

Introduction

When disaster hits a community, Faith Leaders and their communities have a unique role to play and a particular set of gifts to deploy.

Mobilizing these gifts during an unexpected crisis is no easy task. But with intentional preparation, including a vision of what an effective response looks like and a sense of how to use the tools and gifts at hand, Faith Leaders can be key players in their community's road to recovery. Here are some examples of how Episcopal Relief & Development has walked alongside helpers and survivors:

When disaster hits a community, Faith Leaders and their congregations have a unique role to play and a particular set of gifts to employ.

North Carolina — The highly active 2024 hurricane season caused an immense amount of destruction throughout the southeastern United States. Episcopal Relief & Development is working with partner churches and dioceses to reach impacted people wherever they may be, including those who have been displaced from their homes.

Los Angeles — In partnership with Episcopal Relief & Development, the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles is providing gift cards and cash deposits through electronic apps to people in need after the wildfires in early 2025 destroyed thousands of homes and displaced many. Financial assistance was disbursed by churches throughout the diocese that served as emergency shelters, charging stations and respite centers.

Hawai'i — Episcopal Relief & Development partnered with the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i to provide cash assistance, housing and relocation support after brush fires on Maui devastated the island in 2023.

Ukraine — Episcopal Relief & Development is working together with the ACT Alliance and the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe to serve refugees impacted by the war in Ukraine, providing support both within Ukraine and throughout Europe.

Flooding Response — Episcopal Relief & Development supported dioceses and churches in Western Texas after devastating flooding. Our support provided assistance to people affected by overlapping disasters and helped individuals and families build resiliency to withstand future events.

Many of the disasters we respond to garner little attention and often are under-resourced. We work through a global network of local church- and community-based partners to reach those most vulnerable to — and disproportionately impacted by — disaster, such as women, children, elderly people, persons with disabilities and those who lack access to government protections.

We will partner with you if and when the time comes — from the impact phase of any disaster through long-term recovery. Find your closest Episcopal Relief & Development Ministry Partner by emailing us [here](#).

Thank you for partnering with us to make lasting change.