

# International Disaster Stewardship Report 2006



# When disaster strikes ...

Poverty and war. Famine and drought. Earthquakes and flooding. Displacement and disease. In the last decade, almost two billion people around the world have been affected by disasters. The American Red Cross is there to help, thanks to the generosity of the American public.

The role of the American Red Cross in responding to international crises differs from its response to disasters within the United States. Following a foreign disaster, the American Red Cross provides aid only after receiving a request for assistance from the Red Cross or Red Crescent national society in the affected country.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, commonly referred to as the Movement, is the largest humanitarian network in the world. It has a presence and conducts activities in almost every country. All Red Cross and Red Crescent activities are driven by the Movement's mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering everywhere, to protect life and health, to ensure respect

for human beings—particularly in times of conflict and other emergencies, and to work for the prevention of disease and the promotion of health and social welfare.

The Movement is made up of three components:

- The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation), which coordinates the Movement's relief and development efforts throughout the world. The International Federation is comprised of 185 member national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, a governing body and more than 60 delegations strategically located to support activities around the world.



The worst floods in ten years batter Ethiopia.

John Muathe / International Federation

## When disaster strikes ...

- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which has the mandate to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC directs the Movement's international relief activities in conflict situations.
- National Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, which exist in nearly every country in the world, each providing a range of services within its home country. The services include disaster relief, health and social programs and assistance to people affected by war within their own borders. Together, the national societies have approximately 97 million members and volunteers and 300,000 employees. They assist some 233 million beneficiaries each year.



Indonesian children manage to smile following a traumatic earthquake in July.

The Movement's three components form an intricate support system. When needs exceed local capacity, national societies can offer their expertise to the International Federation, the ICRC and the national society requesting additional support. This allows other national societies, which often includes the American Red Cross, to assist those in need around the world. Coordination through the International Federation and/or the ICRC assists in determining the most advantageous support mechanisms. This unified response targets aid appropriately, avoids duplication of efforts and encourages collaboration. This results in needs-based programming, transparency in service delivery and adherence to international humanitarian standards. Movement coordination also

leverages the strengths, abilities and expertise of all national societies able to respond.

Once mobilized, the American Red Cross responds to international disasters in three ways, by—

- ◆ Contributing funds (to the International Federation, the ICRC and/or the disaster-affected Red Cross/Red Crescent national society).
- ◆ Distributing relief supplies in compliance with international standards and according to cultural sensitivities from one of its three global warehouses.
- ◆ Deploying specially trained employees or volunteers to support the efforts of national societies to assess needs, help the most vulnerable, develop and

implement assistance plans and monitor and evaluate impact. The hallmark of international disaster response by the American Red Cross is its rapid deployment of Emergency Response Units comprised of trained personnel and prepackaged technical equipment able to sustain operations for up to three months without drawing on the local resources in a disaster-affected area.

In 2006, the American Red Cross responded to 23 international disasters, contributing more than \$16.1 million in cash contributions, deploying delegates and providing relief supplies and other emergency assistance to millions of people affected by disasters around the world.

# 2006 Disaster Assistance Locations

## Central Europe/Middle East



## Asia



## South America



## Africa



**★ WAREHOUSE LOCATIONS**

- Panama City, Panama
- Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

# 2006 Disaster Responses

## January

### Africa

#### *Southern African Food Crisis*

Unrelenting drought exacerbated political instability and health vulnerabilities in Southern Africa. Failed crops, dried-up rivers and the death of livestock caused severe food shortages. The American Red Cross contributed more than \$1 million and deployed three delegates to support seed distribution and livelihood promotion.

### Pakistan

#### *Earthquake*

The earthquake that hit South Asia in October 2005 claimed 73,000 lives in Pakistan, wounded 128,000 and left some three million without homes. Survivors lost livelihoods, sources of food, access to health care and faced the onslaught of winter. The American Red Cross immediately contributed \$2.5 million. In January 2006, the American Red Cross continued by providing \$3.9 million to assist this vulnerable population with relief items, including specialized winter tents for protection against freezing temperatures, icy rain and snow.

## February

### Timor-Leste

#### *Storms and Floods*

Month-long violent storms and continuous flooding affected 10,000 people. The American Red Cross contributed \$50,000 to create temporary shelters, support emergency water and sanitation efforts to help keep people healthy and distribute bed nets to protect them against malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

### Philippines

#### *Mudslides*

Following two weeks of intense rain, flooding triggered a massive landslide that buried hundreds of houses and an elementary school packed with children. The American Red Cross contributed \$55,000 to support relief efforts, including shelter and medical assistance to evacuees.

