

Mercy-USA

for Aid and Development®

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Indonesia Tsunami and Earthquake Relief

Two islands in Earthquake-prone Indonesia were hit especially hard last summer and fall. In late July into August 2018, at least five major earthquakes struck the Island of Lombok. Hundreds of people were killed and towns and villages were all but destroyed. Mercy-USA for Aid and Development has a permanent office in Indonesia with field teams ready to mobilize when natural disasters strike. We responded to the needs of the village of Kerta Raharja, where every home was destroyed and all the school buildings were flattened.

On September 28, a 7.4 magnitude earthquake and a Tsunami struck the island of Sulawesi, Indonesia. Again, we were ready to respond quickly with another field team that made their way to...*continued on page 2*

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Mercy-USA for Aid and Development is a nonprofit relief and development organization dedicated to alleviating human suffering and supporting individuals and their communities in their efforts to become more self-sufficient.

Incorporated in 1988, Mercy-USA's projects focus on improving health, nutrition and access to safe water, as well as promoting economic and educational growth around the world.

- Registered with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Special Consultative Status with the United Nations
- Member of InterAction

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30 YEARS
HELPING AROUND THE WORLD!

Mercy-USA Helping as Fast as Possible, Where it's Needed Most.

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the affected area within just a couple days of the Tsunami despite the transportation infrastructure being completely disabled.

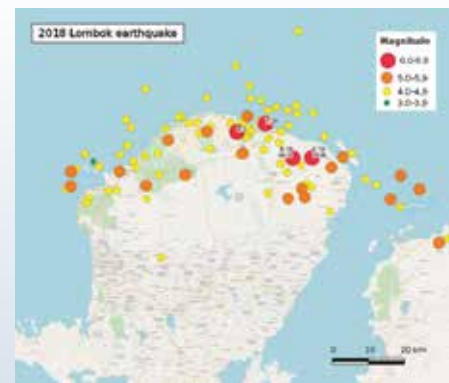
In October, Mercy-USA distributed ready to eat, hot cooked meals, twice a day to hundreds of disaster survivors. With no resources to cook or store food, these meals were vital to families living outside on the ground in makeshift tents.



We spoke to mothers like Rosdiana, at left, the wife of a poor fisherman. They lost everything in the Tsunami; it swept away their home and livelihood in just minutes. She told us our hot meals for her family were lifesaving as they had been surviving on instant noodles until we arrived. She said her children were getting weaker by the day until our relief team came with hot meals for everyone. This project also cared for the needs of the rescue volunteers who worked around the clock in recovering the victims of the disaster.

Mercy-USA also distributed a food basket of shelf-stable food to last a family one month as well as hygiene packages for adults and babies that included all that's needed to stay clean and healthy while surviving in tough conditions.

In addition, Mercy-USA distributed tents to bring families out of the elements while providing dignity and privacy during such a difficult time.



The devastation from five powerful earthquakes in the space of three weeks on the island of Lombok destroyed most of the infrastructure in the affected area. Mercy-USA delivered hygiene kits and food baskets to families in the village of Kerta Raharja. We are also building semi-permanent housing for vulnerable families until the

Indonesian government fulfills their vow to build permanent homes.



Rebuilding a Primary School

In Kerta Raharja, 5 to 7 year olds now attend informal school in a large tent that is only suitable when the weather is dry, which is not often in this tropical island location. Without classroom structure, washroom facilities and proper shelter, instruction is difficult. Mercy-USA is rebuilding the school and has already supplied the children with new uniforms, backpacks, work tables and supplies.



Thousands of Families in Syria Get Winter Warmth

More than 3 million displaced people are crowded into makeshift shelters and substandard buildings in northern Syria. Many have had to flee to a new location on more than one occasion, and this kind of instability increases the suffering and loss children and their families experience. One of the ways Mercy-USA has worked to alleviate the hardship is through our annual winterization program providing winter heat to families living in various types of uninsulated shelters, especially tent homes.

This winter, with help from a generous grant from the United Nations and Mercy-USA donors, we are delivering cast iron stoves and three months of eco-friendly fuel to thousands of families. This fuel burns hotter than scarce wood or coal, and is safer for the environment as well. The bio-mass fuel is manufactured in nearby Turkey as well as in Syria from olive oil production waste. The cast iron stoves are vented and sturdy so not to be easily tipped by children. This project will keep children and the elderly safe from the freezing nighttime temperatures, especially while surviving in tents.



