



# GER<sup>3</sup> ANNUAL OPERATIONS REPORT - 2018

November 21, 2018

In 2018, Global Emergency Relief, Recovery and Reconstruction (GER<sup>3</sup>) continued to grow in experience and expertise, thanks to generous contributions from donors and volunteers. Responding to several disasters around the globe, we continued to adapt our programs and develop our services in order to provide impactful and sustainable support to the most vulnerable populations.

We are excited to share some of the key activities of 2018. Early in the year, GER<sup>3</sup> implemented a second iteration of our tree debris management programs in Dame Marie, Haiti. We were able to further adapt 2017's programs to become more effective and efficient. Later in the year, we responded to three emergencies, deploying response teams and immediate assistance to the most vulnerable communities in the aftermath of hurricanes Florence (North Carolina) and Michael (Florida) as well as the Indonesia Earthquake and Tsunami (Sulawesi, Indonesia). Response teams deployed to affected areas as soon as possible to assess the needs on the ground and tailor support to meet the specific challenges which emerged after each disaster. As with all GER<sup>3</sup> missions, our teams sought to use sustainable and environmentally conscious approaches, with the ultimate goal of building back better.

## DAME MARIE, HAITI - HURRICANE MATTHEW

In early 2018, GER<sup>3</sup> conducted a second iteration of the Tree Recycling Project in Dame Marie, Haiti, stemming from the successful tree recovery operation in 2017. The initial UN-funded pilot project supported Haitian communities to recover from devastating tree debris left by Hurricane Matthew. GER<sup>3</sup> supported local teams to identify recoverable timber from downed trees, equipping and providing daily work for cutting teams to clear fallen trees. The project also imported light and portable sawmills to work in remote locations, producing planks for use in local enterprises. In order to strengthen and build upon the successful pilot phase, GER<sup>3</sup> initiated a second phase of the program in February 2018 to address the continued need in several communities in western Haiti.

Thanks to a generous contribution from the MacFarlane Foundation, over a six week period, GER<sup>3</sup> provided support to over 1,400 Haitians affected by Hurricane Matthew, including paid workers, landowners, staff and community members in Dame Marie. In phase two, GER<sup>3</sup> also used boards from the fallen trees to construct benches and latrines. Led by the Municipality of Dame-Marie, GER<sup>3</sup> then donated these items to local schools and health centers.

We are excited to have had the opportunity to develop this unique program to address organic debris management in Haiti. This second iteration gave GER<sup>3</sup> the chance to further adapt and improve our program to consider ways to address debris management in similar contexts. We hope to continue to adapt this type of program in the future in places facing similar challenges with organic debris.

## ROBESON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA – HURRICANE FLORENCE

After Hurricane Florence made landfall in North Carolina on September 14<sup>th</sup>, a GER<sup>3</sup> disaster response team quickly deployed to the region with equipment for relief and recovery. The team, in partnership with J/P HRO, targeted efforts towards critically vulnerable families affected by the flooding. The response included muck-outs and debris clearance, pumps (for pumping water from homes), dehumidifiers & fans, clean-up kits, and identification and supply of contractors to support with mold remediation.

GER<sup>3</sup> focused efforts in Maxton, Robeson County, which lies near the border of South Carolina and North Carolina and is ranked one of lowest in the state for overall health, economic development and youth behaviour and safety. Many groups and organizations were not able to access these counties either due to



organizational capacity and road closures. GER<sup>3</sup>'s quick action allowed water-logged materials to be removed immediately, helping to inhibit mold growth and prevent structural damage.

The team worked primarily with families who did not have flood insurance and would not be able to cover the cost of damage. Most of these families had children, were elderly, or had major medical issues.

Working with local volunteer groups, the University of North Carolina Pembroke Football and Wrestling teams and AmeriCorps, GER<sup>3</sup> assessed recovery needs and cleared an estimated 11,500 square feet of debris from flood affected homes. The team removed a combination of furniture, flooring, drywall, and insulation, installed industrial fans and dehumidifiers, and applied a mold remediation product. GER<sup>3</sup> also delivered and coordinated, in partnership with World Central Kitchen, 4,650 hot meals to affected individuals in Robeson County.

## SULAWESI, INDONESIA – EARTHQUAKE & TSUNAMI

On September 28<sup>th</sup>, a magnitude 7.5 earthquake occurred near the central island of Sulawesi, Indonesia. The devastating earthquake and related tsunami left over 2,010 dead and thousands in need of immediate assistance. In response, GER<sup>3</sup> deployed a disaster response and recovery team to conduct initial assessments, deliver assistance and design programming focused on debris management and building back better. GER<sup>3</sup> targeted support to local communities (households, schools and health facilities) and supported the management of debris and shelter challenges they faced. The GER<sup>3</sup> team quickly expanded on site, including the addition of several Indonesian team members and procurement of local equipment (generators, excavators, bulldozers, etc).

