Disasters, war and civil unrest displace millions of people around the world from their homes every year. A person’s most basic needs — health, water, shelter, sanitation, livelihoods and safety — become both more difficult and more critical to fulfill in an emergency. Supported by tithe funds from U.S. Habitat for Humanity affiliates, the International Disasters Fund helps Habitat organizations abroad respond to disasters as they occur. Funding may also be used for responses to protracted humanitarian emergencies.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can support the International Disasters Fund, please visit the tithe homepage on MyHabitat or contact us directly at tithe@habitat.org.

Fiscal year 2022 International Disasters Fund distribution

In fiscal year 2022, 262 U.S. Habitat organizations tithed $2,447,611 to the International Disasters Fund. Of this, $1.8 million was special tithe from U.S. affiliates to support Habitat’s Ukraine response. This fund is designed to maintain a balance so that Habitat can respond quickly to disasters as they occur. In the past year, portions of affiliate tithes were distributed as follows:

$1.8 MILLION TITHED TO SUPPORT HABITAT’S UKRAINE RESPONSE

Just days after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in late February 2022, Habitat for Humanity teams began responding to the resulting refugee crisis by helping displaced families with shelter and other emergency needs at Ukraine’s border with Romania and Hungary and in major cities like Warsaw, Poland. The immediate response at the Romanian and Polish borders was supported by $200,000 from the International Disasters Fund. This response includes providing emergency accommodation to refugees on the move, building stability through interim shelter solutions, and ensuring long-term shelter with housing solutions. A special thank-you goes to the more than 110 U.S. Habitat organizations that made special tithes to this critical response work. To learn more about the ongoing impact of your tithe, visit the Ukraine response collection on MyHabitat.
$100,000 TO 2021 EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE IN HAITI
On Aug. 14, 2021, a magnitude-7.2 earthquake struck the southwest region of Haiti, damaging or destroying more than 135,000 homes. Habitat Haiti teamed up with ShelterBox to support 2,000 affected families by providing cash to meet their basic needs and shelter kits that contained tarps, tools, thermal blankets, solar lights, kitchen sets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets and water carriers. Habitat Haiti is committed to building 300 new homes in this region and repairing 2,000 structures through Habitat's Pathways to Permanence approach. The tithe fund allowed Habitat Haiti to leverage additional funding from other partners as well. In all, Habitat supported almost 14,000 people in the emergency phase.

$37,500 TO SEMERU VOLCANO RESPONSE IN INDONESIA
Mount Semeru in East Java erupted in December 2021, killing 43 people and injuring more than 200 Indonesians. The disaster left more than 4,200 people displaced and more than 5,200 houses uninhabitable. Habitat Indonesia has provided technical support to the local government and other local stakeholders on relocation planning and shelter design and construction with a community-based approach.

$100,000 TO KWAZULU-NATAL FLOODING RESPONSE IN SOUTH AFRICA
In April 2022, KwaZulu-Natal, a highly impoverished province, experienced devastating storms that led to flooding in vulnerable communities, causing loss of life and property. More than 12,000 homes were destroyed in the region, leaving more than 40,000 people homeless. These communities were at great risk for food and water insecurity, waterborne diseases and other dangers. Habitat South Africa joined with the government and other stakeholders to provide a coordinated response focused both on immediate relief and rebuilding efforts. With support from the International Disasters Fund, Habitat South Africa provided transitional shelters and access to reliable and safe water and hygiene solutions for 17 families. Habitat plans to serve 46 more families through additional funds it has secured.

$250,000 TO FUND DISASTER READINESS KITS IN GUATEMALA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, VIETNAM, INDONESIA, AND ETHIOPIA
Habitat national organizations that are in disaster-prone areas and have a disaster risk reduction and response program in place as a priority program were eligible for tithe-funded grants to purchase and pre-position disaster response kits (nonfood items) that could be used immediately after a disaster hits. Five programs were selected to receive tailored kits that are locally purchased. Types of kits include construction; water, sanitation and hygiene; and household support. For example, the $50,000 grant has enabled Habitat Vietnam to prepare 150 construction kits containing iron roofing sheets, screws and steel wire to serve families with roof repairs, a common need after disasters in the country.