



## **American Red Cross**

Hawaii State Chapter  
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[www.hawaii.redcross.org](http://www.hawaii.redcross.org) (local)  
[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) (national)

# *NEWS RELEASE*

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## **Updated American Red Cross Response in Haiti**

Honolulu, HI (January 20, 2010) – The situation in Haiti remains desperate, but support from the American public is making it into the hands of survivors and more help is on the way. Aid is still getting into Haiti despite a new aftershock this morning and enormous logistical challenges.

The Red Cross has now been able to reach survivors outside the capital city, providing first aid in camps and prioritizing the need for food, water and other basic supplies. Red Cross responders from seven countries are also treating injuries and performing surgery at hospitals and medical centers throughout the capital city. Approximately 100 American Red Cross Creole-speaking volunteers have been trained and will soon join the USNS Comfort offshore in Haiti to translate for patients receiving medical care from the U.S. military. Red Cross teams are focused on purifying the water supply available in the country and expect to deliver clean drinking water to 200,000 to 400,000 people each day by truck. The American Red Cross is providing approximately 3 million pre-packaged meals in partnership with the World Food Program in Haiti. More than 100 truckloads of meals will leave Miami by air in the next few days and are expected to arrive in Haiti this weekend. In the days ahead, the Red Cross will provide tents and shelter supplies for an initial 20,000 families in Haiti. So far, 100 tons of Red Cross aid has arrived in Haiti. Planes and trucks carrying Red Cross humanitarian assistance are arriving in the region every day. The ICRC family links Web site, designed to help reconnect separated families, has received 23,000 registrations since the earthquake. We know 360 families have successfully reconnected using the site. Yesterday (1/19/10), the Red Cross helped an additional 117 people in Haiti make international phone calls to their families - mainly in the United States - to say they are safe and well.

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In Florida, American Red Cross chapters are providing a variety of support services as citizens return to the United States from Haiti. These services may vary slightly depending on the individuals' needs when they arrive, but may include shelter, food, emotional support, basic first aid, comfort kits and referrals to other community services.

American Red Cross President and CEO Gail McGovern visited relief operations in Haiti yesterday to help coordinate aid distribution. She witnessed the extensive damage and need as well as the growing presence of Red Cross services. The Red Cross - through first aid posts, hospitals, relief distribution sites, water trucking programs and family linking stations - is making life better for people on the ground every minute. She also began planning for a multi-year recovery operation with other Red Cross leaders from around the world and heads of state from the region.

This is an enormous relief operation now, but we also know it will be a massive long-term recovery effort and the Red Cross will be there throughout. This is already the largest single-country personnel deployment in global Red Cross history. The number of emergency response teams in or en route to Haiti equals those that responded to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami - an emergency that spanned 14 countries. It is clear that what took minutes to destroy will take many years and the collective support from governments and relief agencies across the world to help mend. The American Red Cross is working in close coordination with other responding organizations and will undoubtedly collaborate on joint, long-term recovery projects. Terrible times like these bring out the best in people, and we are grateful for the support being given to the American Red Cross. This generosity will help thousands of survivors cope with and recover from their losses.

Countless requests have come from people wanting to help. The best way to do that is to make a donation to the American Red Cross International Response Fund at [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS. Donors can designate their gifts to Haiti relief. Donations to the International Response Fund allows the American Red Cross to respond to global emergencies and disasters. Donors can also text "Haiti" to 90999 on their cell phone to send a \$10 donation to support Red Cross relief efforts in Haiti (donation would be reflected on cell phone bill). An average of 91 cents of every dollar the American Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs. Here in Hawaii, donors can also call in donations to the Hawaii Red Cross at 739-8109, go on-line at [www.hawaiiiredcross.org](http://www.hawaiiiredcross.org) or mail donations 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.

Some organizations here in Hawaii are holding fundraisers to help those affected in Haiti such as schools, restaurants like Soul de Cuba Café, and UH Athletics. “Hoops for Haiti” is a Kalaheo High School (KHS) effort involving the community and fellow schools to raise funds for the Haitian earthquake victims. KHS Student Council, Teen Care, Athletics and Red Cross Club are collecting funds during classes as well as during a basketball game on Friday, January 22nd. OC16 is supporting their efforts and will be doing a live broadcast at KHS gym that night at 5pm (Kaimuki versus Kaiser) and 7pm (Moanalua versus Kalaheo). Donors will be eligible to receive assorted prizes from the community via a drawing.

Coralie Chun Matayoshi, Hawaii Red Cross Chief Executive Officer, said, “The people of Hawaii continue to show their aloha and generosity whenever help is needed, whether it’s here in the islands, on the mainland or in other countries.”

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