



**American
Red Cross**

CHILE EARTHQUAKE AND PACIFIC TSUNAMI

March 3, 2010



THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AT WORK AT HOME AND ABROAD

The American Red Cross is active on the front lines of relief, both at home and abroad. Carrying out our government mandate to help people prevent, prepare for and respond to all types of emergencies, the American Red Cross is helping meet the immediate needs of earthquake survivors in Chile and has helped communities in Hawaii prepare for a potential tsunami caused by the earthquake. At the same time, we continue supporting massive relief operations in Haiti, where more than 1.3 million people have been helped since an earthquake devastated the country on January 12.

“As the largest humanitarian network in the world, the Red Cross has both the experience and the capacity to respond to multiple disasters at the same time,” says David Meltzer, Senior Vice President of International Services at the American Red Cross. “Today, we are supporting the Chilean Red Cross in their response to the earthquake while relief operations continue in Haiti.”

Today, more than ever, no other disaster relief organization provides our depth of services to communities in the United States and around the world. Our local, national and international work is made possible by the generous contributions of individuals, corporations and foundations. Their support makes possible our work down the street, across the country and around the world.

OUR RESPONSE TO THE CHILE EARTHQUAKE

The American Red Cross is one of more than 180 national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies that answer the call every day to help alleviate human suffering. When responding to disasters abroad, the American Red Cross contributes to relief operations in three ways: deploying trained personnel, sending pre-positioned supplies from international warehouses in Dubai, Kuala Lumpur and Panama, and providing financial assistance.

On February 27, an earthquake of magnitude 8.8 occurred in the moderately populated region of Bio-Bio in central Chile. Chilean Red Cross disaster teams are working in close coordination with the Chilean government, performing assessments of damage, administering first aid and distributing supplies.

“Our hearts go out to the people of Chile as they struggle to deal with the immediate aftermath of this earthquake and the many aftershocks that are continuing,” continued Meltzer. “Thanks to the generosity of the American people who previously donated to our International Response Fund, we’ve been able to release an initial pledge of \$50,000 to help the Chilean people in their hour of need.” The American Red Cross raised its commitment yesterday to \$250,000.

In Chile and around the world, the Red Cross not only responds to disasters but also proactively prepares communities for future emergencies, promotes the importance of international humanitarian law and helps families locate loved ones missing due to war, natural disaster or civil unrest. Additionally, we are instrumental in preventing the spread of deadly diseases, like measles, malaria and HIV/AIDS.



Members of the Chilean Red Cross prepare to do aerial assessments of quake-damaged lands.

International Federation

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OUR RESPONSE TO A POTENTIAL TSUNAMI

The American Red Cross is not only mandated to respond to disasters in the U.S., but also to empower people to prepare for emergencies. Before disaster strikes, the Red Cross develops the partnerships and puts in place the structures we need to respond effectively and efficiently with emergency shelter, food, health and mental health services and resources and referrals to aid in recovery. On February 27, as residents of Hawaii wrestled with their fear of an impending tsunami due to the Chile earthquake and prepared for the worst—scrambling to secure their homes and protect their lives—the American Red Cross stood with the threatened communities, coordinating preparatory efforts with state and federal governments. For the roughly 17,000 residents asked to evacuate from their coastal homes, the Red Cross prepared shelters and readied comfort supplies.

Thankfully, waves much smaller than anticipated came ashore, and tsunami warnings were canceled for Hawaii, Guam and American Samoa. Year round, we prepare communities prone to specific disasters. For example, the Hawaii State Chapter trains residents to plan for tsunamis by practicing evacuation routes and assembling disaster preparedness kits. These early actions save lives.

SUPPORT OF DONORS

The American Red Cross is not a government agency; we rely on donations of time, talent, money and blood to do our work. We are proud of the fact that 91 cents of every dollar the American Red Cross spends goes to humanitarian services and programs. We make a difference in ways that can be felt in your neighborhood and around the world.

To Help Overseas, Make a Financial Gift to the International Response Fund.

You can help the victims of countless crises, like the recent earthquakes in Chile and Haiti, 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. If you wish to designate your donation to a specific disaster, please do so at the time of your donation by mailing your donation with the designation to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, D.C. 20013 or to your local American Red Cross chapter. Donations to the International Response Fund can also be made by phone at 1-800-REDCROSS or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish) or online at www.redcross.org.

To Help in the U.S., Make a Financial Gift to the Disaster Relief Fund.

You can help people affected by disasters, like the recent tsunamis, winter storms and floods, by donating to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. On those rare occasions when donations exceed Red Cross expenses for a specific disaster, contributions are used to prepare for and serve victims of other disasters. Your gift enables the Red Cross to provide shelter, food, emotional support and other assistance to victims of all disasters. Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may be sent to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, D.C. 20013 or to your local American Red Cross chapter. Donations to the Disaster Relief Fund can also be made by phone at 1-800-REDCROSS or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish) or online at www.redcross.org.

To Help in Your Local Community, Contact Your Local Chapter or Visit www.RedCross.org.

To learn more about the work of American Red Cross in the U.S.
and around the world, please visit **redcross.org**.