

These organizations and specialized agencies have many years of experience in providing assistance. They have established information networks, systems of distributing goods, and techniques for assessing needs based on factors such as the victims' way of life, eating habits and religious beliefs. They can often buy goods at special prices, ensuring full value for each dollar donated. Some goods can be bought locally, keeping transportation costs low and stimulating the local economy. These groups monitor the delivery of their assistance in an effort to ensure aid reaches its intended destination.

Canadians can make a difference in times of international emergency or crisis. Individually, or as part of a larger community, they are encouraged to:

- First contact any number of national or international non-governmental agencies which have the networks necessary to distribute food, clothes and medicines quickly and efficiently. They'll be happy to suggest the best ways to make a meaningful contribution.
- Organize fund-raising events, such as garage sales, auctions or raffles, with the proceeds donated to international relief efforts.
- Volunteer your time or skills to the local office of the agency of your choice.