## March

### Iraq

#### *Iraq Humanitarian Crisis and Floods*

Poverty and violence in war-torn Iraq intensified the need for humanitarian assistance. Approximately 50,000 families were identified as extremely vulnerable and in need of immediate assistance. Another 7,000 families were driven from their homes

in northern Iraq by extensive flooding. The American Red Cross contributed \$188,000 to support the delivery of emergency relief to the flood victims and to offer essential health services and improve water and sanitation conditions throughout the country.

### Kenya

#### *Drought*

During a six-year drought, Kenyan farmers lost livestock and crops, escalating poverty and food insecurity throughout the country. The American Red Cross joined the relief efforts by donating \$150,000 to help provide safe water and sanitation facilities for Kenyans.

Recipients of winter relief supplies share information about other earthquake-affected areas with American Red Cross relief delegate Colin Chaperon.



# 2006 Disaster Responses

## Contributions to the Indonesia Earthquake



Immediately after the devastating May 2006 earthquake struck the Indonesian island of Java, the American Red Cross mobilized to provide support to the Indonesian Red Cross. Working closely with the International Federation, the American Red Cross contributed funds, relief supplies and human resources.

In response to an urgent appeal from the International Federation, the American Red Cross provided an initial \$219,000. The American Red Cross also deployed four delegates to join Spanish Red Cross representatives and form an Emergency Response Unit to quickly assess needs and coordinate relief efforts for the Red Cross. To respond to the specific needs of those affected, the American Red Cross donated an additional \$1.2 million to buy 80,000 sleeping mats and 50,000 tarpaulins, helping 325,000 people. Three more American Red Cross delegates were deployed as a psychosocial support team to conduct rapid assessments and provide psychological first aid, designed to help survivors overcome their emotional trauma. Resources were strategically set aside for continued psychosocial programming as well as disaster preparedness activities aimed at building safer, more resilient communities.

## April

### Ethiopia

#### *Drought*

Food insecurity caused by loss of livestock and crops in Ethiopia left 2.6 million people in need of emergency assistance. Malaria and other diseases spread, while malnutrition among young children increased. The American Red Cross contributed nearly \$94,500 in a joint effort with the British Red Cross to improve water and sanitation conditions by providing water trucks and supporting the building of wells.

### Somalia

#### *Drought*

With 80 percent of the population in Somalia reliant on agriculture and livestock breeding for their subsistence and livelihoods, the severe shortage of rain hit the country hard. The drought exacerbated the current humanitarian situation, especially in southern parts of Somalia. The American Red Cross donated \$250,000 to support food relief, livelihood promotion, emergency water delivery and health efforts.

## May

### Sudan

#### *Conflict*

The security situation in Sudan continued to deteriorate, especially in the western region of Darfur. The Darfur conflict displaced approximately 2.5 million people. Sudan is the ICRC's largest operation based on the scale of humanitarian needs with approximately 1,000 staff members serving in the field. The American Red Cross contributed \$242,000 to the ICRC to support these relief efforts.

### Angola

#### *Cholera Outbreak*

A cholera outbreak in Angola affected thousands, especially those living in overcrowded urban slums. Within three months, more than 1,200 people died. The American Red Cross rapidly deployed a health expert to join the assessment team.

## Colombia

### Floods

Flooding and landslides across Colombia affected approximately 80,000 people. Supported by the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, the American Red Cross provided \$50,000 for the distribution of water, blankets, cooking and eating utensils and personal hygiene items to approximately 2,500 people.

## Indonesia

### Earthquake

A strong earthquake struck Indonesia, killing more than 5,500 people, injuring nearly 40,000 and leaving up to three million homeless. The most immediate needs included health assistance, temporary shelter, safe water, adequate sanitation facilities and hygiene materials. The American Red Cross contributed nearly \$1.4 million and deployed seven delegates to assist in the Movement's response through rapid assessment, the coordination of relief distribution and psychosocial support.

## July

### Romania

#### Floods

The heaviest flooding in the past century displaced 13,500 Romanians and severely disrupted water and sanitation systems. The American Red Cross contributed \$5,000 for emergency relief.

