



**American  
Red Cross**

## Hurricane Dorian

THREE-MONTH UPDATE | DECEMBER 2019

### Red Cross Provides Aid for Communities in Massive Storm's Path

Dorian slammed into the Bahamas as a Category 5 hurricane in early September. Slowing to a crawl, the deadly storm lashed the Abaco Islands and Grand Bahama for the better part of two days with winds exceeding 180 mph and surging waters—taking at least 60 lives.

The massive and unpredictable storm also posed a significant threat to millions more residents on the U.S. mainland. Thousands of people living in waterside communities from Florida to the Carolinas evacuated as the storm's projected path continued to shift.

Dorian eventually turned north, battering the length of the Southeast coast—and striking communities in North Carolina with tornadoes and severe flooding after a second landfall.

Even before Dorian ravaged the Bahamas, the American Red Cross and the global Red Cross network were preparing for its impact. And in the storm's devastating wake, the American Red Cross joined with our international partners to deliver help and hope for hurricane survivors in the Bahamas, while we also provided comfort and relief to evacuees and impacted residents in the U.S.

### Supporting Hurricane Survivors in the Bahamas

As Dorian approached the islands, the Bahamas Red Cross communicated with residents to help them get ready for the storm and let them know where to evacuate if needed. In the storm's immediate aftermath, dedicated Bahamas Red Cross volunteers—many facing losses of their own—helped run an emergency shelter in a school on Abaco, distributed relief items and comforted survivors in shock after Dorian's destructive impact.

Coredearo Moss, of Grand Bahama, was one of many residents in her tight-knit island community who stepped up to volunteer. "I started volunteering the week after Dorian hit," he said. "These are my people, my neighbors, my family!"

In the three months since Dorian's impact, Red Cross workers from the Bahamas, the U.S. and around the world have continued to stand with heartbroken residents. Powered by compassionate donors, the American Red Cross is working with the Bahamas Red Cross and our partners in the global Red Cross and Red Crescent network to provide food and water, relief supplies, emotional support and recovery assistance. For example, we funded the provision of nearly 300,000 meals to survivors through our feeding partner, World Central Kitchen. The Red Cross also provided tracing services to help families reconnect with loved ones, and Red Cross disaster responders deployed to assist the response with specialized expertise in health, logistics, water and sanitation, financial assistance and more.

With many survivors lacking transportation, global Red Cross and Red Crescent teams have distributed vital relief supplies, such as emergency shelter kits, hygiene items, blankets, kitchen sets and more, to families in heavily impacted communities—including undocumented residents who are often reluctant to step forward for help.

These seemingly small items made a real difference people like Dellerce Miller, of Grand Bahama island. After losing everything to the storm, she said the supplies she received from the Red Cross “have been something to help me move forward, even a little. She added, “I bathe [using] the bucket you gave me, [and] use the portable stove to make mac and cheese, oatmeal and rice.”

Along with relief supplies, the Red Cross is also providing financial assistance to Dellerce and many more like her who were severely impacted by Dorian.

By quickly getting cash into the hands of storm survivors, we can help them meet their individual needs and restore a sense of normalcy to their lives.

“Part of the burden has just been lifted, like a weight off me,” Abaco resident and hurricane survivor Minalee said of the financial assistance from the Red Cross. She plans to use the funds for a temporary apartment and to help support her special needs child.

It will take time for individuals and families impacted by Hurricane Dorian to get back on their feet. Delivering aid and helping survivors plan their next steps are our top priorities. As of December 2, 2019, the American Red Cross has already spent \$16.2 million to provide relief and recovery aid for affected residents, and dozens of American Red Cross disaster responders are working around the clock on the islands to support the ongoing international response.

## Financial Assistance Helps Survivors in Bahamas Meet Urgent Needs

### **‘All I can say is thank you.’ – Sheikadena Sawyer**

“This is it,” Shikadena Sawyer remembered thinking. As she held hands with her kids, the winds started to bend and peel the roof off the school where they had taken shelter. A nurse by training, Sheikadena provided first aid non-stop for residents of the shelter on Great Abaco Island the day the hurricane struck.

Her family survived, but Dorian’s impact was devastating. “Even if we had a house that weathered the storm,” she said, “we’d still be returning to nothing. I’ve lost more than my home. I’ve lost my entire island.”

Financial assistance from the Red Cross is helping Sheikadena’s family with three months’ worth of immediate needs. “Angels. You are Red Cross angels,” she said. “This [financial assistance] is for my kids,” she added. “They went back to school yesterday,



Photo by Katie Wilkes/American Red Cross

and now I can afford to get them their uniforms, workbooks and new clothes. All I can say is thank you.”

## 'You all are a blessing.' – Loris Russell

As the Red Cross continues to provide financial assistance across the Bahamas, Loris' family was among the first residents on the island of Grand Bahama to receive this support. Because her father is too ill to travel, she picked up the financial assistance in his place.

"We thank you for this, because it will more than help supplement his pension and help with his medical bills, meals and aid our caretaker, too," she told relief workers.

"We don't have that many options available to us, and he was barely hanging on before the storm," she said. "You all are a blessing."



