling as we ran away, but we got to a field, away from buildings and trees and lay down.”

Thank You

The American Red Cross responds to disasters around the world by mobilizing cash support, pre-positioning relief supplies, deploying disaster response experts and, in some cases, implementing recovery and preparedness programs. The remarkable generosity of our supporters—individuals, corporations and foundations—drives our ability to provide relief and assist our partners in the global Red Cross network. We are grateful for your trust.