



NORTH AMERICAN
HUMANITARIAN
RESPONSE SUMMIT



Key Action Points for the North American Humanitarian Response Summit

The following action points are derived from the North American Humanitarian Response Summit (NAHRS) process that started in January 2017 and will culminate in the Summit meeting in March 2018. These points reflect the innovative thinking and applied expertise of disaster response practitioners and humanitarian policy professionals who participated in three country preparatory meetings in Mexico, the United States and Canada. These strategic and tactical actions constitute ideas to explore, discuss and debate. They do not represent final conclusions. These key action points continue a deliberative process that will eventually result in the defining outcomes of the North American Humanitarian Response Summit.

Strategic:

1. **Collective Agreement to Prioritize Catastrophic Disaster Planning and Address Current Identified Challenges.** The NAHRS process highlights the current challenges related to catastrophic disaster response. We collectively recognize the importance of catastrophic disaster planning and support actions to address as many of the identified challenges as possible as rapidly as possible.
2. **Creation of a Catastrophic Disaster Planning Working Group (CDPWG) for North American Red Cross Societies and Linking it to the Emergency Management Consultative Group (EMCG).** Seizing upon the opportunity presented in the tripartite MOU between the North American Red Cross Societies, the American, Canadian and Mexican Red Cross Societies agree to stand-up a new working group, the Catastrophic Disaster Planning Working Group (CDPWG) with equal participation and leadership that will prioritize and resource catastrophic disaster planning in North America. Recognizing the important role that the government led

Emergency Management Consultative Group plays in North America and relative to the topic of catastrophic disaster policy, the newly constituted CDPWG would seek to interface directly with the EMCG at policy and operational levels (as applicable). A representative of the CDPWG could be involved in the new Health Working Group within the EMCG.

3. **Pre-Qualification of International Emergency Medical Teams (and Other Response Expertise).** The tripartite entities involved will explore how best to ensure that Emergency Medical Teams, as pre-qualified by the World Health Organization, can deploy and support without legal encumbrances (including licensure requirements). Other response expertise required for catastrophic disaster response will be explored further and advanced based upon lessons learned from the EMT pre-qualification process.
4. **Establishment of a Humanitarian Visa and Waiver Process for Personnel & Equipment Responding to North American Catastrophic Disasters.** In order to facilitate the movement of humanitarian personnel and supplies required during a cross-border response, the tripartite Red Cross National Societies and governments support the creation of unique humanitarian visas (for personnel) and a waiver process (for pre-approved equipment and personnel) required during a catastrophic response. These visas and waivers are to be granted based on subsequent agreement between all six parties involved.
5. **Pre-Certification of Supplies and Equipment for Cross-Border Responses.** Identification of a pre-certified and mutually agreed upon list of emergency response supplies and equipment that can then be fast-tracked through any North American border's customs and border control in the event of a disaster. Ensure supply chain continuity for these supplies and equipment with private sector engagement.

Tactical:

6. **Prioritize Accountability to Vulnerable Populations in Catastrophic Planning & Response.** Develop guidance, messages, tools and practices that will ensure that the voices of vulnerable populations are heard and prioritized to guide future catastrophic disaster responses.

7. **Creation of a Catastrophic Disaster Planning Knowledge Management Platform.** Hosted by the American Red Cross and the Global Disaster Preparedness Center (GDPC) website, a new catastrophic disaster planning knowledge management platform will serve as the knowledge management repository for all catastrophic disaster planning resources relevant to the North American context.
8. **Facilitation of International Support through Red Cross National Societies in North America.** The Red Cross national societies will explore the feasibility and requirements associated with facilitating global humanitarian support (personnel, equipment and supplies) in the event of a catastrophic disaster that requires support for North American partners and beyond.
9. **Communicating and Executing NAHRS Changes to Operational Field Levels.** As changes are eventually made at the policy level through the NAHRS process, it will be essential that any changes are disseminated, communicated and executed at the field operational level where any changes need to be applied so as to be useful in a catastrophic response context.
10. **Resource, Measure and Fund the NAHRS Process Every Five Years.** Apply learning from all catastrophic disaster globally to inform and guide catastrophic disaster planning in North America. Measure progress against agreed upon next steps and establish a consistently funded platform to support the evolution of this critical area of work.