



## NEWS RELEASE



ADRA.org

### **Maui Wildfires: ADRA Partners With Adventist Health and Adventist Community Services for Recovery Efforts**

**SILVER SPRING, MD (August 18, 2023)** – Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is teaming up with Adventist Health and Adventist Community Services (ACS) to assist Maui communities in their recovery. The global humanitarian organization is donating over \$100,000 in goods and cash to help ACS and Adventist Health respond to the deadly wildfires in Hawaii.

More than 110 Hawaiians, including children, have died as a result of the Maui wildfires that swept through the island on August 8, and the toll is rising. Thousands more people have been forced to flee their homes or are still missing. Authorities suspect that a malfunctioning electrical system and wind gusts from Category 4 Hurricane Dora may have started the fires. According to local officials, more than 2,000 houses and residential villages, as well as a significant portion of the island's west side, including Lahaina, the coastal community that formerly served as the capital of the Hawaiian kingdom were destroyed by the blaze.

"We are deeply saddened by this terrible catastrophe and praying for the families and individuals who lost loved ones, homes, and their means of support. "As the Seventh-Day Adventist church's international arm for humanitarian work, ADRA is committed to partnering with and supporting Adventist Community Services and Adventist Health as they continue to assist with ongoing recovery efforts and offer emergency aid, relief, and care to the people of Maui," says Imad Madanat, vice president of programs for ADRA International.

ADRA will assist Adventist Global Missions Systems meet the urgent needs of medical professionals who are also grappling with their own losses in the tragedy. The global humanitarian organization is funding the purchase of essential laptops to assist healthcare personnel mobilize and give the community access to urgent medical care.

"In the midst of this crisis, healthcare professionals are attempting to find ways to provide emergency care to hundreds of patients who are in pain and, in some cases, don't have access to medication for chronic illnesses. Resources to provide mobile computer devices through partnerships with organizations like ADRA are critical to assisting medical staff on the ground to manage care as the Island recovers from this tragedy," says John Schroer, Adventist Health Global Missions Systems lead.

ADRA is also donating more than 46 pallets of emergency supplies such as mega fire-retardant weatherproof tents that can be used as temporary shelters and for storing goods and medical provisions to Adventist Community Services (ACS), as well as thousands of tarps, toolkits for building shelters, and solar-powered lamps, to support its recovery operation in Lahaina.

“ADRA has offered supplies that can be used for distribution in Hawaii. We have agreed to receive tents, shelter kits, and solar lights. These items will be used to support our operation and given to those in need in the affected area,” says W. Derrick Lea, North American Division community services director. “We’re excited about the opportunity to partner with our friends at ADRA as we have done previously, such as during Hurricane Harvey efforts a few years ago.”

ADRA will deploy the supplies to Hawaii with the assistance of Airlink, the humanitarian organization's disaster relief airlift and logistical partner. When the supplies arrive in Maui, Adventist church volunteers are expected to help distribute them to affected communities.

Visit [ADRA.org](http://ADRA.org) to learn more about ADRA’s humanitarian work around the world.

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#### **ABOUT ADRA**

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency is the international humanitarian arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church serving more than 120 countries. Its work empowers communities and changes lives around the globe by providing sustainable community development and disaster relief. ADRA’s purpose is to serve humanity so all may live as God intended. For more information, visit [ADRA.org](http://ADRA.org).

#### **ABOUT ADVENTIST HEALTH**

Adventist Health is a faith-based, nonprofit, integrated health system serving more than 80 communities on West Coast and Hawaii with over 400 sites of care. Founded on Adventist heritage and values, Adventist Health provides care in hospitals, clinics, home care, and hospice agencies in both rural and urban communities. Our compassionate and talented team of 37,000 includes employees, physicians, allied health professionals and volunteers driven in pursuit of one mission: living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness, and hope. We are committed to staying true to our heritage by providing patient-centered, quality care. Together, we are transforming the healthcare experience with an innovative and whole-person focus on physical, mental, spiritual & social healing to support community well-being.

#### **ABOUT ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Adventist Community Services is the official community outreach ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist church in the North American Division territories which comprises of Canada, the United States, Guam and Micronesia, and Bermuda. ACS serves the whole person, a concept known as holistic ministry whose mission is to “serve communities in Christ’s name.”