

The American Red Cross International Disasters Report



July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007



THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Disasters—including floods, hurricanes, tornados, conflicts, earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions—can occur without warning. Thanks to the support and dedication of our donors, volunteers and employees, the American Red Cross can take rapid action to help those affected when disasters strike.

The role of the American Red Cross in responding to international crises differs from its response to disasters within the United States. In the wake of a disaster on foreign soil, the American Red Cross provides aid only after the Red Cross or Red Crescent national society in the affected country requests assistance from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, commonly referred to as the Movement. The Movement is made up of three components that form an intricate support system.

- **The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation)** coordinates the Movement’s relief and development efforts worldwide. The International Federation is composed of a governing body, 186 Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies and more than 60 delegations strategically located to support activities around the world.
- **The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** is mandated to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC has 80 delegations worldwide and directs the Movement’s relief activities in conflict situations.
- Each of the **186 Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies** provides a range of services—from disaster relief to health and social programs—within its home country. Together, the national societies have approximately 97 million members and volunteers and 300,000 employees. They assist approximately 233 million people each year.

An Ecuadorian couple receives Red Cross assistance following a volcanic eruption in August 2006.



Corey Michaud/American Red Cross

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement



International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)





National Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies
186 worldwide



International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (International Federation)

The Movement is the largest humanitarian network in the world, with a presence and ongoing activities in almost every country. Red Cross and Red Crescent efforts are driven by the Movement’s mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering, protect life and health, ensure respect for human beings—particularly in times of conflict and other emergencies—and work for the prevention of disease and the promotion of health and social welfare.

When needs exceed local capacity and the affected Red Cross or Red Crescent national society requests assistance, Movement partners establish a unified response to target aid appropriately, avoid duplication, fill gaps and enhance coordination. This partnership 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.

American Red Cross International Disaster Response Options		
<div style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">▼</div> DEPLOY Skilled and Trained People	<div style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">▼</div> MOBILIZE Pre-Positioned Relief Supplies	<div style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">▼</div> CONTRIBUTE Funds

Front Cover photo—A brother and sister receive Red Cross assistance in Mozambique after their family was displaced by flooding.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS RESPONSE TO INTERNATIONAL DISASTERS

Between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007, the American Red Cross responded to 21 international crises, contributing more than \$8.4 million in financial aid, 13 disaster relief worker deployments and more than 65,000 pre-positioned relief items.

The American Red Cross – with its Movement partners – helped an estimated five million people on six continents.



Indonesian Red Cross

The American Red Cross has supported disaster preparedness activities through the Indonesian Red Cross since the tsunami in 2004. When Mt. Merapi erupted in mid-2006, the Indonesian Red Cross quickly evacuated and provided assistance to affected families.

Disaster Management

While emergency response is crucial, the American Red Cross embraces a holistic disaster management approach linking preparedness, response and early recovery activities. This integrated strategy ensures rapid and appropriate disaster and recovery assistance while also fostering community safety and resilience to future disasters. Dedicating resources to other aspects of disaster management during times of conflict and natural disasters results in more lives saved, less suffering and minimized damage to economies and environments.

Disaster Preparedness

Population growth, urban migration, armed conflict and poverty highlight growing vulnerabilities within communities all over the world. With more frequent and large-scale disasters, these trends reveal an urgent need to invest more resources in disaster

preparedness. Doing so better equips vulnerable people to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters, leading to safer, more disaster-resilient communities.

While disaster response and early recovery activities are sequential by nature, preparedness activities can be undertaken at any time. In fact, American Red Cross employees and volunteers often share preparedness knowledge and skills with disaster-affected community members while working alongside them on a relief operation.

The American Red Cross recognizes a direct relationship between better-prepared communities and lives and assets saved. Since 1999, American Red Cross International Services has implemented disaster preparedness programs in more than 30 countries.

Going forward, American Red Cross International Services will be executing its strategy to strengthen community disaster preparedness. Working with local Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and other partners, the American Red Cross will support critical disaster preparedness activities such as vulnerability and capacity assessments, early warning systems, evacuation drills and community-based disaster management training. These activities not only contribute to improved disaster response mechanisms, but also raise public awareness among vulnerable communities worldwide.

RESPONSE TO INTERNATIONAL DISASTERS

The following section describes American Red Cross contributions to international disaster relief operations between **July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007**—the American Red Cross 2007 fiscal year. Our responses were made possible by the generosity of our donors, volunteers and employees.

