



1/13/2009

American Red Cross Responds to the Haiti Earthquake

Connect with us
online:

[Our Facebook page.](#)

[Our Twitter page.](#)

[Our blog.](#)



This young boy in Haiti was injured during the Earthquake. This photo was taken by Matt Marek, an American Red Cross staff member who is stationed in Port Au Prince.

On Tuesday, January 12, less than one hour before sunset, a 7.3 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti near the capital of Port Au Prince, causing catastrophic damage and loss of life. Initial estimates are that up to 3 million people may be affected. In Haiti, the local Red Cross worked throughout the night to rescue people from their trapped homes and provide first aid. The priority now is to provide people with food, water, temporary shelter, medical services and emotional support. The people of Haiti need our help.

The American Red Cross has pledged \$1 million from our International Response Fund to provide food, water and other relief to people impacted by this earthquake, knowing that the first 48 hours are absolutely critical to saving lives.

What You Can Do Today to Help

The American Red Cross already has seen an outpouring of support and concern from the public. People who want to help those affected by the Haitian earthquake can make a donation to the American Red Cross International Response Fund at www.chicagoredcross.org/donate or by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS. The Red Cross is also receiving money through a third party mobile fundraising effort sponsored by Mobile Accord. Mobile donors can text "Haiti" to 90999 to send a ten dollar donation to the Red Cross. The funds will go to support the Red Cross relief efforts in Haiti.

If you are communicating by email or in another format, feel free to use

the language and photo above.

If you are active in a social media space like Facebook or Twitter, you can copy/paste these messages or text them:

- If you are concerned about a U.S. citizen living or travelling in another country, you may call the U.S. Department of State at 1-888-407-4747 for assistance.
- RT @chicagoredcross Help the people of Haiti. Give \$10 to the American Red Cross by texting HAITI to 90999. #haiti
- Help the people of Haiti recover. Give to the American Red Cross International Response Fund at <http://tinyurl.com/arcirf> #haiti
- To host @ChicagoRedCross fundraising effort in your Chicago home/business for #Haiti, contact 312-729-6120 / ChicagoFD@usa.redcross.org
- @ChicagoRedCross can't accept food/supplies/etc. FUND needed items by giving to the Red Cross <http://tinyurl.com/arcirf> #haiti
- [IF YOU ARE GETTING QUESTIONS ABOUT VOLUNTEERISM] No need for #haiti volunteers @ChicagoRedCross right now. Will let you know. To volunteer in future, visit www.chicagoredcross.org/volunteer

News So Far About the American Red Cross Effort

The American Red Cross also is releasing supplies from our warehouse in Panama that will be able to meet the immediate needs of 5,000 families. Included are tarps, mosquito nets and cooking sets.

The American Red Cross is deploying six disaster management specialists to the disaster zone to help coordinate relief. These join the staff we already have on the ground there.

To date we have not received any request for blood products from the government of Haiti. We will respond to any request that we receive for blood products based on availability.

How We're Responding Locally

Our International Services Team is reaching out to Haitian groups and agencies with our condolences and updated information on what the American Red Cross is doing to help Haiti. We're letting them know that the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago is their local Red Cross Chapter and we can provide mental health support to the family and community, and providing them with our contact information.

The outpouring of support from the greater Chicago community has been wonderful. The need for assistance in Haiti will be great. Thank you for all you do to support the Red Cross.

www.chicagoredcross.org

