



Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery

Program Overview

CWS' Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery (EPRR) program underscores our commitment to safeguarding vulnerable communities, particularly refugees, immigrants and unaccompanied children within the United States disaster lifecycle. The program is built upon three essential pillars: **Preparedness, Response and Recovery and Integration**. In the Preparedness phase, we focus on strengthening the resilience and preparedness of refugee and immigrant populations in areas where CWS is already present while also resourcing response organizations with culturally appropriate tools and information. The Response and Recovery phase maximizes CWS' involvement in the domestic emergency response network primarily through the deployment of subject matter experts, communication, collaborative organizing efforts and the CWS Kits and Blankets program. Lastly, Integration ensures that nuanced challenges faced by refugee and immigrant populations are addressed through advocacy and collaborative efforts between CWS staff and partners.

Through each phase and pillar, EPRR is committed to inclusivity of the populations being served. To best serve these communities, their input is valued and included in materials creation and distribution, needs identification and communications.

Who We Serve

Our focus is on communities within the United States where CWS maintains a presence, with a primary emphasis on vulnerable communities including refugees, immigrants and unaccompanied children. We also extend our assistance to partners including those in the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster network at the national, state and local levels, denominational partners, local partners established through local offices, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, State and Local Emergency Management agencies and Voluntary Agency Liaisons at the federal, regional and state levels.

Where We Work

CWS operates in U.S. communities where we have existing staff and offices. However, we also support disaster relief efforts in areas where we do not have a physical presence through our Kits and Blankets program, culturally appropriate informational tools and expertise.

Milestones and Big Wins

The CWS EPRR program marks a renewed commitment to the revitalization of CWS' domestic disaster response efforts. This includes an increased staffing structure to ensure our ability to be nimble in our management, effective in our focus and efficient in our response. Since CWS' establishment in 1946, disaster response has been a core element of our mission and is driven by our goal of ensuring that refugee and immigrant communities are not left behind during the disaster response process. Our work remains vital in providing equitable access to all available resources for these communities in the wake of disasters.

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