Africa

Ethiopia and Sudan Floods

Severe flooding in August and September 2006 damaged infrastructure, destroyed farmland, disrupted food supplies and isolated entire communities. More than 450,000 people were affected in Ethiopia and Sudan. In support of the International Federation's efforts to help more than 68,000 displaced people returning home, the American Red Cross contributed 10,000 mosquito nets and nearly \$100,000 for tarps, blankets and sleeping mats. The American Red Cross also sent two relief workers to Ethiopia to assist in distributing relief supplies and seeds to farmers affected by the floods.

Kenya and Somalia Floods

Following a drought in early 2006, six weeks of torrential rain in the Horn of Africa later in the year resulted in massive flooding. The flooding caused deaths, population displacement and loss of livelihoods and assets. The American Red Cross provided 20,000 mosquito nets to counter the increased threat of malaria in the flooded areas. In addition, the American Red Cross contributed \$175,000 in support of the Movement's activities to assist more than 850,000 people.

Mozambique Floods

From January to April 2007, Mozambique experienced widespread flooding along the Zambezi flood plain in the central and northern part of the country. The situation worsened on February 22 when Cyclone Favio swept across a coastal town south of the Zambezi. The dual disasters displaced 140,000 people and affected 300,000 in total. The American Red Cross contributed blankets, tarps and sleeping mats in response

to the International Federation's Emergency Appeal to assist more than 117,000 people. The American Red Cross also deployed two international disaster response workers as part of a Relief Emergency Response Unit (ERU) to the flood-affected region.

Madagascar Cyclones

Six cyclones and heavy rains battered Madagascar from December 2006 through April 2007. The cyclones caused unprecedented flooding and left approximately 190,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance. The American Red Cross contributed 10,000 mosquito nets for malaria prevention and deployed five international disaster response workers. One relief worker focused on assessment and coordination with the International Federation to support the Malagasy Red Cross Society. The other four response workers helped the local Red Cross society distribute food and household items to more than 57,000 beneficiaries.

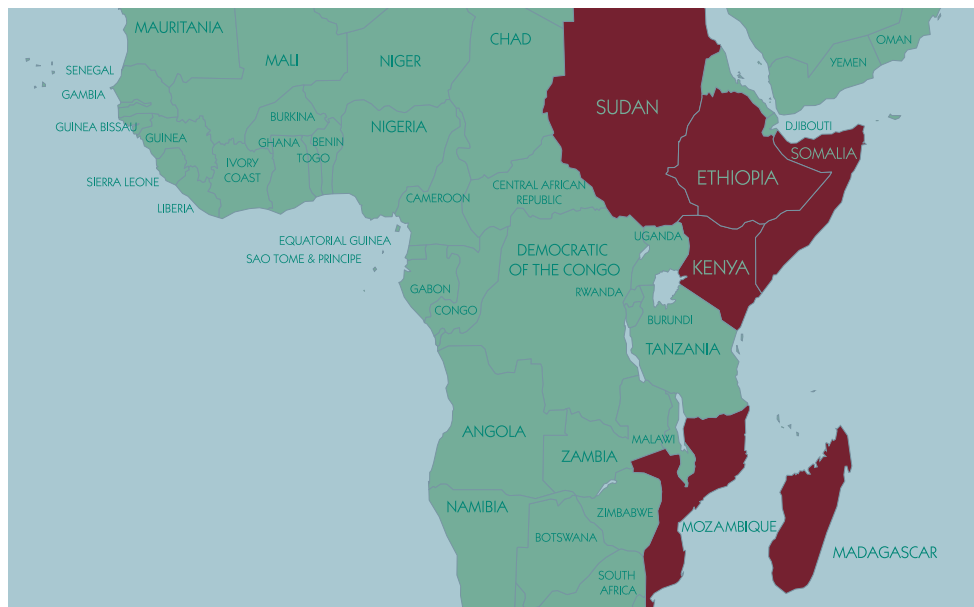
Sudan Conflict

As the conflict in Darfur went on, the already staggering number of casualties, internally displaced people and refugees continued to grow. The Movement remained committed to the Sudanese affected by armed conflict and other forms of violence. The American Red Cross contributed \$200,000 in support of ICRC activities in Sudan. With more than 1,900 staff in the field, the ICRC sought to ensure that people affected by conflict were protected in accordance with international humanitarian law and received medical care, emergency aid and basic assistance to preserve livelihoods and reestablish family links.

Somalia Conflict

Renewed fighting in Somalia caused an increasing number of civilian casualties and displaced hundreds of thousands of people. The situation was compounded by last year's severe drought, devastating floods and ongoing insecurity throughout the country. The American Red Cross contributed \$50,000 to the ICRC to assist internally displaced persons and, later in the year, contributed \$100,000 to the ICRC's ongoing operations.

