Disaster Relief

THERE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

We see the effects of devastation every day. Sometimes, we live them. Such was the case for Albania residents who witnessed firsthand unfathomable destruction when an earthquake rattled the country’s capital and surrounding areas. Where once stood homes, businesses, schools, and places of worship and play, now lay rubble. Also among the ruins? Once pristine countryside villages and hope for the future.

Committed to restoring the well-being of their fellow countrymen, and with a US$10,000 Emergency grant from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), Lions and Leos mobilized quickly to deliver relief to those living through their darkest hours.

“Hundreds were injured. Fellow Lions from numerous clubs in Albania came together to work alongside the residents, many who’d been forced to abandon their damaged homes and were feeling afraid and insecure,” said Past International Director and project coordinator Elisabeth Haderer. “We gave aid in the form of milk, water, and other emergency needs to hundreds of families in villages greatly damaged from the earth’s shifting. Perhaps most importantly, we provided hope for a better life.”
Natural Disaster Knows No Borders

Spanning 10 million kilometers+, the European continent is vast, its terrain varying east to west, north to south. Despite diverse geography and topography, Europe’s natural disasters are largely flood- and storm-related, earthquakes like that in Albania and other natural disasters less common. An overview of European disasters and their impacts during a near-28-year period looks like this2,3:

Natural disasters: 1,200

Number impacted: >33M

Fatalities: 121,644

Economic damage: ~US$267M

A closer look at reveals these sobering statistics4,5:

Floods

% of disasters: 26.3

Economic impact: >US$91B

Storms

% of disasters: 25.5

Economic impact: >US$75B

THAT’S EUROPE. GLOBALLY, NATURAL DISASTER LOOKS LIKE THIS:

90% of all natural disasters are water-related6

25.3 million people are displaced each year by sudden disasters7

Annual economic losses are estimated at US$250B-US$300B8

SOURCES/NOTE: 1,6,7,8United Nations; 2,4PreventionWeb; 3,5,9International Disaster Database; 10awarded at discretion of Lions international president and LCIF chairperson; grant limits subject to change

LCIF AND LIONS

Funding Service, Delivering Solutions

lcif.org/disasterrelief

The past 50 years have seen a 390% increase in natural disasters globally9. LCIF and Lions have been there. To date, LCIF has awarded US$134 million for disaster relief worldwide through:

PREPAREDNESS GRANTS

support preparing for future relief efforts

UP TO US$10,000

EMERGENCY GRANTS

support immediate and mid-term needs

US$5,000 - US$10,000

COMMUNITY RECOVERY GRANTS

support short-term cleanup and repair

UP TO US$20,000

MAJOR CATASTROPHE GRANTS

fund long-term reconstruction after large-scale natural disasters10

SOURCE/NOTE: 1,4,6,7United Nations; 10PreventionWeb; 14International Disaster Database; 16awarded at discretion of Lions international president and LCIF chairperson; grant limits subject to change