### Lebanon and Israel

#### Middle East Humanitarian Crisis

Armed conflict erupted amid ongoing turmoil. Hundreds of people were killed, thousands wounded and nearly a million displaced. Critical infrastructure was damaged or destroyed. Ongoing security issues limited the accurate assessment of damage and needs, humanitarian access and the transport of relief supplies. The American Red Cross contributed nearly \$1.5 million to support efforts to assist those displaced by the conflict and for emergency health services.

## Pre-Positioning Relief Supplies



Manual Rodriguez / IFRC

In August 2006, as flood waters in Sudan began to subside, a new problem emerged – the threat of malaria carried by mosquitoes breeding in stagnant pools of water. Needing to remedy the situation immediately, the International Federation requested 10,000 mosquito nets from the American Red Cross' pre-positioned supply. By purchasing standardized supplies and storing them in global warehouses, the American Red Cross can quickly and efficiently meet the needs of disaster victims.

## August

### China

#### Floods

After four months of battering by typhoons and tropical storms, the death toll in China rose above 1,000 with an additional 300 people declared missing. Hundreds of millions of people were affected and millions of hectares of farmland destroyed. The American Red Cross contributed \$50,000 to assist with the provision of food for the displaced.

### Ecuador

#### Volcanic Eruption

When an erupting volcano blanketed nearby communities in a mixture of ash, lava and mud, 19,000 people were evacuated. Nearly 300,000 more were affected and 25,000 required immediate

food assistance. Supported by the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, the American Red Cross contributed \$50,000 to support hygiene promotion and provide for other immediate needs.

### Ethiopia and Sudan

#### Floods

Intense flooding during two months killed hundreds and affected more than 450,000 people. Approximately 190,000 people were displaced. As displaced families returned home in Ethiopia, the American Red Cross contributed \$85,000 for blankets, tarpaulins and sleeping mats, and deployed two delegates for flood response and distribution of relief supplies and seeds. In Sudan, the American Red Cross provided \$10,000 for the transportation of 10,000 mosquito nets from its warehouse in Dubai.

# 2006 Disaster Responses

## October

### Philippines and Vietnam

#### Typhoon

A far-reaching storm with strong winds and torrential rains displaced more than 240,000 people, injured some 600 and led to the loss of 185 lives in the Philippines. Soon after, the typhoon hit Vietnam, affecting 1.3 million people, leaving 69 people dead and 525 injured. The American Red Cross contributed \$237,000 to assist evacuees and deployed a delegate to the Philippines to coordinate relief operations.

## November

### Somalia

#### Conflict

Somalia experienced an influx of internally displaced people due to the threat of conflict. The vulnerable population faced months of drought and economic instability, which stretched already limited resources of food,

shelter and household items. The American Red Cross contributed \$50,000 for clothes, blankets, tarps and kitchen items.

### Kenya and Somalia

#### Floods

Six weeks of torrential rains in the Horn of Africa, too heavy for drought-hardened soil to absorb, resulted in massive flooding. With flooding conditions presenting a significant threat of malaria, the American Red Cross donated 20,000 mosquito nets, as well as \$130,000 to assist flood victims.

### Pakistan

#### Winter Exposure

To help the more than 460,000 people who remained homeless more than a year after the October 2005 earthquake, the American Red Cross released \$1.5 million for winter preparedness with household repair kits and roofing materials.

By the end of 2006, the American Red Cross had contributed \$10.7 million to provide

emergency relief to those affected by the October 2005 earthquake. Additionally, it has committed \$2.5 million for 2007 winter preparedness and \$3.3 million for health care programs. In all, these financial gifts total \$16.5 million.

## December

### Philippines

#### Typhoons

In a two-month period, four typhoons hit the Philippines, leaving 1.5 million people affected and 700,000 displaced. The American Red Cross contributed an additional \$200,000 for a total of \$437,000 for emergency relief, food and clothing. An American Red Cross delegate served as the operations coordinator for the International Federation. Two additional delegates joined a field assessment and response team and a Danish Emergency Response Unit that focused on establishing a telecommunications network throughout the storm-affected area.



Brigitte Gaillis / American Red Cross

## Voluntary Service

A longtime volunteer with the Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter of the American Red Cross, Brigitte Gaillis has been deployed internationally three times in the last two years. Her first post was in Haiti following the Gonaives floods in September 2004, where she continued to volunteer until May 2005. Later that year, the American Red Cross deployed her to Niger for six weeks in response to the Sahel food crisis. Most recently, in November 2006, she traveled to the Philippines and spent six weeks serving as the operations coordinator for the International Federation through four typhoons. When not deployed on overseas assignments, Brigitte volunteers in a variety of capacities with her local American Red Cross chapter in Georgia. Brigitte is one of dozens of pre-trained, technically experienced volunteers the American Red Cross deploys internationally.