Map of Africa with countries shaded displaying American Red Cross disaster responses.





Gina Guiriba/American Red Cross

American Red Cross Reaches Out to Families in Mozambique

"I lost blankets, buckets, everything in the floods," said Amelia Manuel. In February 2007, heavy rains flooded the Zambezi River, forcing Amelia, her three young children and her neighbors to flee more than four miles away to safety. The floods swept away their life on a fertile piece of farmland.

Suddenly, Amelia needed blankets to keep warm on cool nights, mats to protect her family from sleeping on the ground, food to replace flood-damaged crops and a home for her and her children.

Along with neighbors, Amelia sought out a government-sponsored camp, called Nzanza, in the central province of Zambezia. Mozambique Red Cross volunteers were there to help people recover.

"When I first arrived, I needed shelter and food," recalled Amelia. "But now I have help." Due to the reoccurrences of flooding near her home, she could not return. Instead, she joined members of her community to resettle near Nzanza to build new homes and begin farming again. "Because of the items I received, I can start a good, new life," Amelia said.

The American Red Cross helped flood-affected families by deploying two international disaster response workers and sending blankets, tarps and sleeping mats in support of the International Federation's emergency relief operation. "The blankets and sleeping mats are the most important items because at night it gets cold," Amelia said. "The blankets keep us warm and the sleeping mats make it more comfortable to sleep." Families like Amelia's around the world express their gratitude for the assistance they receive from the Red Cross.

American Red Cross Relief ERU Team Lead, Colin Chaperon (center), demonstrates with the Malagasy Red Cross how to hang mosquito nets.



Greg Matthews/American Red Cross

Asia

Indonesia *Earthquake*

A powerful earthquake shook the Indonesian city of Yogyakarta on May 27, 2006, killing thousands, causing widespread damage and leaving 1.8 million people displaced. To supplement an emergency response contribution, the American Red Cross provided nearly \$1.2 million in additional funds in September 2006. These funds supported the International Federation's Emergency Appeal to help 112,000 people with their earthquake recovery efforts and disaster preparedness.

Philippines and Vietnam

Typhoons

Between September and December 2006, five typhoons slammed into the Philippines resulting in 650 deaths, 700,000 people displaced and 2.5 million people affected. Two of these typhoons also hit Vietnam and affected an additional 1.3 million people. The American Red Cross deployed two disaster responders to the Philippines and contributed \$850,000 to support relief efforts in both countries, collaborating with Movement partners to assist nearly 1.1 million people.



Map of Asia with countries shaded displaying American Red Cross disaster responses.

China *Floods*

After four months of devastating typhoons and tropical storms in late 2006, the death toll in China rose above 1,000, and hundreds of millions of people were affected.

In support of the International Federation's efforts to assist 240,000 displaced people, the American Red Cross contributed \$50,000 toward the provision of food.

Following a series of typhoons in the Philippines, a family temporarily remains in a makeshift home.



International Federation



Colin Chaperon/American Red Cross

Families register with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society to receive shelter materials in preparation for the 2006-2007 winter season.

Pakistan Winter Preparedness

On October 8, 2005, a massive earthquake claimed 73,000 lives, injured 120,000 and left 3.5 million homeless in Pakistan. Survivors, many in remote mountain areas, were left without income, food sources or health care. In the winter of 2006-2007, the American Red Cross continued its support of relief efforts there, participating in the International Federation's winter preparedness program to assist approximately one million people still recovering from the earthquake. The American Red Cross contributed \$1.5 million to the program and deployed two international response workers to help the Pakistan Red Crescent Society monitor activities and distribute household repair kits and roofing materials.

Solomon Islands

Earthquake and Tsunami

An earthquake measuring 8.1 on the Richter scale struck the Solomon Islands on April 2, 2007. The quake triggered a tsunami with waves up to 32 feet, causing destruction to low-lying areas on several islands. Approximately 1,000 houses were damaged or destroyed, and more than 5,400 people were displaced. The American Red Cross contributed \$50,000 to the International Federation's Emergency Appeal to provide immediate and subsequent early recovery support to 5,000 people. Operational activities were geared toward emergency shelter, basic household supplies and enhancing the Solomon Islands national society's capacity to respond to future disasters.