GER<sup>3</sup> developed programming with partners (Indonesian Red Cross and the government) to meet immediate and longer-term needs in a manner that respected local practices, was sustainable and highly impactful. The team implemented the following approach to debris management:

A Assessment	B Engineering	C Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of sites for debris management</li> <li>• Assessment of hazards &amp; debris type/volume</li> <li>• Project authorisations &amp; community consultation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hazard reduction &amp; site security/safety</li> <li>• Machinery used for heavy debris removal</li> <li>• Demolition of damaged infrastructure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community engagement for cleaning &amp; debris sorting</li> <li>• Recycling &amp; renovation initiatives</li> <li>• Rehabilitation of site for reopening</li> </ul>

GER<sup>3</sup> President and Founder, Langdon Greenhalgh, photographed above working with local school officials and partners in Palu.

Support included clearing schools in Palu which were severely affected by flooding and debris. The team cleared sites and led demolition activities, assessing which materials could be salvaged and reused. The GER<sup>3</sup> team also supported community workers with tools and safety equipment to clean the classrooms and other academic buildings. This included conducting a safety briefing with teachers and workers at worksites.



*During GER<sup>3</sup>'s first site inspection of this school (photograph on left) in Palu, the site was covered in over 6 inches of water. Thankfully the water quickly drained and the team was able to use an excavator to clear remaining debris. The GER<sup>3</sup> team also led safety briefings at local schools and worksites (photograph on right).*

In addition to schools, GER<sup>3</sup> supported the demolition, clearing and preparation of various other sites with the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) and the government of Indonesia. The team supported PMI to prepare land for new IDP camps, which required removal of rocks and debris and levelling of sites to accommodate tents for families who had been displaced.

GER<sup>3</sup> is proud to have been one of the only international organizations operational in Indonesia conducting debris management work after the earthquake/tsunami. The Indonesian government continually requested GER<sup>3</sup> support with debris management so that their communities could get back on their feet as quickly as possible.

## CALHOUN COUNTY, FLORIDA – HURRICANE MICHAEL

Hurricane Michael made landfall as a Category 4 storm on October 10<sup>th</sup>. With winds recorded over 155 mph and a pressure of 919 millibars, Michael was the most powerful hurricanes to ever hit the Florida Panhandle and one of the strongest on record to hit the continental United States. The storm's path left massive destruction of infrastructure and trees and widespread power outages. Among those most vulnerable to the storm were coastal and rural communities who were unprepared for such strong winds and rain and the resulting destruction.

A GER<sup>3</sup> disaster response team deployed in GER<sup>3</sup> response vehicles to the region with equipment for relief and recovery, focusing on the most vulnerable families with a need for significant debris management operations. The team identified the community of Blountstown, a small rural town that experienced significant damage from downed trees and loss of infrastructure, and was particularly vulnerable both in terms of their immediate needs and their ability to recover.

The GER<sup>3</sup> team quickly identified local entrepreneur, Bradley Johnson, whose home and property had been destroyed (photos below). Despite significant personal losses, Bradley was eager to get back to work, putting his small logging company to use in the community through tree and debris removal services.

GER<sup>3</sup> worked with Bradley and his team to identify families in great need of immediate assistance with a focus on debris removal, making sure to understand their specific needs and how to best address the debris removal. After connecting with several families, the GER<sup>3</sup> team used generous donations not only to support with tree debris removal, but also to address any additional needs identified by the families themselves (such as electrical supply).

GER<sup>3</sup> focused on maximizing impact on a few families in particular, supporting them in a variety of ways to truly help them get back on their feet. Families and community members were sincerely grateful for the assistance that the GER<sup>3</sup> debris removal team was able to provide.

GER<sup>3</sup> continues to differentiate itself from other organizations in the following ways:

- GER<sup>3</sup> follows a community-led approach, placing the affected communities at the center of its program design and implementation.
- GER<sup>3</sup> prioritizes the most vulnerable, and focuses on filling the gaps in response efforts.
- GER<sup>3</sup> uses robust monitoring and evaluation of projects, ensuring high levels of accountability.
- GER<sup>3</sup> is dedicated to sustainable sourcing of materials, using them to the greatest extent possible.

Additional information about GER<sup>3</sup>'s work in 2018 can be found on our website ([www.ger3.org](http://www.ger3.org)). Please also stay in contact with our operations via Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.