



American Red Cross

Hawaii State Chapter
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NEWS RELEASE

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American Red Cross Response in Haiti

Honolulu, HI (January 13, 2010) – On Tuesday, January 12, less than one hour before sunset, a 7.3 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. Government offices, including the Presidential palace, have collapsed. Hospitals and the local Red Cross office have sustained major damage. Many areas remain inaccessible as roads are covered with debris and bridges have collapsed. Telephone lines and electricity are still out in many places. The next 48 hours are critical for life-saving operations such as search and rescue and first aid.

The American Red Cross is contributing an initial \$1 million to support the relief operation. The American Red Cross also is releasing supplies from its 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 specialists will join the Red Cross staff already on the ground there. In Haiti, the local Red Cross worked throughout the night to rescue people from their trapped homes and provide first aid. Priority needs now are food, water, temporary shelter, medical services and emotional support.

At this time, the Red Cross is only deploying volunteers specially trained to manage international emergency operations. Please consider supporting your community's local needs by volunteering with the Hawaii Red Cross.

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The American Red Cross had staff in Haiti when the earthquake struck. The American Red Cross has a 15-person office in Haiti focused year-round on HIV/AIDS education and disaster preparedness.

Telephone, Internet and other communication lines are often disrupted in times of disaster. If your loved one has citizenship in Haiti, please be patient and continue to call or contact other family members who live nearby. If you're trying to reach a U.S. citizen living or traveling in Haiti, you should contact the U.S. Department of State, Office of Overseas Citizens Services, at 1-888-407-4747.

Sadly, Haiti and the surrounding areas are one of the most disaster-prone areas in the world. The Red Cross, however, is uniquely positioned to help communities around the world prepare for emergencies and meet the resulting humanitarian needs. The Red Cross is one of the largest humanitarian networks in the world. Collectively, our more than 97 million volunteers and employees give the Red Cross the expertise, scale and scope to manage catastrophic disasters from the moment they strike.

The American Red Cross already has seen an outpouring of support and concern from the public. You can help the victims of 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. The American Red Cross honors donor intent. People who want to help those affected by the Haitian earthquake can make a donation to the American Red Cross International Response Fund at Redcross.org or by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS. Donations can also be sent to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, D.C. 20013, or online at www.redcross.org. You can also call in your donations to the Hawaii Red Cross at 739-8109 or mail your donation to American Red Cross, Hawaii State Chapter, 4155 Diamond Head Road, Honolulu, HI 96816. If you would like to donate specifically to the Haiti relief effort, please indicate so on your check or when you call, and your donor intent will be honored. 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.

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