

American Red Cross releases additional \$9 million in aid to help earthquake relief efforts in Haiti; Local events planned

Thursday, January 14, 2010 — With estimates that as many as three million people may be affected by the catastrophic earthquake which hit Haiti Tuesday, the American Red Cross is releasing an additional \$9 million for earthquake relief, bringing its total commitment so far to \$10 million to support relief efforts in Haiti.

Priority needs in Haiti are food, water, temporary shelter, medical services and emotional support. Thousands of local Red Cross volunteers are aiding their fellow Haitians. American Red Cross Disaster management specialists are scheduled to arrive today from the United States, Peru and Mexico to join local Red Cross staff already on the ground in the disaster zone. As soon as airports begin accepting relief shipments, tarps, hygiene items and cooking sets for approximately 5,000 families will come from the Red Cross warehouse in Panama.

The American Red Cross is also helping the injured who may need blood. Blood and blood products were shipped to the U.S. Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, Florida, and then on to Guantanamo Bay to help Haitian evacuees and patients.

ICRC is helping reconnect separated families in Haiti through a [special web site](#), www.icrc.org/familylinks which enables people in Haiti and outside the country to search for and register the names of relatives missing since the earthquake. In the first twenty-four hours, more than 6,000 people have been registered.

Locally, Haitian-American Red Cross volunteers are leading four donation drives designed to raise money for the International Response Fund. To participate, visit these locations:

Miromar Outlets (10801 Corkscrew Rd., Suite 199, Estero, FL 33928 - (239) 948-3766)
Friday, Jan. 15 from 9-6 and Saturday, Jan. 16 from 9-2 .

Lowe's (8040 Dani Drive, Fort Myers, FL (239) 896-1940)
Friday, Jan. 15 from 10-6 and Saturday, Jan. 16 from 9-2.

How To Help

You can help the victims of countless crises 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.

Call 1-800-Red-Cross or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish)

Visit www.redcross.org

Text "HAITI" to 90999 to donate \$10 to American Red Cross relief for Haiti.