Surviving winter on the barren plains in Northern Syria in a sodden cloth tent is made more survivable with safe winter heating fuel and a vented stove.



Equalizing Back to School for Kids in Detroit and Bosnia

Every child's first day of school should be one filled with the anticipation of learning new things and making friends. We found that the back to school season can be a stressful time for families who struggle to make ends meet. Every parent wants to send their children off to the first day of school with all that the school requires. However, for many parents the school supplies list means going without something else that month to accommodate the extra expense. Mercy-USA provided back to school backpacks loaded with school supplies for children at schools in Bosnia and Detroit.

For the second year, we sponsored backpacks and



Kindergartners through 5th graders in Detroit had brand-new backpacks loaded with supplies waiting for them when they arrived on their first day of school in September, 2018.

supplies for children in first grade at six schools in Bosnia. Children were outfitted with brand-new, colorful backpacks and the required school supplies. The distribution day was exciting for little ones about to begin first grade. Disadvantaged families brought their children in for a special day before school started so their kids could begin the first day proudly with a new backpack and supplies.

Inspired by the success of the program in Bosnia and our emphasis on education worldwide, we initiated the "We Care Backpacks" program for three Detroit public schools identified as having great need. Mercy-USA volunteers raised money, and assembled



Teachers at all 3 schools in Detroit were gifted classroom supplies. Their smiles matched those of their students.



Backpacks filled with school supplies went to first graders in six schools in Bosnia for the second year.

more than 400 backpacks filled with school supplies for children in kindergarten through 5th grade. We also distributed teacher care kits containing supplies like tissues, printer paper, dry erase markers and more. Teachers often spend from their own pockets to supply their classrooms with items needed to teach and maintain hygiene.

Parents were informed well ahead of the first day of school that their children would not need to bring a backpack or supplies, so children showed up on the first day full of excitement and anticipation. They were not disappointed!



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Remember Mercy-USA's mission in your will.

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Volunteer in your community to promote Mercy-USA's work. Call us for details on how you can get involved!



Albania

- English and computer skills training for orphans
- Read to Succeed program for school-age children and teens

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Vocational and career training for orphans, at-risk teens and young adults
- Agriculture Education Center to aid farmers, and local communities with sustainable farming methods

The Gaza Strip

- Supporting special school for blind and visually-impaired elementary school-aged children

India

- Seasonal food aid

Indonesia

- Aiding farmers and local communities with sustainable farming methods. Also assisting farmers in forming cooperatives
- English and computer skills training for orphans and other at-risk teens.

Kenya

- Fresh water to communities affected by severe drought
- Nutritional support for mothers and children
- Hygiene and sanitation training and promotion

Lebanon

- Syrian Refugee assistance in Wadi Khalid, Lebanon
- Palestinian Refugee Assistance in Beddawi and Nahr-Al-Bared Palestinian Refugee Camps
- Vocational training courses

Rohingya Refugees

- Food baskets for Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh

Somalia

- To date about 600 new or rehabilitated wells for access to clean drinking water throughout Somalia including emergency drought relief
- Nutritional support and health services for mothers and children
- Hygiene and sanitation training and promotion
- Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention

- Building food security through veterinary services for livestock.
- Support for primary & middle schools in 5 regions of Somalia.

Syria

- Monthly food baskets for vulnerable families in northern Syria
- Winterization projects for vulnerable children and their families
- Shelter, blankets, mattresses, mats for displaced families
- Medical services for vulnerable Syrians living in hard-to-reach areas



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- One Time Donation** \$ _____
- Monthly Donation** \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____
- Check**
- Credit Card** (Fill out Credit Card Section)
- Pledge** \$ _____

I give my permission to Mercy-USA/Mercy-USA (Canada) to withdraw from my Credit Card the amount I have indicated above. I also understand that I may change or end a monthly donation agreement at any time with a written notice.

Credit Card Information (Charged in US Currency)

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Automatic Giving Program: A gift of your choice can be automatically deducted monthly from your bank account. Please call us toll-free at **800-556-3729** for details on how you can make an easy and sustaining gift.