

**New York State Office of the Attorney General
Charities Bureau**

Hurricane Sandy Relief Information

Name of Organization: International Rescue Committee

1.	What is the approximate dollar amount of donations and pledges that your organization has received to date in response to Hurricane Sandy?
<p>IRC is an international humanitarian assistance organization, providing support to people fleeing conflict and natural disaster. We work in over 40 countries around the world, and provide resettlement assistance to refugees in 15 U.S. cities. IRC maintains programs in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake. One of IRC's refugee resettlement offices is in New York City (with a sub-office in New Jersey). IRC received a minimal amount of donations, \$3,578, in response to a hurricane Sandy web page appeal. For Haiti specifically, IRC's web appeal was originally for Hurricane Isaac relief. After Hurricane Sandy, the website was changed to add Sandy relief. The combined Isaac-Sandy web appeal raised approximately \$8,380.</p>	
2.	Will these funds be used solely for Hurricane Sandy relief? If not, approximately what portion will be used for Hurricane Sandy relief and what other purposes will funds be used for?
<p>Apart from the small amount of funds expended for Hurricane Isaac relief in Haiti, these funds will be used solely for Hurricane Sandy relief in Haiti and the U.S. (as described below)</p>	
3.	Approximately how much has your organization spent to date on Hurricane Sandy relief?
<p>IRC has deployed approximately \$70,000 in assistance to persons affected by Hurricane Sandy in Haiti (where IRC has existing programs in women's protection, education and health). (IRC maintains post-earthquake emergency response funding in Haiti that was deployed for Haitian Hurricane Sandy assistance.) In the New York and New Jersey offices, IRC staff reached out to refugee clients who may have been affected by Hurricane Sandy. While, thankfully, no clients lost their homes, several were unable to travel to work due to transportation closures. IRC provided approximately \$8,000-9,000 in such assistance to clients in New York and New Jersey.</p>	
4.	What services has your organization provided to those affected by Hurricane Sandy? What populations or geographical areas are being served by your organization in response to Hurricane Sandy? What services does it expect to provide in the future?
<p>In Haiti: As massive relief and recovery efforts forge ahead in the United States in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, the International Rescue Committee is focusing its emergency efforts in <u>Haiti</u>, which was hammered by Sandy last week, and where hundreds of thousands of people still living in tent camps are in need of help. Three days of fierce rain and wind flooded and damaged about 100 camps where some 325,000 people still homeless from the 2010 earthquake continue to live. Tents and other makeshift shelters were inundated by water, poorly</p>	

maintained latrines overflowed, and garbage and waste were strewn everywhere. IRC teams surveyed damage in and around Port-au-Prince and within 24 hours began distributing emergency supplies to affected families. So far the IRC has provided emergency kits with shelter materials and hygiene items to 4,200 victims of the storm and distributions continue.

The IRC and other aid groups are also seeing an uptick in suspected cholera cases since the storm hit and have collectively referred 50 individuals with cholera symptoms to medical clinics. IRC health teams are out in full force spreading messages about cholera prevention and proper hygiene and sanitation. We are also repairing damaged latrines and distributing cleaning supplies to disinfect sanitation facilities and tents. From IRC website, www.rescue.org *October 31, 2012.*

In the U.S.: From New York to Miami, many refugees served by the IRC's east coast offices have suffered a serious financial blow from Hurricane Sandy. These newly arrived refugees frequently have manufacturing or service industry jobs and receive hourly wages. If they can't get to work, they don't get paid. But disruption of mass transit systems is making it impossible for many of them to reach their place of employment. And in other cases, infrastructure damage and power outages have forced their employers to close their doors until repairs can be made. Recently resettled refugee families often rely on resources provided by a single wage earner; average salaries are about \$200 per week. Loss of nearly a week's pay from an already modest income is an enormous setback for families starting over in the United States who have no savings or resources to speak of. To help these families whose income has been disrupted, the IRC will provide cash assistance so they can meet their monthly expenses. Caseworkers from IRC offices in affected areas are reaching out to recently resettled refugee families to ensure that they are not suffering financially in the aftermath of the storm. From IRC's website, www.rescue.org.

5. Has your organization provided funding to other organizations for Hurricane Sandy relief efforts? If so, which organizations have received those funds and what is the approximate dollar amount provided to them? How does your organization determine the need for funding?

IRC did not provide funding to other organizations for Hurricane Sandy relief efforts. IRC's website directed readers to a Huffington Post link that listed organizations undertaking major relief efforts for U.S. victims.

6. Has your organization provided, or does it intend to provide, direct financial assistance to individuals, families or businesses for Hurricane Sandy relief? If so, what is the approximate dollar amount that your organization has provided to date and approximately how much direct financial assistance does it expect to provide in the future? How does your organization determine the need for assistance?

As noted above, IRC provided direct financial assistance to U.S. beneficiaries who were unable to work as a result of Hurricane Sandy. The total dollar amount provided to date is estimated to be \$8,000-9,000. IRC does not anticipate providing significant direct financial assistance to refugees affected by Hurricane Sandy in the future.

7.	Does your organization have a plan in place on how to use any surplus funds not spent for Hurricane Sandy relief? If so, please describe that plan.
IRC does not anticipate having surplus funds not spent for Hurricane Sandy relief.	



Name and title of representative
Carrie A. Simon, General Counsel

12.17.2012

Date

Please email this document with your response to sandyresponse@ag.ny.gov by December 11, 2012. You may obtain an electronic copy of this document by emailing a request to that same address.

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