

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 FACT SHEET NO. 1

12 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 Fact Sheet 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 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:

In the United States: American Red Cross National Headquarters, Stacy Ragan, Operations Lead; email ragans@usa.redcross.org; phone 1-202-303-5089; fax 1-202-303-0059; Media and Public Affairs; phone 1-202-303-5551; Nadia Mitchem, Fundraising; email mitchemn@usa.redcross.org; phone 1-202-303-4826

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>

Background: Hurricane Katrina is believed to have been one of the most destructive hurricanes in recent United States history. On 25 August 2005, Katrina crossed southern Florida as a Category-1 storm on the Saffir Simpson Scale, entered the Gulf of Mexico, and then hit the U.S. Gulf Coast on 29 August as a Category-4 storm with 140 mile per hour winds. Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi were affected. Katrina produced catastrophic damage and hundreds casualties in New Orleans, Louisiana and along the Mississippi gulf coasts. Additional casualties occurred in Alabama, Georgia, and southern Florida. The extent of the physical and human devastation is still unfolding. However, 90,000 square miles of land have been declared a disaster area.



August 2005. Hurricane Katrina. This bridge leading to Biloxi, Mississippi, was destroyed by the high winds and wave action. In fact, all roads leading in and out of Biloxi were destroyed or under water.

Photo: Gene Dailey/American Red Cross.

Latest Human Toll: As of 11 September 2005, the Hurricane Katrina death toll stood at a little over 400, the majority of which occurred in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Highlights of American Red Cross Domestic Disaster Response

(totals to date, as of 11 September 2005)

- **Red Cross Shelters:** 707 shelters across 24 states and the District of Columbia
- **Evacuees Sheltered:** More than 160,000 survivors have been sheltered.
- **Relief Workers:** Nearly 63,000 trained workers from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands have responded to the disaster.
- **Feeding:** In coordination with the Southern Baptist convention, the Red Cross has served more than 7.2 million hot meals and 6.5 million snacks to survivors.
- **Reuniting Families:** More than 167,600 online Katrina Family Linking registrations have been received and more than 110,000 calls have been made to the 1-877-LOVED-1S (1-877-568-3317) hotline.
- **Financial Assistance:** A comprehensive system is being established to deliver needed financial assistance to storm survivors.
- **Funds Received:** As of 10 September 2005, the American Red Cross has received US \$578 million in gifts and pledges.



September 1, 2005. This little boy settles into the Houston Astrodome after a long ride from New Orleans to Texas. Photo: Daniel Cima/ American Red Cross

Highlights of International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Response

- Markku Niskala, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Secretary General visited the American Red Cross Disaster Operations Center and the shelter at the Washington, D.C. Armory this past weekend.
- 154 international delegates from International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the International Committee of the Red Cross were requested by the American Red Cross and are now in affected areas supporting the American Red Cross domestic disaster response.
- Katrina Family Linking is being supported in affected areas, in coordination with the American Red Cross, by five International Committee of the Red Cross delegates, as well as by two delegates from the British and Netherlands Red Cross societies.

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