



**American
Red Cross**

Hurricane Irma

One-Month Update | October 2017

Red Cross Helps Storm-Ravaged Communities in Irma's Wake

On September 10, 2017, Irma struck the Florida Keys as a Category 4 storm, the strongest hurricane to make landfall in the U.S. since 2005. Days earlier, the giant storm had carved a swath of destruction through the Caribbean, devastating the U.S. Virgin Islands and parts of Puerto Rico. Irma went on to engulf the state of Florida from Naples to Jacksonville and caused flooding and wind damage across the Southeast as far as Georgia, Tennessee and the Carolinas.

As Irma pummeled the length of Florida with hurricane-force winds, storm surge and torrential downpours, hundreds of thousands of evacuees sought refuge in government and Red Cross evacuation centers across six states. Millions of residents were left without power, and officials estimated that about 25 percent of the homes in the hard-hit Florida Keys were destroyed.

Amid ongoing relief efforts for Hurricane Harvey's catastrophic flooding in Texas and Louisiana, the American Red Cross launched a second massive

response to help communities ravaged by Irma's powerful winds and storm surge. Thousands of Red Cross volunteers and employees worked around the clock to provide safe shelter, food and comfort to people whose lives have been turned upside down.

In addition to our response in affected U.S. states and territories, the American Red Cross also provided assistance to help meet the immediate needs of people affected by Irma in Caribbean nations. The cost of this international assistance is supported by donations restricted for our international services.

In Florida, the Garcia family were among the tens of thousands who sought refuge from Irma's destructive impact. "Our house was entirely destroyed," said Primitivo Garcia. "Without this Red Cross shelter, we'd have nowhere to go right now."

When it was finally safe for survivors to return to their storm-battered neighborhoods to begin the arduous

"As I visited Red Cross shelters in Florida following Hurricane Irma, I was privileged to have a first-hand view of our mission in action. From an 85-year-old who arrived at the shelter in a hospital bed to a mother holding her 3-day-old newborn, I met so many people who were facing heartbreaking losses with courage and determination. I also heard a consistent message: 'I don't know where we would be without the Red Cross.' Similarly, I don't know where we'd be without the hard work of our dedicated volunteers and employees, community partners, and the generous supporters who bring the mission to life. From the bottom of my heart, thank you."

Gail McGovern, President and CEO, American Red Cross

process of cleaning up and putting their lives back together, Red Cross workers remained by their sides. They traveled in emergency response vehicles through the hardest-hit communities, providing residents—many still lacking power to cool their homes or prepare food—with food, comfort kits and sorely needed cleanup supplies.

“I slowly drove down to my house, and it was overwhelming,” said Mary Izzo, a Naples, Florida, resident whose home was severely damaged. Mary lived off cheese and crackers until Red Cross volunteers arrived with warm meals. “When [the] Red Cross came, I was ready to jump up and down,” she said. “Thank you, thank you, thank you for showing up.”

Recovery will be a long and challenging process for the thousands of individuals and families who suffered heartbreaking losses during Hurricane Irma, and the Red Cross will stand with them in the weeks and months ahead. At mobile service centers and in shelters, our trained caseworkers are connecting with people one-on-one, offering them an opportunity to share their needs and ask questions. For those who suffered the most severe damage, we are also providing financial assistance to help with urgent concerns like apartment deposits, purchasing clothes or food, or covering immediate transportation expenses. Red Cross caseworkers are also working with hurricane survivors to make recovery plans and locate available assistance from other agencies and community partners to help them get back on their feet.

Red Cross Visit Brings Help and Comfort to Hurricane Survivors

Hurricane Irma caused devastating damage in Immokalee, Florida, a small town on the edge of the Everglades. After the storm, Red Cross volunteers visited the community with food, cleanup kits and other sorely needed relief items.

Red Cross volunteer nurses also provided health screenings—with the primary concerns low blood sugar and dehydration. Immokalee is the center of the region’s agricultural industry and home to many immigrant and migrant families, who primarily speak Spanish and Creole. Volunteer translators in both languages assisted Red Cross disaster workers as they provided comfort and care for impacted residents.



Response at a Glance

Thousands of **American Red Cross** workers have mounted a massive response to help hundreds of thousands of people impacted by Hurricane Irma.



More than **1.5 million meals and snacks** served with partners



More than **1 million relief items** distributed



Nearly **650,000 overnight shelter stays** provided with partners



More than **49,000 health and mental health contacts** made

Cumulative figures as of October 10, 2017.

Hurricane Irma Relief and Recovery: Estimated Budget

Generous Red Cross donors are supporting ongoing relief and recovery for people affected by Hurricane Irma.

Hurricane Irma Estimated Budget ^{1,2} (in millions) as of October 10, 2017 (\$56.4 million raised)						
Expense Categories	Food, Shelter and Relief Items	Health and Emotional Support	Immediate Financial Assistance	Individual and Community Recovery	Total	Expense %
Financial assistance, food and other relief items	\$15.8	\$0.4	\$7.2		\$23.4	41.5%
Long-term recovery programs to help unmet needs				\$12.2	\$12.2	21.7%
Deployment and maintenance of volunteers and staff (includes airfare, lodging, meals and vehicles)	\$7.5	\$1.1	\$0.5		\$9.1	16.1%
Kitchen, shelter and other logistics that enable service delivery	\$2.2				\$2.2	3.9%
Freight and warehousing	\$2.1				\$2.1	3.7%
IT, communications, and call centers	\$0.8	\$0.1			\$0.9	1.6%
Full time Red Cross employees	\$0.5	\$0.1	\$0.1		\$0.7	1.2%
Equipment, maintenance and fueling of Red Cross emergency vehicles and rented trucks	\$0.5				\$0.5	0.9%
Temporary disaster hires	\$0.2				\$0.2	0.4%
Total Program Expenses	\$29.6	\$1.7	\$7.8	\$12.2	\$51.3	91.0%
Management, general and fundraising ³					\$5.1	9.0%
Total Estimated Budget					\$56.4	100%

¹ Figures are budget estimates and could change as needs change.

² Because the Hurricane Irma response in the U.S. Virgin Islands was already underway when they were impacted by Hurricane Maria, the costs for the response to both storms in the U.S. Virgin Islands are included in the Hurricane Irma estimated budget.

³ Management, general and fundraising expenses support our work at its core and are indispensable to running the organization and helping people in need. They include the people and systems to maintain our enterprise-wide computer and telecommunications, HR and payroll systems to support our more than 20,000 employees and nearly 314,000 volunteers, fundraising and communications functions, and other support services across all program lines. 91 cents of every dollar received for Hurricane Irma will be spent on our services to people affected by Hurricane Irma.

Thank you!

The American Red Cross must be prepared to respond quickly when disasters occur. From home fires that affect a single family to hurricanes that impact millions, those in need turn to the Red Cross in their darkest hours because they know they can depend on us with vital relief when it's needed most. Your donation helps us fulfill this trust.