Sri Lanka Conflict

Renewed fighting in Sri Lanka spread in the north and east of the country, spilling into neighborhoods and towns. Approximately 300,000 people were displaced by the conflict. People who were still recovering from the tsunami of December 2004 struggled with the destruction of schools, places of worship, infrastructure and homes caused by the conflict. The American Red Cross contributed \$2 million to the ICRC to strengthen the capacity of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society to deliver humanitarian services, including volunteer training in psychosocial support and the construction of water supply systems, shelters and emergency latrines.

Europe/Middle East

Romania Floods

When heavy flooding in Romania displaced 13,400 people and disrupted water and sanitation systems in July 2006, the American Red Cross contributed more than \$5,000 for food, water and hygiene items in response to the International Federation's Emergency Appeal.

Middle East Humanitarian Crisis

Starting on July 16, 2006, lives in Lebanon and Israel were thrown into turmoil by a 34-day conflict that killed hundreds, wounded thousands and displaced nearly a million people. The American Red Cross contributed nearly \$1.9 million to Movement partners' efforts to provide medical care, shelter, emergency relief supplies and other essentials for 65,000 displaced people. Funds were also allocated to strengthen the preparedness and response capacity of national societies affected by the humanitarian crisis—primarily in Lebanon, Israel, Syria, Cyprus, Jordan and Egypt.



Syrian Arab Red Crescent/IFRC

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society set up a special reception operation to accommodate displaced families in Damascus.

A Lebanese Red Cross youth volunteer delivers hygiene kits to internally displaced persons living in Mount Lebanon district near Beirut. Right: Map of Middle East with countries shaded displaying American Red Cross disaster responses.



Marko Kokic/IFRC



Latin America

Ecuador *Volcano*

A volcano became increasingly active in August 2006 with explosions that produced ash, lava, rock and gases, forcing an estimated 19,000 people to evacuate. With partner support, the American Red Cross contributed \$50,000 to the Ecuadorian Red Cross for community-based disaster preparedness activities, hygiene kit distributions, basic hygiene promotion and other immediate needs to more than 5,000 beneficiaries.

Bolivia *Floods*

From January to April 2007, Bolivia faced its worst floods in 25 years. Severe rainfall caused significant flooding in all nine departments of the country, affecting an estimated 580,000 people and damaging more than 490 acres of crops. The American Red Cross contributed \$50,000 to the International Federation's Emergency Appeal targeting 50,000 people. With partner support, the American Red Cross provided an additional \$100,000 for emergency food items, agricultural seeds and tool kits.

Colombia *Floods*

Heavy rainfall caused severe flooding and landslides in Colombia's central state of Tolima in April 2007. The flooding affected approximately 3,600 people. The American Red Cross contributed \$5,000 to the Colombian Red Cross Society in support of the relief operation in affected communities.

Mexico *Tornado*

On April 24, 2007, an intense tornado swept across the northern state of Coahuila in Mexico. It affected 7,000 people and damaged hundreds of homes, buildings and infrastructure. The American Red Cross provided \$20,000 to the Mexican Red Cross for the distribution of personal hygiene kits, lanterns with AM/FM radio, kits for young children—diapers, bibs, talcum powder, soap and shampoo—and kitchen kits to 3,000 people affected by the tornado.



Carlos Seijas/Argentine Red Cross

A man returns home carrying Red Cross relief supplies after massive flooding in Bolivia. Below: Map of Latin America with countries shaded displaying American Red Cross disaster responses.



AMERICAN RED CROSS EXPERTISE

When international assistance is requested after a disaster strikes, the American Red Cross can respond by deploying disaster relief workers, mobilizing relief supplies and contributing funds received from our donors. Since disaster worker deployments is one of the three response options, the American Red Cross puts great emphasis on recruitment, training and building the expertise of our disaster responders. Sending skilled and trained workers to a disaster is fundamental to ensuring effective and appropriate humanitarian assistance. The American Red Cross also plays a key role in developing global training curriculums and improving disaster response tools to better support Movement partners.



American Red Cross volunteers construct a temporary shelter during a training activity near Washington, D.C.

International Disaster Response Training

In fiscal year 2007, the American Red Cross deployed 13 international disaster response workers in the aftermath of floods, typhoons, cyclones and an earthquake. To build internal capacity and prepare emergency response staff and volunteers for complex relief operations, the American Red Cross has developed a highly successful training program.

Through reality-based exercises, disaster simulations and analysis of past disaster operations, these courses enable knowledge retention and encourage creative problem solving. Participants are closely evaluated to ensure that only the most qualified individuals will be deployed on emergency assignments.

