

Global Emergency Relief, Recovery & Reconstruction (GER³)

Annual Report
2020





Our Vision

A global network of resilient communities that were built back better following crises providing the best possible example to the world as to how disaster relief, recovery and reconstruction can be implemented.

Our Mission

To enable crisis-affected persons globally to build back better following disasters through integrated relief, recovery and reconstruction services.

Our Goals

- ❖ Deliver Excellent Community Based Disaster Assistance Domestically (USA) & Internationally
- ❖ Facilitate Sustainable, Environmentally Advanced and Community Focused Support
- ❖ Create Dynamic Partnerships
- ❖ Build a Sustainable and Accountable Organization

About GER³

Global Emergency Relief, Recovery & Reconstruction was established in 2016 as a 501c3 non-profit dedicated to supporting crisis affected communities to build back better. We clear the debris left by a disaster, provide temporary facilities and immediately start the reconstruction process with a focus on affected homes, schools and health facilities.

GER³ addresses key challenges in disaster response through sustainable, culturally appropriate and community led interventions focusing on:

Debris Management: Disaster debris must be effectively managed before people can return to their homes, schools and access health facilities. GER³ applies sustainable and environmentally focused approaches to debris management, creating new livelihood opportunities and rebuilding communities.

Supporting Vulnerable Communities: Specific vulnerable communities are often left behind during disasters. GER³ designs programs to support most vulnerable communities and individuals.

Integrating Reconstruction: Many communities do not see the reconstruction process start for months or even years after immediate relief efforts. GER³ integrates reconstruction at an early stage, allowing for a faster and more efficient recovery process while also focusing on sustainability and building back better.

Bridging the Humanitarian & Development Gap: The gap between the humanitarian and development communities creates a lack of integrated and durable programming. GER³ is committed to bridging the space between humanitarian aid and development programs.



INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE IN A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

In early 2020, the world quickly shifted its focus to COVID-19, the health crisis that was growing quickly with an unknown trajectory. Regions around the world were quickly overwhelmed with how to handle the pandemic. While many countries and response actors were able to shift their resources to respond to the pandemic, others were forced to simultaneously respond to natural disasters – further weakening their already stretched resources and ability to recover. Vulnerable communities needed support more than ever.



GER³ was determined to continue to provide critical response and recovery services to those who needed it most. Existing response operations continued in the Bahamas and new responses efforts began in Central America. GER³ was able to continue operating, with additional precautions, safety measures and contingency plans throughout 2020 without closing a single project. Teams quickly adopted new procedures for ensuring safety on work sites, washing stations, masking, gloves, testing and more. While there were of course challenges with new travel restrictions, supply chains and lockdowns, GER³ was able to not only continue but expand operations and continue to grow its impact in 2020.

CONTINUING RECOVERY & RECONSTRUCTION

2020's operations allowed GER³ to demonstrate its ability to provide continuous, integrated support. Being one of the first organizations on the ground providing relief after hurricane Dorian, GER³ was able to remain in country with affected communities through their recovery and reconstruction. GER³ closed gaps when other response organizations left and recovery slowly began.

This provided an opportunity for GER³ to provide more significant and long lasting support than ever before. Focusing on building back better with increased resiliency and sustainability, GER³ rebuilt schools, emergency shelters and homes in the Bahamas.



BAHAMAS PROJECT GOALS

- To rehabilitate key infrastructure and homes following Hurricane Dorian to enable people to return to their communities and be better prepared for future storms.
- To utilize sound project management, reconstruction & engineering expertise to ensure the highest standards in construction practices and materials.
- To integrate local contractors & suppliers, where possible, to support and stimulate the local economy.
- To employ GER³'s philosophy of "building back better" in all rehabilitation work, ensuring enhanced sustainability, safety and resiliency for the Bahamian communities.
- To create additional hurricane shelter space and preparedness for Abaco.



CENTRAL ABACO PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Central Abaco Primary School (CAPS) was identified as a top priority for repair. As Abaco's largest primary school, the school was a critical piece of infrastructure serving many purposes in the Marsh Harbour community. GER³ was selected to lead and manage the full rehabilitation of the school over the course of 2020 and early 2021.

[\[click to view project video\]](#)

Results:

- ✓ 50+ local cash-for-work team members and 20+ local contractors engaged
- ✓ New metal roof with hurricane strapping
- ✓ Full interior renovation
- ✓ Official hurricane shelter capabilities
- ✓ Stockpiled with emergency shelter supplies
- ✓ Circular sanitation system installed
- ✓ Solar energy brought by GER³ partner, Rocky Mountain Institute
- ✓ Children returned to school as soon as COVID-19 restrictions were lifted

Donor & Partner Support:

- *The Lyford Cay Foundations*
- *UNICEF*
- *Discovery Land Company Foundation*
- *One Bahamas Fund*
- *All Hands and Hearts*
- *The Sandals Foundation*
- *Rocky Mountain Institute*
- *Center for Disaster Philanthropy*
- *Many other local and international supporters*

HURRICANE SHELTERS & HOMES

GER³ developed a hurricane shelter rehabilitation project to increase shelter capacity and durability. Four shelters were rehabilitated including capacity building trainings for shelter managers as well as the provision of emergency shelter supplies for each shelter location. The project also included a home rehabilitation component, where 18 vulnerable homes were supported with essential rehabilitation work. [\[click to view project video\]](#)



"EVERY CHILD COUNTS" SCHOOL

ECC is a special needs school in Marsh Harbour dedicated to educating and housing children and adults living with disabilities. GER³ worked closely with All Hands and Hearts to rehabilitate several school buildings at ECC that were badly damaged by Dorian.

DEBRIS REMOVAL & MOLD REMEDIATION

Debris on Abaco remained a concern almost 8 months after the storm. GER³ developed a debris removal project on Abaco that included muck and gut, mold remediation, and debris removal services at two schools and 8 teachers' homes using cash-for-work (CfW) modality.

- ✓ 110+ individuals cash-for-workers
- ✓ 68+ truckloads of debris
- ✓ Weeklong workshop for certification in mold remediation



IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

In addition to augmenting recovery and reconstruction efforts in the Bahamas, GER³'s nimble structure also allowed for an immediate response to Hurricanes Eta and Iota in Honduras. A GER³ team arrived within days of the hurricanes. The team led assessments in remote communities and initiated small-scale debris removal work in coordination with local communities.



GER³'s work included significant debris removal, muck-and-gut and cleaning of a critical hospital in La Canaan – a particularly important piece of infrastructure as it served as a COVID-19 triage center during the pandemic.



THANK YOU

GER³ recognizes that its growth and impact would not be possible without the trust and support of its donors, partners, peers and disaster-affected communities. Through a challenging year, GER³ was given the opportunity to support particularly vulnerable areas of the world that were affected by natural disasters in addition to COVID-19. GER³ is grateful to have been supported through this a year of learning, adapting, and growing in a new disaster landscape. We look forward to continuing this growth in 2021 and beyond.



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