# Key Elements of Disaster Management

## Disaster Preparedness

Disaster preparedness makes it possible to reduce the impact of disasters, and in some cases predict and even prevent disasters from occurring. Disaster preparedness mechanisms supported by the American Red Cross include—

- Assessing the likelihood of disasters and their potential impact.
- Developing early warning systems and evacuation plans.
- Disaster management training for employees and volunteers of other national societies.
- Pre-positioning emergency relief supplies in warehouses around the world.
- Contributing to national disaster response plans.



Children participate in disaster preparedness activities in the Philippines.

Brigitte Gailis / American Red Cross



Susan Schaefer / American Red Cross

A community engages in a seed-planting program in Lesotho.

## Early Recovery / Livelihood Support

Early recovery / livelihood support involves restoring critical services and income-generating activities, which help to stabilize communities and position them for recovery following a disaster. Mechanisms supported by the American Red Cross include—

- Replenishing seed supplies for farmers.
- Distributing shelter materials and tool kits.
- Restoring local markets and facilitating access for vendors and shoppers.
- Cash-for-work employment opportunities for those affected by disaster to aid in recovery.
- Distributing vouchers for food and household supplies.
- Providing psychosocial support programs.

# Key Elements of Disaster Management



Brigitte Gailis / American Red Cross

Community-based outreach in Niger helped tailor relief to those affected by the Sahel Food Crisis.

## Public Awareness

Public awareness is a powerful tool to encourage people to change their behavior in the context of a disaster. For those affected by disaster, public awareness can mean people are better prepared for disasters and educated about what to do during and following disasters. Public awareness mechanisms supported by the American Red Cross include—

- Developing partnerships among key stakeholders in the humanitarian community.
- Supporting community-based outreach within disaster-affected areas.
- Contributing toward publications addressing global disaster trends and issues.
- Translating and distributing educational disaster preparedness and response materials.

## Capacity Building

Capacity building includes efforts to strengthen local national societies' ability to prevent, prepare for and respond to human-caused and natural disasters. Capacity-building mechanisms supported by the American Red Cross include—

- Training on the values and the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and international humanitarian law, conducting emergency needs assessments, targeting beneficiaries based on the greatest needs and planning and management for distribution of relief supplies.
- Providing technical support to on-the-ground field operations.
- Evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of relief activities.
- Promoting the use of international humanitarian standards.



Stacy Ragan / American Red Cross

American Red Cross volunteers participate in a Relief Emergency Response Unit (ERU) training course in Panama.



Manuel Sansagundo / Spanish Red Cross

Movement partners monitor response efforts following an earthquake in Indonesia.

## Accountability and Measuring Impact

Accountability and measuring impact ensures good stewardship of resources. With adequate accountability controls and mechanisms, the Red Cross makes sure resources are used appropriately. Commitments by the American Red Cross include—

- Collaborating with disaster-affected communities.
- Deploying trained emergency response delegates.
- Monitoring implementation on the ground.
- Documenting, analyzing and reporting use of funding.



Daniel Cima / American Red Cross

## Thank You

Disasters can happen anywhere in the world, at any time. The generosity of the American people enables the American Red Cross to touch millions of lives every minute of every day, helping people who have become vulnerable due to circumstances far beyond their control and who are in desperate need of assistance. The American Red Cross provides this assistance on your behalf, and thanks you deeply for your continued support.

The American Red Cross is strongly committed to using every dollar donated by the American people wisely, always striving to help those in need in the most effective and efficient way possible. Balancing respect of each donor's intent and consultation with the people receiving assistance, the American Red Cross stands accountable for all donations under its stewardship.

## The International Response Fund

You can help those affected by countless crises 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. Call 1-800-RED CROSS or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish). Contributions to the International Response Fund may be sent to your local Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross International Response Fund, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013. Internet users can make secure online contributions by visiting [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org). The American Red Cross honors donor intent. If you wish to designate your donation to a specific disaster, please do so at the time of your donation.



*Front Cover:* China floods displaced many families leaving them in need of rice, tents and blankets. Here a man receives rice from the Red Cross.

Photo: Wang Xian and Wennan Cai / Red Cross Society of China