

THE SALVATION ARMY'S QUEENSLAND FLOOD RESPONSE EFFORT

Within the first weeks of the flood crisis in Qld, The Salvation Army had released \$750,000 in cash assistance to the frontline of human need. The Salvation Army's response has included assisting in the immediate relief effort by supporting and feeding those affected by floods, and now moving into the ongoing recovery phase with a detailed plan for use of all donated funds.

Below is a summary of key actions taken and ongoing plans:

- Immediate support to flood victims, especially catering provided by Salvation Army Emergency Services teams, both in evacuation centres and then via mobile units as people moved back to clean-up their homes. Thousands of people were fed by The Salvation Army at evacuation centres in Rockhampton, Theodore, Emerald, Bundaberg, Brisbane, Strathpine, Ipswich, Gympie, Toowoomba, Warwick, Maryborough and Grantham. People continue to be fed in cyclone-affected areas.
- Qld Flood Relief Call Centre established (24 hour) – **1300 66 22 17**
- Flood Response Centres established with mobile outreach teams to provide assistance with small one-off grants for immediate needs (non means tested and given in the form of store gift cards); assessment for further assistance to replace essential goods not covered by insurance; supply of white goods and donated products. Centres already established are Brisbane, Toowoomba, Ipswich, Greenslopes, Bundamba, Dalby, Rockhampton, Emerald and Bundaberg. Other flood and cyclone affected areas will be covered by the mobile outreach teams.
- Trauma counsellors employed by The Salvation Army to work closely with The Salvation Army's Flood Response Centres and teams.
- Financial Counselling Services to be provided in Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Brisbane, Caboolture, Toowoomba and Townsville.
- Salvation Army Qld Flood Relief Coordinator employed.
- Volunteers being recruited and deployed to work in Flood Response Centres to welcome people, provide coffee and create a warm and hospitable environment.
- Rebuilding and repairing community infrastructure - \$2 million will be set aside from Woolworths funds for rebuilding community infrastructure.
- Holiday camp for children and young people affected by Qld floods to be held during Easter holidays at Salvation Army Collaroy Centre, Sydney.
- Repair and upgrade emergency response equipment – some funding is needed to upgrade and repair the equipment (mobile trailers, etc.) of Salvation Army Emergency Services teams, which have fed thousands during the crisis and are always on stand-by for disasters.
- The Salvation Army Outback Flying Service helicopter has been visiting and delivering essential supplies to isolated properties and communities still cut off by flood waters.
- Cyclone Yasi - The Salvation Army is assisting individuals and families affected by Cyclone Yasi, including feeding around 1000 people each day. Plans are underway for the ongoing recovery effort.