



**American  
Red Cross**

One-Year Update | October 2017

## Bringing Relief and Recovery in the U.S. for Matthew Survivors

In October 2016, slow-moving Hurricane Matthew pummeled the coast from Florida to the Carolinas and southeast Virginia with gusting winds and torrential rains. In Matthew's wake, swollen rivers, creeks and streams continued to rise, causing devastating flooding in North Carolina for more than a week after the storm had passed.

As Matthew crawled up the coast, its winds battered houses and infrastructure, while rising waters forced thousands to flee their homes—often with little more than the clothes on their backs. To help meet their urgent needs, thousands of American Red Cross disaster workers—including local volunteers and employees, as well as trained volunteers from around the country—mobilized to bring assistance where it was needed most.

Red Cross workers opened shelters and supplied food and water, relief supplies, basic health services and comfort for those left devastated by the storm. When floodwaters receded and flood survivors returned to their neighborhoods to muck out waterlogged homes and salvage what could be saved, our volunteers remained in affected communities—providing meals, essential cleanup supplies and emotional support.

One of those volunteers, Nam Ngo, a recent nursing school graduate, worked at a Fair Bluff, N.C. shelter, helping residents whose homes had been destroyed. "I had a small break between graduating and starting work and took the chance to help," said Nam. "It has been a great experience."

### Response at a Glance (Domestic)

Thousands of American Red Cross workers—over 90 percent volunteers—mounted a massive response to help people devastated by Hurricane Matthew across five states, including Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia.



More than  
served



More than  
distributed



with over  
supported



More than

made



More than  
opened for people in need

—Cumulative figures as of September 13, 2017.

Matthew's floodwaters left communities reeling, inflicting billions of dollars in damage to homes and businesses. After relief operations wound down, trained Red Cross caseworkers continued helping survivors locate available resources to assist them with the many challenges of recovery.

The Red Cross coordinated with a variety of non-profit and government partners to support recovery in hard-hit communities. In some instances, this included financial grants to local recovery committees that helped people with a wide variety of needs, such as security deposits and application fees, home repairs, purchase of furniture and other items needed to restore homes to livable condition, replacing lost medical equipment and improving access to homes for people with disabilities.

In the middle of Hurricane Matthew's torrential rains, Joey Lancaster and friends frantically dug trenches and piled sandbags around his Goldsboro, N.C., home. They hoped to save it from rising floodwaters.

"When the water began rolling over the sandbags, I thought, 'We're not going to get this,'" Joey said. "I told my family, 'Go get all you can get [out of the house].'"

Following Hurricane Matthew, the family's home was swamped by a foot of floodwater, rendering it unlivable for Lancaster, his wife, three children and two dogs.

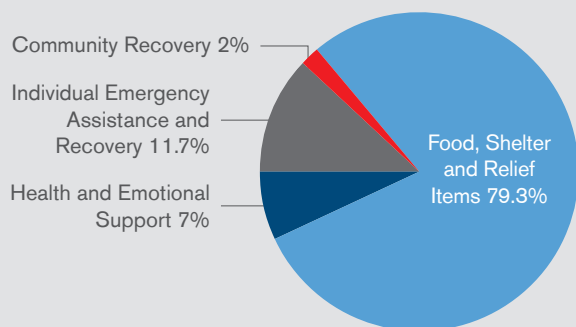
"I didn't have anything to my name at that point," said Joey, a local pastor. But neighbors, his church congregation and complete strangers, along with the Red Cross, came to his family's aid.

After the flooding subsided, Joey returned home to begin cleanup. As he surveyed the damage, he got a call from a Red Cross disaster caseworker. "She gave me a lot of hope. That was worth more than money," he said. "She gave me a list of resources—FEMA information and a list of resources for grant money. That knowledge is power."

A year after the storm, the family is renting a nearby home while they work with partner organizations to find a long-term solution. Joey remains undaunted. "I've got my health. My family is healthy," he said. "It's just stuff."

As of September 13, 2017, the Red Cross has spent or made commitments to spend approximately \$23.5 million, including the value of critical donated goods and services, to support emergency relief and recovery efforts for Hurricane Matthew in the U.S. Thanks to generous contributions from donors, the Red Cross has raised \$19.7 million specifically designated to help people affected by Hurricane Matthew in the U.S.; costs above this amount are covered by donations made to general disaster relief.

Expenses and Commitments\* through September 13, 2017  
\$23.5 M (\$19.7M raised)



\*These costs include the logistics, staff and technology expenses that make our services possible, as well as the value of critical donated goods and services. An average of 91 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs.

**Food, Shelter and Relief Items:** Red Cross volunteers and employees open shelters to provide safe refuge, serve nourishing meals to residents and first responders, and hand out needed relief items.

**Individual Emergency Assistance and Recovery:** The Red Cross works one-on-one with people to create recovery plans, find housing solutions, replace items, provide other support and help them apply for government and other community assistance.

**Health and Emotional Support:** Our volunteers and staff help provide services such as first aid support, replacing prescription medicines or eyeglasses, and helping people to cope.

**Community Recovery:** The Red Cross supports broader recovery initiatives to help communities meet specific disaster-caused needs, such as community rebuilding projects.

