Worldwide Disaster Preparedness

**American**

**Response Team**

**Preparing for Disaster**

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lobal trends such as rapid population growth, unplanned urbanization, environmental degradation and climate change have A close up of a sign

Description automatically generatedcontributed greatly to the occurrence of natural disasters. Some of the poorest countries and communities in the world suffer the most as they lose family member, homes, and livelihoods. Worldwide response to such disasters is a priority to such organizations as the American Response Team (ART). We are active in more than 30 countries, with the goal of increasing that number significantly each year. In the past six years, ART has touched more than 50,000,000 lives as we provided support in countless situations of poverty, disaster, and other emergencies. We work with community members around the world to increase understanding of local actions they can take, both individually and collectively to reduce the risk of disasters and to respond appropriately when emergencies occur. A secondary goal is to help reduce the costs associated with post-disaster recovery.

**Strengthening Communities**

A resilient community is one that is strong physically, psychologically, socially, and economically in its ability to adapt to and successfully recover from a disaster. ART is invested in the resiliency of local communities. In fact, we strive on a daily basis to increase preparedness and build more capacity in local strongholds of talent and initiative. Typical preparedness activities include providing a wealth of information on risks faced worldwide, working with community members to better understand the possibility of immediate emergencies, and to develop community action plans that outline evacuation routes and the availability of emergency shelters. We also assist in identifying cost-effective early warning systems to better predict and react to threats.

We are even involved with proactive projects that reduce disaster risks, such as planting trees to prevent soil erosion, building blood embankments, improving drainage systems, and constructing hazard-resistant homes.

**Response Readiness**

ART and its Star Partners are everywhere disaster strikes. Our organization is huge, but is quick to reach individual lives and communities in the midst of what seems to be an irrecoverable situation. We can do so because we have what must be the most caring team of first responders in the world. Our response happens in the following ways:

* Increase the resilience of communities that are at high risk to disasters, such as hurricanes, earthquakes, or floods
* Educate and prepare for health situations, such as disease outbreaks
* Deliver urgent relief to scenes of devastation
* Provide skills and equipment necessary to effectively assist and guide a disaster response
* Invest resources in strategically pre-positioning relief items for rapid deployment
* Provide disaster management training, forming a roster of skilled local disaster responders
* Build technical expertise to better identify risks and predict events

**Developing a Worldwide Disaster Preparedness Center**

In 2017, ART and its Star Partners completed a center designed to improve disaster preparedness globally. The Worldwide Disaster Preparedness Center is both a resource center and a think tank that promotes innovation in disaster preparedness and supports learning and sharing among disaster preparedness organizations worldwide. For more information about the center, please visit www.artdisastercenter.org.

**How You Can Help**

Wondering how you can help? People around the world are asking the same question. You can help people affected by disasters like floods, fires, tornadoes and hurricanes, as well as countless crises at home and around the world, by making a donation to support American Response Team in its disaster relief efforts. Your gift enables ART to prepare for and provide shelter, food, emotional support and other assistance in response to disasters.

Visit americanresponseteam.org or call (489) 555-8712. Contributions may also be sent to your local American Response Team chapter.