

Disasters Have Three Phases of Response

UMCOR is a recovery responder.

There are distinctions between roles of first responders like the Red Cross and recovery responders like UMCOR.



Recovery Phase = Relief Phase x 10

Recovery responders usually do their work in the recovery phase of a disaster. Some, like UMCOR, also use funds for immediate relief. Here's how your humanitarian aid agency works in a disaster.

Big Disasters Have Three Response Phases

The *recovery phase* is the third of three phases in a disaster. In our experience the recovery phase occurs over a timeframe that is ten times longer than the second phase of relief. The relief phase is ten times longer than the emergency phase, those days immediately following the disaster.

Here's an example from a big disaster.

To reconstruct communities and restore individual lives after a disaster the magnitude of hurricanes Katrina and Rita is a massive effort. It takes money, time, and determination.

Example of the Three Disaster Phases

Phase	Example of Days	What UMCOR Does in This Phase
1 Emergency	21 days	Provide emergency grants to assist annual conferences in initial response
2 Relief	210 days	Ships relief supplies. Provides mentors to set up storm recovery centers; fields volunteers who muck out and gut out houses; assists annual conferences in their relief ministries
3 Recovery	2,100 days	Rebuilds individual lives and communities. Continues to muck out, gut, and rehabilitate homes; provides skilled construction managers, engineers, and workers who can connect families to services they need such as medical help, employment, child care, help with bills, housing and a host of other solutions; sets up material resource supply stations; trains volunteers to assist survivors and give them the help to make and sustain their own recovery plans



Thank God for Generous Gifts!

UMCOR thanks God for the generosity of United Methodists. When a disaster happens, these gifts enable the agency to accompany vulnerable survivors. Continued giving allows a comprehensive response for the full number of years estimated to have a complete recovery in the affected regions.

Personal Story: "That Team Changed My Entire Thinking"

Before one of our disaster recovery workers was a worker, she was a "client." Her home had been destroyed in a severe hurricane. One day, all suited up in a hazard suit and mask, she was clearing up the debris of her ruined home. She felt dispirited, her motivation gone. A team of volunteers pulled up and offered to help with the mucking out. "I felt inspired," she said. "That team changed my entire thinking about what I would do." This worker is now a member of an Annual Conference recovery team, deep in the details of making sure clients who need help can have easy access to the offices where caring workers will be available. She looks forward to connecting with people in her neighborhood who need services and a helping, humanitarian hand.

Your Gifts Continue to Matter

Your cash donations will allow UMCOR to make a comprehensive and full response in the region affected by these severe hurricanes. Please pray for our sisters and brothers in Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, and in those regions that to this day host evacuees. And consider a generous gift to UMCOR Advance #982511, Hurricanes 2007. Mail to UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087.

Photo credits, clockwise from left:: Dixie Fischer, St. Mark's UMC, Lincoln, NE; UMNS, courtesy W. Penn. Annual Conference; George Armstrong/FEMA; Win Henderson, FEMA; Mike Dubose/UMNS; Jane Dennis/UMNS