

## Americas



Assessing a family's needs in Colombia.



Providing Hurricane Katrina relief supplies in Mississippi.



Learning to navigate paperwork with humor in Mississippi.



At-risk youth build a home in Mississippi.

International Relief & Development's work in the Americas began just days after Hurricane Katrina hit the United States Gulf Coast. We brought in tons of relief supplies to communities that had been overlooked in the mainstream response, such as Vietnamese immigrants living in Mississippi. And we have stayed in the region, continuing to extend opportunities to rebuild both structures and lives. We have expanded our operations to include programs in

Colombia, working primarily with Afro-Colombian families who have been disproportionately affected by fighting in that South American country. International Relief & Development's programs are aimed at improving the quality of life for vulnerable groups, including displaced persons, refugees, and others. All sectors of our work support citizen engagement around issues of access to economic, health, infrastructure, and social resources and services.



## Colombia

### Two Projects: Mitigating the Suffering of Victim's Families in Colombia and Closing Humanitarian Assistance Gaps in Tumaco

- Provides immediate humanitarian assistance.
- Builds the organizational capacity of local associations for displaced persons to provide support services.

Donors U.S. State Department  
 Dates September 2008 – September 2010  
 Amounts \$897,197 and \$662,646

In the first program, IRD will improve the access to government services, particularly health services, for displaced families. In the second program, IRD will mitigate the grief and psychological trauma among surviving family members in Afro-Colombian communities, improve access to legally entitled reparations and government social assistance programs, strengthen community-level democratic structures, and promote reconciliation at the community level.

## United States

### Gulf Coast Community Resource Center

- Connects Hurricane Katrina survivors with recovery resources.
- Facilitated the reconstruction of 30 homes and repairs of over 300 homes.
- Provides high school equivalency training and vocational education to at-risk youth.

Donor U.S. Department of Labor; Mississippi Department of Human Services; Enterprise Corporation of the Delta; Mennonite Economic Development Associates; Presbytery of Mississippi; NeighborWorks America; Americares; Capital Group; AARP  
 Date November 2005 – present  
 Amount \$999,535; \$545,425; \$250,000; \$74,206; \$33,000; \$30,000; \$25,000; \$25,000; \$50,000

IRD US opened a Gulf Coast Community Resource Center in Gulfport, MS to help Hurricane Katrina survivors create and implement long-term recovery plans for themselves and their families. It helps ensure that affected communities have a continuous voice in the rebuilding process through community education and outreach. IRD US also provides high school equivalency education, service learning, and “on-the-job” training to at-risk youth who have dropped out of high school, many of whom have been referred by the juvenile justice system.

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For more information, visit [www.ird.org](http://www.ird.org)

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