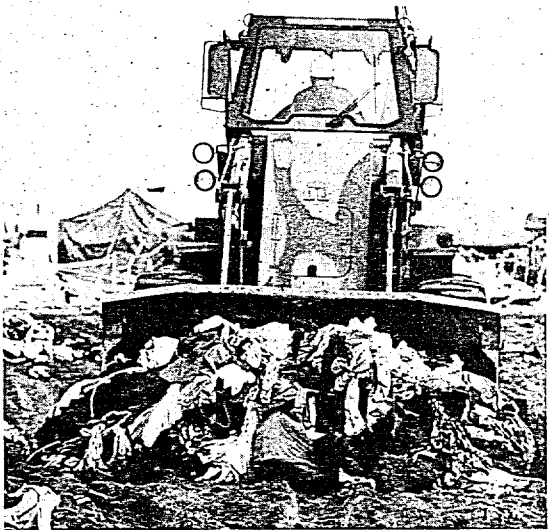




Stay involved. Remember that the need for assistance will go on long after the crisis disappears from the headlines. In most cases, rehabilitation and reconstruction from conflict and natural disasters take years.

While donations of goods are made in the spirit of generosity, they can lead to more headaches than relief:

- It is often impossible to ensure the quality of donated goods.



Reuters/Bettmann: Bulldozers plow relief clothing and rotting food off a field in Florida City, USA

- Transportation costs are extremely high. Furthermore, if the goods are inappropriate or in the wrong proportions, the money will not be well spent.