

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

UNITED STATES: HURRICANE KATRINA

7 September 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin (no. 08/2005) is being issued for information only. It is based on updates from the American Red Cross (ARC), reflecting the status of the situation and information available at this time. The information reflects important statistical information and facts from all major ongoing relief operations, and is made available daily when the Disaster Operations Center (DOC) is activated.

The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time. The American Red Cross webpage (www.redcross.org) contains additional information on the evolving situation, the relief response to Hurricane Katrina, a tracing link, as well as information on donating to the National Disaster Relief Fund. To access information in Spanish please refer to the ARC Spanish webpage www.cruzrojaamericana.org

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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In Geneva for all enquiries from National Societies:

- *Linda Stops, Operations Coordinator, Operations Support Department, Geneva; email linda.stops@ifrc.org, phone 41-22-730-4300, fax 41-22-733-0395 or Luis Luna, Federation Regional Officer, Americas Department, Geneva; email luis.luna@ifrc.org, phone 41-22-730-4274, fax 41-22-733-0395*
- *In Geneva, contact the Media and Public Relations Unit, phone 41-22-730-4357, fax 41-22-740-0275*

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organisations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Cross continues to meet the challenge of providing relief to tens of thousands of survivors of Hurricane Katrina, which plowed a wide path of destruction through the Gulf Coast just one week ago.

- Since Hurricane Katrina first slammed ashore, the American Red Cross has housed 142,000 survivors in more than 485 shelters in 18 states.
- The American Red Cross has served more than 3.3 million hot meals to survivors of Hurricane Katrina, and close to 4 million snacks.

- More than 5,600 trained Red Cross workers have left their homes in every corner of the United States to join thousands of local volunteers who responded immediately to help their neighbors in need.
- In the wake of a catastrophic disaster, the potential for illness and injury is heightened. Storm survivors are particularly vulnerable due to flood conditions, damaged sanitation and water treatment systems. Simple precautions include: washing hands regularly with soap or using hand sanitation products; avoiding flood waters; draining standing water; protecting yourself from mosquitoes. For additional information, visit www.redcross.org or www.cdc.gov.

The American Red Cross is implementing innovative technology to provide faster, better service to victims.

- Hundreds of computers are being delivered to the Astrodome in Houston as well as shelters across the country, where they will be used to register shelter residents.
- Evacuees and loved ones separated by this disaster should go to www.redcross.org or call 1-877-LOVED-1S to join the “Family Linking Registry.” To date, more than 105,000 people have registered.
- The best way to help is by making an online contribution by visiting www.redcross.org. You can also help by calling 1-800-HELP-NOW.
- The sheer volume of people affected, as well as the extensive geographical area affected, will require long-term massive feeding and sheltering operations for many months to come. Some 90,000 square miles have been affected—about the same size as Great Britain.
- The Disaster Relief Fund enables the Red Cross, through its network of nearly 900 local chapters, to provide shelter, food, counselling and other assistance to people in need due to this disaster and thousands of other disasters across the country each year.
- The Red Cross is unable to accept small, individual donations or collections of items such as clothing, food or cleaning supplies.

Individual Client Services

- The Red Cross and National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) are assessing the spiritual needs of clients.
- Doctors from the Harvard Medical Group have gone to the affected area to assess medical needs, and representatives from the Church of the Brethren are assessing child care needs at shelters.
- Corporate Lodging secured over 54,200 hotel rooms for clients.
- The Transient Accommodations group sent blast-faxes to hotels in 39 states to inform them that guests who evacuated due to Hurricane Katrina without the sufficient means to stay for a longer period of time could remain at the hotel and their bills would be paid.
- Shelter casework will begin at the Houston Astrodome shortly.

Community Services

- Feeding at shelter sites has been continued, and the emphasis will shift to mobile feeding and bulk distribution this week.
- Dr. Robert E. Reccord from the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention visited the Disaster Operations Center and thanked the Red Cross for all the work they have done.
- States are preparing to, or have already received, evacuees.

Organizational Support

Public Affairs:

- High profile visits have been coordinated, including from the President and First Lady to the Disaster Operations Center.
- Twice-weekly press conferences have been set up to manage the overwhelming amount of media inquiries.
- More Rapid Response Team (RRT) members are being moved to the field.

Fundraising:

- Some \$409 million has been raised to date.
- Hot Topics communication have been updated and sent to the Service Area Directors of Development.
- Strategic Fundraising staff are coordinating meetings in the field, DOC and national staffing needs during this disaster operation.

- A youth initiative about fundraising for this hurricane has been developed and will be released to CrossNet shortly.