Basic Training Course

The Basic Training Course (BTC) for international delegates is the initial course for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and is a prerequisite for international deployments. BTC addresses the history, structure and activities—including disaster response—of the Movement, as well as practical elements for deployment. The American Red Cross uses this course primarily to fill our international disaster response roster. Prospective participants must possess extensive experience in domestic disaster response or international humanitarian work and specialized skills in logistics, health emergency relief, information technology and telecommunications, family linking, leadership or finance and administration. Only 20 percent of all applicants are accepted into this highly sought-after course.

Relief Emergency Response Unit (ERU) Training

International disaster response roster members with applicable skills are invited to the training offered in Panama, in coordination with the International Federation's Pan-American Disaster Response Unit. The Relief ERU course transfers essential emergency response skills in rapid needs assessment, beneficiary targeting, distribution of relief items and coordination activities—all in an intense, field-based setting. Participants engage in simulated security incidents, beneficiary assessments and logistics exercises for an optimal disaster training experience.

"I found my recent Red Cross trainings valuable while I was overseas helping people after the cyclones. Not only did I feel better prepared to assist families, but I also understood the importance of supporting the Malagasy Red Cross and passing along my new knowledge to the local volunteers."

**—Stephen Hagerich,
an American Red Cross international disaster
worker recently deployed to Madagascar.**

Emergency Response Units (ERU)

Following a disaster, the use of standardized disaster management tools is critical for an immediate and effective response operation. One such indispensable tool is the Emergency Response Unit (ERU), consisting of a team of people who are ready to respond within 48 hours of a sudden, large-scale disaster.

These teams deploy with enough technical and personal equipment and food to be self-sufficient for one month and operational up to four months. Depending on the scale of the disaster, the International Federation can ask national societies to mobilize ERUs that specialize in relief, information technology (IT) & telecommunications, water and sanitation, basic health care, hospital care and logistics.

The American Red Cross currently manages two ERUs—Relief and IT & Telecommunications.

Relief ERU

The Relief ERU was developed to enhance the Movement's ability to assess needs, target beneficiaries and distribute essential relief items. Since leading the formation of the Relief ERU and first deploying it in 2003, the American Red Cross has frequently deployed this essential team.

Upon arrival at a disaster site, the Relief ERU assesses needs, identifies the most vulnerable communities and organizes the distribution of supplies and food items with the disaster-affected national society. Effective monitoring, reporting and

coordination with other humanitarian organizations and Movement partners is critical for the Relief ERU to ensure that assistance reaches those most in need—many times the elderly, children and women.

Relief ERU Deployments		
DEPLOYED	COUNTRY	DISASTER
December 2003	Dominican Republic	Floods
December 2003	Iran	Bam Earthquake
December 2004	Sri Lanka	Tsunami
January 2005	Indonesia	Tsunami
June 2006	Indonesia	Yogyakarta Earthquake
March 2007	Mozambique	Floods
April 2007	Madagascar	Cyclones

IT & Telecommunications ERU

Capitalizing on in-house domestic technical expertise and the success of the Relief ERU, the American Red Cross recently initiated an IT & Telecommunications ERU to expand our role in disaster response. A disaster can destroy or damage infrastructure, eliminating all methods of communication. This ERU addresses this by establishing and supporting telecommunication and computer systems to facilitate the critical information flow between the disaster area and those who are providing assistance. The information flow enables the International Federation to analyze and disseminate timely data, allowing the Movement to anticipate future needs and organize additional response activities.

ERUs Build Local Capacity

A defining feature of an ERU is the importance it places on increasing the disaster management capacity of the local national society. Working with local volunteers and staff, ERU teams train and mentor in the emergency relief phase. In addition, once the relief operation is complete, ERUs may donate their equipment to the local national society to sustain activities or to replace destroyed resources. When the next disaster occurs, the affected communities and national societies will be better prepared.

Tracy Reines, American Red Cross Relief ERU Team Lead, facilitates an early recovery planning session with Mozambique Red Cross disaster workers.



Thank You

We may not know exactly what tomorrow will bring, but we do know a disaster will strike somewhere in the world. Together with our International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners, the donors, volunteers and employees of the American Red Cross stand together to help those in need.

The American Red Cross is committed to using every dollar wisely, balancing donor intent with the needs of the people receiving assistance and striving to serve as effectively and efficiently as possible. The American Red Cross stands accountable for all donations entrusted to its stewardship.

Your generosity enables the American Red Cross to respond to numerous crises and disasters around the world each year. On behalf of the American Red Cross and those we serve, thank you for your continued support of this important humanitarian work.



Children in Mozambique temporarily reside in accommodation centers supported by the Red Cross.

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. 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.