Photo by Katie Wilkes/American Red Cross

## Our Response in the U.S.: Aid for Evacuees, Support for Impacted Residents

While Dorian posed a serious risk to Florida and the Southeast U.S., the storm's shifting course spared most mainland residents from the storm's fury. However, the hurricane's northern turn brought high winds and heavy

seas to communities from Florida to southeastern Virginia, with a second landfall spawning damaging tornadoes and causing severe flooding in coastal areas of North Carolina.



A Red Cross emergency response vehicle visits a heavily damaged community in Emerald Isle, North Carolina, following Hurricane Dorian. Photo Credit: Daniel Cima/American Red Cross

The looming storm spurred large-scale evacuations across the region, and thanks to the generosity of our donors, the Red Cross was prepared for the worst, mobilizing some 110 emergency response vehicles and 109 tractor trailers loaded with vital shelter and relief supplies, including cots, blankets and 63,000 ready-to-eat meals.

More than 3,100 Red Cross responders from all over the country joined with our partners to support more than 38,300 overnight stays in Red Cross and community shelters and help serve over 189,700 meals and snacks, while also distributing more than 20,800 critical relief items like comfort kits and cleanup

supplies. In addition, our volunteer mental health and health services professionals made more than 12,200 contacts to provide emotional support and individual care for people affected by Hurricane Dorian—including those with special needs and functional disabilities.\*

Three months later, the Red Cross is continuing to help U.S. residents affected by the storm, especially in areas that saw the worst damage. We are working with individuals and families to help them plan for recovery and identify available resources. In some cases, we will also provide financial assistance and grants to community partners to help some of the hardest hit residents get back on their feet.

## Generous Donors Power Relief and Recovery

Thanks to our compassionate supporters, the Red Cross has raised \$48.8 million, including the value of critical donated goods and services, to help people impacted by Hurricane Dorian, both in the Bahamas and on the U.S. mainland. As of December 2, 2019, the Red Cross has already allocated

approximately \$23.3 million on emergency relief and recovery efforts for people affected by Hurricane Dorian. We will continue to program the remaining funds by providing and supporting services for both individual and community long-term recovery in the impacted communities.



Abaco Island residents Cassie and Wendell load relief supplies as they share how they were impacted by the historically strong storm. “We thank God for the help you have given us,” Cassie said. “What we’re able to take home today will help us go a long way.” Photo by Katie Wilkes/American Red Cross

\*Cumulative figures as of December 2, 2019.

**2019 Hurricane Dorian Bahamas Expenses and Commitments (in millions)<sup>1</sup>**

As of December 2, 2019

Expense Categories	Food, Shelter and Relief Items	Financial Assistance	Community Recovery	Total	Expense %
Grants to help provide financial assistance and meet other unmet needs	\$1.7	\$12.4	—	\$14.1	87%
Deployment of American Red Cross volunteers and staff (includes airfare, lodging, meals and vehicles)	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.2	\$0.4	2%
Full-time American Red Cross employees	\$0.1	—	—	\$0.1	1%
Total Program Expenses	\$1.9	\$12.5	\$0.2	\$14.6	90%
Management, general and fundraising <sup>2</sup>				\$1.6	10%
<b>Total Expenses</b>				<b>\$16.2</b>	<b>100%</b>

**2019 Hurricane Dorian U.S. Expenses and Commitments (in millions)**

As of December 2, 2019

Deployment of volunteers and staff (includes airfare, lodging, meals and vehicles)	\$2.6	\$0.2	—	\$2.8	39%
Financial assistance, food and other relief items	\$1.4	—	—	\$1.4	20%
Freight, postage and warehousing	\$1.2	—	—	\$1.2	17%
Full-time Red Cross employees	\$0.5	—	—	\$0.5	7%
IT, communications and call centers	\$0.2	—	—	\$0.2	3%
Equipment, maintenance and fueling of Red Cross emergency vehicles and rented trucks	\$0.1	—	—	\$0.1	1%
Temporary disaster hires	\$0.1	—	—	\$0.1	1%
Kitchen, shelter and other logistics that enable service delivery	\$0.1	—	—	\$0.1	1%
Total Program Expenses	\$6.2	\$0.2	—	\$6.4	90%
Management, general and fundraising				\$0.7	10%
<b>Total Expenses</b>				<b>\$7.1</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>1</sup>Dollar figures in all tables are rounded to the nearest \$100K; therefore, expenses \$49,999 and below are represented as zero.

<sup>2</sup>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 approximately 300,000 volunteers, fundraising and communications functions, and other support services across all program lines. 90 cents of every dollar received for Hurricane Dorian will be spent on our services to people affected by Hurricane Dorian.

<b>2019 Hurricane Dorian (total in millions)</b> As of December 2, 2019	
Expense Categories	Total
Total Program Expenses	\$21.0
Management, general and fundraising	\$2.3
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$23.3</b>
Program Dollars Remaining	\$22.9
Management, general and fundraising remaining to be applied	\$2.6
<b>Total Raised</b>	<b>\$48.8</b>



*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.

On Great Abaco Island in the Bahamas, the Red Cross delivers emergency relief supplies, including shelter repair kits, kitchen sets, blankets, tarpaulins, jerry cans, buckets, mosquito nets and hygiene supplies, to families affected by Hurricane Dorian. Photo by Katie Wilkes/American Red Cross