## American Red Cross Continues Support for Haiti

After Matthew's flooding, mudslides and massive destruction ravaged Haiti, the American Red Cross joined the Haitian Red Cross to provide immediate aid, including tens of thousands of relief supplies for stricken communities as well as cash transfers that helped families meet critical needs.

In the ensuing weeks, we continued working alongside the Haitian Red Cross to restore shelter, replace household items, ensure access to safe water, provide cholera prevention supplies and education, and assist families struggling with lost income.

One year later, our ongoing recovery efforts focus on restoring livelihoods, home repair, health and sanitation, and disaster risk reduction. The American Red Cross is providing financial assistance and small business training to families that suffered significant losses. We are also supplying agricultural tools, seeds and training for farmers in disaster-resilient agricultural techniques, and have funded livestock replacement and free veterinary clinics benefitting over 5,000 families.

To help survivors rebuild durable and sustainable shelter, we've trained masons and carpenters and are supporting home repairs in the impacted regions. As part of our efforts to combat water-borne diseases like cholera and improve sanitation, we have installed household latrines and supported health and hygiene education in affected communities.

Finally, we are working to strengthen the disaster response systems of the Haitian Red Cross and government through training of volunteers, as well as helping communities reduce risks through disaster preparedness education in schools and at public events.

Clermite Amise, a single mother of four who lives in Fond-Des-Negres, Haiti, faced many challenges after Hurricane Matthew. During its overnight passage, Matthew's winds felled a large tree that severely damaged the roof of her home.

"For days, my children and I lived in a house with a hole in the roof. When it rained, we had to put a bucket to collect the leaking water to prevent the house from being flooded," Clermite recalled.

Clermite also lost two pigs and a goat—exacerbating a difficult financial situation. Before the storm, Clermite sold sugar, peas, oil, flour and pasta at a roadside stand. But the hurricane weakened the family's already precarious situation, forcing Clermite to exhaust her savings and use food stocks from her business to feed her children.

Her small business was on the verge of collapse when Clermite received a cash grant from the Red Cross, which made it possible to support her family and begin paying off her debts. Today, business is improving.

### Response at a Glance (Haiti and the Caribbean)

To help tens of thousands of people in Haiti devastated by Hurricane Matthew, the American Red Cross and the global Red Cross network have provided vital relief and recovery support, including:



Relief supplies to more than **1.5 million** households



Unconditional cash transfers to over **1.5 million** households



Livelihoods assistance for nearly **1.5 million** people



Health and cholera prevention to more than **1.5 million** households



Disaster risk reduction education to more than **1.5 million** people

—Cumulative figures as of September 13, 2017.

“Without the...Red Cross, I would have had a hard time,” Clermite said. “The Red Cross...gave me a hygiene kit, then some cash, about 10,000 gourdes [about \$155 USD]. Trade is what I do best, so I invested all that money in my business,” Clermite explained.

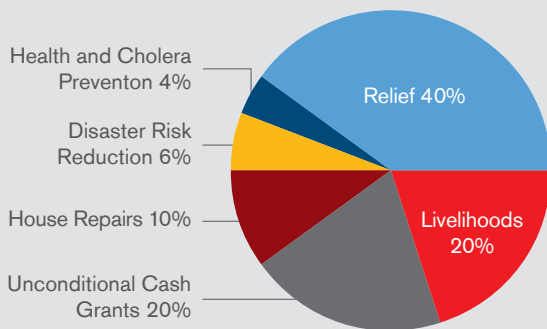
“With the funds, I was able to partially reimburse my suppliers, then I bought new stocks of products. With the rest, I was able to repair the roof of the house.”

Thanks to compassionate supporters, the Red Cross has raised \$5.2 million to help people impacted by Hurricane Matthew in the Caribbean, including Haiti, as of September 13, 2017. Costs above this amount have been covered by internal and external sources.



Clermite Amise, a single mother of four in Fond-Des-Negres, Haiti, was able to make repairs and revive her small business, thanks to financial assistance from the Red Cross. Gaby Saget/American Red Cross

Expenses and Commitments\* through September 13, 2017  
\$5.9M (\$5.2M raised)



\*These costs include the logistics, staff and technology expenses that make our services possible. Figures are estimates and could change. An average of 91 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs.

**Relief:** Includes the distribution of relief items such as shelter materials and tools, cooking supplies, and blankets.

**Unconditional Cash Grants:** Includes unrestricted financial distributions that allow individuals and families to purchase what they need to meet particular recovery needs.

**Health and Cholera Prevention:** Includes the provision of cholera prevention and hygiene supplies to households and health centers, education campaigns and support to a national cholera vaccination campaign, as well as the construction of latrines.

**Livelihoods:** Includes the replacement of lost economic assets such as livestock, seeds and tools; training to help people resume income-generating activities and targeted cash support to small business owners.

**House Repairs:** Includes the training of masons and carpenters and the repair of damaged homes.

**Disaster Risk Reduction:** Includes training and preparation of volunteers; education campaigns in schools, homes and communities; and support for Haitian Red Cross and government disaster risk reduction activities.

The American Red Cross must be prepared to respond quickly when disasters occur—across the country and around the world. 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 promise. We are grateful for your trust.

*Thank you!*