

Hurricane Florence Response: Children and Families in Shelters Receive Essential Supplies; Our Teams Reach Flooded Community of New Bern

September 17, 2018

The Emergency

Days after Hurricane Florence's landfall along the North Carolina coast, its storm surge and historic amounts of rainfall continue to inundate large areas of the coastal region. With up to 30 inches of rainfall measured in some communities and some rivers yet to crest, the damage and impact from Florence continues to mount.

Thousands of people remained in small and large evacuation shelters today in North and South Carolina, unsure of when they will return home, and what they will find.

Save the Children's emergency team is addressing needs of children and families in shelters in North Carolina who evacuated from the path of Florence. We are ready to continue distributing vital supplies to families in the state as roads become passable, and are already in touch with child-care provider networks to lay the groundwork for longer-term recovery for children and families.

We are seeking a minimum of \$5 million in new support for our response. Your flexible contribution, pooled with other generous supporters, will help our team deliver essential support to displaced children and families waiting to return home. Your generosity will also ensure that we have the flexible resources to mobilize and scale up our work in affected communities.

Our Humanitarian Response

Our team of humanitarian relief experts is based in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina, where they arrived before Florence's landfall on September 14. They have



Two girls play with craft supplies at a child-friendly space we opened at their evacuation center in the Raleigh-Durham area in North Carolina.

Photo by Jeremy Soulliere, Save the Children.

reached hundreds of families with young children in evacuation shelters.

As roads to the coast opened on September 16, they travelled through four coastal counties assessing the storm's impact on children and providing assistance to those in shelters.

Here are highlights of our work to date, which has benefited over 1,000 children and families:

- We've provided infant and family hygiene kits to families in shelters in and around Raleigh-Durham, including at a large shelter on the campus of the University of North Carolina. We also provided cribs to families with very young children.

- We are receiving shipments of diapers, baby wipes, strollers and cribs and other supplies at our vendor's warehouse for rapid distribution.
- At our child-friendly spaces at two shelters, children in these large, open and unfamiliar environments are participating in structured play activities to help them cope with their uncertainty and fears.
- On Sunday, September 16, our staff distributed infant hygiene supplies to families in two shelters in New Bern, which saw record floods.
- Based on our rapid assessments in four coastal counties in North Carolina, we know many child-care providers will face huge challenges in re-opening and providing this essential service to children and working families. Over 6,600 child-care providers in North Carolina were believed to be in Florence's path.
- We're in touch with early education and child care provider networks in North Carolina to offer our response and recovery programs and expertise. Our team will be helping with assessments of child-care providers and their post-hurricane needs.
- We continue to coordinate with the Red Cross, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the US Department of Health and Human Services and others to strengthen our response.

Given Hurricane Florence's expected long-term impact on children's lives and in communities, we are prepared to launch such critical child-focused work as restoring access to child-care services and supporting children's return to learning.

We are also ready to deploy our disaster-proven psychological and emotional support programs such as Journey of Hope and Shelter from the Storm to help children and their caregivers cope with trauma, reduce stress and become more resilient.

Our Unique Role in US Emergencies

As the national leader in child-focused disaster preparedness, response and recovery, Save the Children is uniquely positioned to address the needs



of children and families affected by Hurricane Florence. We have over 80 years' experience serving the needs of U.S. children and are a partner of the Red Cross, coordinate closely with FEMA and are a member of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters.

We responded in South Carolina after floods generated by Hurricane Matthew in 2016, and we continue to conduct large-scale recovery programs in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico for children and families more than a year after Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

We also have an established presence and partners in South Carolina, where our early childhood development and literacy activities benefit over 5,000 girls and boys. Our programs are located in Barnwell, Clarendon, Lee, Orangeburg and Union Counties.

Nobody knows when the next crisis will strike. That's why 10 percent of your generous gift goes to helping our emergency teams prepare for and provide critical assistance when and where children need us the most.