Material Support Services

Rapid Response Teams (RTTs):

- The Information Technology department and RTT are improving the technology infrastructure to assist Client Services with client casework at the Reliant Center in Houston. Vendors offering services include; Cisco, Intel, Avaya, SBS, AT&T, Dell, AOL.
- Satellite text messaging units from Insite are being installed at kitchens and delivery support trucks to help facilitate orders and emergency needs.
- Low band base radios are being installed in all logistics and RTT-rented support vehicles in preparation for the implementation of an area-wide radio system.
- Amateur radio control for shelters transitioned from the local chapter to disaster response headquarters.
- Teams are preparing to install technology in shelters for the family linking project.
- Phone lines have been installed for the South Baptist command center.
- AOL kiosk trucks arrived in the Jackson, Mississippi state fairgrounds.
- Volunteers have been deployed to fulfill shelter support group requests for amateur radio communications in the Biloxi and Gulfport shelters.

Logistics:

- Work continues with Sysco on food procurement orders.
- Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) continue to arrive in Baton Rouge, LA; those from the Miami operation will go to the affected Gulf Coast area.
- Budget trucks are being utilized in the feeding operation.

Partner Services

Government/Emergency Management Liaison:

- Governors of the fifty states are being approached by the Red Cross requesting that each consider extending the amount of time that employees are allowed to deploy in support of Red Cross disaster operations.
- The Alabama State Emergency Operation Center (EOC) will transition operation's support to the Joint Field Office (JFO) by Saturday. A State EOC liaison team will remain at the EOC in Alabama through the transition. The Mississippi State EOC will transition operations to a JFO between Tuesday the 6th and Wednesday the 7th of September.

Federal:

- The Principal Federal Operations cell in Baton Rouge has requested a Red Cross Liaison.
- Joint field offices (JFOs) have been set up in Mississippi and Alabama.

Non-Government/Voluntary Organizations:

- Voluntary organizations are stabilizing their distribution of resources and personnel to the affected areas and beginning clean-up and spiritual care activities.
- Community organizations are independently assuming feeding and sheltering activities and reaching out to the Red Cross for assistance.

Voluntary Agency Liaison:

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has invited voluntary agencies with strong disaster housing repairs/construction expertise or resources to participate in the Joint Housing Solutions Center to address the massive and complex sheltering and re-housing needs caused by Hurricane Katrina to facilitate contributions of ideas, solutions, and resources from all levels of government and all sectors of society.
- Offers by individuals and families to take people into their homes or to provide vacant homes is under consideration. Questions relate to length of the stay, liability to the host and/organization making the referral, responsibility of the host to meet the basic needs of their guest, and whether families wish to go across the country.
- Adventist Community Services have 70 camps across the country available to house evacuees.

- America's Second Harvest is moving products in large quantities to the most badly affected food banks in Jackson, New Orleans and Mobile.
- American Baptist Men are activating debris removal crews.
- Church of the Brethren-Project managers and child care teams are travelling to support shelters and other service sites.
- An estimated 20 recovery organizations may be organized and supported in Louisiana, Mississippi, northwest Alabama, Tennessee, and Kentucky; Church World Service anticipates early identification of vulnerable populations and DRRLs.
- Southern Baptist Convention/North American Mission Board Shower and laundry trailers are in the affected area along with feeding and chain saw units.
- United Jewish Communities- Reunification remains a priority; volunteers are seeking opportunities at this time

Community Relations Liaison:

- Texas National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) State Presidents and the Red Cross will plan approaches for assisting evacuees flooding into their communities, and will use their relationship with African American churches and support from Red Cross chapters and national headquarters to establish a nationwide model of assistance.
- The ARC community liaison manager in Baton Rouge represented the Red Cross at a shelter press event attended by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Bruce Gordon, National President of the NAACP, Tavis Smiley (nationally syndicated talk-show host) and Oprah Winfrey's representatives.

Biomedical Services:

The Alabama and Gulf Coast Blood Region reports that:

- A large number of evacuees are showing up at the blood center in Mobile seeking help; the blood center is working with the chapter to assist them.
- Coordination is underway with the chapter regarding people who want to donate items to the relief operation; a trailer has been temporarily located at the region headquarters to accept donations of items.

International Services:

- 116 ICRC volunteers have arrived in Montgomery and Baton Rouge.
- Societies from all over the world are offering financial, in-kind and human resources Response Center.

Staff Services

- 158 national headquarters staff have been trained and, of that number, 95% have volunteered at the DOC, the Deployment Center and the Response Center around the clock since Friday including staff from Biomed, IT, HR, Diversity, Finance, Contracting, OGC, International Services and others.

Local Volunteers: volunteers from the local chapters have been volunteering at the DOC, the Deployment Center and the Response Center

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